



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN
University Museum (Natural History)

Bjarte Jordal, Assoc. Prof.

20. Nov. 2015

Prof. José Galián
Catedrático de Zoología
Coordinador programa de doctorado en biodiversidad y gestión ambiental
Departamento de Zoología y Antropología Física
Universidad de Murcia

Evaluation of the Doctorate Thesis of Alejandro López López

Dear Dr. Galián,

The thesis entitled "Molecular phylogeny and evolution of Australian and Asian tiger beetles (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae)" have been evaluated with respect to international standards of PhD education. I am generally very impressed with this work. It is tidy and informative, and neatly divided into logical chapters. The coherent research theme is on the phylogeny, diversification and speciation processes in tiger beetles and the four papers contain independent but logically related topics. Methods include state of the art molecular techniques such as PCR and sequencing and the data have been analysed by a variety of up-to-date methods, including Bayesian, parsimony and maximum likelihood approaches. A range of population genetics tool has also been implemented and the interpretation of the results seems sound. The thesis work furthermore documents a broad approach by also including cell genetics such as chromosome counts. Three of the papers are already published in good international journals, and the last one is submitted for review. The quality of the manuscripts is therefore higher than expected.

Based on this highly informative and interesting reading I will recommend that Alejandro López López can defend his thesis. Because the thesis clearly meets the expected international standards of a PhD in evolutionary biology, the degree should also meet the requirements for an International Mention.

Best regards

Bjarte Jordal
Associate Professor
Curator, Entomological Collections
University Museum of Bergen