



## Four New Rotifera Species of Turkish Fauna

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### Abstract

Four rotifer species were recorded from 3 freshwater bodies (Pedina and Hamam Lakes, İğneada-Kırklareli and Ömerbey Stream, Uzunköprü- Edirne) in Turkish Thrace. These species, *Trichocerca bicristata* (Gosse, 1887), *Gastropus minor* (Rousselet, 1892), *Erignatha clastopis* (Gosse, 1886) and *Encentrum kulmatyckii* Wiszniewski, 1953, are new records for the Turkish fauna. Besides, the recorded species are illustrated and aspects of their distribution are represented.

**Keywords:** Rotifera, taxonomy, new record species, Turkey.

### Türkiye Rotifera Faunası İçin Dört Yeni Tür

#### Özet

Trakya bölgesindeki 3 tatlı sudan (Pedina ve Hamam Gölleri, İğneada-Kırklareli ve Ömerbey Deresi, Uzunköprü-Edirne) 4 rotifer türü tespit edilmiştir. Bu türler, *Trichocerca bicristata* (Gosse, 1887), *Gastropus minor* (Rousselet, 1892), *Erignatha clastopis* (Gosse, 1886) ve *Encentrum kulmatyckii* Wiszniewski, 1953, Türkiye Rotifera faunası için yeni kayıtlardır. Ayrıca, kaydedilen türlerin çizimleri ve dağılımları da verilmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Rotifera, Taksonomi, Yeni kayıt türler, Türkiye.

### Introduction

There are a lot of studies on Rotifera, because it forms the first ring of the food chain in aquatic ecosystems and is used as a pollution indicator. As a result of these studies, 2030 Rotifera species have been identified in the world up to now. (Segers, 2007).

Studies performed to determine the Rotifera fauna of Turkey have also continued over the years without stopping. Some of these studies focuses on Rotifera taxonomy. The first checklist was published by Emir (1996) in a book chapter and in this checklist, 167 taxa were listed. The second checklist was published by Ustaoglu (2004) with the title 'a check list for zooplankton of Turkish inland waters'. Ustaoglu (2004) listed 229 rotifer species found out in former studies. In the following years, a number of investigations were carried out (Akbulut and Yıldız, 2005; Akbulut and Kaya, 2007; Altındağ and Yiğit,

2004; Altındağ *et al.*, 2005; Altındağ *et al.*, 2009a; Altındağ *et al.*, 2009b; Aygen *et al.*, 2009; Balık *et al.*, 2006; Bekleyen and Taş, 2008; Bekleyen and İpek, 2010; Bozkurt, 2004a; Bozkurt, 2004b; Bozkurt, 2006; Buyurgan *et al.*, 2010; Emir, 1996; Erdoğan and Güher, 2005; Kaya and Altındağ, 2007a; Kaya and Altındağ, 2007b; Kaya *et al.*, 2007c; Kaya *et al.*, 2008; Kaya and Altındağ, 2009; Kaya *et al.*, 2009a; Kaya *et al.*, 2009b; Kaya and Altındağ, 2010; Ölmez Aydın and Altındağ, 2004; Özdemir Mis and Ustaoglu, 2009; Özdemir Mis *et al.*, 2009; Saygı (Başbuğ) and Yiğit, 2005; Saler, 2009; Saler and Şen, 2010; Saler *et al.*, 2010a; Saler *et al.*, 2010b; Saler, 2011; Saler and Haykır, 2011; Tellioglu and Akman, 2007; Türkmen *et al.*, 2006; Ustaoglu, 2004; Ustaoglu *et al.*, 2004; Ustaoglu *et al.*, 2005; Ustaoglu *et al.*, 2008; Yalın, 2006; Yıldız *et al.*, 2010; Yiğit and Altındağ, 2005) and 341 rotifer species were recorded from Turkey. However, almost all of these studies are interested in Monogononta. Only one of them

presents a detailed research on bdelloidea (Kaya *et al.*, 2009b). In this study, 36 new bdelloid species were recorded for the Turkish fauna and thus, species number of bdelloid rotifers increased to 41.

