

Chapter 2

A SURVEY OF ROAD KILLS ON AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN ISPARTA PROVINCE OF TURKEY

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INTRODUCTION

The amphibian and reptilian species threatened by anthropogenic activities and one of the important factors of these activities are road kills originated ⁽¹⁾.

Roads have economic and social benefits for human beings ^(2, 3). However, the number of animals which exposed road kill had increased greatly depending on the fact that vehicles are faster and roads are longer in parallel with the increasing number of vehicles and the developments in technology ⁽⁴⁻⁶⁾. Especially, slow-moving animals are more exposed to road kills ⁽⁷⁻¹¹⁾. Amphibians and reptiles which live near the roads are the most endangered groups among vertebrates, related to the road kills ⁽¹²⁾. There is an increasing trend in the researches based on road kills of amphibians and reptiles ^(1, 12-15).

In the present study, we aimed to take attention the road kills of amphibian and reptile species in the two highways from Isparta province.

The present study was carried out twenty localities in two highways (Eğirdir-Aksu and Ayvalıpınar-Kasımlar highways in Isparta province) which were located on the Mediterranean Region of Turkey (Figure 1). Before starting the present study (in the summer of 2018), we observed a large number of dead individuals of *Dolichophis caspius* which set out from the cultivated fields in the Aksu district near the Eğirdir-Aksu highway and we encountered a certain amount of carcasses of *Telescopus fallax* individuals on the Ayvalıpınar-Kasımlar highway. Thus, we chose these ways to study road kills.

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in the observed number of dead animals on these roads. Future observations are necessary, especially in the spring months when amphibians and reptiles do more displacement to initiate post-hibernation activities for breeding. More accurate comments can be made by comparing the results of observations to be made in other seasons of the year.

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