

1-1-2002

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Recommended Citation

KAYA, TANJU (2002) "Obituary Prof. Dr. Orhan KAYA [4th October 1937-24th November 2002] by," *Turkish Journal of Earth Sciences*: Vol. 11: No. 3, Article 6. Available at: <https://journals.tubitak.gov.tr/earth/vol11/iss3/6>

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Obituary Prof. Dr. Orhan KAYA

[4th October 1937–24th November 2002]

by

TANJU KAYA

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Prof. Dr. Orhan Kaya, a prominent Turkish geologist from Dokuz Eylül University (İzmir), died on 24th November 2002. He is survived by his wife and son. Orhan Kaya was born on 4th October 1937, in İstanbul.

He attended his primary, secondary and high school in İstanbul. After finishing his basic education, he graduated from the Geology-Zoology Department at the Faculty of Science at İstanbul University in 1964 with a BSc degree.



He started his PhD research under Dr. F. Baykal's supervision, and completed it under Dr. R. Brinkman's supervision on "*Carboniferous Stratigraphy of İstanbul Region*" in the Geology Department of Ege University (İzmir). In 1968 he joined the Geology Department of Ege University, where he worked until his untimely death. He was promoted to associate professor in 1974 and became full professors in 1978.

Orhan Kaya published his first paper on the Carboniferous fossils and stratigraphy of the İstanbul region, based on his field studies in 1963 when he was an undergraduate. Later, he published his other works in a book entitled '*Palaeozoic of İstanbul*' with contributions from many other international scientists. In the 1970s Orhan Kaya worked on the origin and genesis of ophiolites; his dissertation for his associated professorship was on the ophiolites of the Tavşanlı (Kütahya) region. He studied at the University of Tübingen for about a year in 1972 as an Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung scholar. Between 1976 and 1981, he concentrated on the Neogene stratigraphy and tectonics of western Turkey. His research funded by Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) and The Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) aimed to investigate the petroleum potential of western Turkey. This work formed the main thrust of his dissertation for his full professorship. During the 1990s, he worked on

the Triassic stratigraphy of Karaburun, the tectonic setting and formation/sedimentation of the Karaburun Complex and the tectonic setting of the Pan-African metasediments in the Menderes Massif. His expertise in the field and distinctive approach to geological problems made it possible for him to collaborate and publish with many Turkish and foreigner scientists.

Orhan Kaya worked on the neotectonic evolution of western Turkey, using geological, geophysical and mammalian age data. His research was supported by the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA), Dokuz Eylül University and the Norwegian Norsk Hydro Oil Company. He published some of his findings, but was unable to complete eight drafted papers in which he documented new evidence on the age and evolution extensional tectonics in western Turkey.

Orhan Kaya was a dedicated scientist and a devoted teacher. He was a unique person because of his modest and tender nature and was one of the pioneering figures in the development of Earth Sciences in Turkey not only for his individual contributions but also for his influence on his colleagues and students. Kaya published many interesting scientific papers and abstracts, and his long-lasting contributions to the Earth Sciences community in Turkey will always be remembered.

Selected Publications of Orhan Kaya

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