This study presents four new rotifer species of Turkish fauna. Due to this study, the species number of Turkish Rotifera fauna increased to 345.

## Materials and Methods

The samples were collected by using a plankton net (55µm mesh size) from 3 different water bodies in Thrace in 2008-2009. Samples were fixed in 4% formalin. Rotifera species were examined under the inverted microscope of Olympus mark. Species were drawn using a camera lucida and some were photographed. Trophi were extracted from some specimens using diluted sodium hypochlorite, and prepared for light microscope. Identification of rotifer species was made by using Kolisko (1974), Koste (1978), Pontin (1978) and Jersabek *vd.* (2003).

At each locality, air temperature, water temperature, pH, electrical conductivity and dissolved oxygen were measured during the field.

## Results and Discussion

In this study, it was found 4 new record rotifers for Turkey. These species are *Trichocerca bicristata* (Gosse, 1887) belonging to Trichocercidae, *Gastropus minor* (Rousselet, 1892) belonging to Gastropodidae, *Erignatha clastopis* (Gosse, 1886) and *Encentrum kulmatyckii* Wiszniewski, 1953 belonging to Dicranophoridae. Although, *Trichocerca bicristata* and *Gastropus minor* are widely distributed in the world, the others have limited distribution (Segers, 2007).

### Family: Dicranophoridae Haring, 1913

#### *Encentrum kulmatyckii* Wiszniewski, 1953

This species was collected from Ömerbey stream (Uzunköprü, Edirne), situated at 41°16' K - 26°50' D, on 26.01.2008 and is new record for the Turkish Rotifera fauna (Figure 1).

Description: Eye spots are observed. Retrocerebral sack and subcerebral glands are lack.

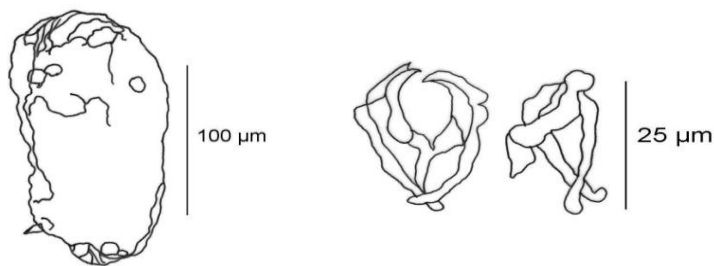


Figure 1. *Encentrum kulmatyckii*'s general view and trophy.

Foot glands are long, discrete and completely fills the last segment of the foot. Toes are relatively short and conical. Stomach is typically with bright granules. Trophy is big and has strong components. It acts by crawling like a leech.

Length: 200-450 µm, Toe: 15-22 µm, Trophy: 45-56 µm, Manubrium: 42 µm, Fulcrum: 14 µm.

Ecology: It is found in temporary waters, pools and ponds. It is an ecto-parasite on Crustacea. Carnivore. It feeds on sessile ciliates and small rotifers (Koste and Terlutter, 2001).

In this study, pH: 9,5; Water temperature: 7 °C; Air temperature: 10 °C; Dissolved oxygen: 8,5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>.

Distribution: Palearctic (Koste, 1978; Segers, 2007).

#### *Erignatha clastopis* (Gosse, 1886)

This species was collected from lakes Hamam and Pedina (Kırklareli-İğneada), situated at 41°49' K, 27°57' D and 41°50' K, 27°55' D on 01.02.2009 and 25.04.2009, 12.10. 2008, respectively and is new record for the Turkish Rotifera fauna (Figure 2).

Description: It has bright red frontal eye spots. Rostrum with 2 palps. Gastric glands contain spherical pedicles. Toes are long, sharp and bent into ventral. Stomach is without zoochlorella. Trophy carries a pair of symmetrical, slightly curved intramallei. Vitellarium has 4 nuclei.

