

## Endemic plants of Kahramanmaraş Province (Turkey) along with the IUCN threat categories

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**Abstract:** Endemic is an expression used for the species unique to a specific region, mountainous chain, a city, a country, a continent, and even an island. This kind of plant species are threatened and are facing the risk of extinction in the future. Endemic plant species can be found on steep rocky slopes, which are difficult to reach, or they can survive even in easily reachable wide spreading areas. In this respect, life strategies of endemic species are also directly related to the living environments and habitat types are very important, because they shelter a wide variety of endemic life forms. There is no comprehensive study of which endemic species are located in Kahramanmaraş. This review share the statistical data of the endemic plant species, derived from Turkish flora and other pertinent works, with the conservation point of view. As a result of the initial evaluations, approximately 657 plant taxa endemic for Turkey (18% or almost one in five of the total 3700 endemic plants) show distribution in the lands of Kahramanmaraş. Systematic list covers 132 threatened plants (20%). The families that are the richest in terms of endemic plants are as follows. *Fabaceae* family has the most endemic plant taxa (107 endemics, 16.3%) among 44 plant families that contain endemic species (31% of totally 144 plant families of Turkey) in Kahramanmaraş. *Asteraceae* family is in the second rank having 87 endemic plants (13.2%). *Lamiaceae* is in the third rank having 64 endemic plants (9.7%). In the assessment of IUCN threat categories, *Asteraceae* is the leading family with the highest taxa numbers in CR, and EN, while *Fabaceae* has the highest number of taxa in VU and LC, and *Lamiaceae* has the highest number of taxa in NT threat category. In the total list of endemics, 20 of which (3.4%) are in CR, 44 of which (7.5%) are in EN, 68 of which (11.6%) are in VU, 162 of which (27.6%) are in NT, 282 of which (48.1%) are in LC, 10 of which (1.7%) are in DD and also the status of 71 plant taxa are remained unverified. Vast majority of endemic plants in Kahramanmaraş (312 plant taxa, 47.5%) belong to Irano-Turanian phytogeographical region. Of the remaining, Eastern Mediterranean region was in the second rank with 134 plant taxa (20.4%). Nearly 27% of the total list (178 taxa) are Pluregional or unknown origin.

**Keywords:** Endemic plants, Endemism, IUCN, Threat categories, Kahramanmaraş, Turkey