

# A new trout species described from the Alakir Stream in Antalya, Turkey

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New trout species *Salmo kottelati*. Credit: Prof. Dr. Davut Turan,

A group of researchers from Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University, Faculty of Fisheries in Turkey discovered a new trout species. The newly described species *Salmo kottelati*, belongs to the *Salmonidae* family, which includes salmons, trouts, chars, graylings and freshwater whitefishes.

Salmonids include over 200 species, which have a high economic value because of their taste and famed sporting qualities.

The genus *Salmo* is widely distributed in rivers and streams of basins of the Marmara, Black, Aegean and Mediterranean seas. The genus is represented by 12 species in Turkey.

The [new species](#) is distinguished from the other members of genera by having fewer parr marks along lateral line, and a larger mouth gape and maxilla, which is a part of the fish jaw.

Although salmonids commonly live in mountain lakes, headwater and upper reaches of streams and rivers, some species spend long parts of their lives in the sea but return to the rivers and streams for reproduce. This migratory lifestyle is known as anadromous. Salmonids are predatory fishes feeding on small crustaceans, aquatic insects and also small fish.

In order to understand the rich genus diversity in Turkey, samples were collected from more than 200 localities throughout the country between 2004 and 2014. The paper, published in the open access journal *ZooKeys*, focuses only on the *Salmo* species distributed in the Alakır Stream drainage, from where the new species was described.

The new species *Salmo kottelati* is named for Maurice Kottelat, who contributed to the knowledge of the fish fauna of Europe and Asia.

The new [species](#) inhabits cold and clear water, with moderate current, and gravel and pebble substrate. Its maximum known body length is 21 cm, while the largest representative of the family can reach up to 2 m in length.



Alakır Stream, the natural habitat of the new species *Salmo kottelati*. Credit: Prof. Dr. Davut Turan

**More information:** Turan D, Doğan E, Kaya C, Kanyılmaz M (2014) *Salmo kottelati*, a new species of trout from Alakır Stream, draining to the Mediterranean in southern Anatolia, Turkey (Teleostei, Salmonidae). *ZooKeys* 462: 135-151. [DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.462.8177](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.462.8177)

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