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Biodiversity of Van Province

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BIODIVERSITY OF VAN PROVINCE

ATILLA DURMUŞ, ÖZDEMIR ADIZEL, FEVZI ÖZGÖKÇE, YUSUF UZUN, FAZLI ÖZTÜRK, MUHABBET KEMAL KOÇAK, MURAT ÜNAL, SINAN IŞLER, NILÜFER SELÇUK, ALI KELEŞ, LÜTFI BEHÇET, KENAN DEMIREL, AHMET ÖMER KOÇAK

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Aim: With this study, the vegetation structure, naturally grown, edible and poisonous macrofungi, insect and bird fauna have been determined within the borders of the province of Van and intended to contribute to the identification, enrichment and the biodiversity of fauna and flora of Eastern Anatolia Region and Turkey.

Methods: The material of this research is biological entities within the boundaries province of Van. Floristic research in general from the beginning to the end of the vegetation period, at same time plant samples have been collected and photographed. Insect fauna identification work is required daytime and at night in two separate program. Transect line method was used for determination of bird fauna. Identification books has been used for a quantitative assessment. Spore structures and microscopic data of fungus that moved from the field to laboratory were obtained and described.

Results: As a result of all investigations between 1982 and 2011, approximately 55,000 plant specimens were collected in the Van province and its surrounding. As of today, totally 2571 species and subspecies belonging 103 families and 543 genus have been identified. In this study 13 new taxon for World and 17 new taxon for flora of Turkey have been determined. As a result of field and laboratory studies of description specimens 121 macrofungus were determined distribution 6 ordos, 25 families and 54 genus belong to Ascomycota and Basidiomycota Phylum. 1737 insect species were listed within the boundaries of the province of Van. 1131 of these species belong to Lepidoptera. Today, 407 butterfly species have been identified in Turkey. Van is known as one of the richest regions in Turkey with 225 butterfly species and percent 55%. In addition, 606 species belonging to other insect group were determined in vicinity of Van province. According to recent counts, 213 bird species have been determined in Van Lake Basin. Their residence status is as follows: 77 residents, 18 winter visitors, 89 migrants and 29 transit migrants.

Conclusion: The Van province that located in Van Lake Basin has the very important potential of biodiversity. Existing species lists will increase when continuation of Biodiversity studies. In addition, overgrazing, uncontrolled reed cutting, illegal hunting, drainage, egg collecting, domestic pollution, drying of wetlands, sand draw from river bed, lack of environmental awareness and intensive human activities around the wetland are the most important problems in the basin.

KEYWORDS: BIODIVERSITY, FLORA, MACROFUNGUS, ENTOMOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY, VAN PROVINCE.

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