

Invasive alien plants in Espiye (Giresun) forest planning unit

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Abstract: Turkey is an important country in terms of plant species diversity due to its geographical location, geomorphological structure, micro-climate diversity, plant geography and its combination with three different flora regions. Habitat fragmentation and loss of habitat are the leading factors that threaten biological diversity. Habitat fragmentation may occur naturally or anthropogenic origin (wrong land use, road construction, forestry activities, etc.). This factor, which threatens biodiversity, causes alien species to settle in natural habitats. With 11,707 taxa in Turkey, there are also alien plant species that enter Turkey's flora in different ways such as introducing or naturalizing. It has been determined that there are 319 of alien plant species which are not included in the natural flora of our country. The Eastern Black Sea Region (introduced already 23 alien plant species) is a place where foreign plant species can easily settle because of reasons such as climate characteristics and wrong land use. In this study, field observations were made between 2015-2016 years in Espiye Forest Planning Unit. 19 invasive alien plant species (*Acacia dealbata*, *Ailanthus altissima*, *Amaranthus retroflexus*, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, *Bidens frondosa*, *Commelina communis*, *Conyza canadensis*, *Erigeron annuus*, *Lantana camara*, *Lonicera japonica*, *Microstegium vimineum*, *Paspalum distichum*, *Phytolacca americana*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Sicyos angulatus*, *Solidago canadensis*, *Pinus pinaster*) were identified in the Espiye Forest Planning Unit. In addition to these invasive plants species, have determined new spreading areas for *Tradescantia fluminensis* and *Oenothera glazioviana* species. Of the 18 invasive alien species identified, 6 are woody, 13 are herbaceous species. One of the invasive alien plants belongs to Gymnospermae subdivision and the other 18 belongs to the Angiospermae subdivision. In the scope of the presentation, has been given a general information about the ecological and economic effects of invasive alien plants and also the current situation of the invasive plants in Turkey.

Keywords: Turkey, Giresun, Invasive alien plants, Plant biodiversity, Conservation