

Outcome of the mid-term evaluation of the doctoral student in the Doctoral School of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Full name: **Rama Sarvani Krovi**

Scientific discipline: biological sciences

Working theme of the doctoral thesis: Genetic structure and microbiome diversity: unravelling the saproxylic beetle populations across forests of various naturalness and continuity

Supervisor: Dr. hab. Łukasz Kajtoch

Auxiliary thesis supervisor: Dr. hab. Maria Oczkowicz

Committee positive evaluated of implementation of Individual Research Plan

Justification:

The Individual Research Plan (IRP) prepared by Rama Sarvani Krovi was very ambitious and detailed. The two main objectives for the first two years were 1) a review and analysis of published genetic studies on saproxylic beetles and 2) microbiome analysis of selected saproxylic beetles. Both major tasks have been completed, resulting in two papers published in peer-reviewed journals. Other tasks included the preparation of genomic libraries for ddRADseq for selected species, downstream bioinformatic analysis of the genomic data obtained and preparation of databases with landscape, environmental and trait data. These tasks are still in progress due to 1) complications with visa and administrative procedures at the beginning of the studies; 2) field work complications due to unstable political situation at the Polish borders and catastrophic floods in the planned sampling regions; 3) initial communication problems between the student and supervisors. All of the above problems were dealt with elegantly and, in the opinion of the Committee, the minor delays did not jeopardise the successful completion of the tasks planned in the IRP. During the interview with the committee, Rama Sarvani Krovi presented herself as a dedicated, knowledgeable and passionate student. She clearly takes her research seriously, plans her own development and scientific tasks and is making good progress with the IRP.

In summary, the Committee is convinced that the student has progressed almost according to plan and that some small delays are understandable given the explanations provided by the student (both in the progress report on the implementation of the IRP and during the discussion with the student).