

An overview of the *Gammarus* Fabricius (Gammaridae: Amphipoda) species of Turkey, with an updated checklist

Murat Özbek

Abstract. The genus *Gammarus* Fabricius, 1775 is represented in Turkey by 38 species. Only four of them occur in marine or brackish habitats and the remaining species are pure freshwater species. Some of them adopted to living in extreme habitats, such as wells, cave waters etc. An updated list of *Gammarus* taxa reported from Turkey is presented in addition to some supplementary records.

Key words. Freshwater, Amphipoda, *Gammarus*, distribution, Anatolia, Turkey.

Introduction

Among the various amphipod genera, *Gammarus* Fabricius is probably the genus with the highest number of epigeic freshwater species (KARAMAN & PINKSTER 1977a, b). Species belonging to this genus inhabit both the marine and freshwater environment. The number of species living in freshwater is greater than that of the marine species. The genus is represented by about 130 species worldwide (HOU & LI 2004). The *Gammarus* fauna of freshwaters in southern Europe and Turkey is indeed very rich (KARAMAN 1973). The amphipod fauna of Turkish freshwaters has been the object of intensive studies by several scientists. The pioneering study on the subject was by VAVRA (1905), which includes the description of *Gammarus argaeus* Vavra, 1905 from Erciyes Mountain, Kayseri province. Subsequent studies were conducted by KARAMAN (1971, 1973, 1975a, b), KARAMAN & PINKSTER (1977a, b 1987), PINKSTER & KARAMAN (1978), MATEUS & MATEUS (1990), KRAPP-SCHICKEL et al. (1994), YEŞİLMEN & KIRGÖZ (1996), ÖZBEK & GÜLOĞLU (2005), ÖZBEK (2007), ÖZBEK & BALIK (2009), and ÖZBEK et al. (2009). The latest study on the *Gammarus* fauna of Turkish freshwaters is by ÖZBEK & ÇAMUR-ELİPEK (2010), who described a new species, *Gammarus kesanensis*, from Erikli Fountain, Keşan.

In this study, the author aims to contribute to knowledge of the distribution of the genus *Gammarus* in Turkey. For this, all the recorded species are listed and their distribution patterns are investigated in detail. The collecting locations of all the species reported from Turkey were compiled from the literature.

Some additional records of *Gammarus* species from different localities in Turkey are also reported in this study. They were also added to the checklist with their catalogue numbers. The samples were provided by different researchers and are deposited in the Museum of the Faculty of Fisheries, Ege University, İzmir, Turkey (ESFM).