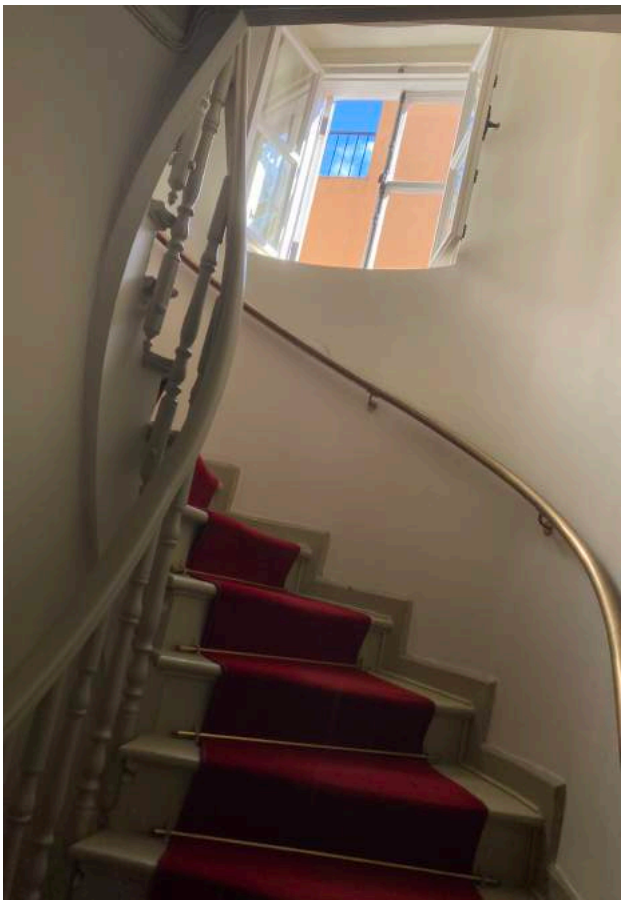
Kalabalik!
Bulletin of the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul



In late August 2020 the SRII cautiously re-opened its offices and guest house in Istanbul after almost six months of closure. The worst fears of the spring, as Covid-19 cases rose rapidly in both Turkey, Sweden and the rest of Europe, disrupting international contacts and public life, seemed to have been somewhat eased after a long, hot summer of comparably low contagion and less strain on our healthcare systems.

As we now know, these hopes were premature: in many countries worldwide, the situation is currently far worse than it was in the spring. We are happy that we managed to keep the institute open for almost four autumn months of comparable normality, and that we could close it again in a premeditated and collected manner in December, rather than abruptly and unexpectedly like in March. But even more happy are we that we did not end up compromising the safety of our guests and neighbors, and that all of us who were on the compound in the autumn stayed sound and healthy for the entire period of our stay.

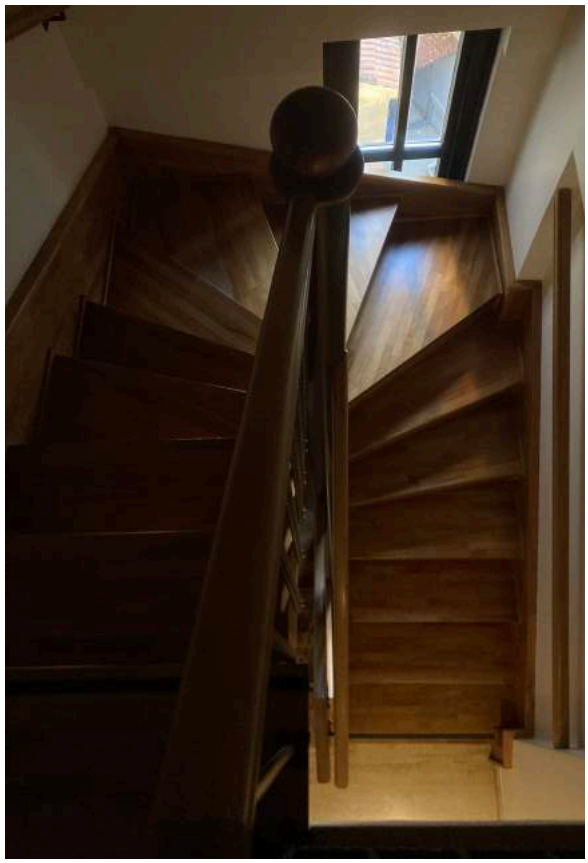
A reason why we felt somewhat confident about reopening the guest house was that most of the people we expected were in for long-term stays and would not travel more than necessary. One of our four fellows financed by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Henrik Liljegren, thus spent three of his six fellowship months at the institute, working on a project on linguistic patterns in the old 'gunpowder empires'. Our two three-month scholarship holders Nalan Azak and Irina Brändén arrived somewhat later but could still use more than half of their time, though the situation affected their projects in different ways. Nalan came to conduct sociological research of how people relate to healthcare in general and antibiotics in particular, and had to take a whole pandemic into account when she interviewed her subjects and not least in the ways she did it. Irina was hoping to gather information on Ottoman-era depictions of Mount Athos from libraries and archives that, unfortunately, were mostly closed, although she was happy to discover that the SRII library had still much to offer on the subject.

Since most holders of the shorter scholarship have not been able to fully use their time in Istanbul last year, we will not offer any presentations of their projects in this issue of *Kalabalık!* but save them for a

later date. Instead, we are happy to include an in-depth study by one of the scholarship holders of our Association of friends (FSIV), Nicklas Jansson, who spent two months in Turkey in 2018 investigating its oak landscapes. Another scholarship holder of the FSIV, Frederick Whitling, stayed at the institute for a total of two months this autumn, coupling his scholarship project on the first Swedish institute in Moda (1922–24) with a commission from the Consulate General to research a new book for the 150th anniversary of the Palais de Suède. We hope to be able to return to Frederick's research in a later issue, but for those of you who understand Swedish and are eager to learn more, he was featured on Swedish radio at the end of the year.[1]

The extraordinary situation prompted and enabled us to reach out to two international scholars that would otherwise have been stranded in Istanbul when their fellowships from ANAMED ended in the summer. Gülshah Torunoğlu from Ohio State University and Ibrahim Mansour from Santa Barbara, California, spent the whole of the autumn at the institute and enriched us with two projects, one of which you can read more about in this issue of *Kalabalık!*. Through Gülshah we became the partners of a major initiative to map Women's and gender studies of the Late Ottoman period, initiated by a two-day online workshop in December.

