

Ascidians (Tunicata, Urochordata) Fauna of Turkey CoastsAli MİROĞLU¹, Mehmet YALÇIN¹¹Fatsa Faculty of Marine Sciences, Ordu University, Ordu, Turkey
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Aim of the study: This study is the first attempt to compile give an up-to-date species list of the indigenous ascidians. At the same time, we are to explain the distinctive features that will be useful to determine the taxonomy of ascidians. Ascidians are the most diverse group of organisms belonging to the subphylum Tunicata comprise almost 2500 ascidians species are known to inhabit of the worldwide. Ascidians are usually identified as sessile, colonial and free living organisms. We are aimed to give an up to date species list of ascidians reported from the coasts of Turkey.

Material and Methods: The checklist of the Ascidians has been prepared by compiling all existing literature about along the coasts of Turkey (Black Sea, Marmara Sea, Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea) and ascidians are described along with their distinctive characters and illustrations.

Results: Existing literature search from the coasts of Turkey includes almost 50 recorded species in the Turkish marine fauna. In this study is to explain list of the ascidian species known to date from the coasts of Turkey is reviewed. The review of the literature shows that the publications concerning the ascidian fauna of the Mediterranean Sea 32 species, Black Sea 6 species, Aegean Sea 28 species and Marmara Sea 30 species have been reported along the coasts of Turkey.

Keywords: Ascidians, Tunicata, Taxonomy, Systematic, Turkey.