

FLORA AND VEGETATION DIVERSITY OF KÜRE MOUNTAINS IN BARTIN, TURKEY

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Küre Mountains National Park, which is located on the Western Black Sea Region of Turkey, has characteristics of a plateau and also known as İsfendiyar Mountains. The National Park starts from Bartın River on the west and extends approximately 300 kilometers to the Kızılırmak River on the east. The study area covers Bartın section (19.000 ha) of the Küre Mountains (37.753 ha). Soil type of the region are grey-brown podzolic soil and red-yellow podzolic soil. Bed rock is mostly limestone. The annual precipitation is about 1040.2 mm and mean annual temperature is 12.9°C. The National Park was identified as one of the 100 Forest Hot Spots of Europe which should be protected. However, it has attracted a number of researches until today.

In this study, flora and vegetation diversity of the National Park will be presented from Flora surveys and 41 relevés which were taken from rupicol, maquis and forest areas so far. The vegetation was collected and classified according to Braun-Blanquet methods. All of vegetation relevés of the region were stored into TURBOVEG. The mapping was developed by means of ArcGIS software.

The forest vegetation of the region is mainly composed of pure and mixed forests of Beech and Fir. Also, pseudomaquis vegetation is found between planar and hill zones in the study area. The elevation of the forest areas from which vegetation samples have been taken vary between 500-919 m, the elevation of maquis vegetation is between 480-550m, and the elevation of grassland vegetation is between 500-920 m. In vegetation sampling, 249 species have been determined from 41 points. A total of 6 endemic taxa were identified, which are *Seseli resinosum* Freyn & Sint., *Phlomis russeliana* (Sims) Lag. ex Benth., *Centaurea cadmea* Boiss. subsp. *pontica* Wagenitz ex Y.B. Köse & Ocak, *Crocus ancyrensis* (Herb.) Maw, *Delphinium fissum* subsp. *anatolicum* Chowdhuri & P.H.Davis, *Sidentis dichotoma* Huter.

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