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Research Article
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Anahtar sözcükler: Tarihi çevre, Kilis, bitkisel tasarım, sokak, kentsel sit alanı

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Examination of traditional street texture in terms of plant existence: Kilis urban protected area

Geleneksel sokak dokusunun bitki varlığı açısından incelenmesi: Kilis kentsel sit alanı

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The study examines the identification and use of plant materials in the streets in Kilis urban protected area.

Material and Methods: Within the scope of the study, the traditional street texture in the Kilis urban protected area was examined. In the study, the protected area with an area of 720 decares was divided into four regions. A total of 40 streets were examined and on-site identification and analysis were made, and plant species and usage areas in the historical texture were determined.

Results: At the end of the study, a total of 18 different species were identified, including 9 trees, 4 shrubs and 5 climbers. In terms of usage rates, the most commonly used species were 44.15% (*Vitis vinifera*), 12.98% (*Morus alba*), 9.09% *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* and 6.49% *Campsis radicans*.

Conclusion: In line with the findings obtained, it was emphasized that the historical texture should be handled and protected as a whole by determining the existing plant species.

ÖZ

Amaç: Çalışmada Kilis kentsel sit alanında sokaklarda yer alan bitkisel materyallerin tespiti ve kullanımı incelenmektedir.

Materyal ve Yöntem: Çalışma kapsamında Kilis kentsel sit alanındaki geleneksel sokak dokusu incelenmiştir. 720 dönüm alana sahip kentsel sit alanı dört bölgeye ayrılmıştır. Toplam 40 cadde incelenerek yerinde tespit ve analizler yapılarak tarihi dokudaki bitki türleri ve kullanım alanları belirlenmiştir.

Araştırma Bulguları: Çalışma sonucunda 9'u ağaç, 4'ü çalı, 5'i sarılıcı ve tırmanıcı olmak üzere toplam 18 farklı tür tespit edilmiştir. Kullanım oranlarına bakıldığında ise en çok kullanılan türler %44.15 (*Vitis vinifera*), %12.98 (*Morus alba*) %9.09 *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* ve %6.49 *Campsis radicans* olarak belirlenmiştir.

Sonuç: Elde edilen bulgular doğrultusunda mevcut bitki türlerinin tespit edilerek tarihi dokunun bir bütün olarak ele alınması ve korunması gerektiği vurgulanmıştır.

INTRODUCTION

Streets, which form cities the transportation networks and contain much social data, are an important part of urban identity due to their unique textures. It divides the urban space but also connects it and forms the basic skeletal structure of the city (Southworth & Owens, 1993). Urban dwellers interact with plants in various ways in streets, parks, gardens, and commercial areas (Lawrence, 1994; Nagendra & Gopal, 2010). However, increased population density often threatens cities with fewer vegetation and water bodies than rural areas (Gunawardena et al., 2017). Whereas vegetation helps to reduce stormwater runoff, preventing the likelihood of flooding and property damage (McPherson et al., 1997). Therefore, street plants play an integral role in supporting healthy urban communities by providing environmental, social and economic benefits. It contributes to the liveability of cities by providing shade, slowing the flow rate of rainwater, and improving air quality (Mullaney et al., 2015). Street trees can change the urban landscape, affect the ecological functioning of the urban ecosystem, change the economic value of cities and the quality of their spaces (Bolund & Hunhammar, 1999). Undoubtedly, plants have an important role in the design of aesthetic and functional spaces in landscape architecture works. Stone, wood, concrete, iron etc. contrary to the hard, solid, dull and lifeless appearance of the materials that make up the landscape, plants display a lively, soft and warm appearance by creating a more natural and human-like environment (Acar et al., 2010). The intense use of species in narrow spaces in the city adds color and dynamism to the space. To make people feel the seasonal differences in compositions or to create an accent effect thanks to the species that attract attention with their leaf colors different from green every season, it is necessary to include species that offer different color and texture characteristics. (Acar et al., 2010). One of the most important functions of plants is to contribute aesthetically to the designed spaces with their visual features such as form, texture and color, as well as their anatomical features (Yılmaz et al., 2018). The contribution of trees to the aesthetic of a city is very important. Empty streets with asphalt and cement blocks create a sense of pressure for people. Since a city without trees lacks a softening effect, it creates an unsettling impact when confronted with hard surfaces. Trees interrupt the lines and planes, connecting people to their environment. Plants provide urban dwellers with a sense of natural, rhythmic change as they respond to the seasons (Nadel et al., 2013). While plants enhance the livability and vibrancy of their surroundings, they also provide people with the opportunity to connect with nature, alleviating the pressures of daily life (Karaşah & Var, 2012).

