INSTITUTE OF AQUATIC ECOLOGY

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Subject: Evaluation of the PhD Dissertation of Rayane Fernandes Vanderley, University of Pannonia, Doctoral School of Chemistry and Environmental Sciences

Rayane Fernandes Vanderley's PhD dissertation, titled "Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Phytoplankton in Tropical and Temperate Lakes," provides timely and novel findings that significantly contribute to the phytoplankton ecology field.

The dissertation is well-written, structured, and effectively incorporates relevant literature. Vanderley demonstrates a precise use of scientific terminology throughout the three chapters, building and expanding upon previous knowledge. Each chapter is well-introduced and presents new scientific findings supported by appropriate methodologies and statistical analyses. The individual discussions within the chapters lead to accurate conclusions.

The overall style of the dissertation is appropriate, with consistent literature use. The figures are correctly presented and in a visually pleasing manner.

I did not identify any unsupported scientific discussions in the PhD dissertation. I **accept the conclusions presented in the three chapters as new scientific findings**, two of which were first authored and published in SCI-referenced scientific journals by Vanderley.

I, therefore, **recommend the acceptance** of Rayane Fernandes Vanderley's PhD dissertation by the Doctoral School of Chemistry and Environmental Sciences at the University of Pannonia.

Questions for the candidate:

1. In your opinion, what are the advantages of utilising the phytoplankton functional group classification as proposed by Reynolds?
2. From your perspective, what are the limitations or weaknesses of the FG classification *sensu* Reynolds?

Andras Abonyi, PhD

Lunz am See
22/5/2023

CENTRE FOR ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH

www.ecolres.hu
voi@ecolres.hu

+36 1 279 3100
H-1113 Budapest
Karolina út 29.