We kept our own activities as Covid-safe as we could; the fall lecture series on the theme of *Language and Communication*, featuring Anu Leinonen, Memet Aktürk-Drake, Haris Theodorelis Rigas and Jenny Wallensten, took place on Zoom, as did the continuation of our *Dialoglar* events with the cultural section of the Consulate General, including a panel with Athena Farrokhzad, Helena Bani-Shoraka, Yasemin Çongar and Tolga Cora. In the winter, we are resuming the series *Classicism(s) and Orientalism(s)*, which was interrupted in the spring, in the form of a series of miniature panels, starting in late January with Frederika Tevebring and Ulf R. Hansson.



The institute office, library and guest house, however, will now have to stay closed again for some time again – everything depends on if and when our world is finally getting to grip with the pandemic. Until then the first priority must be: stay safe and healthy!

Olof Heilo, *Kalabalık!* editor, SRII deputy director

[1] https://sverigesradio.se/artikel/7636333

The unknown Turkish oak landscapes – A threatened biological culture heritage

Nicklas Jansson, Linköping University

Having received a travel grant from the association *Föreningen Svenska Istanbulinstitutets vänner*, I spent four weeks spread on two visits to Turkey in 2018. I have been working with a project in Turkey since 2005 with the aim to describe the biological diversity of Turkish oak habitats and inform the authorities of their unique values. My visits are often a mixture of activities spread over a large part of the country from Adiyaman in the east to Izmir in the west.

To mention the three most important parts of my spring visit 8–25 of April: first a visit at the National park department in Ankara presenting our results from the oak studies, second starting up a study together with Edremit vocational school of the beetle fauna living on the 1000 years old olive trees in the Balikesir region and third starting up a beetle study together with Istanbul University of very old oaks in a cemetery near the airport Sabiha Gökçen. To also mention three important things from the autumn visit 20–31of October: first I attended and had a presentation at the conference ISNOMED (International Symposium on Silvopastoral Systems and Nomadic Societies in Mediterranean Countries) about oaks and nomads, second I made a visit at Balıkesir University supervising two Phd students studying old trees and their beetle fauna and third, I had a meeting with WWF Turkey in Istanbul to work with an information brochure in Turkish about the oak habitats in Turkey (https://www.wwf.org.tr/basin_bultenleri/raporlar/?10160/Dogal-Yasli-Mese-Ormanlarnn-Gizli-Dunyasi). It was a lot of travel but at both visits I could stay some days at SRII to relax a bit and explore the exciting neighborhood of the Galata tower.

Nicklas Jansson is an adjunct lecturer and researcher at Department of Physics, Chemistry and Biology (IFM), Conservation Ecology Group, Linköping University, Sweden. He holds a PhD in Ecology from Linköping University. Jansson is specialised in the ecology of wood living insects on old trees with special focus on oaks in Sweden and Turkey.

My research on old oaks and their biological diversity is part of a research team work at Linköping University to develop a strategy for how larger oak areas can be managed in an ecologically, culturally and historically sustainable way. Since 2001, I have traveled in the mountains of southern Turkey, to enjoy and study environments in the form of wooded pastures and areas with pollarded trees, similar to those we have in Sweden.

When I understood that these habitats were so rich but unstudied and highly threatened by transformation to tree plantations by the forestry, I started a project in 2005. Today it also includes colleges from

universities in Adiyaman, Antakya, Adana, Isparta, Izmir, Balıkesir and Istanbul, with the aim to describe the biological diversity of Turkish oak habitats and inform the authorities of their unique values. Below I will describe some parts of the project and try to explain why I have spent 15 years working with this project in Turkey.

Introduction

The Oaks

Globally, oaks represent a wide range of about 500 species of trees and shrubs in the northern hemisphere, exclusive of the Arctic, and about half of these are found in the New World. The genus *Quercus* is interesting for phytogeographers, foresters and biologists, but is also a problematic group in the flora from widespread hybridization and introgression complicate the taxonomic classifications (Hedge and Yaltırık, 1982). Depending on what taxonomic concept used, there are about 26 species of oak known from all countries north of the Mediterranean. Eighteen of these are known from Turkey, plus nine additional subspecies (Hedge and Yaltirik, 1982; Greuter et al., 1986). This makes Turkey the richest country in the western Palearctic in terms of oak biodiversity (Uğurlu et al., 2012). Various species of oak are adapted to a wide range of climatic- and soil conditions, including hot or cold temperatures, high lysaline or alkaline soils (Özcan and Baycu, 2005; Uğurlu and Oldeland, 2012). The oaks (*Quercus* spp.) in Turkey have the widest distribution area among all deciduous trees and cover 6 million hectares or 23% of the forested land (Çolak and Rotherham, 2006). Some of the Turkish species have a very restricted global distribution and some are endemic to the country i.e. *Quercus aucheri* and *Q. vulcanica* (Uslu et al., 2011) (fig. 1–2). The oak species are distributed all over the country, with the highest diversity in Marmara region (Uslu et al., 2011). Oaks can become very large and old. There are examples of oaks nearly 1000 years old and with a circumference of 14 meter in breast height, as the Rumskulla oak in Sweden (fig. 3). Some of the older oaks we have studied in Turkey we have calculated, with dendrology analysis, to be more than 600 years old.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Situation for and use of the oaks

Forests with old oaks (*Quercus* spp.) are very rich habitats in Europe and the Middle-East in terms of biodiversity. Oaks can grow very old, offering decaying wood, trunk cavities and bark furrows, important as substrate and microhabitat for a rich fauna and flora, including fungi, lichens, beetles, birds and bats (Dahlberg, 2006; Atay et al., 2012; Stokland et al., 2012; Bergner et al., 2015).

