



Habilitation Board Decision on the Nomination for Appointment to Associate Professor

Masaryk University

Faculty

Procedure field

Applicant

**Applicant's home unit,
institution**

Habilitation thesis

of Science

Ecology

Jeffrey Clark Nekola, Ph.D.

Dept. of Botany and Zoology

Interdisciplinary investigations into the nature of ecology
and evolution

Board members

Chair

Members

prof. RNDr. Michal Horsák, Ph.D. (MU)

prof. Mgr. Stanislav Pekár, Ph.D. (MU)

prof. RNDr. Jan Zima, DrSc. (AV ČR)

prof. Mgr. David Storch, Ph.D. (UK)

doc. Mgr. Petr Pokorný, Ph.D. (UK)

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

Dr. Nekola is an outstanding scientist in his field. He published several highly influential studies which have received more than 500 references each. He published more than 65 ISI papers, having more than 5000 citations in total. Prof. Brown wrote in his report: "Jeff is a unique scientist. He has an omnivorous intellect and an amazingly broad background and training. He combines the best traits of a field naturalist with a taste for big, important ecological, evolutionary, and biogeographic problems. He has done a number of very important and interesting things with the land snails: from developing standardized field sampling methods and processing thousands of these samples, some containing thousands of minute snails, from many sites across North America; to producing one edited book and many excellent papers on community composition, macroecological patterns (e.g., body size and abundance), and biogeography."

Conclusion: The applicant's scholarly/artistic capabilities *meet* the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of Ecology.

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

Dr. Nekola has a long teaching experience as he taught several classes on ecology at the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay and also at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque (USA). Prof. Brown wrote in his report: "He contributed importantly and

enthusiastically to our formal Program in Interdisciplinary Biological and Biomedical Science and our informal working group in human macroecology. He is an excellent teacher. He taught two undergraduate courses and volunteered to guest teaching stints in several classes, both undergraduate and graduate. The response of students was uniformly favorable. One grad student said that his guest lectures in my community ecology class were the best part of the course. He was very generous and helpful in working with undergraduate and graduate students on experimental designs, statistical analyses, and interpretations of results." In November 2017 J. Nekola taught a class on Statistical Dynamics of Macroecology in Dept. of Botany and Zoology (MU) with 17 enrolled students (both graduate and undergraduate, including several Erasmus students), which all gave a very positive evaluation of the course.

Conclusion: The applicant's pedagogical capabilities *meet* the requirements expected of applicants participating in a habilitation procedure in the field of Ecology.

Habilitation thesis evaluation

The thesis was evaluated by three worldwide recognized scientists – Jim Brown, Brian McGill and Robert A.D. Cameron – in the field of ecology, macroecology and land snail ecology. They all highly appreciate scientific level and novelty of dr. Nekola's work and scientific results. Prof. Cameron wrote in his report: "The material presented by Dr. Nekola in support of his habilitation amply demonstrates the range, integration and significance of his research. Many able researchers in a discipline may make a significant contribution to theoretical development in their field. Others contribute by providing the hard-won base of detailed knowledge that enables such developments to be tested and refined. Dr. Nekola does both, very much by design rather than as a haphazard scatter of unconnected enthusiasms."

Conclusion: The applicant's habilitation thesis *meets* the requirements expected of habilitation theses in the field of Ecology.

Secret ballot results

Number of board members			.5
Number of votes cast			.5
of which	in favour		.5
	against		.0
	invalid		.0

Board decision

Based on the outcome of the secret vote and following an evaluation of the applicant's scholarly or artistic qualifications, pedagogical experience and habilitation thesis, the board hereby submits a proposal to the scientific board of the Faculty of [faculty name] of Masaryk University to

- appoint the applicant associate professor of [field name]. *Jeffrey C. Nekola*
- terminate the procedure.

In Brno on April 19th 2018

[Michal Horsák]

[Stanislav Pekár]

[Jan Zima]

[David Storch]

[Petr Pokorný]

