

Tribute to the late Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN (1965–2019)

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Abstract. If there was something written to my destiny: "Biology / Zoology is not a profession for me, it is my lifestyle. My feelings, approaches, and reactions are coming out of this lifestyle. If you want to learn something, experience it! If you take nature as an example, there is no chance of making a mistake! That is the right way!" – Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN. We (and many people around the world who know him) are in deep sorrow to have lost Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN, who passed away on 22 March 2019. He will always be remembered with his passion to biology, his invaluable works, and the students he left behind.

Key words: Bayram GÖÇMEN, Turkish herpetologist, Turkish parasitologist-protozoologist, reptiles and amphibians are orphaned.

After the untimely loss of Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN, who was one of the leading zoologists of Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the first sentence said by many people from Turkish and world scientific community as well as many nature lovers was "Reptiles and amphibians are orphaned". This sentence summarizes his passion for his profession (biology/zoology) and science. With the large number of herpetological research he conducted in his last years, the taxa he described, and graduate students he supervised, Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN was among the leading herpetologists in Turkey. He did not do merely scientific research. As an active social media user, he also founded an amphibian- reptile photo sharing web site, AdaMerOs Herptil Türkiye (The Amphibians and Reptiles Monitoring and Photography Society in Turkey) and gave opportunity to hundreds of people to know amphibians and reptiles more closely. In this sense, he made an exemplary effort to transfer scientific knowledge to the public and he led this internet community which is as valuable as the scientific articles.

In addition to the herpetological studies which he concentrated on during the last years of his life, he was a world-renowned scientist in the field of protozoology-parasitology as well with his scientific research, many taxa he described, and the students he trained. He was a scientist who read immensely and had knowledge about not only in the fields of herpetology and protozoology but also in all other branches of biology and even in other fields of natural sciences such as geology and paleontology.

His death was timeless for those who love him as he still had so much to give to the world. However, as we realize again while writing this article with sadness, he embraced his profession with passion throughout his life and left behind an important scientific heritage of many valuable works and trained scientists.

Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN was born on 23 December, 1965 in the village of Çanakkale (Kantou) in Limassol (Leymosun), Cyprus. He completed his primary and secondary



Figure 1. at his office in Ege University, 09.04.2013, Bornova, İzmir, Turkey.

education in Cyprus. In 1983, he started undergraduate education at Gazi University, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Department of Architecture and continued for two semesters. Then, he dropped out and returned to Cyprus for 24 months of military service. In 1985, he came to İzmir and began to study Biology as an undergraduate student at Ege University, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology. He graduated in 1989 as the top student of the department and faculty with a high grade of 91 out of 100. He



Figure 2. At a herpetological trip near Lapta, 31.03.2007, Northern Cyprus.



Figure 3. Lunch break at herpetological trip near Gönyeli, 01.04.2007, Northern Cyprus.



Figure 5. At an ecological trip around Cyprus with a colleague, Dr. Yehudah WERNER, 19.04.2008, Northern Cyprus.



Figure 4. Work accident. The stone rolled on his foot, 27.04.2007, Çiçekalan, Birecik, Şanlıurfa, Turkey.

received a congratulations letter from the Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Rauf DENKTAŞ, for his success. In 1991, he completed his M.Sc. thesis entitled "The Morphological and Cytological Structures of Some Symbiotic Ciliates (*Isotricha* spp.) from the Rumen of Cattle". In 1991, he became a research assistant in the Zoology Section at Ege University, Faculty of Science, and Department of Biology. After completing his M.Sc. thesis, he started his Ph.D. in 1991. While continuing his doctoral studies in the field of protozoology, he started to conduct research in the field of herpetology with the encouragement and support from Prof. Dr. Abidin BUDAK. In 1995, he published his first herpetological work entitled "On the Specimens of *Lacerta laevis* Gray, 1838 (Sauria: Lacertidae) from North Cyprus" in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Abidin BUDAK. With the publication of this study, Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN gave more importance to the herpetological studies and started to publish many articles in this field. Later, Prof. Dr. Bayram Göçmen gave the name of Prof. Dr. Abidin BUDAK to a new lizard subspecies which he described with his colleagues from Cyprus (*Ablepharus kitaibelii budaki* Göçmen et al. 1996), as an example of loyalty. In 1996, he became a Turkish citizen, in addition to his Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)/Cyprus citizenships. In the same year, he com-

pleted his Ph.D. thesis entitled "Morphological and Taxonomical Investigations on the Rumen Ciliates of *Epidinium* Crawley, 1923 and *Ophryoscolex* Stein, 1858 (Ciliophora: Entodiniomorpha)" at Ege University Institute of Natural and Applied Sciences, Biology Section, Zoology Program. After the retirement of his supervisor Prof. Dr. Nimet ÖKTEM in 1997, who was his "second mother" in his own words, he was appointed to assistant professorship position at the Zoology Section of Ege University. In 2003, he gained the academic title associate professor and next year he was appointed to the associate professorship position at the same department. In 2003, he was appointed as the Vice Head of Department of Biology for 3 years. This was his first and the last administrative duty. In 2009, at the age of 44, he became a "Full Professor". Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN, who specialized in the rectal and rumen protozoan of herbivorous mammals during his graduate education, focused on the systematics of amphibians and reptiles of Anatolia, Middle East, and Cyprus in his last years. He was also the co-author of many published papers on snake venoms and amphibian skin secretions. In his academic life which lasted about 27 years, he published 188 papers, 16 books, and 52 congress proceedings. 76 of his articles were published in journals covered by SCI/SCI-E and the remaining 112 were pub-

Table 1. The new genus, species, and formae of protozoa, described by Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN solely or in collaboration with other researchers. Taxa are arranged chronologically under each family and subfamily heading.

