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Sphagnum Peatlands of Turkey

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Aim of the study: The aim of this study is to introduce Turkish peatland created by sphagnums. Peat is a heterogeneous mixture of more or less decomposed plant (humus) material that has accumulated in a water-saturated environment and in the absence of oxygen. It is cover large areas of land in the temperate northern hemisphere. These areas are very important ecologically and economically.

Material and Methods: Materials of this study were collected between 2013-2016 during the revisional project on Turkish *Sphagnum* supported by TÜBITAK (TBAG, grant no. 113Z631). All locality data (habitat size, population size, altitude, ect.) were taken during the field trip. The relevant floras and monographs were used for identifications of sphagnum specimens.The voucher species are kept in the herbarium of the Adnan Menderes University, Aydın (AYDN).

Results: The *Sphagnum* rich peatlands are not common in Turkey. Because Turkey is located to the south of the northern hemisphere. One of the main factors for the formation of these peatlands is that the precipitation is much more from evaporates. Because of this, almost all of Turkey's sphagnum rich peatlands have been localized to the eastern Black Sea region. The most well-known of these are Ağaçbaşı peatland(Trabzon), Peatland of Barma Yayla (Trabzon), Çağrankaya Peatland (Rize) and Sazak (Artvin). It is also found in peatlands that do not cover very large areas. The only peatland, known from the northern western part of Turkey, is the Ciğergölü turbalığı (Çanakkale). This area is almost about to disappear.

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