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The Taxonomy and Karyology of *Rattus norvegicus* (Berkenhout, 1769) and *Rattus rattus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Rodentia: Muridae) in Turkey

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Abstract: In this study, the Turkish population of *Rattus norvegicus* and *Rattus rattus* were studied with regard to external, cranial, phalli, bacula and tooth crown morphology and karyotype. External, internal and karyologic characteristics of *R. norvegicus* were found to be consistent with previously published results. Additionally, it was determined that there are striking color variations in the dorsal and ventral fur of *R. rattus* and that crown morphology is not a definitive characteristic distinguishing these species because of connected lobes in old specimens. According to the karyological studies, the diploid chromosome numbers and fundamental numbers of *R. norvegicus* and *R. rattus* were found to be 42, 38 and 64, 60, respectively.

Key Words: *Rattus norvegicus*, *Rattus rattus*, taxonomy, Turkey.

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