Planting design has important functions in transforming historical urban areas, which have the cultural characteristics of the region from past to present, into private spaces (Nemutlu, 2012). It is important to reveal the necessity of preserving historical environments, which are shaped by the cultural accumulation of the society and serve as a bridge between generations. Because it will be possible to transfer them as livable places that are compatible with contemporary living conditions, maintaining their cultural identity and be livable to future generations, by developing suggestions for this purpose (Erdoğan & Kuter, 2008). In the selection of plant species to be used in historical cities, the climatic conditions of the region and the period of the building should be taken into account. Small and pruned species, as well as seasonal and climbing plants, should be used in urban green areas (Nemutlu et al., 2013).

Studies on the subject vary, such as the benefits of street trees, user perceptions (Mullaney et al., 2015), plant distribution, and species diversity (Nagendra & Gopal, 2010; Caneva et al., 2020). Plant materials used in landscape design studies (Ekici & Sarıbaş, 2006; Ekici 2010; Sakıcı et al., 2013), historical texture and plant materials within the urban protected area (Kuter & Erdoğan, 2010; Nemutlu et al., 2013; Nemutlu, 2014; Sezen & Patan, 2015; Eroğlu et al., 2016; Bekar et al., 2017; Tırnakçı & Aklıbaşında, 2018; Gür & Kahraman,2024), plant design principles (Eroğlu et al., 2005; Kösa & Atik, 2013), their use in residential gardens (Yeşil &Yılmaz, 2007; Surat, 2020) have carried out a related study.

The study examines the identification and use of plant materials in the streets of the urban protected area of Kilis. The existing plant species have been determined through analytical research, emphasizing the necessity of considering and protecting the historical texture. Historical areas, shaped by

knowledge and experience accumulated over the years, are destroyed when subjected to practices far from the conservation approach. It is important to identify all the elements that contribute to shaping the city in a holistic approach and ensure their continuity in future applications. The study is important because it will help preserve and maintain the urban identity within the protected area.

MATERIALS and METHODS

In the study, a literature review was conducted first, followed by a field study. The study focused on the general settlement formation of the city and the factors influencing these formations. The research was carried out in the Kilis urban protected area, which spans a total area of 720 hectares (see Figure 1). Kilis province is situated between the Hatay-Maraş trough and the Fırat River, along the Turkey-Syria border. It covers an area of 1,521 km^2 and has an elevation of 680 meters. Archaeological excavations conducted 5 km southeast of the city indicate that the region dates back to the Late Chalcolithic Age (3500-3000 BC) (Kilis Culture and Tourism Directorate). In terms of climate, the temperature is around 2ºC even in January, the coldest month, while the highest temperature is recorded in July and August, reaching 35.9ºC. The average annual precipitation is 515.8 mm (Kesici, 1994).