Kingdom: Protista
 Phylum: Ciliophora
 Class: Litostomatea
 Subclass: Trichostomatia
 Order: Entodiniomorpha
 Suborder: Entodiniomorpha
 Family: Ophryoscolecidae
Entodinium basoglui Öktem & Göçmen, 1996
Entodinium dalli f. *rudidorsospinatum* Göçmen & Öktem, 1996
Entodinium williamsi Göçmen & Öktem, 1996
Entodinium williamsi f. *williamsi* Göçmen & Öktem, 1996
Entodinium williamsi f. *turcicum* Göçmen & Öktem, 1996
Entodinium semahatae Öktem, Göçmen & Torun, 1997
Ophryoscolex purkynjei f. *purkynjei* Göçmen, 1999
Ophryoscolex purkynjei f. *bifidoquadrinotus* Göçmen, 1999
Ophryoscolex purkynjei f. *bifidoquadrinotus* Göçmen, 1999
Epidinium graini Göçmen, 2000
Epidinium graini f. *graini* Göçmen, 2000
Epidinium graini f. *caudatricoronatum* Göçmen, 2000
Epidinium graini f. *caudaquadrinotum* Göçmen, 2000
Entodinium oektemae Göçmen, Tosunoğlu & Falakalı, 2001
Entodinium imaii Göçmen, Tosunoğlu & Falakalı, 2001
Eudiplodinium dehorityi Göçmen, Falakalı Mutaf & Tosunoğlu 2001
Entodinium salmani Göçmen & Rastgeldi 2004
Entodinium salmani f. *salmani* Göçmen & Rastgeldi 2004
Entodinium salmani f. *monospinosum* Göçmen & Rastgeldi 2004
Entodinium salmani f. *bispinosum* Göçmen & Rastgeldi 2004
Entodinium salmani f. *trispinosum* Göçmen & Rastgeldi 2004
Entodinium cypriensis Göçmen & Gürelli 2009

Phylum: Apicomplexa
 Class: Gregarina
 Subclass: Eugregarinia
 Order: Eugregarinida
 Family: Monocystidae
 Subfamily: Monocystinae
Monocystis apporetodae Bandyopadhyay, Mallik, Göçmen & Mitra, 2006
Monocystis metaphirae Bandyopadhyay, Mallik, Göçmen & Mitra, 2006
Monocystis amynthae Bandyopadhyay, Göçmen, Bhowmik & Mitra, 2006
Monocystis elongatum Bandyopadhyay, Chakraborty, Mitra & Göçmen, 2008
Monocystis constricta Bandyopadhyay, Mitra & Göçmen, 2009

Subfamily: Stomatophorinae
Stomatocystis Bandyopadhyay, Mitra & Göçmen, 2006
Stomatocystis indica Bandyopadhyay, Mitra & Göçmen, 2006

Subfamily: Rhynchocystinae
Rhynchocystis silvae Sarkar, Bandyopadhyay & Göçmen, 2012

Phylum: Myxozoa
 Class: Myxosporidia
 Order: Bivalvulida
 Family: Myxobolidae
Myxobolus lalbaghensis Banerjee, Bandyopadhyay, Göçmen & Mitra, 2011

lished in international or national scientific peer-reviewed journals. 125 of these papers are in the field of herpetology and 63 of them are in protozoology or parasitology. He also published a tribute article for his supervisor Prof. Dr. Nimet ÖKTEM and two papers related to spiders. All his publications, books, and attended conferences are listed in the appendixes. In addition to the listed publications, there are also

scientific articles that we cannot add to the list because they are under review or in progress. Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN, alone or in collaboration with his colleagues, described 17 new species, 13 forms, and 1 new genus in the field of protozoology (Table 1). He also described 4 new species and 9 new subspecies of amphibians and reptiles (Table 2).

Table 2. The new species and subspecies of frogs and reptiles, described by Prof. Dr. Bayram Göçmen in collaboration with other researchers. Taxa are arranged chronologically under each family heading.

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Subphylum: Vertebrata
 Superclass: Tetrapoda
 Class: Amphibia
 Order: Caudata
 Family: Salamandridae
Lyciasalamandra irfani Göçmen, Arıkan & Yalçınkaya, 2011
Lyciasalamandra arikani Göçmen & Akman, 2012
Lyciasalamandra yehudahai Göçmen & Akman, 2012
Lyciasalamandra billae eikeae Godmann, Karış & Göçmen, 2016
Lyciasalamandra atifi veithi Oğuz, Göçmen & Yalçınkaya, 2016
Lyciasalamandra atifi godmanni Oğuz, Göçmen & Yalçınkaya, 2016
Lyciasalamandra atifi kunti Oğuz, Göçmen & Yalçınkaya, 2016
Lyciasalamandra fazilae ulfetae Göçmen, Ehl, Karış, Thiesmeier & Kordges, 2018
 Class: Reptilia
 Order: Squamata
 Suborder: Autarchoglossa
 Family: Scincidae
Ablepharus kitaibelii budaki Göçmen, Kumlutaş & Tosunoğlu, 1996
 Family: Lacertidae
Acanthodactylus schreiberi ataturi Yalçınkaya & Göçmen, 2012
 Suborder: Serpentes
 Family: Colubridae (s. l.)
Rhynchocalamus dayanae Tamar, Šmíd, Göçmen, Meiri & Carranza, 2016
Zamenis hohenackeri lyciensis Hofmann, Mebert, Schulz, Helfenberger, Göçmen & Böhme, 2018
 Family: Viperidae
Vipera anatolica senliki Göçmen, Mebert, Karış, Oğuz & Ursenbacher, 2017

