

**Geophytes of the Küre Mountains National Park (Bartın Section)**

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**Aim of the study:** The object of this study is to introduce geophytes of Küre Mountains National Park which has a rich flora.

**Material and Methods:** The study area covers Bartın section of Küre Mountains. Küre Mountains start from Bartın River on the west and extends to Kızılırmak River in the east. The highest part of the area reaches 1210 m and decrease to 50 m in the north (Kurucaşile district). According to Davis's grid system, research area is in A4 square and both Euro-Siberian and Mediterranean influence are seen in the region. The National Park was identified as one of the 100 Forest Hot Spots of Europe which should be protected. However, it was attracted a number of researches until today. The field survey was carried out in March and September, between 2014-2017 years.

**Results:** As a result of identification of the collected plant specimens, 605 taxa belonging to 381 genera and 91 families have been determined. 85 of these taxa and 45 genera belonging to 25 families are geophytes and 3 taxa are rare and 5 taxa are endemic. Küre Mountains National Park makes contribution to rural economy with its eco-turism potential beside ethnobotanical resources. Most of the geophytes are collected from the nature for their tubers and rhizomes which are used for medical and aromatic purposes. For instance, *Equisetum arvense* L., *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (L.) Rich., *Orchis mascula* (L.) L., *Crocus ancyrensis* (Herb.) Maw. *Ornithogalum fimbriatum* Willd. taxa are collected by local people and sold. This uncontrolled utilization threatens geophyte population in the region. In addition to that, in the Black Sea Region, they are destroyed due to the pasturage and forestry activities. So, they should be identified with the flora studies and in situ and ex situ conservation should be provided. It is very necessary to continue such researches to show Turkey's natural richness.

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