In most European countries including the Mediterranean region and Turkey, the oak habitats have declined substantially and are currently just a fragment of their original distribution. Many centuries of logging activities and changes in land use have caused reduction and fragmentation of large oak-areas in the Mediterranean region (Schaich et al., 2015) and as a result many oak-associated species are threatened. Remnants of forests that remains are currently grazed, but differ in size as well as in structure and shape, depending on the current land-use management (Grove and Rackham, 2003; Westphal et al., 2009). Large parts of Turkey are intensively grazed since many centuries and old trees are very rare. As in most countries in Europe (Emanuelsson, 2009) the trees in Turkey have been very important for humans through history. Not only as producers of timber, but also for extracting leaf fodder for the animals and firewood for heating and cooking. This is the reason why most of the old oaks in Turkey have been (and in many places still are) regularly pollarded where twigs and branches are cut every 5–10 years (fig. 4).

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Acorns used as fodder for animals is known from many countries, but use as food for humans is almost unknown or forgotten. The practice has been around for thousands of years and can be found virtually everywhere oaks are found (Bainbridge, 1986; Lieutaghi, 1998). It occurs in the early town settlements in the Zagros Mountains in Iran and at Çatalhöyük in Turkey (6000 BC) and were a staple food for many people until after 1900 AD (Bainbridge, 1986). In Turkey two species has been commonly used for this purpose: Brant´s oak (*Quercus brantii*) and Aleppo oak (*Q. infectoria ssp. Boisseri*) (fig. 5–6) (Mason and Nesbitt, 2009).

The fauna on oaks

In northern Europe the pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur L.*) is known to harbor the richest wood living beetle fauna amongst all other tree species. In Sweden 540 species are known to use oak wood for their larval

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development (Palm, 1959). These insects are living in fungal fruit bodies, dead wood outside the tree (in branches, twigs or parts of the trunk) or inside the tree hollows (fig. 7–8) (Palm, 1959; Speight, 1989; Dajoz, 2000). When oaks age, hollows in the trunks fills with wood mould (wood compost), i.e. wood soften by decomposing fungi, often with remains from animal nests and insect fragments and droppings from insect larvae. Trunk hollows with wood mould harbor a specialized fauna, mainly consisting of beetles and flies (Dajoz, 1980). The beetle fauna in tree hollows has intrigued entomologists for a long time, but it is just the last 20 years that quantitative methods have been used in the studies (Ranius and Jansson, 2000; Brustel, 2004; Jonsell, 2004; Buse et al., 2008).

The trunk hollows of old living trees are probably one of the most long-lasting dead wood substrates and can remain for decades or perhaps even centuries. It has, therefore, been suggested that beetles living in hollow trees have low dispersal capacity (McLean and Speight 1993, Ranius and Hedin, 2001) and are sensitive to a reduced number of suitable trees in the landscape. Many species dependent on large, old and hollow trees have survived in small remnant woodlands of ancient trees, often in the agricultural landscape (Speight 1989; Warren and Key, 1989). Saproxylic insects associated with old trees are one of the most endangered invertebrate groups in Europe, as their habitat has severely decreased (McLean and Speight, 1993) A large proportion of them are rare and red-listed saproxylic insect species (Jonsell et al., 1998; Ranius and Jansson, 2000; Gärdenfors, 2010; Nieto et al., 2010). Very few or none of these wood living beetle species should be considered as pest-species as they only use dead wood, and most of them are never found on young and healthy trees. Many of the species are found only on the trees when they are old or weak of other reasons and gets lose bark, inner rot and hollows in the trunk. These structures do usually not appear until the oaks have an age of more than 200 years (Ranius et al., 2009).

Birds play a vital role in forest ecosystems and are considered good biodiversity indicators (Şekercioğlu, 2006). Consequently, they have been thoroughly used in studies comparing species richness and composition between natural forests and plantations (Stephens and Wagner, 2007). Limiting factors at stand-level are food resource availability (Robles et al., 2007) and access to suitable nest sites (Newton, 1998; Robles et al., 2012), factors partly determined by stand structural complexity. This implies that stands of higher heterogeneity create a larger niche-space, hence sustaining a higher avian diversity (Tews et al., 2004).

Situation in Turkey

The Turkish forest authorities have quite recently started to reforest the landscape, but also begun a rehabilitation of so called degraded forests which usually implies the conversion of native forests and wooded pastures into coniferous plantations (Kaya and Raynal, 2001; Öztürk et al., 2010). In this process, many of the sites with old oaks are transformed to plantations of Turkish pine (*Pinus brutia*), but at higher altitudes also black pine (*Pinus nigra*) and Lebanon cedar (*Cedrus libani*) for timber production (fig. 9–10).


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In general the knowledge of the Turkish bird and beetle fauna is poor and sometimes there is a misunderstanding that old oaks harboring pest species making problem for plantations of young oaks or other tree species. In reality there are very few wood living species that attack and damage a healthy young oak.

Project aims

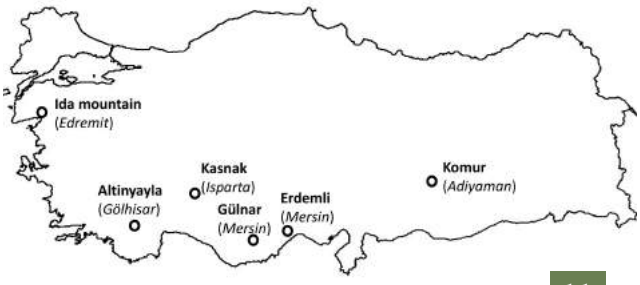
In 2005, I initiated a project to study the oak habitats in Turkey. The aims with the project are to:

1. Describe the wood living beetle- and forest bird-fauna in habitats with old hollow oaks.
2. Make comparisons between Europe and Turkey.
3. Inform the Turkish authorities about the results.
4. Map the oak habitats and point out hotspots and suggest actions for successful conservation at both local and landscape level.

