Littoral Oligochaeta (Lumbriculidae and Enchytraeidae) communities of some mountain lakes in the Eastern Black Sea Range (Turkey)

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Abstract. Six surveys were carried out during July and August 2005–2007 in order to determine the Oligochaeta fauna of high-altitude lakes located in the Eastern Black Sea Range. With the highest peak, Kaçkar Dağı (elevation 3937 metres), and mountain plateaus at about 3000 metres in elevation, are the highest part of the Eastern Black Sea Range. This range is one of the most important glacial region in Turkey. Some physico-chemical features and Oligochaeta fauna of 39 lakes were determined for the first time, where no previous faunistic studies took place. As a result of the study, a total of 10 taxa was identified, comprising 3 species from Lumbriculidae [(*Stylodrilus parvus* (Hrabě & Černosvitov, 1927)*, Stylodrilus heringianus* Claparede, 1862*,* and *Lumbriculus variegatus* (Müller, 1774)], 7 taxa from Enchytraeidae [(*Cognettia sphagnetorum* (Vejdovsky, 1878)*, Cognettia glandulosa* (Michaelsen, 1889), *Mesenchytraeus armatus* (Levinsen, 1884)*, Mesenchytraeus* sp., *Henlea ventriculosa* (d'Udekem, 1854)*, Henlea perpusilla* Friend, 1911*,* and *Henlea sp.*)]. All the taxa represent new records for the region. *Stylodrilus heringianus* is recorded for the first time in Turkey.

Key words. Lumbriculidae, Enchytraeidae, littoral, Oligochaeta, fauna, Eastern Black Sea Range, Turkey

Introduction

Lakes on high mountains and glaciers are unique habitats in terms of faunal composition because they constitute isolated environments. In Turkey, all such lakes are still unused, and wild areas. Also, our knowledge of the Oligochaeta fauna is still very limited in some parts of Turkey, especially in the mountain ranges. Hence, we studied the ecological and biological (fauna) features of mountain lakes in the Eastern Black Sea Range.

A few studies are available on the Oligochaeta fauna of the glacier and the tectonic lakes, which exist on the mountains of high altitude in Turkey. YILDIZ et al. (2005) published a pioneer study for this region. In this study, macroinvertebrate fauna of Lake Eğrigöl, which is located on the Taurus Mountains, was investigated. The second investigation by YILDIZ et al. (2007) was on the Oligochaeta fauna of 16 lakes located on the Taurus Range. USTAOĞLU et al. (2008) also investigated limnology and fauna of glacial lakes and of streams on the Uludağ Mountain.

The objective of the present study was to examine the littoral Oligochaeta fauna of glaciers and the tectonic lakes on the mountains of the Eastern Black Sea Range.

Advances of the 4th International Oligochaeta Taxonomy Meeting
Zoology in the Middle East, Supplementum 2, 2010: 151–160.
ISSN 0939-7140 © Kasparek Verlag, Heidelberg