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Dr. Dietmar Schwarz
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To whom it may concern: Letter of recommendation

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I learned that Dr. Mohanna Mollavali, Postdoc at the University of Tabriz, Iran, wants to apply for a DAAD-Leibniz scholarship. She worked with me for more than 6 months and I appreciated very much her skills and help. Therefore, I would like to highly recommend her candidature and justify this as follows:

Dr. Mollavali, was visiting as a former Ph.D. student the Leibniz-Institute for Vegetable and Ornamental Crops at Grossbeeren (IGZ) from 13 September 2013 until 13 March 2014. She came with a scholarship from the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and the IGZ supported her expenses for research and analyses.

During her time at the Institute, Dr. Mollavali carried out one experiment under my supervision in a project: "Influence of mycorrhizal fungi on growth, physiological characteristics and secondary metabolites in onion". She investigated the effect of mycorrhization and nitrogen supply on two onion cultivars with a different flavonoid profile. She was in charge of all necessary treatments, monitoring of growth and plant response, sampling, analyses of growth, nutrient uptake, physiological characteristics, and flavonoids as well as the evaluation of the results. The analytical work measuring quercetin concentrations, she carried out at the University of Hamburg under the supervision of Prof. Sascha Rohn.

Already during the experimental and analytical work Dr. Mollavali started to prepare a manuscript where she summarized the results of her experimental work. In the meantime she finished this manuscript entitled: N-species and mycorrhizal colonization affect flavonoid compound biosynthesis in onion (*Allium cepa* L.). It will be submitted in the near future after review of the supervisors.

Dr. Mollavali worked very hard, carefully, reliably, and successfully. She was well respected by the German colleagues and fitted nicely in our team where she spent most of her time.

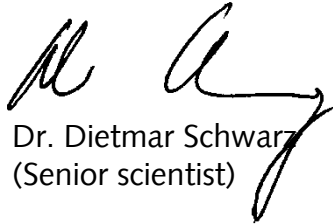
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From my point of view and based on the output of our rather short collaboration, Dr. Mohanna Mollavali is highly motivated and skilled to do research and scientific work. Therefore, I appreciate very much her application and recommend her for a scholarship.



Dr. Dietmar Schwarz
(Senior scientist)