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The Genus *Isoetes* L. (Isoetaceae, Lycophyta) in South-Western Asia

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Abstract: Quillworts or Çim Eğreltisi, species of the genus *Isoetes* L. in Turkey and the Levant, are poorly studied despite extensive floristic studies in the region. The Flora of Turkey lists 4 taxa: *Isoetes olympica* A.Braun ($2n = 22$), *I. histrix* Bory var. *histrix* ($2n = 20$), *I. subinermis* (Bory) Cesca & Peruzzi [= *I. histrix* Bory var. *subinermis* Durieu ($2n = 22$)] and *I. duriei* Bory ($2n = ca. 121$). An additional species, *I. anatolica* Prada & Rolleri, was described in 2005 from Bolu province, and we report the first count for this species, $2n = 22$. In Syria and Lebanon 2 species are known: *I. olympica* from a site in Syria and a known but undescribed plant from Akkar province (Lebanon) and adjacent Syria ($2n = 22$, first count). A preliminary molecular phylogeny for these species is presented; their distribution and cytology are discussed. The taxonomy and nomenclature of the *I. histrix* and *I. duriei* groups need considerable further study. The first hybrids for the region are documented.

Key Words: Quillworts, Çim Eğreltisi, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, megaspores, chromosome counts, molecular phylogeny

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