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Heterochromatin distribution and nucleolar organizer regions (NORs) in chromosomes of the Taurus ground squirrel, *Spermophilus taurensis* Gunduz et al., 2007 (Mammalia: Rodentia), in Turkey

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**Abstract:** The distribution of C-heterochromatin blocks and nucleolar organizer regions (NORs) in the Taurus ground squirrel from Turkey was studied. The karyotype of *Spermophilus taurensis* comprised 40 chromosomes, the fundamental chromosome number (NF) was 80, and there were 76 autosomal arms (NFa). All autosomes and the X chromosome had pericentromeric C-heterochromatin, whereas the Y chromosome appeared to be entirely heterochromatic. NORs were observed in the terminal regions of the short arm of 2 pairs of submetacentric and 2 pairs of subtelocentric chromosomes. All the NORs were homomorphic and of medium size. The *S. taurensis* karyotype differs from that of *S. xanthopymnus* by a low diploid number, by a C-positive Y chromosome, and by the number and localization of NORs. It was also determined that its Y chromosome resembles that of *S. citellus*, in terms of its heterochromatic nature.

**Key words:** *Spermophilus taurensis*, C-banding, NOR localization, Turkey

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