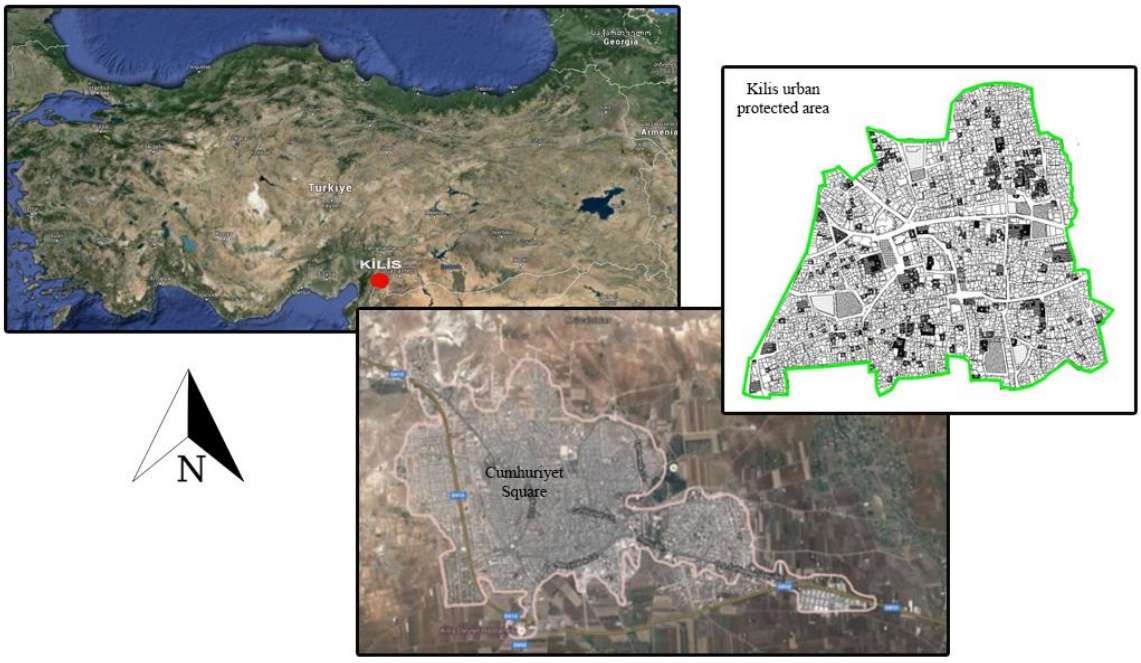

Figure 1. Location of the study area.

Şekil 1. *Çalışma Alanı.*

After the literature review, photographing and mapping were conducted in the study. The study method consists of observation, analysis, and synthesis. For this purpose, examinations were made in the urban protected area in 2022, and plants were identified and photographed. The zoning plan, current photographs and previous studies were used. The streets in the study area were mapped using AutoCAD 2018 and Photoshop CS2. The identified plant species were combined and analyzed on a chart.

In the context of the research, the urban protected area was divided into four regions, and 10 streets were chosen from each region for examination. You can find the distribution of regions and streets in Figure 2 of the study, which covered a total of 40 streets and dead-end streets. The streets were selected using a random method, and care was taken to ensure an equal number of samples from each region.

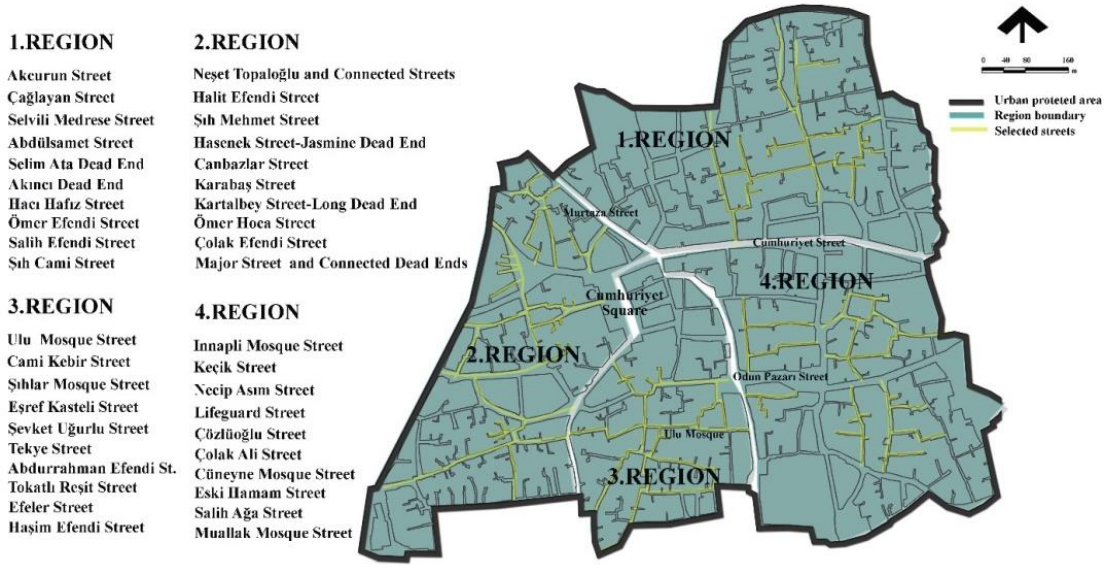

Figure 2. Distribution of identified streets.
Şekil 2. *Belirlenen sokakların dağılımı.*

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Kilis traditional texture features

The city, which exhibits examples of stonework in general, creates a unity with its narrow and dead-end streets bearing traces of Ottoman Architecture, high walls surrounding the residences, and houses with courtyards (KAIP, 2003). Due to the heat of the climate, the need for shaded spaces in open areas causes the roads to be narrow and the buildings to be positioned to give shade to the roads (Savaşçıoğlu, 2008). In line with the concept of privacy, the relationship between life and the street in residences is limited. Thus, a courtyard-oriented life has developed, which makes it impossible to understand the house when viewed from the street (El Abidin & Saatçi, 2019).

The core of the urban texture is shaped as the Old Hamam-Pirlioğlu Mosque-Cüneyne Mosque-Wood Market. The existence of the Mosque-Hammam-Bazaar trio indicates the existence of an urbanization (Çolakoğlu,1995) (Figure 3).

