
Poster Session 1 – Population Dynamics

45 Recent information on population status of *Meriones dahli* that is close to extinction in the Middle East

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Meriones dahli is psammophilic (living in sand) inhabiting ecologically dispersed areas and suitable habitats are fragmented. This rodent is distributed in a small area spread over the northern skirts of Mount Ararat on the borders of Iğdir province in Turkey. Abu jail (*Calligonum polygonoides*) is found in the desert ecosystem where the plant is dominant, and *Meriones dahli* lives in the burrows dug into the bottom of the Abu jail plant. In the mid-1980s, the global population size was estimated to be 5,000-6,000 individuals. The information about the *Meriones dahli* population seems to consist of scattered records, but there is a steady decline in populations according to the information available. Within the scope of the study, the counting method used in the species action plan was used in determining the population size. Considering that it is breeding 3 times a year according to the literature data, about 10 days after the first frying season, field trials were initiated and 100 Sherman type traps were used during the landing (5 consecutive days). The mark-recapture method was used according to the transect method and the traps were spread homogeneously over the whole area starting from the point locations given in the literature records, leaving a 10 m gap between the traps. At the end of the study, a total of 4 individuals were caught and 1 of them was juvenile, 1 was female and 2 were males. The cause of the sudden decline in the population is observed as habitat disposal, material intake, construction activities and excessive grazing. Some suggestions have been made to prevent this decline: protecting the area immediately; suggesting the selection of alternate areas by the Municipality of Aralık as a garbage area; organization of training activities in the towns and villages of muhtars, schools and settlements in Aralık, especially raising awareness of shepherds; field type information displayed on signboard and warning plate.

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6th International Conference of Rodent
Biology and Management
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16th Rodens et Spatium

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