

Comparison of Fungi Species Found In Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nests, (*Caretta Caretta* L.), at İztuzu Beach (Dalyan-Turkey) During The 2015-2016 Season

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Aim of the study: Isolation of fungus in the nest of sea turtles nesting at İztuzu beach and comparison of microfungi in the nesting season of 2015-2016

Material and Methods: Turtles nest annually between May and August on İztuzu at Dalyan (Muğla) one of the nesting beaches on Turkey. All samples were taken at 2015-2016 nesting seasons. For sampling 50 cm depth and a total of 51 nesting sand was chosen. Sand samples were gathered on two separate field trips. We collected both samples using known laying time or ending of incubation time. Samples were taken from eggs with sterile injectors from undamaged eggs. The samples were inserted into sterile urine containers and brought to the laboratory by cold chain. The samples were refrigerated at +4°C. Then transported to the microbiology laboratory within 24 hours. Sand samples were shaken for 1 minute after dilution. All samples transferred to Sabrouth Dextrose Agar (SDA) by spreading method. The samples for inoculation were left for incubator.

Results: As a result, in total 3 fungi had been isolated from all the accumulated nests. Although 11 species had been cultivated, the majority of these fungal isolates were *Aspergillus* sp. (68%), *Chaetomium* sp. (27%) and *Fusarium* sp. (5%). According to their presence in the nesting sand; *Aspergillus* sp. (68%), *Chaetomium* sp. (27%) and *Fusarium* sp. (5%) in the 2015 season. In the 2016 season, *Aspergillus* sp. (57%), *Fusarium* sp. (29%) and *Chaetomium* sp. (14%) were isolated. Low percental species were not recorded.

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