

MERTCAN GÜLBEN

PhD Candidate in Biology

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

PhD candidate in Biology at Akdeniz University working in systematic botany and functional ecology. Research interests include plant taxonomy, functional traits, community assembly, biodiversity modelling, and Mediterranean mountain ecosystems, particularly the Western Taurus Mountains.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Systematic Botany · Plant Taxonomy · Functional Ecology · Plant Functional Traits · Community Ecology · Mountain Plant Diversity · Biodiversity Modelling · Molecular Phylogenetics · Plant Evolution

EDUCATION

- 2023–Present — PhD in Biology, Akdeniz University, Graduate School of Natural and Applied Sciences
- 2023–2024 — Master's Degree in Tourist Guiding, Cappadocia University
- 2019–2023 — MSc in Biology, Akdeniz University, Graduate School of Natural and Applied Sciences
- 2015–2019 — BSc in Biology, Akdeniz University, Faculty of Science

THESES

- PhD research (November 2025–): Diversity and Functional Trait Distribution in Oro-Mediterranean (Mediterranean High-Mountain) Plant Communities of the Western Taurus Mountains
- MSc (2023): Determination of Functional Diversity of Mediterranean Plants and Evaluation by Analytical Methods According to Environmental Variables (Sarıkaya WLDA Example). Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Candan Aykurt; Thesis No: 779660

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2026 — Berberođlu, E., Aykurt, C., Gülsoy, S., Mert, A., Günaydın, S., Gülben, M. & Suel, H. Anatolian Sageretia as an indicator species for prediction of putative refuges in Taurus Mountains. *Bilge International Journal of Science and Technology Research* 10(1): 112-136.
- 2025 — Patterns of Functional Diversity, Species Diversity, and Endemicity Driven by Elevation and Topographic Complexity in a Mediterranean Mountain Refuge. *Ecology and Evolution*.
- 2024 — The Sect. *Tricheroides* in the genus *Knautia* (Caprifoliaceae) is more complex than known: an unusual new species from Türkiye.
- 2024 — Evaluation of Biological Activities of Various Extracts of Three Different Plants from Türkiye.
- 2023 — Determining Optimal Plot Size Using Saturation and Unsaturation Curves in the Western Taurus Area of the Mediterranean Region, Turkey.
- 2023 — Aykurt, C., Gülben, M., Özüdođru, B., Sarı, D., Deniz, İ.G. & Çıngay, B. A new *Scrophularia* (Scrophulariaceae) species without staminodes in the enigmatic *Canina* clade from the Western Taurus (Türkiye). *Turkish Journal of Botany* 47(5): 388-398.
- 2022 — *Festuca albomontana* (Poaceae), a new chasmophytic fescue from the Western Taurus Mountains (Antalya, Turkey).
- 2021 — Aykurt, C., Sümbül, H., Gülben, M., Sarı, D. & Konuralp, L.Y. *Omphalodes nedimeae* (Boraginaceae), a new species from the Mediterranean Region of Turkey. *Phytotaxa* 498(4): 242-254.

PREPRINT

- 2024 — Functional Diversity Patterns in a Mountainous Mediterranean Refuge. Research Square.

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTION

- Estimating Sample Completeness for Biodiversity Assessment Based on Tree and Shrub Species in Sarıkaya WLDA/Antalya. 6th International Conference on Computational Mathematics and Engineering Sciences, Ordu, Türkiye, 20-22 May 2022, abstract, p. 163.

PROJECTS

- 2021-2024 — Calculation, Modelling and Mapping of Functional Plant Diversity in the Sarıkaya Wildlife Development Area, Antalya. TÜBİTAK 1001, Project No. 120Z584; graduate research scholar; completed.
- 2018-2021 — A Research on High-Mountain Grasses (Poaceae) of Antalya Province. Akdeniz University BAP, Project ID: 3773; completed.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

- 2023-2027 — TÜBİTAK 2211-A National PhD Scholarship; ongoing.
- 2023 and 2024 — TÜBİTAK 2250 Graduate Scholarship Performance Programme.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- May-October 2019 — Research Intern, Plant Genetics and Breeding; Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Warsaw, Poland; Erasmus+ Programme. Reference: Asst. Prof. Hanna Bolibok-Brągoszewska — hanna_bolibok@sggw.pl

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 15-24 July 2025 — Amateur Tourist Guide, Butterflies of the Kaçkars. Led by Ben Greenaway, Göze Konuralp and Mertcan Gülben. Reference: Yasemin Konuralp — ykonuralp@gmail.com
- September 2015-May 2018 — Youth Basketball Coach, Antalya Basketball Club, Antalya; age group: 9-18. Reference: Elif Evcim, Club Manager — +90 533 443 61 43; felifakanevcim@hotmail.com

SCIENTIFIC TRAINING AND EVENTS

- 21-27 November 2019 — Analytical Nature: Clustering and Ordination Techniques. TÜBİTAK 2237-A. Reference: Prof. Dr. Serkan Gülsoy — serkangulsoy@isparta.edu.tr
- 11-17 February 2021 — Calculation and Mapping of Landscape Diversity Using Entropy-Based Algorithms. TÜBİTAK 2237-A. Reference: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özdemir Şentürk — osenturk@mehmetakif.edu.tr
- 3-9 April 2021 — Assessment of Biodiversity Based on Species, Taxonomic, Functional and Structural Characteristics. TÜBİTAK 2237-A. Reference: Prof. Dr. Kürşad Özkan — kursadozkan@isparta.edu.tr
- 9-15 February 2022 — Statistical Modelling Techniques and Applications in Natural Sciences. TÜBİTAK 2237-A. Reference: Prof. Dr. Gamze Özel Kadılar — gamzeozl@hacettepe.edu.tr