

Workshop 2

Oral / Poster

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The biodiversity and conservation of *Orchis palustris* Jacq. in Eastern Anatolia of Turkey

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Abstract

Turkey is one of the most important countries in the world in terms of plant diversity. Studies showed that of 8745 species of vascular plants found in Turkey, 2763 are endemic. For many botanists, Turkey is a favorite destination for studying wild orchids. The Anatolia Region in the Northeast part of the country is especially very rich in terms of orchid biodiversity. However, most of the orchid species of that region have become extinct or are close to extinction in the wild. Many orchid growing areas of that region have been destroyed by human activities such as agriculture, pasture, mining, logging, etc. Therefore, careful restorative conservation is increasingly needed for this region. This study was carried out between 2002 and 2004. The biodiversity of *Orchis palustris* Jacq is determined in this region and some maps produced. *Orchis palustris* Jacq seeds were inoculated with mycorrhizal fungus isolates. Among the mycorrhizal fungus isolates tested, two strains (BNR 8-3 and BNR 15-2) gave the highest germination percentage. Protocorm development was also determined.