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Karyological and Some Morphological Characteristics of *Spalax leucodon* Nordmann, 1840
(Mammalia: Rodentia) Superspecies around Kastamonu Province, Turkey

Mustafa SÖZEN, Murat SEVİNDİK, Ferhat MATUR
Department of Biology, Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Zonguldak - TURKEY

 [Keywords](#)
[Authors](#)



zool@tubitak.gov.tr

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Abstract: The karyotypes and morphology of 98 specimens of the subterranean mole rat *Spalax leucodon* Nordmann, 1840 across 18 localities in and around Kastamonu province were analysed. It was determined that *S. leucodon* has $2n = 54$, $NF = 72$; $2n = 56$, $NF = 74$; $2n = 58$, $NF = 74$; $2n = 60$, $NF = 74$ in the populations from the Kastamonu region. According to these karyological findings based on chromosome morphology the diploid chromosome numbers of $2n = 56$, $2n = 58$, and $2n = 60$ determined here are new for *Spalax leucodon* in Turkey. Because diploid numbers of these populations were formerly found from geographically distant localities in Turkey, they were given as $2n = 56N$, $58N$, and $60N$, to differentiate them from the other forms having the same diploid chromosome numbers but different chromosome morphology. As a result of t-test analysis, separation of all chromosomal forms from each other beside $2n$ values by many character measurements supported the opinion that each of the chromosomal forms of *Spalax* should be evaluated as good biological species.

Key Words: *Spalax leucodon*, karyology, morphology, Kastamonu, Turkey

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