Besides the scientific papers he published and the students he trained, Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN carried out important activities within the scope of science and social studies. Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN's one of the most important of these activities was that he founded TürkHerptil (AdaMerOs Herptile Turkey - The Amphibians and Reptiles Monitoring & Photography Society in Turkey), a nature photography web site focusing on amphibians and reptiles in which visitors can also find information about the biology, ecology, and taxonomy of the species (<http://www.turkherptil.org>). This platform also created a community and nature lovers around Turkey was able to start good friendships through TürkHerptil. In addition, as a very active user of social media, he regularly shared photos and information about the life of amphibians and reptiles and instilled a love of nature by arousing sympathy for these animals. Within the scope of some projects, he gave trainings on amphibian-reptile fieldwork and photography techniques and conferences for students at various universities. His research and discoveries have appeared in national press many times. He contributed to the documentary named "Descendants of Darwin: Reptiles" by Iz TV. He supervised the documentary about Anatolian Viper by TRT (Turkish Radio and Television Corporation) and he participated in the field studies even when he was struggling with his disease. Sadly, the montage of the documentary has not been completed yet, therefore, he could not watch the final version on the screen.

As one of the most productive and recognized nature photographer in Turkey, Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN's photographs are at a professional level and each of them is a

documentary showing the characteristics and biology of the species clearly. Not only his photographs of amphibians and reptiles but also other animals and plants have been used in many national and international scientific books so far. His photographs also have been used many times in scientific and technical magazines and popular science books published by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK). Moreover, his photographs were used in exhibitions in different regions of Turkey.

Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN learned that he lost his mother (Ülfet GÖÇMEN) during the fieldwork for salamanders in Köyceğiz, Muğla on 11 February 2017. He decided to give his mother's name to the new salamander subspecies which he found during that field trip and described *Lyciasalamandra fazilae ulfetae* (Göçmen et al. 2018). Until 2019, he worked at the Biology Department of Ege University and gave undergraduate courses such as General Parasitology/Parasitology, Invertebrate Systematics/Biology, Vertebrate Systematics/Biology, Herpetology, Animal Physiology, General Protozoology, General Ecology and Scientific English. The graduate courses he gave were Protozoology I, Protozoology II, Rumen Protozoa, Amphibian and Reptile Protozoa, and Photography Techniques for Biologists.

He published 2 textbooks in the field of Parasitology, a textbook on Animal Physiology, a book on Amphibians and Reptiles of the TRNC, 2 duplicates on Invertebrate Animal Systematics, a textbook on Vertebrate Systematics and a supplementary textbook, a textbook plus supplementary textbook on Invertebrate Biology, a textbook on Herpetology, a book on Protozoology (Eukaryotic Microbiology), and



Figure 6. Taking photos of *Malpolon insignitus*, 14.06.2011, Mersin, Turkey.



Figure 7. Herpetological trip to Eastern Anatolia, with *Paralaudakia caucasica*, 16.08.2011, Doğubeyazıt, Ağrı, Turkey.



Figure 8. Herpetological trip to Eastern Anatolia, with female *Lacerta agilis*, Kars, 20.08.2011, Kars, Turkey.



Figure 9. Herpetological trip to Eastern Anatolia, with male *Lacerta agilis*, 20.08.2011, Türkgözü, Posof, Kars, Turkey.

a book chapter on Coccidiosis in Amphibians and Reptiles (Appendix II).

He was the coordinator in 12 projects and researcher in 4 projects supported by the Scientific Research Projects Unit of the various universities; he was the coordinator in 2 projects and researcher in 4 projects supported by TÜBİTAK; he was a researcher in 6 projects supported by international institutions and foundations.

He was a member of international scientific societies like Turkish Society for Parasitology (TPD), Society of Protozoologists (SOP), The British Herpetological Society (BHS), and Societas Europea Herpetologica (SEH).

Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN worked as the editor, assistant editor, editorial board member and rapporteur in many national and international journals: Editor/Co-Editor, Editorial Board Membership in Turkish Journal of Parasitology (international index) for biological subjects; Editor/Co-Editor, Editorial Board Memberships in North-Western Journal of Zoology and Turkish Journal of Zoology (journals indexed by Science Citation Index); Editorial Board Membership in South-Western Journal of Horticulture, Biology and Environment (international index); Editorial Board Membership in Commagene Journal of Biology (international index).

Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN trained and graduated 11 masters and 7 doctorate students in the fields of Herpetology and Protozoology-Parasitology (Table 3). When he was struggling with his disease, he wanted to graduate the last doctorate student Mehmet Anıl OĞUZ but he passed away before his graduation. From his postgraduate students, Samiye RASTGELDİ DEMİR has Associate Prof. Dr. position in Biology Department of Ege University, Mehmet Zülfü YILDIZ is Associate Prof. Dr. in Biology Department of Adıyaman University, Gözde GÜRELLİ is Associate Prof. Dr. in Biology Department of Kastamonu University, Deniz YALÇINKAYA is Dr. Lecturer in Vocational School of Toros University, Bahadır AKMAN is Assist. Prof. Dr. in Vocational High School of Technical Sciences of Iğdır University, Mert KARIŞ is Dr. Lecturer in Acıgöl Vocational High School of Technical Sciences of Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University and Mehmet KARAKUŞ is Assist. Prof. Dr. in Biotechnology Department of Health Sciences Institution of Health Sciences University. Almost all postgraduate students of Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN are going on their research as academicians in Turkey. It shows that the scientific education given by Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN is of high quality. Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN was the second supervisor of the doctorate thesis of Naşit İÇCİ and

Table 3: Master and PhD degree students trained by Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN

| Education | Students | Thesis Subjects | Graduation |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---|------------|
| M. Sc. | Gül Huriser TALU | The Rumen ciliate Ophryoscolecid (Entodiniomorphida) fauna of the domestic sheep (<i>Ovis ammon aries</i>) from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus | 1999 |
| M. Sc. | Samiye RASTGELDİ DEMİR | Diplodiniid ciliates living in the rumen of domesticated goats (<i>Capra hircus</i> L.) from southern Turkey | 2002 |
| M. Sc. | Adem KARAOĞLU | Entodiniid ciliates (Entodiniidae, Entodiniomorphida) living in the rumen of domesticated goats (<i>Capra hircus</i> L.) from southeastern Turkey | 2005 |
| M. Sc. | Gözde GÜRELLİ | The prevalence of liver flukes in garden snail <i>Helix aspersa</i> Müller, 1774 (Mollusca: Pulmonata) which is distributed vicinity of Izmir | 2006 |
| M. Sc. | Bahadır AKMAN | On the distribution, taxonomy and biology of large-headed thin-toed gecko, <i>Stenodactylus grandiceps</i> Haas, 1952 (Squamata: Sauria: Geckonidae) in Anatolia | 2008 |
| M. Sc. | Deniz YALÇINKAYA | Comparison of the Anatolian and Cypriot <i>Acanthodactylus schreiberi</i> Boulenger, 1879 (Squamata: Sauria: Lacertidae) populations in morphology, serology and ecology | 2008 |
| M. Sc. | F. Çiğdem ASLAN | The occurrence of <i>Epidinium</i> Crawley, 1923 (Ciliophora: Entodiniomorphida) in the domestic goats (<i>Capra hircus</i> Linnaeus, 1758) from the Northern Cyprus | 2011 |
| M. Sc. | Mehmet KARAKUŞ | Insecticide susceptibility of wild-caught sand fly populations collected from certain districts of Aegean Region | 2012 |
| M. Sc. | Mehmet Anıl OĞUZ | Distribution, populations and biology of <i>Lyciasalamandra atifi</i> (Basoglu, 1967) (Amphibia: Urodela: Salamandridae) | 2015 |
| M. Sc. | Doğancan ŞENER | The determination of bioactivities of the smooth newt (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>) skin secretion and the effects on some cancer cells | 2018 |
| M. Sc. | Dilara AŞKIN | Evaluation of anti-inflammatory effect of <i>Anthemis tricolor</i> Boiss. against <i>Macrovipera lebetina obtusa</i> venom induced inflammation | 2018 |
| PhD | Samiye RASTGELDİ DEMİR | Phlebotominae (Diptera: Psychodidae) species of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus | 2007 |
| PhD | Mehmet Zülfü YILDIZ | Population dynamics of <i>Rana holtzi</i> Werner, 1898 (Anura: Ranidae) living in Bolkar mountains (Ulukışla-Niğde) | 2010 |
| PhD | Gözde GÜRELLİ | The fauna of hindgut ciliates (Protista:Ciliophora) of horses <i>Equus caballus</i> Linnaeus, 1857 which are distributed vicinity of Izmir | 2011 |
| PhD | Deniz YALÇINKAYA | Taxonomy and biology of <i>Eumeces schneiderii</i> Daudin, 1802 (Sauria: Scincidae) populations which distributed in Anatolia and Cyprus | 2013 |
| PhD | Bahadır AKMAN | Taxonomy and biology of the blind snake populations, <i>Typhlops vermicularis</i> merrem, 1820(Squamata: Serpentes: Typhlopidae)which distributed in Turkey and Cyprus | 2013 |
| PhD | Saeedeh JABBARPOUR VARLIK | Ectoparasit living mites on some lizard which distributed in Turkey (Arachnida: Acarina) | 2016 |
| PhD Co-Advisor | Naşit İÇCİ | Comparative proteomic characterization of the venom of <i>Macrovipera lebetina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758), <i>Montivipera xanthina</i> (Gray, 1849) and <i>Vipera ammodytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) distributed in Turkey and determination of their effects on coagulation and cytotoxicity | 2015 |
| PhD | Mert KARIŞ | Determination of bioactivities of some amphibian skin secretions | 2017 |

now Naşit İÇCİ is Assist. Prof. Dr. in Molecular Biology and Genetic Department of Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University (Table 3).