Methods and study areas

Beetle surveys

Until now a total of 150 old hollow oaks spread on 12 sites have been studied. As the analysis is very time consuming, so far the results from only six sites and 90 oaks have been published and are presented here. All trees studied were old, hollow oaks of different species: *Quercus cerris* (L), *Quercus infectoria* (Olivier), *Q. ithaburensis* (Decaisne), *Q. libani* (Olivier), *Q. vulcanica* (Boiss. & Heldr. ex Kotschy) and *Q. frainetto* (Ten.). The studies were conducted between 2005 and 2011. All studied sites are situated in the Aegean



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and Mediterranean part of Turkey (fig. 11) at an altitude ranging from 700 to 1500m. The age of the examined trees is not known but in a survey of similar trees (N=73) in Sweden, it varied from 214 to 499 years, when calculated from the most probable growth rate using dendrochronology analyses (Berg, 2006).

The beetles were collected using two methods – window trapping and pitfall trapping. At each site 10 or 20 oaks were examined and one trap of each type was set in each of the trees. The window traps consisted of a 30x60 cm wide transparent plastic plate with a metallic tray underneath (Jansson and Lundberg, 2000). They were placed near the trunk (<1 m), beside or in front of a cavity entrance. Their positions were 2,5–7m from the ground, depending on where the cavity entrance was situated on the trees. The traps were partially (about ½ of the volume) filled with ethylene glycol and water (50:50 v/v), adding some detergent to reduce surface tension. The traps were placed in the trees for one season from the end of April, were emptied every third week and removed in the end of September. Some of the beetle material was identified by me, but most of the material by other experts (see acknowledgements). Due to the huge material, complicated identification work and limited time available, we concentrated our studies of beetles to 13 families known to consist of many wood living species.

Bird surveys

Two different bird studies have been conducted in the project. The first bird study was carried out in the Taşeli Plateau near the city Gülnar (36°31'N, 33°06'E) situated in the southern central part of Inner Anatolia, 150 km west of the city of Mersin between April 7 and May 24, 2007. The Taşeli Plateau is located at an altitude of 1300 to 1500 m and consists of a wooded pasture with an approximate total size of 4400 ha, but the study plot was 110 ha. The area has a long history of grazing and the trees have been pollarded (used for extracting leaves as fodder and branches for fire-wood) which has resulted in an open wood-pasture constituting short trees with large trunks and tiny crowns (fig. 12). Dominating trees are old oaks (81%): *Quercus cerris* (L), *Q. ithaburensis* ssp. *macrolepis* (Hedge & Yaltirik), *Q. infectoria* (Olivier), *Q. trojana* (Webb) and Ash (14%, *Fraxinus* sp.), but also dead trees (5%) and patches of recently planted Lebanon Cedar (*Cedrus libani* A.Rich) and shrubs of *Juniperus* spp. can be found. For the dominating species of woodpeckers the study specifically evaluated their preferences for trees used for foraging and nesting. The study plot was walked through by random during the light hours of the day searching for woodpeckers using binoculars and listening for their calls. All observations were made by one person (Anton Sunnergren, master student from Linköping University, Sweden). When a nest site of a woodpecker had been detected the surrounding area was walked through more intensively than areas where no nests were found. This was to maximize the number of observations of foraging woodpeckers. All trees where a woodpecker was observed foraging or an inhabited nest cavity were detected the tree species (*Quercus* spp., *Fraxinus* sp. or dead) was noted and a number of parameters were recorded: Circumference at breast height and height from ground to cavity entrance, amount of dead wood, the height of the tree, mean bark furrow depth at breast height, the size of cavity entrances, the distance to the five closest trees, the number of stems at breast height and the number of cavities on each tree, the height

of the trunk and the crown area. For comparison two control groups of trees were chosen. Group A: A total of 98 trees were randomly selected along several parallel transects in the plot. Group B: The map of study plot was randomly superimposed by 18 squares, two being 2500 m2 in size each and 16 squares being 625 m2 in size each. This yielded 311 trees on a total area of 15,000 m2, corresponding to 1.35 % of the plot size. The trees in the control groups were recorded for the same variables as the trees with foraging or nesting woodpeckers (Bergner et al., 2016).


12

A second study was conducted during May and June 2013 in Isparta province, southwestern Anatolia, Turkey (cf. fig. 11, above). The main aim was to compare the avifauna in habitats of oak and pine. The sites differed in their history and management, ranging from conventionally managed pine plantations through abandoned oak coppices to grazed pine and oak forests of higher naturalness, why they henceforth will be referred to as stands. Pine stands comprised one of the three species *Pinus brutia* (Tenore), *P. nigra* (Arnold) or *P. sylvestris* (L.) and oak stands one or a few of the species *Quercus cerris* (L.), *Quercus infectoria* (Olivier), *Q. ithaburensis* (Decaisne), *Q. libani* (Olivier), *Q. vulcanica* (Boiss. and Heldr. ex Kotschy*)* and *Q. coccifera* (L.). A chrono-sequence of 185 years was used, where the surveyed stands were evenly distributed along the age gradient. In total 15 stands of oak and 17 stands of pine were studied. The studied sites were located at altitudes ranging from 856 to 1524 m. Birds were counted using point taxation (Bibby et al., 2000) from randomly distributed points in interior parts (>80 m from edges) of forest stands. Each stand was assigned four points located at least 120 m apart to avoid counting any bird more than once. Surveying was practiced using distance sampling within a fixed radius of 50 m, divided into ten meter wide distance bands. The positions of all resident songbirds, woodpeckers and pigeons were registered on standardized radii maps using aural or direct observation during periods of 10 min. The stands were visited two times during two three-week periods: May 5–30 and June 1–29 in 2013. Observations were conducted on days without persistent rain or strong winds. All point observations were carried out by one person (Adam Bergner, master student from Linköping University, Sweden), therefore limiting the effect of observer bias. Based on the number of territorial birds registered within the distance bands, an assessment of the number of established territories for each species was made (Bergner et al., 2015).