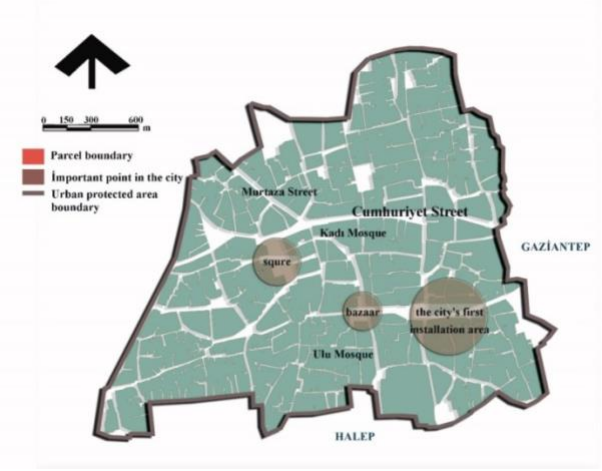

Figure 3. Urban texture.
Şekil 3. *Kent dokusu.*

Streets investigated within the scope of the research

Region 1: Akcurun Street, Çağlayan Street, Selvili Medrese Street, Abdulsamet Street, Selim Ata End, Akıncı Dead End, Hacı Hafız Street, Ömer Efendi Street, Salih Efendi Street, Şıh Cami Street (Figure 4). According to the findings of the study conducted in this region, a total of 8 different plant species were identified. These plants are 19 in total. The most used species was determined as *Vitis vinifera* (Grape).

Region 2: Neşet Topaloğlu and Connected Streets, Halit Efendi Street, Şıh Mehmet Street, Hasenek Street-Yasemin Dead End, Canbazlar Street, Karabaş Street, Kartalbey Street-Uzun Dead End, Ömer Hoca Street, Çolak Mustafa Street, Major Street and Connected Dead Ends (Figure 5). According to the findings of the study, 11 different species, in a total of 43, were identified. The most used species was determined as *Vitis vinifera* (Grape).

Region 3: Ulu Cami Street, Cami Kebir Street, Şıhlar Cami Street, Eşref Kasteli Street, Şevket Uğurlu Street, Tekye Street, Abdurrahman Efendi Street, Tokatlı Reşit Street, Efeler Street, Haşim Efendi Street (Figure 6). According to the findings of the study, 11 different species, in a total of 13, were identified. *Vitis vinifera* (Grape) and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* are the most commonly used species.

Region 4: İnnaplı Cami Street, Keçik Street, Necip Asım Street, Cankurtaran Street, Çözümoğlu Street, Çolak Ali Street, Cüneyne Mosque Street and Connected Streets, Old Hamam Street and Connected Streets, Salih Ağa Street, Muallak Cami Street (Figure 7). According to the findings of the study, 2 different species, in total of 2, were identified.

