

Genetic Variation in Rocky Mouse, *Apodemus mystacinus* (Danford & Alston 1877) (Mammalia: Rodentia) in Turkey, Inferred from RAPDs

Gül Olgun, Reyhan Çolak, İrfan Kandemir, Ercüment Çolak and Nuri Yiğit*

Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Ankara University Beşevler 06100, Ankara - TURKEY;
E-mail: colak@science.ankara.edu.tr

Abstract: We employed RAPD (Randomly Amplified Polymorphic DNA Marker System) to *Apodemus mystacinus*, rocky mouse widely distributed in Turkey, in order to explore the genetic variation. A total of 60 RAPD markers were tested, 14 primers were selected and 154 polymorphic DNA bands were analysed. The estimated genetic diversity for *A. mystacinus* populations was ranged from 0.022 (P= 4.55%) in Trabzon to 0.204 (P= 40.91%) in Muğla population. The total genetic diversity was calculated as 0.248 in all *A. mystacinus* populations. High G_{ST} value (0.631) was calculated for the *A. mystacinus* populations. The UPGMA dendrogram constructed based on genetic distance data formed distinct groupings with low bootstrap values.

Key words: *Apodemus mystacinus*, genetic differentiation, evolution, RAPD, Turkey