



Olomouc, 22 March 2016

To whom it may concern

Re: letter of support for Martins Briedis

It gives me immense pleasure to write in recommendation of Martins Briedis for his application for a grant from the Palacký University Endowment Fund. I have known Martins since April 2013 and currently I am serving as a supervisor for his doctoral studies. In my team of students, Martins uses ground-breaking technology – geolocators – to study migration of small birds around the world.

Martins ranks amongst the most talented students in ecology/zoology that I have met during the last 11 years of my appointment at the Palacký University. He is independent, very skilled at learning new techniques in data analysis, frequently comes with initiative on problem solving to various research tasks and he is exceptionally hard working. Martins has a great passion for birds and this makes him very dedicated to his research. His English is perfect in both written and spoken form. At the moment, in his third year of PhD studies he already published five papers in peer-reviewed international journals: three as a lead author and two as a key co-author.

The Endowment Fund support would be an ideal opportunity for Martins to join the team at the Swiss Ornithological Institute to further develop a long-term collaboration with researchers from Switzerland on bird migration ecology. In addition, by attending the workshop at the Berlin-Brandenburg Center for Isotope Ecology in Germany would allow Martins to learn new skills on how to trace the origin of birds from their feathers from various part of the world. This is a very hot topic in ecology of animals. A know-how on this method is crucial for his studies.

I have no doubt that the grant support would help Martins to widen both his scientific skills and experience which are so essential for a successful academic career. This knowledge and know-how he would use later for implementation of science projects at our home department after his return.

To summarize my recommendation, I believe that Martins would make outstanding contributions because the fellowship would significantly improve his early career skills and that it could lead to a long-term collaboration between him, our

department and the scientists at the research centres. No doubt such an experience would be a critical step for his future career prospects.

I give a full support for his application.

If you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peter Adamík, Ph.D