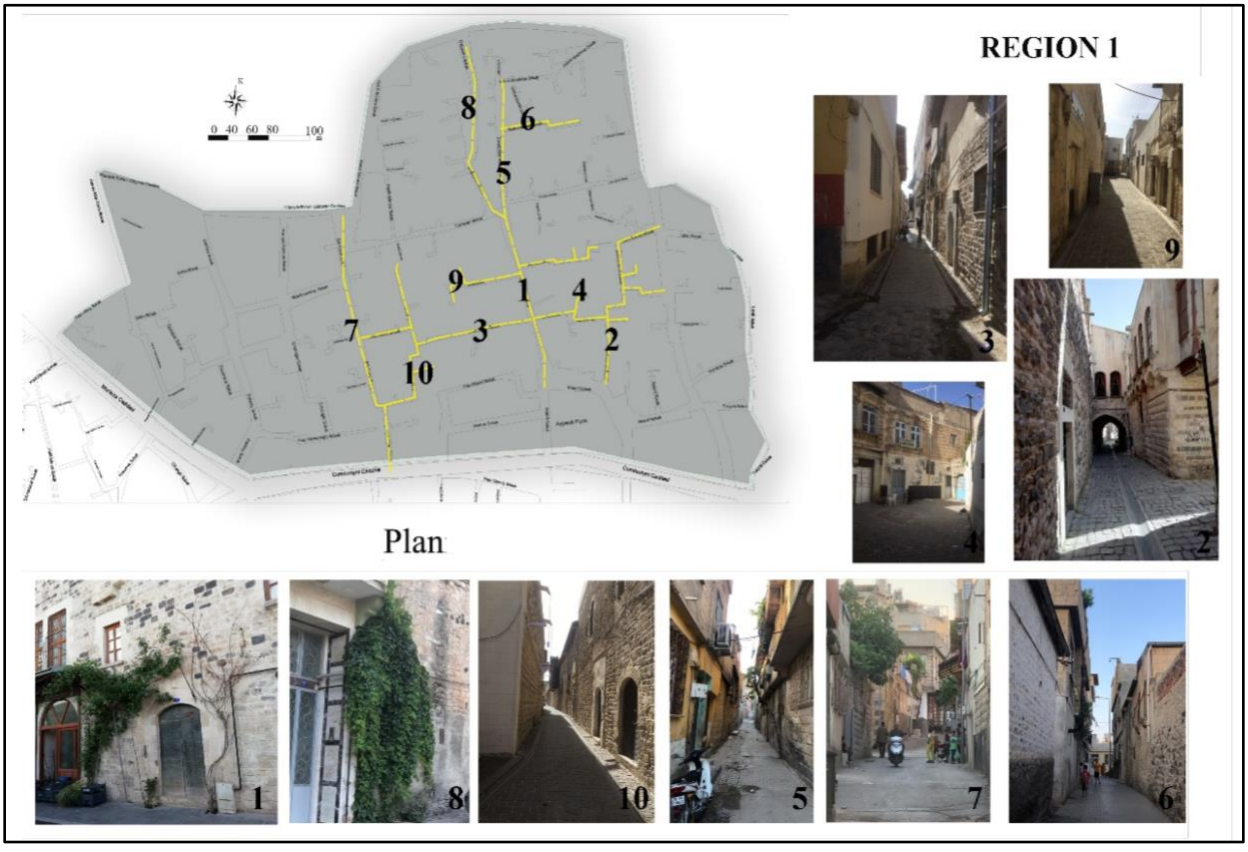

Figure 4. View of the streets - Region 1.

Şekil 4. Sokakların görünümü - Bölge 1.

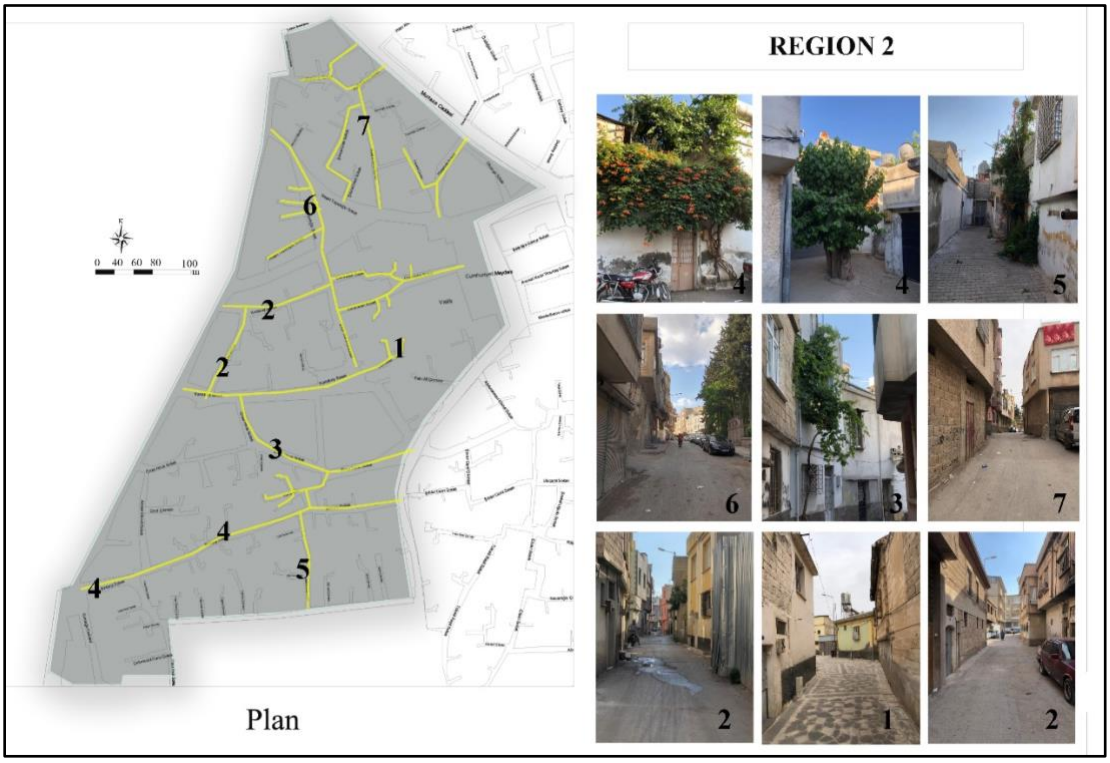

Figure 5. View of the streets - Region 2.