Length: 145-210 µm, Toe: 24-36 µm, Trophy: 30-35 µm.

Ecology: It is found in the periphyton of lakes, temporary waters, pools and ponds (Koste, 1978).

In this study, pH: 7,2-7,5; Water temperature: 15-16,2 °C; Air temperature: 15-18 °C; Dissolved oxygen: 6,6 mg L<sup>-1</sup>; Electrical conductivity: 146-206 µS cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Distribution: Australia, Nearctic, Neotropical and Palearctic (Koste, 1978; Segers, 2007).

### Family: Gastropodidae Remane, 1933

#### *Gastropus minor* (Rousselet, 1892)

This species was found in Lake Pedina and in Lake Hamam (İğneada-Kırklareli), situated at 41°50' K, 27° 55' D and 41° 49' K, 27° 57' D, on 25.04.2009

and 01.02.2009, respectively and is new for Turkish Rotifera fauna (Figure 3)

Description: Anterior end narrowed, foot is slightly wrinkled, toes are long and pointed. Trophy is pointed like the tip of a needle because the opening of the mouth manages ramus. Ramus has a long alula at the base. Unci simple, manubria is lamellar structure on both sides. Fulcrum is rod-shaped and medium length. The animal is colorless, only its stomach brown because it contains fat droplets. Vitellarium with 4 nuclei.

Length: 82-140  $\mu\text{m}$ , Foot: 35  $\mu\text{m}$ , Toe: 20-23  $\mu\text{m}$ , Trophy: 24-30  $\mu\text{m}$  (Koste, 1978).

Ecology: It is found in lakes, temporary waters, pools and ponds. Especially, in plankton in winter (Kolisko, 1974; Koste, 1978).

In this study, pH: 6,8-7,8; Water temperature: 16-25  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; Air temperature: 15-18  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; Dissolved oxygen: 8,6-10  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ; Electrical conductivity: 97-146  $\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ .

Distribution: Australian, Nearctic, Neotropical,

Oriental, Palearctic (Segers, 2007)

### Family: Trichocercidae Haring, 1913

#### *Trichocerca bicristata* (Gosse, 1887)

Only one specimen was found in Lake Pedina (İğneada-Kırklareli) situated at 41°50' K, 27°55' D on 25.04.2009 and is new for Turkish Rotifera fauna (Figure 4).

Description: Anterior border of lorica is without processes. Lorica is usually with 2 high crest with broad furrow. Corona with 2 thin palps. Lorica finally stippled; sometimes red brown coloured. Both manubria terminally crooked, one side curved, suprarami large, left ramus occasionally with two pointed alula.

Total length: 294-660  $\mu\text{m}$ , Left Toe: 200-320  $\mu\text{m}$ , Right Toe: 25-36  $\mu\text{m}$ , Trophy 65-79  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Ecology: It usually occurs among plants and moss in littoral in detritus occasionally in

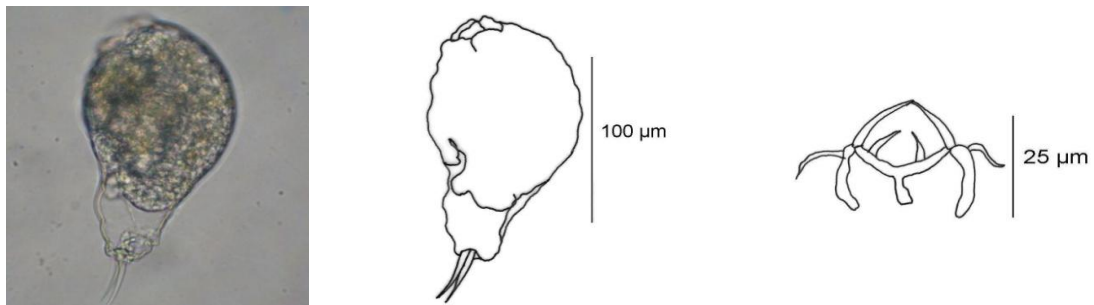


Figure 2. *Erignatha clastopis*'s general view and trophy.