Results

Beetles

In total 248 species from the 13 studied families have been identified up to now. The most common species in the material are *Globicornis picta* (Kuester 1851) from the family Dermestidae (Carpet beetles), *Stagetus franzi* (Espanol 1969) from the family *Anobiidae* (Death watch beetles) and the two species *Allecula estriata* (Seidlitz 1896) and *Mycetochara quadrimaculata* (Latreille 1804) from the family

Alleculidae (Comb-clawed Beetles). The most species rich of the studied families are *Elateridae* (click beetles), *Buprestidae* (jevel beetles) and *Dermestidae* (skin beetles) with 51, 35 and 34 species respectively. Many of the beetle species are endemic or were found for the first time in the country. In additional, so far 32 species have been identified as new to science (Schillhammer et al., 2007; Novak et al., 2011; 2013; 2014; Platia et al. 2011; 2014; Sama et al., 2011; Mazur et al., 2013). One could guess that these are very small species hard to recognize, but many belong to famous well-known families like the click beetles (*Elateridae*) and are between 8 and 18 mm long. Many of the identified beetles need old hollow trees for their larval development.


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Many of the beetle species found (i. e. 12) are very rare and on the European red-list (Nieto and Alexander, 2010). One good example from these is the violet rose chafer (*Eupotosia mirifica* Mulsant) (fig. 13), which is a very rare species and only known from around 15 sites in the entire Mediterranean region. The larvae live in hollow trunks of old hollow oaks. Other examples of red-listed beetles found are the click beetles *Elater ferrugineus* (Müller), *Reitterelater dubius* (Plat and Cate) and *Ischnodes sanguinicollis* (Panzer). They are very rare beetles all over their European range and are considered to be so-called Urwald relict species of high conservation values (Whitehead, 2003; Müller et al., 2005). Two Three of the species found are also legally protected within the European Union as they are listed in Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive (European Commission 2007): the violet click beetle (*Limoniscus violaceus* Müller), great capricorn beetle (*Cerambyx cerdo* L.) and stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus* L.) (fig. 14). The last mentioned species is the largest beetle in Europe. The stag beetles in southeastern Turkey are larger than their European conspecifics, and the males can be up to 10 cm, including their mandibles. The larvae of this beetle are living in the ground feeding upon dead roots of oaks. The development takes 3–5 years and the adults can be seen in May–July. Another large and Impressing species found in the studies is the large scarab beetle *Propomacrus bimucronatus* (Pallas). The tibias of the males are extended and bended creating an extreme shape (fig. 15). The species is dependent upon old trees as the larvae develop in the cavities eating the rotten wood produced by fungal activities. Most beetles are small and have a cryptic life, most hidden for us. However, some are as imago, in sunny days, visiting flowers feeding on nectar and pollen.

When comparing the number of species from the studied Turkish sites with similar studies in Sweden, the Turkish sites are at top, confirming the high value of the old oaks in Turkey (fig. 16).

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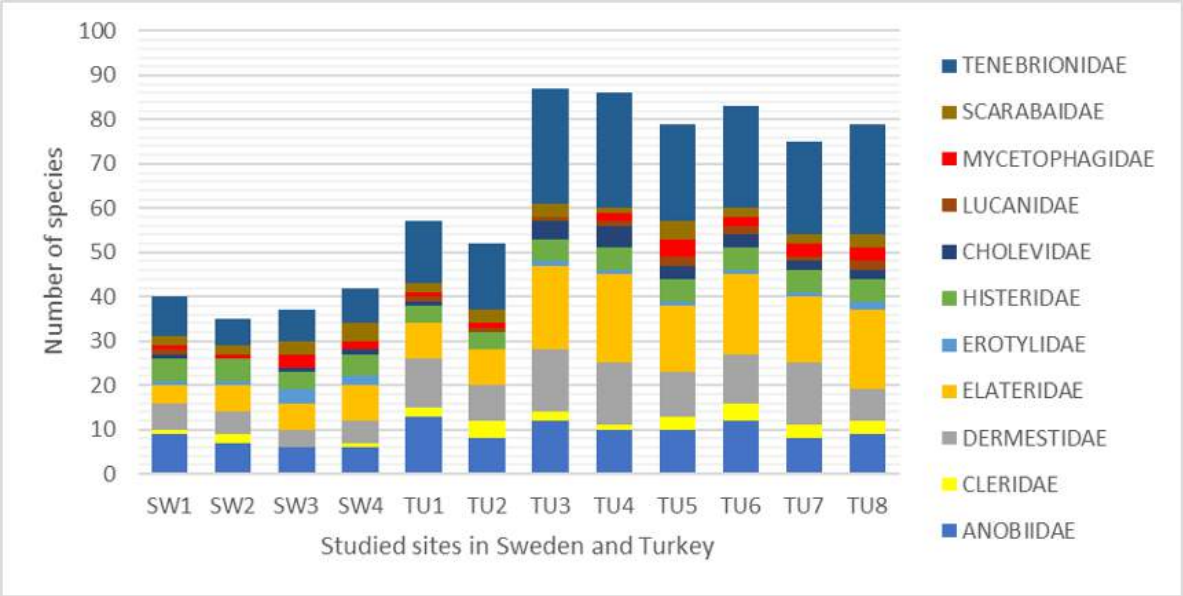

Birds

The woodpecker study resulted in observations of six species: Middle Spotted Woodpecker (*Leiopicus medius,* L.) (fig. 17), White-Backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*, Bechstein), Syrian Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*, Hemprich & Ehrenberg), Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*, L.), Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*, L.) and Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis,* L.). The Middle Spotted Woodpecker was the most numerous species and preferred trees of larger size, with a greater circumference, height and greater bark furrow depth than control groups. While foraging, the species also showed a preference for more densely wooded areas. Most of the active woodpecker nests found were excavated in oaks but one was excavated in a dead tree of unknown species. Most of the nests belonged to Middle Spotted Woodpecker. The nesting woodpeckers in the studied area showed a significant positive association with tree height. Nesting woodpeckers also showed a slight preferences for the amount of dead wood and cavity entrance area (Bergner et al., 2016).