***Şekil 5**. Sokakların görünümü - Bölge 2.*

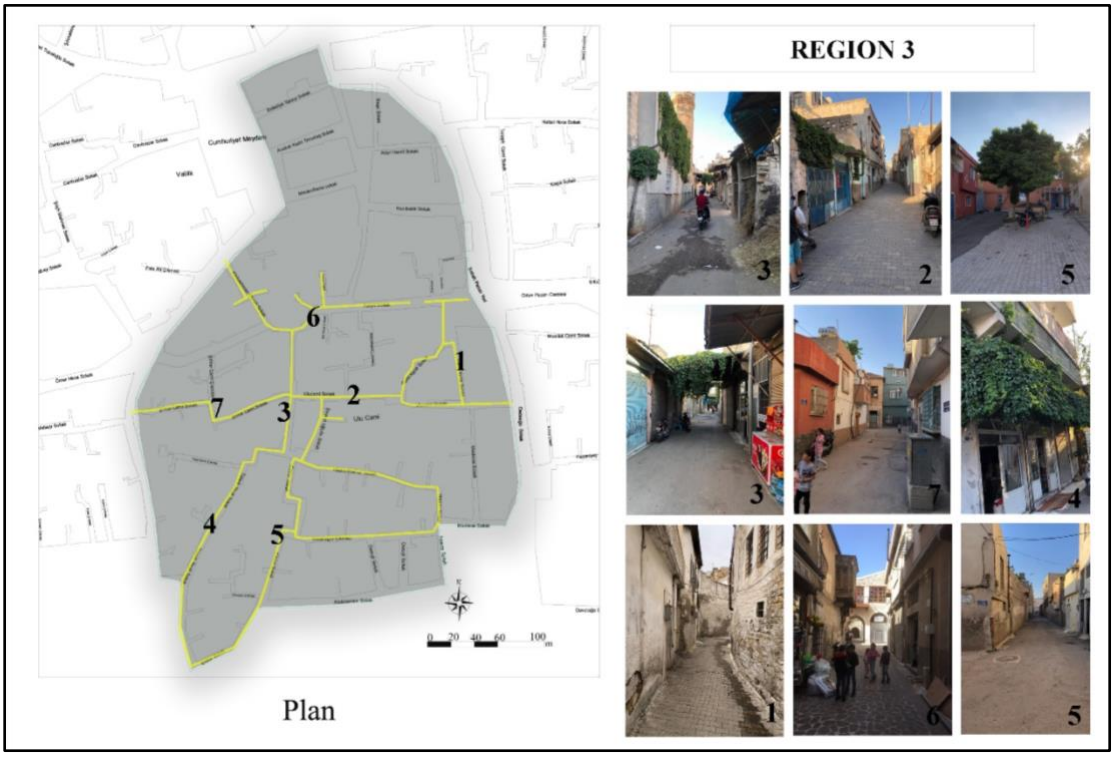

Figure 6. Views of the streets - Region 3.

