

## ABSTRACT

### OBSERVATION OF MORFOLOGICAL AND SOME ECOLOGICAL FEATURES OF *Montivipera xanthina* (Gray, 1849) (Ophidia: Viperidae) INDIVIDUALS IN LABORATORY

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*Montivipera xanthina* is distributed in Aegean, Western Mediterranean and Western Central Anatolia. There is no detailed and comprehensive study about this species in Turkey. This species was studied generally in herpetofaunal studies or venom analyzes. *M. xanthina* is a monotypic species. Populations of this taxon are separated hipoteticly as north and south in terms of morphological characters, but this data is not enough for identified as subspecies.

In this study, we aimed to research feeding and reproductive behaviours in laboratory conditions of *M. xanthina* specimens which are collected from Aydın [1 adult (1 ♀ ) and 1 juvenile] and Bayramiç/Çanakkale [5 adult (3♀, 2♂)]. Besides, we compare Çanakkale samples and Aydın samples, which collected in recent years and during the study, as morphologically. We tried to determine protection strategies of this species against to threat which will face in the future.

**Key words:** Viperidae, Ottoman Viper, reproductive, feeding, conservation, morphology.