



OPINION

Regarding: contest for "associate professor" in the scientific specialty "Sericulture", area of Higher Education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional direction 6.3 Animal Husbandry, announced in SG no. 30 of 04/04/2023, with candidate Ch. Assistant Dr. Krasimira Ljubenova Avramova.

From: Prof. Dr. Teodora Atanasova Staykova, from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", area of higher education 5. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.3 Biological sciences, scientific specialty "Genetics", determined as a member of the scientific jury according to Order No. RD 16-650/ 01.06.2023 to the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Ch. Assistant Dr. Krasimira Avramova, is the only candidate in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the scientific specialty "Sericulture", announced in the State Gazette no. 30 of 04/04/2023. She was born on 10/29/1983. In 2006 graduated from the Academy of Sciences "Bachelor" in the specialty "Agronomy (Field Farming)" at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, and in 2007 - Master's degree in "Sustainable land management". In the period 2008-2011 she is studying as a full-time doctoral student in the specialty "Special Branches (Sericulture)". At the end of 2011 successfully defended a thesis on the topic "Possibilities for year-round provision of eggs from the mulberry silkworm *Bombyx mori* L.". In the period 2011-2013 works as an assistant, and since 2013 - as the main assistant in the Department of "Livestock Sciences" at the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. In the course of her professional development, Krasimira Avramova specialized in the field of sericulture, organic farming and hunting, which complements her competences in the field of agricultural sciences.

My personal impressions of K. Avramova are from the time when she was a young assistant and was responsible for the breeding and reproduction of the silkworm strains that the Agrarian University maintains as genetic resources, a task that requires competence and responsibility. I know K. Avramova as a correct and communicative colleague who has in-depth knowledge in the field of sericulture and practice, a worthy candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor" of sericulture.

2. General description of the scientific production.

For participation in the competition for "associate professor", Dr. Krasimira Avramova has presented a list of 34 works, grouped as follows:

❖ *Scientific publications on the nomenclature specialty - 30, of which:*

- *Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 4 issues that are not subject to consideration;*
- *Publications with an impact factor/impact rank – 4;*
- *Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 12;*
- *Publications in conference proceedings – 10.*

The personal participation of K. Avramova in the mentioned 30 papers is illustrated by the fact that in 10 of them (33%) she is first, in 13 (43%) she is second, and in the remaining 7 (23%) she is third and next author.

- ❖ *A guide for sericulture – 1 item.*
- ❖ *Scientific and popular articles outside the nomenclature specialty - 2 items.*

The candidate has also submitted a published book based on a PhD Thesis, the title of which corresponds to the topic of the dissertation work.

Dr. K. Avramova also provided information on 11 participations in international scientific forums, 6 of which - with a report, as well as 4 participations in national scientific forums, without the content of the relevant reports/posters being attached.

In order to prepare the opinion on this competition, 26 scientific publications, for which the candidate has also submitted summaries, are subject to analysis.

3. Teaching activity.

The candidate for the academic position "associate professor", Dr. Avramova, has 11 years and 9 months of experience as a teacher at AU – Plovdiv.

Academic employment.

For the last five academic years ch. assistant professor Dr. K. Avramova has a total of 3182 hours of study time, of which 2684 hours are auditorium occupancy. During this period, she gave 1110 hours of lectures and 1574 hours of exercises.

Her teaching activity is complemented by the guidance of 23 successfully defended diploma graduates for the period 2015-2022, 20 of whom have completed a master's degree.

Published study materials.

Chief assistant prof. K. Avramova, PhD, is the co-author of a university book for sericulture exercises.

Educational programmes

The candidate has compiled 10 study courses for students studying at the "Bachelor" and "Master" degree, which are related to sericulture and other branches of animal husbandry. This complements her activities as a teacher.

4. Scientific research activity.

The scientific and publication activity of ch. assistant professor Dr. K. Avramova is in the field of breeding and research of the mulberry silkworm *Bombyx mori* L. The main scientific fields in which she works are: research of newly created F1 hybrids and breeds of different origins in terms of quantitative and qualitative characteristics, related to productivity; analyzing the genetically determined polymorphism in different breeds based on isoenzyme markers and determining the degree of genetic heterogeneity; feeding the larvae with artificial mixtures and their influence on biological and technological parameters; influence of heavy metals on traits such as vitality, duration of individual stages of development, hatchability and other characters; study of new varieties of mulberry *Morus alba* etc.

The candidate fulfills the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Art. 2b, the Regulations for the Development of the

Academic Staff and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for occupying the academic position "associate professor" in the area of Higher Education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional direction 6.3 Animal Husbandry by indicators as follows:

Group A: The candidate has defended a dissertation for the acquisition of the ONS "doctor" on the topic "Possibilities for the year-round supply of boletus seeds from the mulberry silkworm *Bombyx mori* L." - 50 points.

Group B: Ch. assistant professor Dr. Avramova is a co-author in 10 publications in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - **168.6** points, out of the required 100.

Group G: The candidate has published a book based on a dissertation work for PhD degree, 6 scientific publications in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information, as well as 10 scientific publications in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review. Taking into account the number of co-authors in the publications, the sum of points that the candidate collects under this group of indicators is **215.8** points, out of the required 200.

Group D: Ch. assistant professor K. Avramova presented information on 11 citations of 6 publications, 2 of which - in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information, and the remaining 9 - in non-refereed journals with scientific review - total **75** points, with 50 required.

Group E: The candidate is a co-author of a university book for sericulture exercises - 5 points.

In conclusion, I can summarize that the total number of points collected by the candidate for indicators from groups A to E is 514.4, which exceeds the required 400 according to the minimum national requirements.

Dr. Avramova did not provide a separate list of the projects in which she participated, but in her CV she indicated participation in 5 research projects and 6 - in other programs.

5. Notes and recommendations.

In the course of my work with the provided by Ch. assistant prof. Dr. K. Avramova documents, I found some inaccuracies, which to some extent complicate the analysis of the scientific production. For example:

- Three lists of scientific works are presented, two of which duplicate the information.
- In the list of publications, the category "In other journals" is not correctly formulated, because in this category materials from participation in conferences are described. It would be more correct to name it "In Proceedings of Congresses and Conferences".
- The bibliographic reference in the presented "List of scientific works" is diverse. No single standard of description has been used.
- Information on the year of publication and the full list of co-authors of some of the scientific works is missing in the reference for meeting the minimum national requirements.
- The total number of points for the indicator "Scientific publications in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information" is 150 (group of indicators G) and not 160, as indicated in the reference for meeting the minimum requirements.

- In the prepared report for graduates, it would be good to give, in addition to the names of the students, specifics about the subject of the diploma work.

In the file with summaries of scientific works submitted by the candidate, the publications related to the genetic studies of different breeds of the mulberry silkworm were translated into Bulgarian mechanically, and as a result, instead of "breeds" they talk about "strains".

I would recommend Dr. K. Avramova to also prepare a list of projects in which she participated, with the necessary details - identification code, duration, etc., which would complement her activity.

The remarks I made do not affect my final assessment of the candidate, but it would be good to take them into account in her future work.

6. Conclusion.


Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Chief ass. proff. Dr. Krasimira Avramova, meets the requirements of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application, since in the course of her professional growth over the years she has formed as a good university teacher and researcher in the field of sericulture.

All this gives me reason to positively evaluate her overall activity.

I take the liberty of proposing to the honorable Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agriculture at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect ch. assistant professor Dr. Krasimira Ljubenova Avramova for "associate professor" in the scientific specialty "Sericulture".

20.07.2023
Plovdiv

Prepared by:



.....
(Professor Teodora Staykova)