

## Maquis Communities of Küre Mountains in Bartın, Turkey

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**Aims of the study:** The object of this study is to classify the Maquis Communities of Küre Mountains in Bartın (Turkey).

**Material and Methods:** Küre Mountains National Park, which is located on the Western Black Sea Region of Turkey, has characteristics of a plateau. The National Park starts from Bartın River on the west and extends approximately 300 kilometers to the Kızılırmak River on the east. The study area covers Bartın section (19.000 ha) of the Küre Mountains (37.753 ha). Soil types of the region are grey-brown podzolic soil and red-yellow podzolic soil. Bed rock is mostly limestone. The annual precipitation is about 1040.2 mm and means annual temperature is 12.9°C. The National Park was identified as one of the 100 Forest Hot Spots of Europe which should be protected. In this study, maquis vegetation of the National Park will be presented with 40 relevés which were taken using Braun-Blanquet method. The mapping was developed by means of ArcGIS software. The altitude of the relevés vary between 184 m to 739 m. The vegetation was collected and classified according to Braun-Blanquet methods. All of the relevés were stored into TURBOVEG and the classification was done within JUICE software.

**Results:** Maquis vegetation data consists of 40 relevés and 182 different taxa. As a result of the classification using TWINSpan, *Erica arborea* and *Juniperus oxycedrus* dominated community was separated from *Carpinus orientalis* dominated communities. On the second level of division, optimal groups were identified for these main units. Consequently, 4 maquis plant communities which are sociologically different from others were determined.

Based on the classification and ordination following classification scheme was proposed:

*Erica arborea*-*Cisteum creticum* Aksoy et Efe 2006

*Cotino coggyriae*-*Pinetum brutiae* Korkmaz et. Engin 2010

*Phyllero latifoli*-*Arbutum andrachne* Ketenoğlu, Akman et Aydoğdu 1980

*Phyllero latifoli*-*Carpinetum orientalis* ass. nova

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