

Esterase Variation in Rocky Mouse, *Apodemus mystacinus* (DANFORD and ALSTON, 1877) (Mammalia: Rodentia) in Turkey

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Abstract: The esterase enzyme system (*Est*) of 44 specimens of the rocky mouse, *Apodemus mystacinus*, from 10 localities in Turkey was analyzed using polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Three loci *Est-1*, *Est-2*, and *Est-3* were determined. There were two alleles in *Est-1* and four alleles in *Est-2* and *Est-3*. The Shannon information index (I) ranged from 0.21 to 0.92. On the basis of genetic relationship of seven *A. mystacinus* populations based on Nei Genetic Distance of three enzyme loci, seven populations were divided into two main clusters and two subgroups in each cluster; 1: Sebma-Akseki (subgroup1), Altındere-Akçakoca (subgroup2), 2: Beyşehir-İzaybu (subgroup1) and Ardanuç (subgroup2).

Key words: *Apodemus mystacinus*, Esterase, Turkey