***Şekil 6.** Sokakların görünümü - Bölge 3.*

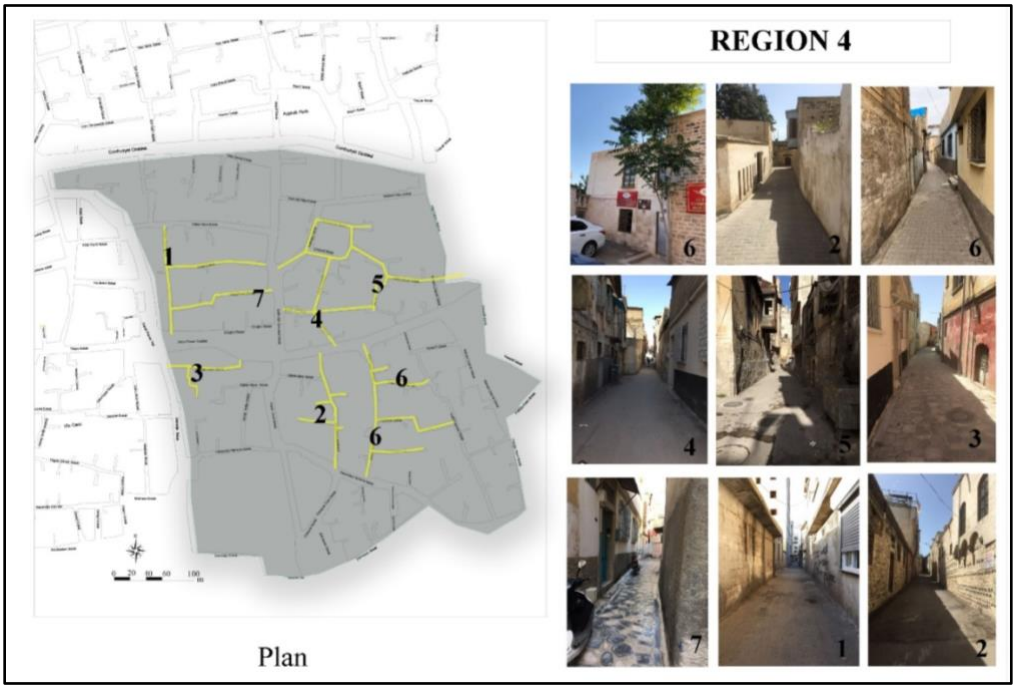

Figure 7. View of the streets- Region 4.

Şekil 7. Sokakların görünümü-Bölge 4.

The plants determined by with the analysis studies were brought together and classified. Information regarding species and numbers of plants used in the regions is given in Table 1. Accordingly, the region with the highest number of plants is Region 2 (43 pieces), it is followed by Region 1 (19 pieces), Region 3 (13 pieces) and Region 4 (2 pieces). While the regions are examined according to the species diversity, it was determined that Region 2 (11) has them the most, and the Region 1 (8), the Region 3 (6) and the Region 4 (2) follow it respectively.

Table 1. *Plant species and number distributions by regions*

Çizelge 1. *Bölgelere göre bitki tür ve sayı dağılımları*

Region	IDENTIFIED PLANTS			
	Street name	Name	Class	Total
Region 1	1.Akcurun Street 2. Caglayan Street 3. Selvili Madrasah Street 4.Abdulsamet Street 5.Selim Ata Dilemma 6. Akıncı's Dead End 7.Hacı Hafiz Street 8. Omer Efendi Street 9. Salih Efendi Street 10. Sih Mosque Street	*Vitis vinifera*	Twining and Climbing	6
		Platanus orientalis	Tree	1
		Morus alba	Tree	5
		Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Twining and Climbing	1
		Euonymus japonica "Auera"	Shrub	1
		Euonymus japonica	Shrub	1
		Campsis radicans	Twining and Climbing	1
		Rosa sp.	Twining and Climbing	3
Region 2	1.Neşet Topaloğlu and Connected Streets 2.Halit Efendi Street 3.Şıh Mehmet Street 4.Hasenek Street-Jasmine Dead End 5.Canbazlar Street 6.Karabaş Street 7.Kartalbey Street -Long Dead End 8. Omer Hodja Street 9.Colak Mustafa Street 10. Major Street and Connected Dead Ends	*Vitis vinifera*	Twining and Climbing	23
		Thuja orientalis	Shrub	1
		Morus alba	Tree	5
		Ligustrum sp.	Tree	1
		Robinia pseudoacacia	Tree	2
		Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Twining and Climbing	2
		Platanus orientalis	Tree	1
		Eriobotrya japonica	Tree	1
		Campsis radicans	Twining and Climbing	4
		Lonicera sp.	Twining and Climbing	2
		Liquidamber orientalis	Tree	1

Table 1. *Devamı*

Çizelge 1. *Continued*

Region	IDENTIFIED PLANTS			
	Street name	Name	Class	Total
Region 3	1. Great Mosque Street 2.Cami Kebir Street 3.Şıhlar Mosque Street 4.Eşref Kasteli Street 5.Şevket Uğurlu Street 6.Tekye Street 7.Abdurrahman Efendi Street 8.Tokatli Reşit Street 9.Efeler Street 10.Haşim Efendi Street	*Vitis vinifera*	Twining and Climbing	4
		Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Twining and Climbing	4
		Thuja orientalis	Shrub	1
		*Robinia pseudoacacia "*Umbraculifera"	Tree	1
		Chamaecyparis lawsoniana "Ellwoodii"	Tree	1
		Nerium oleander	Shrub	2
Region 4	1.Innapli Mosque Street 2.Keçik Street 3.Necip Asim Street 4.Lifeguard Street 5.Çözlüoğlu Street 6.Colak Ali Street 7.Cüneyne Mosque Street and Connected Streets 8.Old Hamam Street and Connected Streets 9.Salih Ağa Street 10. Muallak Mosque Street	*Vitis vinifera*	Twining and Climbing	1
		Ailanthus altissima	Tree	1

As a result of the detection of plant species, a total of 18 different species were identified within the study area. It was determined that 9 of these species are in the tree class, 5 in the wrapper and climber class, and 4 in the shrub class. The total number of determined plants was 77. The highest species diversity (11) and the highest number of plants (43) were determined in the 2nd Region, also the least species diversity (2) and least number of plants (2) were determined in the 4th Region. As a result of the study, the most used species were *Vitis vinifera* (44.15%) *Morus alba* (12.98%), *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (9.09%) and *Campsis radicans* (6.49%) (Table 2).

