

Contributions to the Karyology and Distribution Areas of Cytotypes of *Nannospalax leucodon* (Rodentia: Spalacidae) in Western Anatolia

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Abstract: Mole rats of the genus *Nannospalax* having high karyotypic variability (chromosome numbers ranging from $2n = 36$ to $2n = 62$) are dominant mammals occupying the subterranean niche in Anatolia. Respective distributional ranges of karyotypic forms within this taxon remain uncertain due to insufficient data. In the present study, karyological analyses of 36 specimens belonging to *N. nehringi* were examined from 10 sampling sites of Western Turkey. During the study, five karyotypic forms were recorded ($2n = 36$ NF = 68 from Aydın, $2n = 40$ NF = 72 from Isparta, $2n = 56$ NF = 72 from Uşak, $2n = 60$ NF = 78 from Isparta and $2n = 60$ NF = 84 from Denizli and Burdur). When distribution areas of karyotypic forms are considered, these karyotypes are new records for this taxon in Turkey. In addition, this study aims to determine the most likely distribution areas of the four chromosome forms ($2n = 36, 40, 56, 60$) in Turkey paying attention on previously verified localities data.

Key words: *Nannospalax leucodon*, karyotype, Western Anatolia