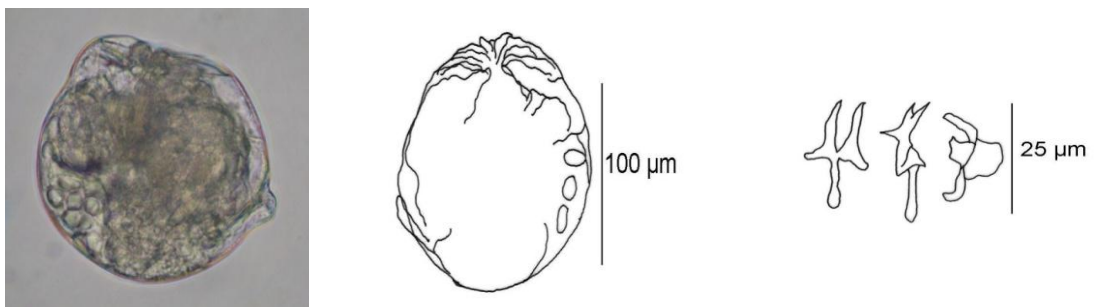


Figure 3. *Gastropus minor*'s general view and trophy.

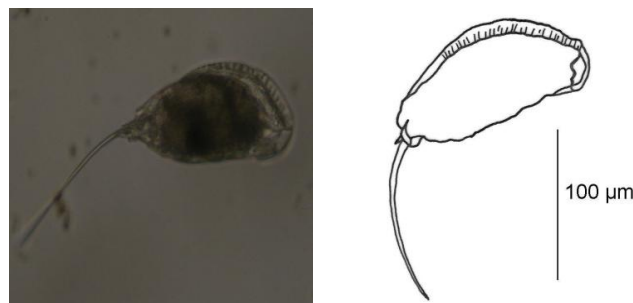


Figure 4. *Trichocerca bicristata*'s general view.

tychoplankton. Indicator of oligosaprobic waters (Koste, 1978). Temperature: 8-24,5 °C, pH 6,3-8,4, Dissolved oxygen: 5,3-13 mg l<sup>-1</sup>, 59-575 µS cm<sup>-1</sup>. (Shiel and Koste, 1992).

In this study, pH: 7,5; Water temperature: 16 °C; Air temperature: 18 °C; Dissolved oxygen: 8,6 mg L<sup>-1</sup>; Electrical conductivity: 146 µS cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Distribution: Australian, Nearctic, Neotropical, Oriental, Pacific, Palearctic (Segers, 2007).

Turkey is rich in freshwater ecosystems which show different physical and chemical characteristics. But most of the investigations that have been done in Turkey up to now, were performed in stagnant waters like ponds and lakes. Streams were ignored. However, streams and natural lakes are far from the antropological effect that provides different types of habitat for the rotifer species and support higher species diversity. As long as intensive investigation continues in these different habitats, it will be possible to find new species of Turkish fauna.

Besides, it needs to be perform new studies on bdelloid rotifers because there was only one detailed study done in Turkey up to now. Bdelloid rotifers live in many kinds of aquatic and terrestrial habitats such as mosses, soil, and streams. Kaya *et al.* (2009b) stated that specific sampling strategies would greatly be effective to sampling bdelloid rotifers thus we can learn much about bdelloids.

This study suggests more extensive investigations are needed to understand the diversity of rotifers in freshwater, brackish, marine and terrestrial ecosystems in Turkey. The present study, adds four species (*Trichocerca bicristata* (Gosse, 1887), *Gastropus minor* (Rousselet, 1892), *Erignatha clastopis* (Gosse, 1886) ve *Encentrum kulmatyckii* Wiszniewski, 1953) to the rotifer fauna of Turkey. This study increased the species number of Turkish Rotifera fauna to 345.

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