**Reptiles of Lake Karamık and its province**

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**Aim:** Turkey is a significant migration route between Europe and Asia for animal species and has a rich biodiversity due to being the intersection point of different zoogeographic regions. The aim of this study is; to determine the reptile species in the vicinity of Lake Karamık (Karamık swamp) and to identify factors that threaten the populations of the species.

**Method:** Reptile species were captured and identified by the field surveys carried out for 3 years in Karamık Lake. Field works were carried out around the lake in all the year round, mostly in the spring. . Specimens were captured by hand, trap or dipnet, were left to suitable habitats after determining which species they belong to. The hand-held GPS device were used to record the coordinates of the reptile species observed. In addition, photographs of the samples were taken and habitat information was noted in the areas where samples were captured. Factors that could adversely affect the sustainability of habitats and species in the study area were determined.

**Results:** As a result of the field surveys, a total of 14 reptile species belonging to 7 families were observed around Lake Karamık. Of these species, 2 of them are turtles, 7 of them are lizards and 7 of them are snakes. The rocky slopes of the mountain in the southern part of the lake are a good hibernating and hiding sites for reptiles. One of the most important factors threatening the species is human activities. Local people have an erroneous behaviour that reptiles, especially snakes, should be killed where they are seen.

**Conclusion:** Although faunal studies have gained more interest in recent years, the distribution of reptile species in our country is still unknown. The increase in the human population restrict the habitats of natural populations. In order to create effective conservation strategies, it is important to reveal the current status of the wild populations. Local and long-term faunal studies increase the possibility of detecting the presence of the species in that study site. The coocurrence of mountain and lake habitats in the study area has created a preferred habitat for reptile species. In addition, raptors nesting on the mountain slopes in the south of Lake Karamık create a predator pressure on reptile species.

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