

## Rumen ciliated protozoa of the Turkish domestic goats (*Capra hircus* L.)

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### Abstract

Rumen contents obtained from eight adult domesticated goats (*Capra hircus* L.) at slaughterhouses in the southeastern area of Turkey were surveyed for ciliate protozoa. As a result of our survey, 12 genera including 39 species were identified. Fifteen of the species were further divided into 35 formae. The average ciliate density in the rumen contents of Turkish goats ( $33.21 \times 10^4$ /ml) was less than that of other ruminants from Turkey and other domestic goats reported previously from different geographical areas. However, the number of genera, species and forms living in the rumen of Turkish goats were found to be higher than that of the goats in different countries around the world. The rich faunal content of the southeastern Turkish domestic goats shows the zoogeographical importance of SE Anatolia.

**Key words:** *Capra hircus*, goat, ciliate protozoa, fauna, rumen, Turkey

### Introduction

Rumen ciliates vary with the host species and from different geographic areas, because the transfaunation of ciliates has been assumed to occur only by direct contact between hosts (Ito et al. 1994; Imai 1985; Imai 1986; Ogimoto & Imai 1981). Although the composition of the rumen ciliate protozoal populations of domesticated ruminants have been surveyed in various geographical areas, our knowledge about the overall distribution of protozoa in different animal hosts in different countries around the world is limited. There have been several studies on the rumen fauna of domestic cattle, sheep and goats in Turkey (Göçmen 1993, 1999a, b, c; Göçmen and Öktem 1996; Göçmen et al. 1999, 2001a, b, c, 2002, 2003a, b; Göçmen & Atatür 2002; Göçmen & Rastgeldi 2004; Mermer et al. 2003; Öktem & Göçmen 1996; Öktem et al. 1997; Rastgeldi & Göçmen 2003; Rastgeldi et al. 2003). However, no compilation has been published on the ciliate fauna occurring in Turkish domestic goats.