



OPINION

regarding the competition for the academic position of „Associate Professor“ in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional field 6.2 Plant Protection, scientific specialty Plant Protection (Entomology), announced in State Gazette No. 65/08.08.2025, with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Pavlin Emilov Vasilev

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dima Mateeva Markova, Agricultural University – Plovdiv, appointed by Order No. RD 16-991/07.10.2025 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury.

1. Brief presentation of the candidate

Pavlin Emilov Vasilev graduated from the Agricultural University – Plovdiv in 2012 with a Master's degree in Plant Protection. In 2016, he defended his dissertation on the topic "Aphids (Hemiptera: Aphididae) on stone fruit species - distribution, harmful activity and control" and obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the scientific specialty "Plant Protection (Entomology)".

Between 2016 and 2018, he worked as an agronomist at "Agronom Holding" Ltd. Since 2019, he has been employed at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, initially as "Assistant", and later promoted to "Chief Assistant Professor" in the Department of Entomology, where he currently teaches. He also holds a professional qualification in Economics and Foreign Trade of Agricultural Products and a certificate as an Assessor of Agricultural Lands and Improvements.

Dr. Vasilev has participated in Erasmus+ mobility programs in Serbia, Turkey, and Spain, and is a member of a working group developing a Guideline for the implementation of control measures against the flatheaded root borer (*Capnodis tenebrionis* L.) on woody fruit and ornamental species of the Rosaceae family in Bulgaria.

2. General overview of the scientific output

For the competition for "Associate Professor" Dr. Pavlin Emilov Vasilev participates with a total of 26 publications, distributed as follows:

- ❖ *Scientific publications on the nomenclature specialty – 26 issues, of which:*
 - *Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 3 issues, which are not subjecto consideration;*
 - *Publications with an impact factor – 2 (total SJR 0.34);*

- *Published book based on a protected dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" - 1 issue;*
- *Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 16 issues*
- *Publications in non-refereed journals - 4 issues*

Assist. Prof. Vasilev's personal contribution is evident: 4 single-authored papers, 8 as first author, 8 as second, and 3 as third or subsequent author.

According to the national minimum requirements for acquiring the academic position of Associate Professor and the scientometric indicators presented, Dr. Pavlin Vasilev exceeds the required 400 points, achieving a total of 648.6 points.

A total of **23 scientific publications** are subject to evaluation in this competition.

3. Teaching activity

Chief Assist. Prof. Pavlin Vasilev has 6 years and 8 months of teaching experience at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. During the period 2020-2025, the candidate's academic workload amounts to a total of 3,147.8 hours in the Department of Entomology. In the Bachelor's degree programs, he teaches General Entomology, Plant Quarantine, Forecasting and Signaling, and Biological Plant Protection. In the Master's programs, he teaches General Entomology, Crop Pests, Forecasting and Signaling, Biological Plant Protection, and Plant Quarantine.

The candidate's teaching activities are complemented by the supervision of 19 successfully defended graduates from bachelor's and master's courses.

4. Research activity

Areas of publication

The scientific research activity of Chief Assist. Prof. Pavlin Vasilev, is directed in the following directions:

- Determination of the species composition, distribution and population density of aphids (Hemiptera: Aphididae) and related aphid pests on fruit crops.
- Study of the effectiveness of biological and chemical plant protection products, including microbial and botanical insecticides applicable in organic farming.
- Study of the effects of immunostimulants and foliar fertilizers on aphid populations in fruit orchards and the possibility of reducing the use of chemical products.
- Monitoring and control of fruit moths using pheromone traps and dispensers.
- Study of the entomofauna of potatoes and the impact of mulching on pests.

Citation and referencing of scientific production

The candidate presents 18 citations of his scientific works in national and international publications, refereed and indexed in Scopus Web of Science.

Participation in scientific projects

Dr. Pavlin Vasilev has participated in three research projects — one externally funded and two international projects.

5. Comments and recommendations.

I have no significant comments. My recommendation to the candidate is to continue developing his educational and methodological activities by preparing textbooks and study guides that will support the education of students in the disciplines he teaches.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activity, I believe that chief assistant professor Dr. Pavlin Emilov Vasilev meets the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for Application of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application. The presented scientific production meets the national scientometric requirements for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor". All this gives me reason to **POSITIVELY** evaluate his overall activity.

I give a positive evaluation of his overall performance and recommend to the Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to elect **Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Pavlin Emilov Vasilev** as **"Associate Professor"** in the scientific specialty **Plant Protection (Entomology)**.

Date: 12.11.2025

Place: Plovdiv

PREPARED THE OPINION.....

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dima Markova)