

Project Update: May 2014

The forests of Muğla province had suffered three major fires (more than 100 ha in size) during the summer of 2013. We visited the burned areas with local foresters and we decided to choose only one of these areas to study since the other two had ploughed and reforested by local forest services for forest management.

The study area is located in Ören (Muğla) and had burned (160 ha in size) on 5th August 2013. At first, we had planned to study in three burned and three unburned sites, but after we carefully examined the treatments applied to the burned area by local forest service, we decided to increase the number of sites to sample. By the current experimental design, we included five replicate plots from the recently burned site, the unburned site, a 14-year old burned site, and roadsides. In total, we have 20 study plots 1 ha in size.

We conducted three field surveys until this time. The first one (January 2014) included visits to the burned areas to decide if the areas burned in 2013 are proper to our research aims. During this survey, we also made meetings with authorities from local forest directorates to obtain information on the burned sites and to explain our research activities.

The second one (February 2014) included the first field survey to the study area, and we sampled many plant species (including geophytes) from study sites. The third visit was conducted in April 2014. During the fieldwork, we identified some plants (especially woody species) in the field, but we took plant sample from many of those could not be identified and brought them to the herbarium for further inspection.

In total, ~200 plant taxa were recorded in or collected from the field. We observed that plant species richness was relatively higher in the recently burned site, and the distribution of many plant taxa was restricted to this site.



Left to right: Field sampling; *Romulea tempskyana*; the burned site.