An annotated checklist of the earthworm fauna of Turkey (Oligochaeta: Lumbricidae)

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Abstract

A checklist of the Lumbricid earthworms in Turkey is presented. Each entry is accompanied by complete references and, where it is appropriate, remarks are also added. The present list consists of 66 species of which 24 spp. (36.4%) seem to be Anatolian endemics. This indicates a highly specialized earthworm fauna predominated by the representatives of the genera *Healyella* Omodeo & Rota, 1989 and *Dendrobaena* Eisen, 1874.

Key words: Earthworms, Oligochaeta, Lumbricidae, checklist, Turkey, distribution maps.

Introduction

The earthworm research in Turkey goes back to Rosa who reported the first earthworm species *Allolobophora syriaca* Rosa, 1893 from Samsun, North Anatolia. Since then, mainly sporadic reports have been presented (Rosa 1905; Pop 1943; Omodeo 1952, 1955; Zicsi 1973, 1981, 1985) which are based on materials collected as by-products of other investigations. The only larger scale and expedient investigation has been carried out by Italian zoologists in the late nineteen-eighties and summarized by Omodeo & Rota in two consecutive papers (1989, 1991). This systematic earthworm sampling resulted in description of a new genus and several new species. These collection activities focused only on the northern part of the country, and thus vast territories remained unsampled.

At the end of the last millennium the young Turkish zoologist Mete Mısırlıoğlu began to work on earthworms of Turkey but he ran into difficulties, caused by the lack of a comprehensive checklist and an identification key to the species of the family Lumbricidae and