

ATTITUDE OF REVIEWER

by Assoc. Prof. Stefan Antonov Philipov, PhD

Institute of Organic Chemistry with the Center of Phytochemistry – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IOCCP-BAS), member of the academic jury, appointed according to the order of the Director of IOCCP-BAS

Regarding: Competition for occupying the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 4. "Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics", by professional field 4.2. "Chemical Sciences", scientific specialty 01.05.10 "Bioorganic chemistry, chemistry of natural and physiologically active compounds", announced for the needs of the Laboratory for Chemistry of Natural Compounds at IOCCP.

In the competition for academic position "Professor", announced in the State Gazette issue 43 / 31.05.2019 and on the website of IOCCP-BAS, as the only candidate is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Petkova Popova (Velikova to 2000) , Laboratory for Chemistry of Natural Compounds at IOCCP - BAS.

1. General presentation of the received materials under the procedure

For the participation in the announced competition, only one candidate – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Petkova Popova, Laboratory for Chemistry of Natural Substances at IOCCP - BAS has submitted documents.

At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, it was unanimously decided that the applicant is allowed to be evaluated in the announced competition and the materials submitted by her are in accordance with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Rules for its implementation, The Regulations for the implementation of the ADASRB of BAS and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of IOCCP - BAS of the academic position of "Professor".

For her participation in the competition for "Professor" Assoc. Prof. Popova has applied a total of 34 publications, including:

- Publications are equivalent to habilitation work (Indicator B) - 8 issues. All of them are published in journals with an impact factor and are distributed by quartiles according to SJR (www.scimagojr.com) is as follows: Q1 - 1, Q2 - 5 and Q4 - 2.

- Publications beyond the equivalent of habilitation work (Indicator D) - 27 articles, of which 24 are in journals with impact factor, one is in non-impact factor journal, two are book chapters and one utility model. The distribution of quartile publications according to SJR (www.scimagojr.com) is as follows: Q1 - 10, Q2 - 10, Q3 - 3 and Q4 - 1.

Assoc. Prof. Milena Popova has submitted a list of publications for all her scientific production, which clearly distinguishes the publications presented under this competition and those used in previous procedures. Also are presented:

- list of citations not presented in previous procedures (Indicator E) - total number of citations - 1 529, of which 1 172 in refereed and indexed journals and collective volumes (according to Web of Science and / or Scopus);
- list of participations in research and applied projects, accompanied by evidence (Indicator F) - 17 participations;
- list of participation in scientific conferences, accompanied by evidence - 44 participations;
- Information for the h-factor from Scopus: h-18 for Milena Petkova Popova and h-20 for Milena Petkova Velikova

Assoc. Prof. Popova received her Master's Degree in 1998 from the Faculty of Chemistry at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ". She began her research career in 1999 at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with the Centre of Phytochemistry - BAS in the Laboratory of Chemistry of Natural Products, passing through the positions of chemist, assistant, assistant professor and associate professor. In 2004 she obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the specialty 01.05.10 "Bioorganic chemistry, chemistry of natural and physiologically active compounds". Since September 2018 Assoc. Prof. Popova is the Head of the Laboratory Chemistry of Natural Products at IOCCP - BAS.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

Assoc. Prof. Popova's research is dedicated to studying the chemical composition and structure of active components in medicinal plants, fungi and propolis, as well as uncovering the structure-biological relationship.

Assoc. Prof. Popova participated in the competition with eight publications, presented as an equivalent number of articles for habilitation work, all dedicated to studies of propolis of Bulgarian and foreign origin, in which she is the first author and/or author for correspondence. The candidate's interests are focused on comparative studies of propolis from different geographical areas and species of bees and the determination of the propolis plant sources, as well as the development of standardization and quality control methods.

The chemical composition and biological activity of medicinal plants widely used in folk medicine are another aspect of the research activity of Assoc. Prof. Popova. Rarely occurring and endemic plant species have investigated and compounds responsible for biological activity have identified, as well as the relationship between chemical composition and biological activity is shown.

I know Assoc. Popova personally and I have a high opinion of her qualities as a competent, very responsible and thorough researcher.

3. Conclusion

The results achieved by Associate Professor Milena Popova in the research activity, fully comply with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations for its implementation, the Regulations for the implementation of the ADASRB of BAS and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of IOCCP - BAS of the academic position of "Professor".

From the materials presented in the competition and the scientific and applied contributions presented therein, I am fully convinced to give my positive opinion and recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the award of the academic position of "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Petkova Popova in professional field 4.2. "Chemical Sciences", scientific specialty 01.05.10 "Organic Chemistry, Chemistry of Natural and Physiologically Active Substances" for the needs of the Laboratory for Chemistry of Natural Substances at IOCCB-BAS.

Signature:

(Assoc. Prof. Stefan Philipov, PhD)

Sofia, 07.09.2019