



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

Department of Biological Sciences

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Bergen, February 12, 2024

To whom it may concern

This review and recommendation relate to the doctoral thesis *Biotechnological basis for creating an ampelographic collection and propagation of grape varieties in Tajikistan*, as written and submitted by Mrs. Bobodzhanova Khursheda Inomovna. I, the undersigned, have first-hand knowledge of her work, which I have followed for many years as coordinator of several joint projects between University of Bergen, Norway, and the Biotechnology Center of the Tajik National University. The thesis work involves analyses of a large number of grape plant varieties from Tajikistan and identification of bacterial and viral grape plant pathogens. Furthermore, Mrs. Bobodzhanova has established facilities and methodologies for *in vitro* propagation of grape plants and carried out a huge work on growing pathogen-free plants for conservation and distribution of healthy plants for farming with great success. A number of potential disease-causing bacterial strains belonging to the *Agrobacterium* genus have been isolated from sick grapefruits, tumors and soils, and characterized. One of the isolates, *Agrobacterium radiobacter* strain MD22b, was particularly well characterized through draft genome sequence analysis. Mrs. Bobodzhanova has made an outstanding contribution to systematic conservation of grape plants in Tajikistan, and through isolation of potential disease-causing local agrobacterial strains she has also established a basis for developing means for combating of bacterial diseases of grapevine.

I believe that the work of Khursheda Inomovna Bobodzhanova meets the requirements for writing a dissertation, and the author deserves to be awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Agricultural Sciences in the specialty 06.01.05 - selection and seed production of agricultural plants.

Sincerely yours,

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