

Lithophyte Plant Diversity of TurkeySeyran PALABAŞ UZUN¹, Alper UZUN¹, Eda ALICI¹, Şeyma MENEKŞE¹¹Department of Forest Botany, Faculty of Forestry, Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University, Kahramanmaraş, Turkey, seyran@ksu.edu.tr

Aim of the study: Rocky areas are one of the most sensitive habitat types in the world. The regions where these habitats are located are the areas that give the fastest response to global climate change. In these areas, resources are limited and living conditions are difficult. From this point of view, the dynamics of populations distributed in these regions may show constant variability. For this reason, the study has concentrated on the mountainous regions. This regions are leading lithophyte rich places in terms of its endemism and plant richness.

Material and Methods: There is no comprehensive study on *Lithophyte* plants and their micro-habitats in Turkey. Plant species distributed in the rocky areas of this lands, including a lot of mountain ranges, were given with life forms, micro-habitats as rock preferences, phytogeographical regions and their endemism status.

Results: As a result of first assessments, 1925 *Lithophyte* plant taxa (16,88% of total flora of Turkey) in 72 plant families were found as related to rocky habitats. The families that are richest in terms of *Lithophyte* plant taxonomy are as follows. *Lamiaceae* family is in the first rank with 245 taxa (12.7%), *Caryophyllaceae* is in the second rank with 211 taxa (11.0%), *Asteraceae* is in the third rank with 134 taxa (7.0%), *Brassicaceae* is in the fourth rank with 128 taxa (6.6%) and *Poaceae* is in the fifth rank with 116 taxa (6.0%).

Keywords: Lithophyte, rocky, plant, diversity, Eastern Mediterranean, Turkey.