Due to his contributions to the science of zoology, the name of 7 taxa has derived from his name or surname which was described by his students or other scientists. These are: a protozoon/sproozoon species that lives in an earthworm in India (*Nematocystis bayrami* Mallik & Bandyopadhyay, 2009), an endemic species of spiders living in Turkey (*Typhlonesticus gocmeni* Ribera, Elverici, Kunt & Özkütük, 2014), a species of scorpions endemic to Turkey (*Euscorpilus gocmeni* Tropea, Yağmur & Yeşilyurt, 2014), a terrestrial salamander race (*Lyciasalamandra antalyana gocmeni* Akman & Godmann 2014), another subspecies of a terrestrial salamander (*Lyciasalamandra atifi bayrami* Yıldız & Akman, 2015), and two species of grasshoppers (*Bradyporus gocmeni* Ünal, 2017; *Eupholidoptera gocmeni* Ünal, 2019).

In a *Memorandum* he wrote for his Ph.D. supervisor Prof. Dr. Nimet ÖKTEM, who passed away about six months after his mother's death, Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN started his words as follows: "What makes a scientist immortal are his works, the students he trained, and the taxa dedicated to him (Göçmen, 2017)." From his own point of view, we can say that Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN's name has been immortalized with his works, the students he trained and the taxa names derived from his name.

Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN was mentioning these phrases very often: "If there is something written on my forehead: "Biology/Zoology is not a profession for me but a lifestyle. My emotions, approaches, reactions are coming out of this lifestyle. If you want to learn, experience it! There is no chance of making mistakes when nature is taken as an example! This is the right way!". The words "Biology/Zoology is not a profession for me but a lifestyle" indi-



Figure 10. Planning next day trip locations with Dr. Konrad MEBERT, 07.05.2013, Hopa, Artvin, Turkey.



Figure 11. Celebrating Dr. Bahadır AKMAN's birthday, 11.05.2013, Kağızman, Kars, Turkey.

cate that he is a scientist married to his profession. He generally spent his holidays for field works and nature photography tours. He financially supported the scientific studies and the field studies of graduate students with his income when the funds were limited.

He got cancer in 2018 and unfortunately, on 22 March 2019 at the age of 54, he succumbed to this disease. His death at a young age made his students, colleagues, and all his lovers feel a deep sorrow. Rest in peace Bayram GÖÇMEN.

TRIBUTES

Abidin BUDAK: The decease of Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN who is our student, friend, and colleague is a great loss for our faculty, university, and field of zoology. But his family lost a wonderful son at a young age. A student at the top of the department and faculty at his graduation, a loving brother and an excellent guide for his doctorates, he had seven doctorates at his young age and was with them financially and spiritually. A loving son for me (Sometimes he called me "my spiritual father"). God rest his soul. Keeping his memory alive should be a task for the ones left behind.

Yehudah L. WERNER: With Bayram GÖÇMEN passing away I lost a good friend. And Bayram GÖÇMEN - what an amazingly fitting name. Every contact with him was a bayram (festivity) and he himself was among other things a göçmen (refugee). Our first contact by email was in 1994 and soon we became friends who could speak about everything: From reptiles, their biology and conservation, through students and their education, to the most personal. Bayram worried about the conservation of amphibians and reptiles but understood that, for this, collecting them was necessary. He generously supplied me with Cypriote samples. Bayram as a child had experienced his family ravaged by Greek zealots but nevertheless supported Greek conservation-minded colleagues. In April 2008, Bayram generously and efficiently hosted my wife Nurit and me showing north Cyprus reptiles and habitats. A reciprocal visit to Israel remained a matter of hope. He was a significantly contributing

coauthor in Werner, Y.L., N. Korolke, G. Sion and B. Göçmen. 2015. Bergmann's rule and Rensch's rule and the spur-thighed tortoise (*Testudo graeca*). *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*. 117: 796-811. Bayram opened to me his fantastic photo treasure box; several unique photos in my *Reptile Life in the Land of Israel, with Comments on Adjacent Regions* (2016, Chimaira, Frankfurt) remain as evidence of both his capacity and his friendship.

Ersen Aydın YAĞMUR: I met Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN after I started my PhD at Ege University. He collected scorpion specimens and took their photos for me during his field studies. He also asked for my personal opinion on the identification of the specimens in the photographs he took. Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN had a deep knowledge of Latin and taxonomy principles as well as a deep knowledge of zoogeography and paleogeography. For this reason, I consulted him on many issues. Later on, I dedicated to him the species *Euscorpium gocmeni* both for his contribution to my scientific studies and for my respect to him and his scientific personality. I feel happiness to be able to dedicate species to his name while he was alive. I think that he will always be an irreplaceable person because of his scientific qualities and the help he provided to young people and nature lovers.

Kerim ÇİÇEK: I first time met Prof. Dr. Bayram Göçmen in 2003 at the beginning of my master's degree. We had more than 15 years of friendship, even though it was bumpy. Throughout his life, he never lost the passion to learn and teach. He supported me and many others in a scientific and humanistic sense. During my graduate studies, I accompanied him to classes or labs as an assistant and learned a lot. He was always filled with passion for his job and fieldwork. He made great contributions to Turkish herpetofauna with new species and information. This has already reflected his character and his view of life. Even in the course of his illness, he carried out field studies and tried to complete his unfinished scientific studies. His passion for science won the hearts of many people or caused conflict with some others. I am proud to have worked with him at the same department. Rest in peace Bayram.



