

A Preliminary Study on Feeding Biology and Helminths of Kotschy's Gecko, *Mediodactylus kotschy* (Steindachner, 1870) Collected from Denizli Province, Turkey

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Aim of the study: In this study, 14 Kotschy's Gecko, *Mediodactylus kotschy* (13 ♂♂; 1 ♀♀) samples collected from Denizli between 2010-2011, were examined for both helminths and feeding biology of first time.

Material and Methods: The Kotschy's Gecko, *Mediodactylus kotschy* 14 (13 ♂♂; 1 ♀♀) samples were collected from Denizli between 2010-2011 years. The lizards were anesthetized in ether filled glass containers, samples guts were dissected out using surgical scissors and forceps in the laboratory. The observed prey items were classified and counted.

Results: The majority of *M. kotschy*'s diet consisted of the class Insecta. The members of Diptera (60%), Hymenoptera (20%) and Heteroptera (20%) orders were eaten by *M. kotschy*. Some plant materials were also observed in guts of *Mediodactylus kotschy* samples. Also, one helminth species (*Mesocestoides* sp.) were observed in guts of *Mediodactylus kotschy* samples. Kotschy's Gecko, represent a new host record for *Mesocestoides* sp. from Turkey.

Keywords: *Mediodactylus kotschy*, Denizli, Feeding biology, Helminth, Turkey