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The Ostracoda (Crustacea) Fauna of Lakes Erikli, Hamam, Mert, Pedina and Saka (İğneada, Kırklareli, Turkey)

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COMMENTS ON: The Ostracoda (Crustacea) Fauna of Lakes Erikli, Hamam, Mert, Pedina and Saka (İğneada, Kırklareli, Turkey)

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In his paper (Tr. J Zool, 25(4): 343-355), Altınışađlı (1) proposed that three ostracod species (*Pseudocandona* [=Candona] *hartwigi*, *Ilyocypris monstrifica*, *Limnocythere stationis*) were new records for the Ostracoda fauna of Turkey. (The square brackets are ours.)

We have three comments concerning this paper.

First, the author mistakenly proposed that these three species were new records for Turkey. The same three species had previously been documented in a PhD dissertation by Özüluđ (2), which was accepted by both the Scientific Institute of İstanbul University and a dissertation committee in February 2000. Therefore, the reports on this dissertation should have priority over Altınışađlı (1).

Second, the sample collection period in Özüluđ (2) was from 28.06.1996 to 18.08.1999. Samples were taken from the Thrace region (Trakya Bölgesi) at 108 stations. However, Altınışađlı (1) stated (page 344) that "...samples were collected from 20 stations in the summer (July 12), autumn (September 6), winter (February 22) and spring (May 10) 1999". Therefore, this again shows the priority of Özüluđ (2).

Third, these arguments above are also supported by the date Altınışađlı's paper was received by the journal editor (21.04.2000, page 343), two months later than Özüluđ's dissertation, which was accepted in February 2000.

Finally, scientific ethics are as important as the scientific method itself. Scientists should not only be unbiased in their work to prevent methodological errors such as pseudoreplication (3), but they must also be responsible for proper and accurate reporting of their results. Science (especially experimental science) should be done carefully, and the results should not be sent for publication without adequate research and knowledge of other similar work. We are hopefully optimistic that the dissertation of Özüluđ (2) was not known by Altınışađlı, despite the fact that both work at the same department.

In conclusion, all these support our earlier arguments that the results in Altınışađlı's (1) paper about the three ostracod species proposed as new records from Turkey should not be accepted because the same three species from the same study area had already been identified in Özüluđ (2), which has priority.

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