Figure 12. Anatolian vipers trip, 11.05.2013, Kağızman, Kars, Turkey.

Konrad MEBERT: I got to know Bayram Göçmen a little more than 10 years ago, while I was searching for contributors to the Mertensiella volume about the Dice Snake *Natrix tessellata*. We decided to collaborate on two articles, one that was close to him personally, relating to the rediscovery of *Natrix tessellata* in a single reservoir lake from his homeland Cyprus (Göçmen & Mebert 2011). A second article with the support from other Turkish authors analyzed the diet of Turkish *N. tessellata*, including some unusual stomach contents such as a snail, mammal, and lizard (Göçmen et al. 2011a). That same year, we published an additional small paper on new records of the now relegated (synonymized with *N. natrix*) Big-headed Grass Snake *Natrix megalcephala* (Göçmen et al. 2011b). Our successful productions and consensual passion for the impressive and varied nature of Anatolia promoted a deeper collaboration. We seized the opportunity and arranged for a large first joint expedition to northeastern Turkey in 2013 with up to 12 participants, including some of his students and associates, to locate all regional Anatolian viper species (see some photo contributions below). This 2-week tour in rainy May was extremely successful with finding 7 species of life vipers and the shed of the 8th species. From then on, Bayram provided annual support with manpower, permit arrangements, and network, all constituents that were necessary to produce a highly efficient field work. Based on bio-logical common sense, I presumed that the situation of viper distributions and population extends was vastly different from what was generally and officially published in print media and online, or known among professional and governmental experts. For similar perceptions, I also motivated him to continue searching for the elusive *Vipera anatolica* (known by five specimens prior to 2013), as I see no plausible reason why they should have become extinct. Indeed, Bayram and some of his most-field-experienced students rediscovered the Anatolian Meadow



Figure 13. Anatolian vipers trip, when taking a DNA sample from *Vipera kaznakovi*, Camili, Borçka, Artvin, Turkey.

Viper a few months later on the terra typica, in parallel to another team around O. Zinenko (Göçmen et al. 2014a, Zinenko et al. 2016).

In subsequent years, we worked on many more articles to expand our knowledge, mainly on the distribution of Anatolian vipers, but also on venom characteristics, rat snakes, and others in preparation (Göçmen et al. 2014b, 2015a, b, 2018; Hofmann et al. 2018; Mebert et al. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020; Nalbantsoy et al. 2016).

I recall his proactive and energetic approach to guide his students, which often was not easy and emotional. It has led to multiple arguments among several herpetologists active in Turkey. Yet, his love and genuine interest for Turkish herpetology provided a platform to further many more productions, leading him to be one of the most influential herpetologists in Turkey to date.

Sadly, we met again and for the last time in early spring 2018 at the recently (2016) discovered second populations of



Figure 14. Anatolian vipers trip with tractor, 15.05.2013, Sulakçayır, Hanak, Ardahan, Turkey.

the rare Anatolian Meadow Viper, 200 km east of the terra typica, for which we described a new subspecies *V. anatolica senliki* (Göçmen et al. 2017; Mebert et al. 2017). Although he was already affected by increasing physical and physiological complications, he exhibited still a good spirit to continue his colossal work. We were happy to contribute to conservation by helping the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) to produce a documentary on the critically endangered *V. anatolica*. We wish that this film and our future work will keep him and his passionate contributions in permanent good memories.

We miss him dearly.

Adem ADAKUL: When I wrote viper on the internet browser to find species of viper I photographed in 2010, the name Bayram GÖÇMEN came out. On this occasion, we contacted and met. Thanks to turkherptil.org, we became sincere friends in a short time and then we have made field studies together many times. In this way, I have benefited from his knowledge and experience and with his inspiration and support, I became familiar with all the reptile and amphibian species in Turkey. He made great contributions to the fields of herpetology and parasitology with his dozens of discoveries and nearly 200 scientific studies. He has reduced prejudice against amphibians and reptiles in Turkey and also made hundreds of people love them. When viper word is said, he is the first person who comes to mind. He was one of the few people I loved and respected and he will always be special for me with his intelligence, knowledge, researcher identity, hunger for discovery, character and importance given to young people. May God rest your soul in heaven.

Ertan TAŞKAVAK: It was almost the end of spring of 1984 or 1985, I do not fully remember. I was a Master of Science student of Prof. Dr. Sabire KARAÇALI, and in the laboratory, I was collecting the eggs left by *Melanogryllus desertus*

females from dozens of jars filled with male and female desert crickets painted with impermeable paint on various parts of their heads. While I was working on experiment groups, a young curly-haired brunette person, who was from another classroom on the same floor, greeted me and walked in and looked curiously at the insects in the jars and the eggs left in the cotton. After a little bit chat, he asked me what I was doing and why and I offered him cigarettes, which smoking inside the buildings during those years was free. That's how I met Prof. Dr. Bayram GÖÇMEN for the first time. Our amity, companionship, co-authorship and friendship, which started while Bayram was still an undergraduate student, had lasted almost 35 years. In his Facebook account, on September 30, 2018 Bayram had shared the photographs of the plant and flower of the passion fruit from his garden in Cyprus. Via WhatsApp, when I told him that I loved it very much, he told me that he would bring me a sapling, that he had brought it before to a friend in Bodrum and that it had grown up so well that it formed a "Talvar". When I asked him what "Talvar" was, he said it is something like a gazebo or a bower. In my WhatsApp account, I still keep what he had written to me about the passion fruit plant and the pictures of the passion fruit he had sent. I hope the place you went is heaven and you have attained eternal tranquility. Rest in peace my dear friend, Bayram.

