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On the distribution and taxonomic status of *Microtus guentheri* (Danford and Alston, 1880) and *Microtus lydius* Blackler, 1916 (Mammalia: Rodentia) in Turkey

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**Abstract:** Topotypes of *Microtus guentheri* were compared with specimens of the genus *Microtus* with  $2n=54$  chromosomes from western Anatolia. According to morphological and biometrical comparisons, it was determined that *M. guentheri* is a different species from *Microtus lydius*. The dorsal colour and the shape of the baculum distinguish *M. guentheri* from *M. lydius* morphologically. In addition, ear length, interorbital constriction, mastoid breadth, height of tympanic bulla and weight of *M. guentheri* were found to be statistically different from those of the nominate subspecies of *M. lydius* ( $p<0.05$ ). In this respect, a new subspecies of *M. lydius* is first described from central Anatolia: *Microtus lydius ankaraensis* ssp.n. In addition, our findings revealed that the population known as *M. guentheri* in Europe needs taxonomic reevaluation.

**Key Words:** Distribution, taxonomy, *Microtus guentheri*, *Microtus lydius*, *M. l. ankaraensis* ssp.n.

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