

On colouration and karyology of the Marbled Polecat, *Vormela peregusna*, in Turkey

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Abstract: A new record of the Marbled Polecat, *Vormela peregusna*, is given from south-eastern Turkey along with karyological and morphological including bacular characteristics. The specimen has a shorter black band at the tip of the tail than in a specimen examined from western Turkey and thus takes an intermediate position between specimens from Jordan and from western Turkey. Whereas the diploid chromosome number is the same as in Caucasia, Syria, western Turkey and Romania, the fundamental chromosome number (FN) and the number of autosomal arms (NFa) is higher than in Western Turkey, but the same as in Syria.

Kurzfassung: Für einen neuen Nachweis des Tigeriltisses, *Vormela peregusna*, aus der Südost-Türkei werden karyologische und morphologische Daten (einschliesslich über das Baculum) dargestellt. Das schwarze Band an der Schwanzspitze ist deutlich schmaler als bei einem Exemplar, das aus der Westtürkei untersucht wurde, und das südostanatolische Exemplar nimmt damit eine Mittelstellung zwischen Tieren aus der Westtürkei und Jordanien ein. Während die Anzahl der diploiden Chromosomen im Kaukasus, in Syrien, in der Westtürkei und in Rumänien gleich ist, ist die Grundzahl der Chromosomen und die Zahl der autosomen Arme höher als in der Westtürkei, aber die gleiche wie bei syrischen Tieren.

Key words: *Vormela peregusna*, distribution, karyology, Turkey, Middle East.

Introduction

The distribution of *Vormela peregusna* GÜLDENSTAEDT, 1770 extends from the steppes in Bulgaria and Romania to western China, and in the south to Turkey, Syria, the Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia (OGNEV 1931, CORBET 1978, KOCK 1983, HARRISON & BATES 1991, RIFAI et al. 1999). Records of this species in Turkey up to the mid-1960s have been compiled by KUMERLOEVE (1967). Records since then include Adana and Diyarbakır (KOCK 1983), Gönen (ÖZKURT et al. 1999), Konya (HUSBAND, pers. comm., 1986), Tavşanlı (KUHN, pers. comm., 1982), and Yeşilhisar near Niğde (KASPAREK 1985). Recently, ÖZKURT et al. (1999) described the karyotype of a female from Gönen in western Turkey, but its karyotype is unknown in the other regions of Turkey. The aim of this study is to contribute to knowledge of the karyological and morphological characteristics as well as the distribution of *V. peregusna* in Turkey.