



A catalogue of the fishes held in the Istanbul University, Science Faculty, Hydrobiology Museum

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Abstract

The collection of fishes held by the Hydrobiology Museum, Science Faculty, Istanbul University, contains specimens representing 346 species from 105 families of fish obtained from the coastal and inland waters of Turkey. This study represents the first fish collection catalogue to be published in Turkey and marks the opening of the fish collection at the Istanbul University Science Faculty Hydrobiology Museum (IUSHM).

Key words: fishes, Istanbul University Science Faculty Hydrobiology Museum (IUSHM), catalogue

Introduction

The first and most important collection of specimens of marine and freshwater fishes from Turkey was established in 1950 at the Hydrobiology Research Institute of Istanbul University in İstanbul-Baltalimanı. After the Institute closed in 1981, the fish collection was transferred to the University's Fisheries Department. Owing to this relocation, lack of interest and inadequate care, a large portion of the collection was lost. Today, a fraction of the remaining collection is held at the University's Fisheries Faculty and Zoological Museum (ZMUI). These fish specimens have not previously been catalogued.

The Istanbul University Science Faculty Hydrobiology Museum's (IUSHM) fish collection was assembled by Dr. Muzaffer Demir in 1967 from specimens held for educational purposes and to form the basis of a museum collection. Many of the specimens come from numerous scientific voyages by Dr. M. Demir on the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas in 1968 and 1969, complemented by various researchers in subsequent years. Establishment of the museum collection was accomplished by Dr. Nurettin Meriç in 1989 and has culminated in the present catalogue.

The goal of this study is to present the museum catalogue of the fish specimens collected from the Turkish Seas and inland waters. Thus, we aim to declare opening the fish collection at the Istanbul University Science Faculty Hydrobiology Museum (IUSHM) to the scientific community for further studies.

Material and methods

Fish specimens in the IUSHM collection, preserved mainly in ethyl alcohol, have been examined to ensure that labelling is uniform throughout the entire collection. The collection includes a small number of dry fish. The specimens were identified to species using Whitehead et al. (1986, 1989), Fischer et al. (1987), Berg (1949a, 1949b), Geldiay and Balık (1996), Erkakan et al. (1998, 1999) and Bogutskaya (1992, 1997). In pre-