Deniz YALÇINKAYA: My first meeting with Bayram Göçmen was in the invertebrate's biology lesson in 2003. My desire to work with his in my Master's degree started when I first saw his mastery of the subject. He was also fond of his profession. It was impossible not to see the sparkle in his eye while sharing his knowledge. We had our first field study together in Cyprus. The first snake I caught was *Telescopus fallax*. When he saw the snake in my hand, he asked me "Do you know this is a venomous species?" I said "This is my first catch snake and I don't know anything about it". He said



Figure 15. Anatolian vipers trip with male, *Lacerta agilis*, 15.05.2013, Sulakçayır, Hanak, Ardahan, Turkey.



Figure 16. Camouflaged to take bird photos, 03.05.2014, Çıgħkara, Elmalı, Antalya, Turkey.

"That's it! My student must be as crazy as I am." During the 13 years we spent together, he was not only a scientific supervisor to me but a member of my family. He never denied material and moral support. Neither words nor pages are enough to express my feelings about him. I really miss him. May his place be heaven and may Allah bless his soul.

Kadir Boğaç KUNT: Bayram Göçmen walked to the mercy of Allah. Turkish Zoology has lost one of its greatest values. Turkey has lost a great patriot. Humanity lost a beautiful man. Also, I have lost a close friend and one of my most important supporters on my journey of science. He always trusted, believed, and supported me. May Allah bless you.

Mücahit ÇAKMAK: We lost a valuable person who was a model for humanity in addition to his contributions to the scientific community. It is hard to pick words that can express my feelings but I think what best describes him is his name and surname. He had a character like his name; Bayram means festival but he passed away from this world so quickly like his last name; Göçmen means immigrant. He left a great void in this world but also beautiful people. I and those beautiful people will save your cheerfulness, humanity, and perseverance that you left us as your legacy. Rest in peace.

Naciye Gülkız ŞENLER: You left such an emptiness that does not seem to be possible to be filled. Bayram GÖÇMEN was a scientist who was in love with his profession, meticulous, principled, and honest and he devoted his years to scientific research. If you need to define him with a single word, "diligence" I say. He had worked incessantly since I have known him during my PhD days in Ege University until he left us. He had been a scientist who maintained all the values we received from our mentor Prof. Dr. Nimet ÖKTEM. I always remember him like this. "If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you're dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth writing", says Benjamin Franklin. So he lived a life that is short but worthy of these words.

For this reason, his works and (oeuvre) have received a superior acceptance. He was a good colleague and a good friend. Now, he will continue to be a bright star in the history of science of biology and will always be remembered for

his passion for biology, his precious works, and his students. But, dear friend, you left us too early. I will always miss you and I will cherish your memory forever, beautiful person. Rest in peace.

Gözde GÜRELLİ: When I was a student at the Biology Department of Science Faculty of Ege University, I took parasitology lesson from Prof. Dr. Bayram Göçmen. He taught everything about the parasites to students and he supported the students to continue their academic career on parasitology. I started my master thesis on larval liver flukes of a land snail under his supervision. When I finished my master's thesis, he led me to work on protozoology for my doctoral thesis under his supervision. Thus, I worked on hind-gut ciliates of horses. He was a meticulous, responsible, and helpful supervisor. I learned a lot on protozoology and parasitology from him. Thanks for everything!



Figure 17. *Lyciasalamandra* trip, 28.02.2015, Konyaaltı, Antalya, Turkey.

Salih GÜCEL: I feel proud when people mention his name, his work. I will always miss and remember him as a trusted friend and as a scientist with his deep knowledge and passion.

Naşit İĞCİ: I first met Bayram Göçmen in the courses I took from him during the second year of my undergraduate studies at Ege University Biology Department. As an enthusiastic student, I was easily influenced by his passion for his profession. Next year, I started to work as an undergraduate student in his laboratory. I had the opportunity to do field work with him in our joint projects and studies and I treasured many memories. In these studies, I learned a lot from him about the field methods of amphibians and reptiles and nature photography. I also witnessed that he encouraged many young naturalists to do scientific studies. He has left behind not only valuable scientific studies but also a research team capable of continuing these studies. We will always remember him with respect.