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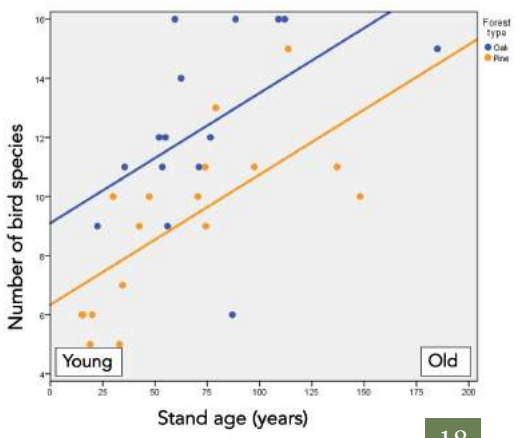

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In the second study a total of 40 bird species were registered in the 32 surveyed stands. The most abundant species in the oak stands was the Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus orientalis*, Brehm), a small insectivorous passerine. The most

abundant species in the pine stands was Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*; L). Overall, bird abundance and species richness were positively associated with age for both stands with oak and pine (fig. 18). Richness and diversity were highest in oak stands, while there were no differences in bird abundance between the two forest types. Pine stands supported a different bird species composition compared to oak stands of the same age. Stand age and structure, rather than forest type, held the highest explanatory powers for bird assembly structure. Primary cavity-nesters (nest in tree cavities created by themselves), secondary cavity-nesters (nest in natural cavities or tree cavities created by woodpeckers) and low-canopy nesters (nest on branches of high shrubs or lower trees) preferred old stands (Bergner et al., 2015).

Discussion

The studies of beetles and birds have revealed a fantastic diversity and many interesting species in the Turkish oak forests, wooded pastures and pollarded trees. Although the Mediterranean region is considered to be a biodiversity hotspot (Medail and Quezel, 1999; Myers et al., 2000), only a few systematic studies have previously reported on the biodiversity of beetles in Mediterranean tree habitats (e.g. Brin and Brustel, 2006; Buse et al., 2008; Jansson and Coskun, 2008; Mico et al., 2013). It has been suggested that beetles living in hollow trees have low dispersal capacity (McLean and Speight, 1993; Nilsson and Baranowski, 1997; Ranius and Hedin, 2001) and are sensitive to reductions of the number of suitable trees in the landscape. As the competition for land by agriculture, silviculture and urban development has intensified in Turkey, it is important to identify the remaining oak patches and estimate their conservation value to be able to make cost-efficient use of the limited resources allocated to conservation. To protect the unique endemic beetle fauna living on old trees, it would be of great value if the most important areas with old oaks could be identified and protected in Turkey. Patches with old oaks in the landscape are probably also positive for the surrounding productive forests. The predators in old oak forests such as woodpeckers, parasitic wasps and predator beetles like *Calosoma sycophanta* (Weber) can help in regulating the pest species in plantations of pine and cedar, for instance (Kanat and Özbolat, 2006). But further studies in this field are needed.

Many birds need cavities for their nesting. Old trees can serve birds from small-sized ones like parids and nuthatch (*Sitta europaea, L*) through medium sized as starling (*Sturnus vulgaris* L.), and hoopoe (*Upupa epops* L.) (fig. 19–21) to larger ones such as owls and pigeons. Some of the insect species in the cavities also gain from the bird activities like different materials left by the birds. Old oaks are also important as foraging habitats for some of the birds as the insect density often are high and species like woodpeckers find food in the rotten wood and under dead bark etc.


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20


21

Management directed at conserving the Middle Spotted Woodpecker in particular and the entire guild of surface-gleaning birds in the studied region in Turkey should focus on large deciduous forests, preferably oak. The density of trees should not be neglected (Pasinelli and Hegelbach, 1997), nor the heterogeneity in stand structure since it is suggested that, at least in some European regions, woodpeckers may show strong preferences for habitats consisting of a mixture of young and old trees (Stachura-Skierczyńska and Kosiński, 2014). Existence of young trees also is a prerequisite for future recruitment of new oaks (Bergner et al. 2015). Furthermore, other important properties are the access to decaying woody substrate suitable for construction of nest cavities. Where successful habitat management has resulted in an increase in the proportion of mature trees, the number of breeding Middle Spotted Woodpeckers has increased accordingly (Romero et al., 2013). Woodpeckers in general, and the White-Backed Woodpecker in particular, contribute to higher bird species abundance in forest ecosystems by providing nest sites for other cavity-nesting species (Drever et al., 2008; Mikusiński et al., 2001), including several species of secondary cavity-nesters found in the Taşeli Plateau. Furthermore, habitats important for the White-Backed Woodpecker generally support many rare beetles dependent upon decaying, deciduous trees (Martikainen et al., 1998). Considering that the study area is proposed a hotspot for oak-associated saproxylic beetles (Coskun et al., 2010).

Importance of traditional management

Large parts of Turkey are intensively grazed since many centuries and old trees are rare in most parts of the country. The trees in Turkey have been very important for humans through history as in most countries in Europe (Emanuelsson, 2009). Not only as producers of timber for constructions, but also for extracting leaf fodder for the animals and firewood for heating and cooking (Azim et al., 2011). This is the reason why most of the old oaks in Turkey have been pollarded (i.e. branches are regularly cut) or oak stands have been used as coppices, providing timber and wood fuel, or as pastures (Robles et al., 2007). An important reason for the historical maintenance of the wood pastures like in the Taşeli Plateau has been goat and sheep herding and continuous pollarding of trees. That is a traditional source of livelihood representing a cultural heritage practiced in Turkey for at least two thousand years (Kaniewski et al., 2007), but that tends to become less important in an economically improving country. The tradition with pollarding, when just the younger twigs and branches are removed on the trees but the older woody parts are retained are especially important for biodiversity (fig. 22). In fact, it has been suggested that pollarding is a valuable management strategy and an important driver for the formation of microhabitats


22

important for saproxylic organisms (Sebek et al., 2013; Quinto et al., 2014). Traditionally managed stands often harbor a high biodiversity (Bergmeier et al., 2010), and the loss and replacement of these habitats in favor for conventionally managed forestry plantations is believed to have negative implications for many forest organisms (e.g. Spitzer et al., 2008; Hartel et al., 2014), including highly specialized species (e.g. Robles et al., 2007).

The rapid transformation of the forest landscape is of particular concern for the conservation of biodiversity associated with traditionally managed stands in the species-rich Mediterranean basin. Continued traditional management, therefore, is crucial for the conservation of the unique biodiversity associated with the oaks in some parts of Turkey. The country still has some regions with larger areas of old oaks, but only a few of them are legally protected.

