



The Jovan Hadži institute of biology,
Research Centre of the Slovenian
Academy of Sciences and Arts
Slovenia

17 March 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to confirm Chulalongkorn University's acceptance to collaborate on the project "Nature's Toughest Material: Comparative Study of Bark Spider Major Ampullate Silk" (PI: Dr. Matjaž Gregorič; co-PI: Dr. Matjaž Kuntner).

We commit to the following contributions in support of the project's objectives (comparative quantification of MA silk mechanics, characterization of spidroins and gland morphology, and species-level phylogeny of *Caerostris*):

- Field logistics and in-country coordination in Thailand, including site selection, local permits, and liaison with national authorities to ensure compliance with the Nagoya Protocol and other regulations.
- Field assistance for collection of live voucher specimens and web measurements, collection and preservation of samples in RNAlater or flash-freezing of glands as specified.
- Provision of local laboratory space and equipment for preliminary specimen processing, temporary storage at -20°C, and shipment coordination of biological material to project partners.
- Support for training and involvement of Thai undergraduate/graduate students in field methods, sample preparation, and data collection to advance capacity building and broader impacts.
- Active participation in data interpretation, regular project meetings, joint publications, and adherence to FAIR data principles and material transfer/benefit-sharing agreements.

Please consider this letter as formal acceptance of collaboration. We look forward to contributing to the comparative, multidisciplinary investigation of *Caerostris* silk evolution and functional properties.

Respectfully,



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