

Food preferences of fallow deer (*Cervus dama* Linnaeus, 1758) spreading in Antalya/Düzlerçamı Wildlife Development Area

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Abstract: Düzlerçamı Wildlife Development Area which is one of the important living areas of fallow deer populations in the world and in Turkey. Although it is not endangered in the world, the last natural population lives in our country and this species is endangered. In the western Mediterranean region, The total area within the boundaries of the District of Korkuteli, Döşemealtı, Kepez and Konyaaltı is 29,033 hectares. Although the area is very close to the city center and settlements, the area is quite rich in flora and fauna. In the study area, 398 genera and 714 plant taxa belonging to 94 families; 6 order, 15 families and 17 mammal species; 53 bird species from 24 families; 2 order, 9 families and 19 reptile species were identified. Fallow deer is a species of the deer family(Cervidae). It is one of the important herbivorous species that spread in our country, and it uses many plant species in its diet. In this review study, the feeding distribution of fallow deer during the year is as follows: 42,08% of meadow grasses, 15.18% shrub, 12.42% coniferous trees, 12.42% of leafy trees, 9.42% blackberry, etc., 8,48% fruit and seeds spreading in Antalya/Düzlerçamı Wildlife Development Area. Among the meadow grasses, members of the Fabaceae family occupy an important place and followed by the families Poaceae, Asteraceae and Caryophyllaceae etc. This study is a survey of fallow deer food preferences in Düzlerçamı Wildlife Development Area where it is the only natural area of deer populations. The obtained data will be compared with diet analyses of fallow deer that spread throughout the world. This study is the first and only one research on food preference of fallow deer in our country.

Keywords: Fallow deer (*Cervus dama*), Düzlerçamı, Food preference, Herbivor, Türkiye