Conclusions

The high number of bird and beetle species found and many new to science highlights the old oaks high value for biodiversity and confirm the status of Turkey as being a major biodiversity hot spot. It also reflects the low level of knowledge regarding the biodiversity on old oaks in Turkey. The findings of many species rare and threatened in Europe make the oak habitat in Turkey of high value for conserving biodiversity, but also for future scientific research. It is of high priority to find appropriate management directed at preserving these species in protected areas, but also in the rest of the forest landscape, so important biodiversity hotspots and structures are saved also in areas with timber production. Since many of the beetles constitute an important food resource for woodpeckers and other birds this conservation work is of significance for their preservation as well. Old trees with fungi infested trunks and branches are also vital for woodpeckers for excavating their nests. Without the nests of woodpeckers many secondary cavity-nesters will decrease. Pollarding of trees removes just the younger twigs and branches on the trees but save the older woody parts. This makes it a sustainable management strategy and an important driver for the formation of microhabitats important for wood living organisms. Continued traditional management in some areas with pollarded oaks are therefore crucial for the conservation of the unique biodiversity associated with the oaks in Turkey. Thus, it is vital that some of the last larger areas are protected to prevent many of the unique and often endemic species from going extinct. Due to the small area left with old oaks and the high speed of transformation from old oak habitats to other forest types or land uses it is urgent.

I understood quite early that the nature values alone will be enough for saving these unique environments so I strive to broaden my studies to include more fields and in 2010, I organized together with Suleyman Demirel University in Isparta, an international conference on oak from several aspects called "The Oak - Ecology, History, Management and Planning II" (http://ormanweb.sdu.edu.tr/oak/). It gathered 110 participants from Turkey and Europe and gave me many valuable contacts, including cultural historians, social anthropologists and social scientists. I have now started working with to build and gather knowledge about the function of oak environments in Turkish society.

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Fostering Intellectual Solidarity and Cooperation during the Pandemic

Gülşah Torunoğlu, Ohio State University

Every migrant knows in his heart of hearts, that it is impossible to return ... because he has been so deeply changed by his emigration. It is equally impossible to return to that historical state in which every village was the center of the world. The one hope of recreating a center now is to make it the entire earth. Only worldwide solidarity can transcend modern homelessness.

John Berger

Evi dağılanın yurdu genişler mi?
(Does your homeland stretch out, when your home falls apart?)

Latife Tekin, Nurdan Gürbilek

Lately, I have been thinking more and more about my vacuum cleaner.

I do grocery shopping, I think about my vacuum cleaner.
I do laundry, I think about my vacuum cleaner.
I take long walks around the neighborhood, I keep thinking about my vacuum cleaner.

It is oddly comforting. I imagine its long hose and wand, its brush attachment that I used to run all along the corners to get rid of spider webs, the change of tone in its noise on different settings, the additional tools that came with it which I never knew how to use but stored in a separate box like a proud parent saving her kids' toys for future use, the tracking marks it leaves on a freshly vacuumed carpet, leaving the room looking extra clean . . .

My vacuum cleaner is in the US, dully unaware of its owner, while I am in Turkey with two suitcases, filled with clothing, shoes and a couple of books, but no visa to get back to my vacuum cleaner or my freshly vacuumed carpet.

The pandemic changed everything. Cancelled flights, cancelled visa appointments, cancelled expectations of one's self and of others.

At a time of loss, I was offered a fellowship from the SRII, including free accommodation at the institute premises.

The fellowship meant more than a stipend, the room more than a roof. All of a sudden, I found the intellectual and institutional support, the work and living space, and most especially the companionship that I needed to get back to work.

The time at the SRII allowed me to complete projects that I had cherished for a long while, none of which would have been possible without its support. I hope that these projects will contribute to the advancement of the field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies in Turkey.

1. "Mapping Gender in the Near East: What's New and What's Ahead in Ottoman and Turkish Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies": an international and interdisciplinary workshop.

Together with the Orient-Institut Istanbul (OII) and SU Gender, the two main organizers of this event, Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), and the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII), the two main institutional collaborators, we convened a workshop in December 2020 to discuss Ottoman and Turkish women's, gender, and sexuality studies across disciplines. Thirty-three scholars from nine different countries met virtually to compare their research, learn from each other, and create new proposals to further our institutional and intellectual goals for building the study of women and gender in Turkey.

Gülşah Torunoğlu is a post-doctoral fellow at the Orient-Institut Istanbul, specializing in comparative women's history in the Middle East. She holds a PhD in History from the Ohio State University (2019), and she held visiting fellow positions from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the American University in Cairo (AUC), and Princeton University. During the academic year of 2019-2020, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED). During the fall of 2020, she was a research fellow at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII).

There were many people to thank for making the workshop possible. The Orient Institute's encouragement, funding, and technical support allowed us to gather many of the top minds in women's and gender studies, along with SU Gender. Much credit is due to ANAMED, where I formulated several of the fundamental ideas during my postdoctoral fellowship, and the Istanbul Policy Center, the Stiftung Mercator Initiative (IPC Mercator), which provided crucial institutional backing. But my family at SRII bears special thanks for bringing it to life and for providing tremendous support through every stage of the event. This workshop would not have taken its shape had it not been for the generosity of Ingela and Olof: a debt I could never repay, for reasons I cannot count.

Bringing together an interdisciplinary group of scholars in the humanities and social sciences, this workshop was designed to establish, consolidate and sustain a network of academics who share

an interest in women's and gender studies with regard to the Ottoman world and modern Turkey. Leading scholars across several major fields – including history, literature, and interdisciplinary studies – examined recent theoretical discourses and challenges in the area of women's and gender studies and contributed to steering the field in innovative directions.

This workshop was designed to address two problems in women's and gender studies: the lack of transnational and comparative scholarship, as well as the dearth of interdisciplinary collaboration. It responds to the fact that the scholarly literatures in women's and gender studies in the Ottoman-Turkish milieu and in the Arab and Balkan world have been, on the whole, kept tightly segregated from each other. Consequently, the four panels of the workshop were centered around key approaches that would benefit from being in dialogue. By doing so, the panels allowed leading scholars in the field to appraise the current state of research across national boundaries and academic disciplines and to bring forth new conversations and inter-regional dialogue about improving our approaches in the future development of the field. We are hoping that these interactions will help stimulate and guide future research efforts by delineating critical paths for subsequent research.

