

the international symposium on euroasian biodiversity

Abstract Book

JULY 03-06 2018 KIEV UKRAINE

EDITORS Prof. Dr. Gürkan SEMİZ Assist. Prof. Dr. Gürçay Kıvanç AKYILDIZ

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SEAB2018 Oral Presentations OP-185

Shrub Vegetation of the Argözü Valley in Kibriscik, Bolu, TURKEY

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Aim of the study: The object of this study is to analyse the shrub vegetation of Argözü Valley in Kibriscik, Bolu (Turkey).

Material and Methods: The study area is located in Euxine province of Euro-Siberian Flora Region and on the southern slopes of Koroglu Mountains. Study area is covered with andesite, tuff and agglomerate materials which are elements of the Koroglu volcanic massif. The climate of the region changes from less rainy Mediterranean to rainy Mediterranean type. Annual precipitation varies from 700 mm to 1200 mm depending on altitudinal zones and mean annual temperature is 11°C. For vegetation analysis, a total of 46 sample plots were taken from shrub vegetation of the study area. Vegetation data were classified using TWINSPAN (Hill, 1979) under JUICE software and indirect ordination analysis were applied to the data.

Results: As a result of classification and ordination, two shrub communities were defined. According to this definition, following scheme were proposed for shrub communities.

Upper Class: QUERCO-FAGEA Fukarek-Fabijanik 1968

Class: QUERCETEA PUBESCENTIS Doing Kraft ex Scamoni & H.Passarge 1959

Order: QUERCO CERRIDIS-CARPINETALIA ORIENTALIS Akman, Barbero & Quézel 1980

Alliance: QUERCION ANATOLICAE Akman, Barbero & Quézel 1979

Assosiation 1: *Junipero-Palieretum spinae-christi* Ass. nov.

Assosiation 2: Junipero oxycedri-Quercetum pubescentis Türe, Tokur and Ketenoğlu 2005

The first shrub community is new. The second shrub community was first determined by Türe et al. in Bozüyük, Eskişehir in Turkey. Junipero- Palieretum spinae-christi and Junipero oxycedri-Quercetum pubescentis associations are related to the Central Anatolian steppes located on the south slopes in the submontan zone of the research area. These societies represent the steppe black pine (*Pinus nigra*) and downy oak (*Quercus pubescens*) forest that show a regressive succession, deteriorated by grazing and anthropogenic factors in Central Anatolia. The shrub communities have a rich diversity of species in the study area. Since the shrub vegetation is also an important shelter and food source for the forest fauna, the conservation of these areas will also indirectly protect the fauna diversity in the area.

Acknowledgements: This study was supported by Scientific Research Project Coordination Unit of Duzce University, Project number: DÜBAP2012.02.02.117.

Keywords: Shrub, Communities, Koroglu, Kibriscik, Bolu, Turkey