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Contributions to the Knowledge of Mammals in Çorum Province, Turkey

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Aim of the study: This study aimed to determine mammal fauna of Çorum and important areas for mammals at Çorum. When looking at the sources of mammalian species in Çorum, it is seen that species recordings were given only from systematic studies, and almost related with small mammalian species. A total of 42 mammal species have been identified during the field studies in Çorum province. Of these species, 26 were recorded in previous scientific studies, 16 were recorded firstly in Çorum Province during this study, and new locality records of some species were given. As a result of the literature review, mammal species considered to be in Çorum are presented in Table 1 together with their family names, Latin and English species names and protection status.

Material and Methods: Systematical field studies were carried out at all areas located in the Çorum province between 2009-2010 and 2015-2016, in order to determine the mammals spreading inside the borders. The GPS points of all stations were recorded in UTM format and the records were taken at these coordinates and in the immediate vicinity. Scoutguard SG570V and Bushnell Trophy Cam, passive infrared camera traps were used to determine large mammals during field studies. In addition to camera traps, large mammal fauna was also recorded by using noninvasive methods such as counting scats, footprints and other remaining. In the detection of small mammals, Sherman live capture traps were used. The small mammalian individuals caught in the trap were released after the species identification was made. Individuals who cannot be morphologically diagnosed were identified by using karyotype and skull characteristics in laboratory conditions.Studies for identifying bats species were conducted at three different localities and Pettersson D 500X, ultrasound device was used to record the sound of species. BatSound and BatExplorer computer software were used for further analysis.

Results: A total of 42 mammal species were determined in Çorum Province, Turkey with new records reported for the first time. Field studies were carried out two years between 2009-2010 and 2015-2016. One species of hedgehog and shrew, four bat species, six rodent species, roe deer and three carnivore species were recorded for the first time. We also expanded the known distribution and confirmed the presence of four rodent species in the province. We reported data on distribution and locality information for each taxon.

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