

Turkish Journal of Zoology

Turkish Journal
of
Zoology

Morphological, Hemipenial and Venom Electrophoresis Comparisons of the Levantine Viper, *Macrovipera lebetina* (Linnaeus, 1758), from Cyprus and Southern Anatolia

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Abstract: Levantine vipers, *Macrovipera lebetina* (Linnaeus), from Cyprus and southern Anatolia were investigated comparatively regarding morphology, hemipenes and electrophoresis patterns of venom proteins. There were discernible differences between these compared features of the 2 populations. In the light of these differences, it is concluded that the southern Anatolian population should not be identified as the nominate subspecies *M. l. lebetina* (Linnaeus), which lives in Cyprus. The study material from northeastern Anatolia did not allow us to make a good comparison between *M. lebetina* from southern and NE Anatolia.

Key Words: *Macrovipera lebetina*, hemipenes, venom electrophoresis, Cyprus, southern Anatolia

Turk. J. Zool., **30**, (2006), 225-234.

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