

Project Update: December 2014



We held a workshop in Ören, Muğla (Turkey) about the results of our project in October 2014, at the end of the last fieldwork of the project. The workshop was organised with the support of the local forestry administration (Ören Forest Management Directorate). The participants included the personnel of forest directorates from Ören and its environs, village headmen from the villages nearby the burned area, hotel owners and some local people.

The workshop included two presentations and one discussion session. The first presentation was by Çağatay Tavşanoğlu, about the role of fire in natural ecosystems. With this introductory presentation, we aimed to prepare the audience to the results what we found in our project. This presentation also included the introducing the Rufford foundation, and our project. Then, another talk was given by Gökhan Ergen, about the results and meaning of the project. In this presentation, the aims, methods, and preliminary results we obtained were shared with the participants. We tried to give information to the participants in a popular way and by using less scientific jargon as much as possible.



We got positive feedback from the participants, and several people asked questions about the fire affected the areas around their villages. Most of the people were amazed when they saw our preliminary results showing that some plant species only found in the recently burned area. Especially, the new species we found got enormous attention; even old mayor of Ören suggested a Latin name for the new plant species! Consequently, we satisfied with the workshop, and our expectations to create

awareness on the importance of the conservation of burned forests were met.

We also made a meeting in the preliminary school of the village that affected most by wildfire. This school had additional importance since many of students from nearby villages came also there to be thought. In this school, we presented our project and results to two different groups with different ages; one to younger classes (7-10 years), and one to older classes (11-14 years). Feedback was even better here, and the children were very interested in the fire occurred in their environment.