The presentations addressed key aspects such as: (I) the development of scholarship in women's and gender studies over the past decade, and the future directions the field might take, (II) the comparative state of the field of women's and gender studies in Turkey and its neighboring countries, (III) the evolving position of women and gender in the contemporary societies of the region, and (IV) the policy changes, both past and present, that have shaped the status quo of women and gender.

Additionally, this workshop provided a platform to discuss how to compensate for the lack of an institutional infrastructure for women's and gender studies in and around Turkey. Currently, only few major universities have established separate women's and gender studies departments to facilitate research in this field. Instead of inaugurating a separate field of study, numerous universities have opened centers for women's studies by offering certificate programs for students in other academic disciplines. Women's and

gender history have only recently been recognized as a thematic subfield within history departments. Therefore, women's and gender studies frequently lack the institutional support to tackle large-scale research questions. Hence, the workshop concluded by discussing how to best use existing resources, such as collaboration among research centers, activist organizations, and other institutions more effectively as an attempt to facilitate future growth and forms of cooperation in the field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

We launched a website with information about the event, and I also published a blog post, "Mapping Gender in the Near East: Fortuities of an Online Search and the Complexities of Ottoman Feminism," at the Orient-Institut's blog, discussing the major problems in the field that led to the idea for such a workshop. The presentations are currently being transcribed and will be published in English, Turkish and German as part of *Pera-Blätter*, a series of occasional papers of the Orient-Institut Istanbul. Moving forward, I am hoping that the collaborating institutes who made this year's workshop possible – or any others who wish to join – will take turns in coming years to host the second and third iteration of this workshop and beyond.

2. Dossier: "The Past, Present and Future of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies in Turkey," K24, forthcoming.

This second project was designed to complement the workshop. In order to document and discuss where the field of women's, gender, and sexuality studies going in Turkey at an institutional level, and reach a broader level of scholars and students, I sent interview requests to the directors of the seventy-five centers for women's and gender studies in Turkey. During Fall 2020, I conducted ten interviews, each two hours long, with prominent scholars of the field. These included:

- Prof. Bertil Emrah Oder, the Director of Koç University Center for Women's and Gender Studies
- Prof. Sevgi Uçan Çubukçu, the former director of the İstanbul University Center for Women's Studies and the project coordinator of "Women's and Gender Studies at Universities in Turkey: Institutionalization and Transformation" at the Bremen University
- Prof. Mary Lou O'Neil, Director of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at Kadir Has University
- Prof. Deniz Işıker Bedir, Director of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at Mardin Artuklu University

- Profs. Aslı Şimşek Öner and Damla Gülseren Songur Hacıgüzeller, co-directors of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the Atılım University
- Prof. Gökhan Savaş, former member of the Commission for Women's Studies in Academy at the Council of Higher Education and a faculty member in Ankara University
- Prof. Zuhal Yeşilyurt Gündüz, the director of TED University Center for Women's and Gender Studies
- Prof. Aslı Davaz, one of the founding members of the Women's Library and Information Center
- Prof. Aksu Bora, publisher, writer, translator and an Emeritus Professor from the Hacettepe University and founder of the journal *Amargi*
- Prof. Yıldız Ecevit, an Emeritus Professor from the Middle East Technical University and the founder of the Organization for the Gender and Women's Studies in Turkey in 2019

Together we discussed the problems with the lack of institutionalization of women's, gender and sexuality studies in Turkey, the development of their centers, the bureaucratic and financial challenges they have faced, especially during the last twenty years, how they balance research and teaching with public outreach and activism, their collaborations amongst themselves, between the centers and women's non-governmental organizations, between universities and the Women's Library and Information Center, the politicization of the field itself as well as the influence of the political climate in the transformation of the women's, gender and sexuality studies in Turkey. I have had the opportunity to complete all the interviews during my fellowship at the SRII. These interviews are currently being transcribed and the videos are being edited. We will be publishing this dossier at K24 in early February.

Early drafts of the poster for the workshop by the graphic designer Gökhan Pahlı

In addition to these two major projects, SRII fellowship gave me the opportunity to publish and present my work on other platforms. I gave two lectures, one at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul and the other at the Orient-Institut Istanbul. The feedback that I received helped me shape the article "Comparative and Integration History in Ottoman and Turkish Women's and Gender Studies," which I submitted to the *Journal of Middle Eastern Women's Studies* (JMEWS, forthcoming, April 2021). I also published a book review of Thomas Bauer's *A Culture of Ambiguity: An Alternative History of Islam.* Finally, on the day that I moved out of the SRII, I did a live interview with Prof. Alev Özkazanç on the publication of her most recent book, *A Calamity: Masculinity, Violence and Feminist Politics in New Turkey* [*Bir Musibet: Yeni Türkiye'de Erillik, Şiddet ve Feminist Siyaset*] at the Kıraathane Istanbul Literature House.

Today is one month since my fellowship ended at the SRII. The pandemic must have changed our perception of time, as it sometimes feels like yesterday, sometimes a lifetime ago. Regardless, I miss it all. The birthdays we celebrated even though it was not anyone's birthday, get-togethers at restaurants in and around Beyoğlu at the beginning, at the porch and the seminar room during the lockdown, the scholarly exchanges often interrupted by goofy cat siblings, the encouragement and support during the most critical times and always when I needed it the most, Havva Hanım's dolma and Hüseyin Bey's çay, all the fellows, the fat cat who fooled all the fellows (all with PhDs!) by cosplaying "pregnant," for three straight months, the angry turtles who hate shiny black shoes and most of all each other, since they both look like a pair of shiny black shoes, and the pomegranate tree in the garden from which we thought could squeeze out a few bottles of sour pomegranate molasses (no judging) but then decided to leave its fruit for the birds, mostly the green parrots, and oh, for the white cat.

There are a few places that I hope I can come back, a few memories that I hope I can relive, and a few strong women that I hope I can make proud. SRII is one such place filled with such memories and such strong women. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue my work in such an intellectually stimulating environment and the comfort and warmth of home.

Goofy cat at the SRII