



A study on chestnut blight in Kastamonu chestnut forests

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Abstract: Turkey has an important potential for biodiversity because of its geographical position. Chestnut (*Castanea sativa* Mill.) Is one of the important tree species of our country benefiting from the production of firewood and firewood, as well as its fruit and honey production. In this study, it was aimed to investigate the health conditions of chestnut forests in Kastamonu in point of chestnut blight. Chestnut blight is one of the most important diseases in chestnut forests and is an important fungal disease that is common in chestnut fields in the world and in Turkey and often causes the trees to death. The study was carried out in the chestnut forests of the provinces of Kastamonu, İnebolu and Bozkurt. In the study, necrosis or wounds were seen on cambium and bark of the stumps and branches. In diseased trees, the rate of cancer in the stumps was 6.25% in İnebolu and 40% in Bozkurt. The rate of cancer seen in branches was 37.5% in İnebolu and 14.29% in Bozkurt. In addition to the active cancer tissues, the rate of recovered cancer tissues in these areas were 81.25% in İnebolu and 51.14% in Bozkurt. According to the elevation, the active cancer tissues in the stumps are mostly found at 800-1000 m. and the recovered cancer tissues are found at between 500 and 800 m. In addition to *Cryphonectria parasitica*, pathogenic *Phytophthora* spp. and *Fusarium solani* and saprophytic *Aspergillus niger* and *Penicillium* species were also identified as a result of examining the cancer tissues collected from the fields.

Keywords: *Castanea sativa*, *Cryphonectria parasitica*, Kastamonu