

## Cave ostracoda (Crustacea) from western Black Sea region of Turkey

Mehmet YAVUZATMACA, Okan KÜLKÖYLÜOĞLU, Hamdi MENGI, Necmettin SARI & Elif BASAK

The studies about cave ostracods in the world are limited but need more attention. Until now, about 113 taxa (89 species and 24 subfossil), one new subfamily and one new genus have been detected in cave environments. However, this number is believed to be underestimated. Indeed, during the present study, seven ostracod taxa (*Candona neglecta*, *Ilyocypris inermis*, *I. bradyi*, *Candona* sp., *Ilyocypris* sp., *Pseudocandona* sp. and *Heterocypris* sp.) collected from 11 cave sites of three cities (Zonguldak, Düzce, Adapazari) in Western Black Sea Region of Turkey were reported. Three species (*C. neglecta*, *I. inermis*, and *I. bradyi*) were the first reports from caves in Turkey. These species reported herein show cosmopolitan distribution along with high levels of ecological tolerances to different factors.

Thus, such high tolerances and wide distribution ability may probably support their occurrence within the cave environments. Unweighted Pair Group Mean Averages (UPGMA) distinguished the sites into 3 main clusters based on physical and ecological characteristics. Accordingly, about 85% of similarities were found among the caves.

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### Authors addresses:

Mehmet Yavuzatmaca, Okan Külköylüoğlu, Necmettin Sari & Elif Basak  
Department of Biology, Faculty of Arts and Science, Abant İzzet Baysal University, Gök-  
köy 14280 Bolu, Turkey  
yavuzatmaca\_m@ibu.edu.tr

Hamdi Mengi  
Mineral Research and Exploration General Directorate (MTA), Ankara, Turkey