

Contributions to the Yüzüncü Yıl University through the scientific activities of the CESA

(2001-2006)



Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak * Asst. Prof. Dr. Muhabbet Kemal Koçak

1. Entomological Research Laboratory - - - established

Postgraduate studies in progressing

3 master theses in Entomology were completed (supervisors: Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak and Asst. Prof. Dr. Muhabbet Kemal Koçak). 2 doctoral and 2 master theses in Entomology have been supervising by Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak

2. Coordination between Yüzüncü Yıl University (Turkey) and Shumen (Bulgaria) - established. Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak

3. Coordination between Yüzüncü Yıl University (Turkey) and East Asiatic Universities - in progressing. Coordinator: Asst. Prof. Dr. Muhabbet Kemal Koçak

4. Recognition of the Yüzüncü Yıl University in abroad

A. South Africa through the personal scientific activities (Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ömer Koçak and Asst. Prof. Dr. Muhabbet Kemal Koçak)

see also publications:

Foreign Journal -

24 January 2003 ZOUTPANSBERGER

Turkish entomologists study local butterflies

LOUIS TRICHARDT - Butterflies are a good indicator of the condition of the environment and when studying these insects it seems that the Soutpansberg has natural resources in abundance.

This is according to two entomologists from Turkey who are on a three-week visit to research the butterflies and moths of the Soutpansberg.

Prof Dr Ahmet Ömer Koçak and his spouse Dr Muhabbet Kemal Koçak from the Yüzüncü Yıl University in Van, a city in East Turkey discovered the Soutpansberg when searching the Internet for accommodation in South Africa. They are both from the Biology Department of the Faculty of Science and Literature of their University.

"We initially intended to take a holiday in South Africa and the fast, positive and friendly replies that we got from the Underhay family at Medike determined our destination. Other visitors at the Dzhiawolala Cottage where we stay asked me why I chose the Soutpansberg. My reply was that for me Soutpansberg is South Africa," says Prof Koçak.

Their interest in *lepidoptera* (butterflies and moths) soon shaped their proposed holiday into a research experience. Before he even left Turkey, Prof Koçak prepared a web page with a list of 37 butterfly species of the Soutpansberg that he compiled from scientific literature.

The fact that more than a hundred species can be expected, indicated to Prof Koçak that not enough research has been done on butterflies in the Soutpansberg.

"We are happy to contribute to the fauna and flora of this wonderful corner of South Africa. Though the time for research is limited, we try to make an introduction to the butterfly fauna of Soutpansberg and to compile a list with photos of the species that we observed."

The Koçaks arrived in Louis Trichardt on January 14 in the midst of a heat wave of 36°C, after having left their country in a freezing -25°C. Within the first few days in the Soutpansberg the Koçaks observed as many as forty *lepidoptera* species. They found one butterfly that was common to both the Soutpansberg and Turkey.

"The butterflies in Africa are very strong flyers, which are not easily found and seen nor photographed. The size of their wings and coloration are magnificent." He explained that butterflies are very sensitive creatures and good indicators of disturbances in the environment.

"If the diversity of butterflies is high, it indicates that pollution is low and that the environment is in a good condition." He added that as opposed to that of Turkey, he found the natural environment of the Soutpansberg to be in a favourable condition.

"Two butterfly species living as endemic (wide-spread) in the Soutpansberg are the *Dina sumneri* of Hanglip Forest and the *Papilio ophioccephalus entabeni* of the Entabeni Forest."

In addition to his post at the university, Prof Koçak is the Director of the Centre for Entomological Studies Atakara, a private research centre. The Lepidoptera Society of Africa founded fifteen years ago, appointed Prof Koçak as their only honorary member.

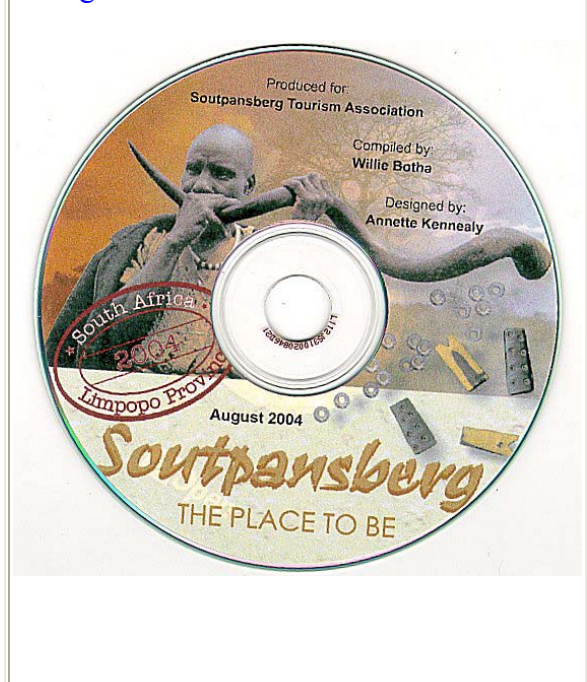
The Koçaks liaise with Prof Gaigher of Lejuna who has prepared an informative text on the Soutpansberg Conservancy. The Conservancy requires a full list of fauna and flora in which the Koçaks will gladly assist. The itinerary of the Koçaks includes Lejuna, Scheemansdal Environmental Centre, Hanglip and the mountain area.

The final remark of the Turkish couple was: "We appreciate the hospitality of the people here, and Louis Trichardt is a lovely city!"



Two entomologists from Turkey are on a three-week visit to research the butterflies and moths of the Soutpansberg. Prof Dr Ahmet Ömer Koçak (right) and his spouse Dr Muhabbet Kemal Koçak (middle) stand with their hosts, Mrs Marietjie Underhay from Medike.

Foreign CD



B. Thailand

Between Chiang Mai University and Yüzüncü Yıl Üniversitesi, a Memorandum of Understanding is under preparation.

Separately, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Cesa and Institute of Science and Technology (CMU) have been signed.

Recent Scientific Activities:

Scientific Activities in 2005: Expeditions to Thailand (Chiang Mai)

Scientific Activities in 2006: March-May 2006 to northern Thailand



updated on 25th February 2006

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