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The Annual Meeting of the AFSV 2008 in Turkey

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Abstract

In 2008 the AFSV will hold its annual meeting in Turkey. In this contribution we provide information concerning the objectives of the meeting and the excursion programme.

1. Objectives

The main impetus for a meeting in Turkey came from the EU Twinning Project TR02-EN01 "Capacity Building in the Field of Environment, Component Nature", accomplished in May 2006. In this project we became committed to acting as "short time experts" (STE). Please find more information on this at:

- http://www.twinning-project.org/
- http://www.lwf.uni-muenchen.de/zentrum_wald-forst-holz/zwfh-online/docs2/aktuell_campus.html?action=fullnews&id=161
- http://www.tu-berlin.de/~kehl/project/twinning/051-EUNIS.htm

Secondly, we would like to intensify cooperation between the "Floristisch-soziologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft" (www.tuexenia.de) and the AFSV (www.afsv.de). Linking floristic-geobotanical and forest-ecological methods releases a pulse of innovative energy and is beneficial to everyone researching fields of future relevance such as NATURA 2000, global change (WALENTOWSKI et al. 2007) and those who apply the results of such research (managing biodiversity, sustainable land use etc.).

Our former chairman, Prof. Dr. Hannes MAYER, who directed the AFSV from 1964-1967, maintained close connections with Turkey. Together with Prof. Hüseyin AKSOY from the Institute of Silviculture at the University of Istanbul he conceived and wrote the essential baseline book *Wälder der Türkei (Forests of Turkey*), published in 1986. We are proud to build on this important pioneer achievement with new activities, and are glad to intensify

our contacts with our Turkish colleagues and to share our technical and scientific know-how.

Worthy of mention here, because of their up-to-dateness, although independently created and partly as yet unpublished, are the following floristic, geobotanical and silvicultural works:

- PILS, G. (2006): Flowers of Turkey.
- BERGMEIER, E., WALENTOWSKI, H. (2007): Interpretation Manual of European Union, Habitats in Turkey, Forests.
- HUSS, J., KAHVECI, O. (in prep.): Silviculture in Turkey.

2. Preliminary Excursions in 2006 and 2007

Based on two reconnaissance trips (2006, 2007) we eventually derived a cross-section through the Euxine vegetation in northwestern Turkey, achieved by geobotanical transects along gradients of temperature and humidity. Along these significant gradients the typical habitat types were analysed for their decisive environmental factors (AK STANDORTSKARTIERUNG 2003), species combination, habitat structures and human impacts (MÜLLER-KROEHLING et al. 2004, LWF 2007).

3. Excursion Programme 2008

On the forthcoming excursion in 2008 we shall present and discuss the indicators and key factors for identification of the habitat types in the field, for the assessment of the "favourable conservation status (FCS)" and options for management (e.g. integrative silvicultural treatment).

A first geobotanical sequence is located in the maritime northern fringe ("coastal chain") of the Northern Marmara and the Western Black Sea Region. The elevation profile of the so-called "Euxine vegetation" (Fig. 1) comprises:

- Dunes of the Black Sea coast near Kadiköy / Kocaali,
- Colline oak and beech forests in the Belgrade Forest and the Karasu Sinanoğlu Forest,
- Submontane beech and chestnut forests rich in *Rhododendron* (Akçakoca Dağları).

We shall then visit the mountainous region of the Yedigöller National Park, located between the northern coastal and the southern inland chain. It is a transient area ("sub-Euxine") influenced by both maritime and continental climates. Due to this, representatives of vegetation characteristic of the humid zone (e.g. *Quercus petraea* ssp. *iberica, Q. hartwissiana, Fagus sylvatica, Taxus baccata, Rhododendron ponticum*) intermingle with species of the subcontinental-xero-Euxine vegetation (e.g. *Pinus nigra, P. sylvestris*). The montane level is characterized by extensive stands of *Abies bornmuelleriana*.

The concluding transect in the Köröğlü Dağları deals with a xeric sequence, typical for the continental southern fringe ("inland chain") of the Western Black Sea Region towards the Central Anatolian Region (Fig. 1). The profile extends from the sub-Euxine to the xero-Euxine vegetation:

- Pure stands of *Abies bornmuelleriana, Abies bornmuelleriana-Pinus sylvestris* mixed stands
- Pine stands (*Pinus sylvestris, Pinus nigra*)
- Juniper matorral
- Xeric oak forests (*Quercus pubescens* ssp. *anatolica*)
- Montane steppe vegetation

Fig. 1: Targets of the AFSV excursions at the meeting in 2008. Codes for the biogeographical units: 1.1 = Northern Marmara Region, 1.2 = Southern Marmara Region, 4.1 = Central Anatolian Region, 5.1 = Western Black Sea Region. The boundaries of these units are drawn as dashed lines. The eco-regions (Euxine broadleaved forests ◄► sub-Euxine broadleaved and conifer forests ◄► xero-Euxine forest-steppe) are demarcated by continuous lines.

4. Acknowledgements

We thank our Turkish hosts, Prof. Dr. Y. AYAŞLIGIL / University of Istanbul and Ass. Prof. Ulvi Erhan EROL / University of Isparta for their unlimited support and for contacting the local authorities. In the field we met Prof. (em.) Dr. KANTARCI / University of Istanbul, who re-opened two of his scientifically described soil profiles in the Belgrade Forest, and spontaneously agreed to serve us as local expert on the AFSV meeting in 2008. We were honoured by the visit of Mr. Osman KAHVECI, General Director of Forestry in Turkey, during our reconnaissance trip in 2007, and his promise to address the meeting in 2008.

We also thank our German staff for their dedicated work in preparation for the meeting. First of all, thanks are due to the students and collaborators of the University of Göttingen. Guided and instructed by Çihan AYDIN (head of the Department of forest habitat survey in Schleswig-Holstein), PD Dr. Gregor AAS (director of the Ecological-Botanical Garden/ÖBG of Bayreuth), Dr. Marianne LAUERER (research assistant, ÖBG), and Florian HORST (Koblenz, forest expert), the junior scientists helped us to dig and to describe soil profiles, to collect and to identify unknown plants, to record Braun-Blanquet relevés, and to inventory the stands (stocktaking, age, tree species composition, layering, forest stage, dead wood, habitat trees, rejuvenation). Toby SPRIBILLE, University of Göttingen, recorded the epiphytic lichens.

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