The Biodiversity of Prickly Pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica* L.) in Eastern Mediterranean Region of Turkey

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Abstract

Prickly pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica* L.) belongs to *Opuntia* geneous of Cactaceae family. Prickly pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica* L.) is naturally grown in Mediterranean region of Turkey particularly in Adana, Mersin, Osmaniye, Hatay, Antalya and southern Aegean. It is sold and consumed in summer time at local markets. There is no statistical data of production and consumption amounts of prickly pear in Turkey. The aim of this study was the selection, conservation and evaluation of prickly pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica* L.) genetic resources in eastern Mediterranean Region and determination of types for cultivation. In this project, 105 prickly pear genotypes were selected in eastern Mediterranean Region and these genotypes have been examining for morphological, pomological and chemical properties.

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