



CNRS UPMC

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Roscoff

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Roscoff, December 4th 2020

### Letter of recommendation

This is a great pleasure to write a recommendation letter for David Demory. David worked in our laboratory as a PhD student from August 2014 to December 2015. During his stay in our lab, David and I interacted frequently. So, I am in a good position to comment on his capabilities. David is a brilliant young scientist. He is creative and highly capable of doing independent research. David has initiative and drive. I am very impressed with him as a scientist. And he is very generous, optimistic and cheerful colleague.

The PhD research that David conducted was very challenging as it aimed at combining experimental and theoretical approaches to study and predict virus – phytoplankton in the ocean. David took the initiative to design laboratory experiments to test the influence of temperature on virus – phytoplankton (*Micromonas*) model systems that show among the largest latitudinal distribution on Earth. During these series of experiments, David collaborated with a team of 10 people including a master student, lab technicians, engineers, a postdoctoral fellow and researchers. David produced high-quality data that he used to develop mathematical models. This research led to major insights into the thermal adaptation of the prominent picocoeukaryote *Micromonas* as well as the critical influence of temperature on the outcome of this phytoplankton infection. David published his PhD work in prestigious journals (two papers in The ISME journal (IF=9.2), one paper in revision in Ecology Letters (IF=8.7) and attended several international meetings (ALSO, ISME...).

In sum: David is an exceptionally bright and self-motivated young scientist. He has the ability to become a leader in his field of research as well as to guide the research of students in any distinguished center of learning. He has a knack for identifying important scientific questions, devising clear and original strategy for testing hypotheses, and foster collaboration between research fields that, to date, have remained disconnected. The cross-disciplinary scientific background and importantly the motivation of David to pursue experimental and theoretical research on marine micro-organisms make him an ideal candidate for the CNRS researcher position. I have absolutely no hesitation in giving him my highest recommendations.

Sincerely,

Anne-Claire Baudoux