

Determining the Natural *Gypsophila* L. (Coven) Taxa Growing in Tunceli (Turkey)

Authors:

Mustafa Korkmaz¹ and
Hasan Özçelik²

Institution:

1. Erzincan Üniöersity,
Science and Arts Faculty,
Department of Biology,
Erzincan-Turkey.

2. Süleyman Demirel
Üniöersity, Science and Arts
Faculty, Department of
Biology, Isparta-Turkey.

Corresponding author:

Mustafa Korkmaz

ABSTRACT:

56 species belonging to 60 taxa (out of 126 species in the World) of Caryophyllaceae family grows naturally in Turkey with *Gypsophila* sps L. as the third largest genus. The endemism ratio of the genus is 60% in Turkey. Because Turkey is the gene center of *Gypsophila* and economically very valuable; determining the geographic distribution and biological characteristics of the taxa is very necessary. They have well-developed roots, that prevent soil erosion. Because of containing saponin (10-25 %) in their root, its extract is used as fire extinguisher, gold polisher, cleaner and softener of delicate fabrics and crispness giving substance for halva. It is also used for making liqueur, herbal cheese, ice cream and some other foods. Some taxa are boron hyper accumulators and vegetative mining can be conducted by hyper accumulation. They are also thought to be the cleaning tools for toxid areas by fitoremediation.

In this study, 12 records from eight *Gypsophila* taxa were collected around Tunceli. These are *G. aucheri* Boiss. (1), *G. elegans* Bieb. (1), *G. pallida* Stapf. (2), *G. perfoliata* L. var. *perfoliata* (1), *G. ruscifolia* Boiss. (3), *G. sphaerocephala* Fenzl ex Tchihat var. *cappadocica* Boiss. (1), *G. venusta* Fenzl (1) and *G. viscosa* Murray (2). With addition of *G. briquetiana* Schischk. and *G. hispida* Boiss. the total number is reaching to 10 and it shows that the city is an important diversity center of the genus. *G. aucheri*, *G. briquetiana* and *G. sphaerocephala* var. *cappadocica* are endemic to Turkey and *G. pallida*, *G. perfoliata* L. var. *perfoliata*, *G. venusta* and *G. viscosa* are determined to be new records for Tunceli.

Keywords:

Coven, *Gypsophila*, Habitat, Biodiversity, Tunceli, Turkey.