Table 2. *Determined plant species and utilization rates*

Çizelge 2. *Belirlenen bitki türleri ve kullanım oranları*

Name	Class	Total	Percentage (%)
Ailanthus altissima	Tree	***1***	***1.29***
Campsis radicans	Twining and Climbing	***5***	***6.49***
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana "Ellwoodii"	Tree	***1***	***1.29***
Eriobotrya japonica	Tree	***1***	***1.29***
Euonymus japonica	Shrub	***1***	***1.29***
Euonymus japonica "Auera"	Shrub	***1***	***1.29***
Ligustrum sp.	Tree	***1***	***1.29***
Liquidamber orientalis	Tree	***1***	***1.29***
Lonicera sp.	Twining and Climbing	***2***	***2.59***
Morus alba	Tree	***10***	***12.98***
Nerium oleander	Shrub	***2***	***2.59***
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Twining and Climbing	***7***	***9.09***
Platanus orientalis	Tree	***2***	***2.59***
Robinia pseudoacacia	Tree	***2***	***2.59***
*Robinia pseudoacacia "*Umbraculifera"	Tree	***1***	***1.29***
Rosa sp.	Twining and Climbing	***3***	***3.89***
Thuja orientalis	Shrub	***2***	***2.59***
Vitis vinifera	Twining and Climbing	***34***	***44.15***

The urban protected area that was studied was built in a way that resembles a Turkish-Islamic city, with an inward-looking design. As a result, the lifestyle in this area is centered around the courtyard, leading to the planting of greenery. The high walls, originally built for security and defense, also create shaded areas.

Atabeyoğlu et al. (2019) also stated in their study that fruit trees hanging from the walls of buildings and wrapping plant species create a visually effective street landscape. In this sense, it is compatible with the findings of the study.

CONCLUSIONS

This study examined the determination and use of plant materials in the streets of Kilis urban protected area. As a result of the study, it was seen that the narrow and curved street structure is an important factor in plant selection, especially. The selection of species compatible with the general climate structure and traditional texture of the region can be considered as the primary cause of the design approach. Undoubtedly, green texture features and plant existence are very important in the city, which has a traditional texture feature predominantly stone material. In this respect, it is also important to break and reduce this harsh effect of the city with the presence of vegetation.

The street, which is the second-largest urban space and a constituent element of the city's spatial structure. Streets are formed by the coming together of residences and being a city's transportation network (Krier, 1979). Jacobs says that the first thing that comes to mind when we think of a city is the streets. In short, street life strengthens the sense of belonging and the consciousness of collective living (Jacobs, 1961). Protection should begin with the garden/environment of the historical building and extend to the scale of the street, neighborhood, city, and region, as the building is interconnected with its surroundings (Aklıbaşında and Özhancı, 2017). Open and green spaces between historical buildings; It has many functions such as ensuring the full and vacant ratio of cities, engaging in recreational activities, microclimate effect with its green texture, contributing to the city silhouette, and creating a fund for buildings. Such spaces should be protected, new arrangements should not compete with the historical texture and should be compatible with aesthetic and functional aspects (Çelik & Yazgan, 2007). In addition, when choosing plant material, it should be noted that it should be compatible with the historical texture regarding form, color, and texture (Çelik & Yazgan, 2009).

The streets located in the historical texture reflect the cultural heritage value of the city to active users and daily visitors. For this reason, it is important to determine the plant species they contain, as well as their structural features, in order to be passed on to future generations. Creating an inventory of plant species is also informative about the species that can be used in similar urban arrangements. Regular maintenance of the plant species in the area and the addition of new ones to replace the missing ones are important for conservation. At this point, it is necessary to inform the users and take precautions against possible damage.

Data Availability

Data will be made available upon reasonable request.

Author Contributions

Conception and design of the study: ST sample collection: ST; analysis and interpretation of data: ST; statistical analysis: ST; visualization: ST; writing manuscript: ST.

Ethical Statement

I declare that there is no need for an ethics committee for this research.

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