

Distribution and Threatened Status of Loach *Cobitis* (Pisces: Ostariophysi: Cobitidae) in TurkeyFiliz ÖZDEMİR¹, Füsün ERKAKAN¹¹Biology Department, Science Faculty, Hacettepe University, Turkey.
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Aim of the study: *Cobitis* is a Palearctic genus of ray-finned fish and is one of the most speciose in the family Cobitidae. This genus represented with 17 species including one species of cave in Turkey. Generally, *Cobitis* loachs have a very wide distribution but most of them have very limited areas like *Cobitis bilseli* which is restricted two stream flowing in to the Beyşehir Lake. The distribution of *Cobitis* loaches in Turkey is very complicated because of the uncertainties and misidentification. The ecosystem that is rapidly changing with the development of the global industrial development puts these species in danger. Conservation status and distribution information is very important tools in order to take the necessary precautions. The present study provides distribution and threatened status of *Cobitis* loaches in Turkey.

Material and Methods: The species list are compiled from previously publish. In addition, fish samples of *Cobitis* loachs in ichthyological collection of Hacettepe University (HUIC) was evaluated. The threatened status of *Cobitis* loachs were listed according to IUCN Red list, version 2016-3.

Results: Updated distribution and threatened status of loaches of the genus *Cobitis* of Turkey given as following order: Species name(Author), Distribution and threatened status. There are seventeen species of this genus, of which seven are endangered and two are critically endangered, five are least concern and three of them are not evaluated by IUCN Red list. According to our assessments, these three species are critically endangered. Some of these threatened status may change because of very restricted distribution and dramatic environmental change.

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Keywords: *Cobitis*, distribution, threatened status, Turkey.