

DETERMINATION OF THE FRESHWATER ICHTHYOFAUNA IN THE PROVINCE OF SAMSUN, TURKEY

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The research done by aiming to find out the fish species inhabiting in freshwater within the city of Samsun took place between June 2003 and September 2005. Electro-shocker, fishing cast net, pinter, fishing line, fishermans dip net and fishing nets that have different scale are used to catch fish samples. In this study 48 species and 4 sub-species belonging to 19 families (Anguillidae, Atherinidae, Balitoridae, Blennidae, Cobitidae, Cyprinidae, Cyprinodontidae, Esocidae, Gasterosteidae, Gobiidae, Mugilidae, Poecilidae, Percidae, Pleuronectidae, Pomatomidae, Salmonidae, Siluridae, Soleidae, Syngnathidae) are identified.

Keys to identification composed of diagnostic characters, at the level of family, species and subspecies are prepared to facilitate the identification of species and subspecies obtained from research area. The synonyms, terra typicas, Turkish names,

taxonomic characters, ecological features, reproductive behaviors, economical importance, fishing and geographical distributions of the fish species are informed according to the data of this study and literatures. The systematic characters determined in this study are compared to data recorded with similiar studies about the mentioned fish species and subspecies.

In conclusion of this study, endemic and egzotic fishes living in freshwater sources in the province of Samsun are determined. The fish species identified in the study area are put into groups according to the conservation status of national and international lists. Factors which have influence on freshwater fish fauna in the province of Samsun are mentioned. Some suggestions are presented in connection with the protection and the evaluation of the ichthyofauna. The original photographs of identified taxon are showed.



Cyprinus carpio



Carassius gibelio



Capoeta tinca



Leuciscus cephalus