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+ 9 pages of Appendix:

Appendix I Publications of Bayram GÖÇMEN - 6 pages

Appendix II. The Books and Book Chapters written by Bayram GÖÇMEN - 1 page

Appendix III Congress or Symposiums attended by Bayram GÖÇMEN - 2 pages

Appendix I Publications of Bayram GÖÇMEN

- Akat, E., Arıkan, H., Göçmen, B. (2014): Histochemistry and biometric studies of the gastrointestinal system of *Hyla orientalis* (Bedriaga, 1890) (Anura: Hyliidae). *European Journal of Histochemistry* 58: 291-295.
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Appendix II. The Books and Book Chapters written by Bayram GÖÇMEN

- Atatür, M. K., Göçmen, B. (2001): Kuzey Kıbrıs'ın Kurbağa ve Sürüngenleri (Amphibians and Reptiles of Northern Cyprus). Ege Üniversitesi Basımevi, İzmir/Türkiye.
- Atatür, M., Budak, A., Göçmen, B. (2003): Omurgasızlar Biyolojisi. Ege Üniversitesi Basımevi, İzmir/Türkiye.
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- Budak, A., Göçmen, B. (2005): Herpetoloji. Ege Üniversitesi Basımevi, İzmir/Türkiye.
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Appendix III Congress or Symposiums attended by Bayram GÖÇMEN

- Akman, B., Yıldız, M.Z., Bulum, E., Göçmen, B. (2015): Van Kertenkelesi (*Darevskia sapphirina*)'nin Yayılışı, Taksonomisi ve Biyolojisi Hakkında. II. Ulusal Zooloji Kongresi, 28–31 Ağustos 2015, Afyon, Türkiye.
- Akman, B., Yıldız, M.Z., Sarıkaya, B., İğci, N., Sami, E., Özcan, A. F., Bozkurt, A.F., Göçmen, B. (2015): Adana İli'nin Kurbağa ve Sürüngen Biyoçeşitliliği, Tehditler ve Alınması Gereken Önlemler. Biyoçeşitlilik Sempozyumu, 22–24 Mayıs 2015, Şanlıurfa, Türkiye.
- Aytar, C., İğci, N., Göçmen, B., Nalbantsoy, A. (2014): Kanser tedavisinde biyoaktif peptidlerin potansiyel kullanımı: *Vipera ammodytes* (Linnaeus, 1758) yılan zehrinin terapötik kullanım potansiyeli. II. Biyomühendislik Öğrenci Kongresi, 15–16 Mart 2014, İzmir, Türkiye.
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- Damm, M., Hempel, B.-F., Nalbantsoy, A., Petras, D., Karış, M., Göçmen, B., Oğuz, M.A., Kunthning, A., Süßmuth, R. D. (2017): First venom analysis of the nose-horned viper *Vipera ammodytes transcaucasiana* and the transdanubian sand viper *Vipera ammodytes montandoni* by mass spectrometry and bioactivity screening. 30. Der Tag der Chemie ist eine Gemeinschaftsveranstaltung von Freie Universität Berlin 5. Juli 2017, Berlin, Germany.
- Demiröz, T., Albayrak, G., Nalbantsoy, A., Göçmen, B., Baykan, Ş. (2017): In vivo anti-inflammatory activities of *Centaurea calolepis* Boiss. and Cnicin against viper venom induced-inflammation. 2nd International Gazi Pharma Symposium Series (GPSS), 11–13 October 2017, Ankara, Turkey.
- Erzurumlu, Y., Çelen, Ç., Göçmen, B., Yıldız, M.Z., Nalbantsoy, A. (2017): Inhibition of Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase in Estrogen Receptor Negative MDA-MB-231 and Estrogen Receptor Positive MCF-7 Cancer Cells by the Venom of Desert Black Cobra (*Walterinnesia morgani*) from Şanlıurfa, Turkey. 1st International Congress on Cancer & Ion Channels (IONCC2017), 21 – 23 September 2017, Sanliurfa, Turkey.
- Erzurumlu, Y., Petras, D., Göçmen, B., Hempel, B.-F., Heiss, P., Yıldız, M.Z., Süßmuth, R.D., Nalbantsoy, A. (2017): Apoptotic Effects of Mount Bulgar Viper (*Montivipera bulgardaghica*) PLA2 and SVMPS Venom Peptide fractions on HeLa and A549 Cancer Cells. 2nd International Conference on Natural Products for Cancer Prevention and Therapy, 8–11 November 2017, Kayseri, Turkey.
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- Göçmen, B. (2013): Türkiye'nin Amfibi ve Sürüngen Çeşitliliği. GAP Biyoçeşitlilik Sempozyumu, 23–25 Mayıs 2013, Şanlıurfa, Türkiye.
- Göçmen, B., Dehority, B.A., Rastgeldi, S., Talu, G. (2000): Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti Evcil Koyunlarının (*Ovis ammon aries*) Ophryoscolecidae (Entodiniomorpidae) İşkembe Siliyat Faunası. XV. Ulusal Biyoloji Kongresi, 5–9 Eylül 2000, Ankara, Türkiye.
- Göçmen, B., Güreli, G. (2007): İzmir civarında dağılışı gösteren bahçe salyangozu *Helix aspersa* Müller, 1774 (Mollusca: Pulmonata) da bir kamçılı türü *Cryptobia helicis* Leidy, 1846 (Kinetoplastida: Bodonea: Cryptobiidae) hakkında. XV. Ulusal Parazitoloji Kongresi, 18–23 Kasım 2007, Kayseri, Türkiye.
- Göçmen, B., İnanç, M., Rastgeldi, S., Tosunoğlu, M. (2000): Adana Evcil Keçilerinde (*Capra hircus*) *Polyplastron* (Ciliophora: Entodiniomorpidae: Ophryoscolecidae) Cinsinin Bulunuşu ve Taksonomisi Üzerine Bir Çalışma. XV. Ulusal Biyoloji Kongresi, 5–9 Eylül 2000, Ankara, Türkiye.
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