

## ABSTRACT

### POPULATION ECOLOGY OF HERMANN'S TORTOISE (*Testudo hermanni*) IN TURKEY.

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In this study, population ecology of Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) was investigated. A total of 37 days were spent on the field with 5 visits during April-August 2014. We measured totally 100 (53 ♂♂ 28 ♀♀ 18 juvenil and 1 unknown) *T. hermanni*. The mean carapace length was  $157 \pm 2.5$  mm in males and  $179.9 \pm 5.8$  in females. The mean weight was  $910 \pm 36$  in males and  $1299.4 \pm 9$  in females The females were larger and heavier than males. The frequency distribution of age was skewed to 11-15(%) age group. The mean body temperature was  $26.1 \pm 0.6$  °C in males and  $25.96 \pm 0.9$  °C in females. The individuals were mostly encountered between the hours 10.01-12.00 (%). Most of the individuals were encountered during active movement (%). The factors negatively threatening the population in the region were agricultural pesticide usage, destruction of habitats and industrial regions.

**Key Words:** Chelonia, Testudinidae, *Testudo hermanni*, Hermann's Tortoise, Thrace Region, population ecology