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## Physiological Responses Of Epiphytic Lichens To The Urban And Rural Environment In The City Of Bursa (Turkey)

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### Abstract

This study was designed with an aim to observe the effect on the physiological parameters of epiphytic lichens of the climatic conditions, population and traffic activity in the sites. The study was carried out in thalli of *Evernia prunastri* (L.) Ach., *Parmelia sulcata* Taylor and *Pseudevernia furfuracea* (L.) Zopf collected from the urban and rural area. Six parameters (total protein, total carbohydrate, Chl-a, Chl-b, carotenoid content and glutathione S-transferase (GST) activities were measured in thalli of epiphytic lichens. Protein content and GST activity were showed a negative correlation with rainfall and humidity, while positively correlation with temperature, population and the number of motor vehicles. GST activity was increased by increasing the level of pollution in sites, and Chl-a content decreased. Chl-a and carotenoids content were showed a positive correlation with rainfall and humidity, while negatively correlated with temperature, population and the number of motor vehicles. Total carbohydrate and Chl-b content in thalli of three epiphytic lichen species were not a significant correlation with climatic and anthropogenic parameters.

### Keywords

Lichens; Physiological parameters; Air pollution; Glutathione S-transferase activity; Bursa

## Bursa Şehrinde Kentsel ve Kırsal Çevreye Epifitik Likenlerin Fizyolojik Tepkileri

### Özet

Bu çalışma üç farklı alandaki iklim şartları, nüfus ve trafik aktivitesinin epifitik likenlerin fizyolojik parametreleri üzerine etkisini gözlemlemek amacı ile tasarlanmıştır. Çalışma kentsel ve kırsal alandan toplanan *Evernia prunastri* (L.) Ach., *Parmelia sulcata* Taylor ve *Pseudevernia furfuracea* (L.) Zopf liken örnekleri üzerinde yürütülmüştür. Epifitik likenlerin tallusunda altı farklı fizyolojik parametre (toplam protein, toplam karbonhidrat, Chl-a, Chl-b, karotenoid içeriği ve glutatyon S-transferaz (GST) aktivitesi) ölçülmüştür. Protein içeriği ve GST aktivitesi yağış ve nem ile negatif korelasyon gösterirken sıcaklık, nüfus ve motorlu taşıtların sayısı ile pozitif korelasyona göstermektedir. GST aktivitesi incelenen alanlarda kirlilik düzeyinin artması ile artmış ve Chl-a içeriği ise azalmıştır. Chl-a ve karotenoid içerik yağış ve nem ile pozitif, sıcaklık, nüfus ve motorlu araç sayısı ile negatif korelasyon göstermektedir. Epifitik liken türlerinin toplam karbonhidrat ve Chl-b içeriği ile iklimsel ve insan kaynaklı parametreler arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir ilişki bulunmamıştır.

### Anahtar kelimeler

Likenler; Fizyolojik parametreler; Hava kirliliği; Glutatyon S-transferaz aktivitesi; Bursa

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### 1. Introduction

Lichens are highly sensitive organisms to the environmental stress and especially to the atmospheric pollutants (Nimis *et al.* 2000; Conti and Cecchetti 2001; Giordano *et al.* 2005). The pollutants as NO<sub>x</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, CO and SO<sub>2</sub> released by vehicle traffic is one of the main sources of air pollution in the urban areas and roadside (Gilbert *et al.* 2003). Phytotoxic gases emitted from motor

vehicles is reduced the diversity and changed the composition of epiphytic lichens in the urban environments and roadside (Giordani *et al.* 2002; Loppi *et al.* 2002).

Lichens are good indicators of habitat changes, providing an integrated measure of all disturbances present in their environment (Pinho *et al.* 2004). The diversity of epiphytic lichens, the composition of lichen communities, the accumulation of trace

elements and the response of physiological parameters in sensitive species can be used as indicators of environmental stress (Garty *et al.* 2001; Paoli *et al.* 2011).

There are several papers a correlation between changes in photosynthetic pigment content of lichens and atmospheric pollution (Carreras and Pignata 2001; Ra *et al.* 2005; Riddell *et al.* 2012; Seed *et al.* 2013). Physiological parameters reflect the health status of lichen thalli, offer rapid information on the effects of stress and allow monitoring of the biological effects of air pollution (Munzi *et al.* 2009).

This study was aimed to observe the effect on the physiological parameters of foliose lichen *P. sulcata*, and fruticose lichens *E. prunastri* and *P. furfuracea* collected from the urban and rural area of the climatic conditions, population and traffic activity in the sites.

## 2. Material and Method

### 2.1. Study Area and Sampling

The city of Bursa is an industrial city located (40°N-28-30°E) in the southeast of the Marmara region of Turkey. Bursa Province is one of the most rapid developing cities of Turkey with population growth above the average. The most important factor in this rapid population increase is continuously receives migration. The province is fifth biggest city of Turkey One of the priority environmental problems in Bursa is air pollution. The major reasons of this problem is use of fuel for heating purposes and industrial activities. In addition, include air pollutants emitted from the motor vehicle exhausts, and wrong placement of industry, and unplanned urbanization. Air pollution in Bursa occurs particularly in winter season (Table 1) (Karaer, 2011). The average SO<sub>2</sub> concentration measured during the winter months (236.8 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) 1988-1999 period in Bursa was approximately 6 times of average in the summer months (38.7 ± 6.6 µg/m<sup>3</sup>). In 1992, natural gas was introduced in the city of Bursa. It was increased use

of over the years. The average SO<sub>2</sub> concentration was measured as 73.2 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 1999 (Taşdemir, 2002). SO<sub>2</sub> concentration has fallen even more in the following years and was measured to be 10 (µ/m<sup>3</sup>) in 2010. The concentration of particular matter (PM) was showed a tendency to decrease in the years of 1990-2005 in the province of Bursa. The concentration of PM was tended to increase in the years from 2007 to 2009, and was measured 61 (µ/m<sup>3</sup>) in 2010 (Anonymous, 2011).

The air pollution is the third priority problem in the Nilüfer district. The air pollution occurs depending on the use of coal for heating purposes, and from industry in the Nilüfer district. In addition, there are smell problems resulting from the wastewater treatment plant (BUSKI) in the Nilüfer district. Nilufer district is the second among the districts in Bursa where heavy industry is located. The air pollution problems are sourced from the textiles, steel, and foundry industry. Those industries are located at Bursa chamber of commerce and industry (BTSO), Organized industrial area (OSB), Nilufer Industry Associations Organized (NOSAB), Hasanağa Industry Associations Organized (HOSAB) within this district (Karaer, 2011).

Air pollutants emitted from the motor vehicles is as important as pollutants resulting from residential and industrial facilities. 70-90% of carbon dioxide emissions, 40-70% of nitrogen oxide emissions, 50% of the emissions of hydrocarbons, 100% of lead emissions at the air pollution in the city of Bursa are caused by motor vehicles. The number of vehicles in Bursa Province is increasing rapidly in parallel with the population. The number of vehicles registered to traffic in Bursa is 538.598 units at the end of the year 2010 (Table 2). The most important factors in the city's air pollution is vehicles and the impact of vehicle is 45%. According to the Address Based Population Registration System, the population of Bursa province in 2010 year is 2,605,495 and population density is 241 person / km<sup>2</sup> (Karaer, 2011).

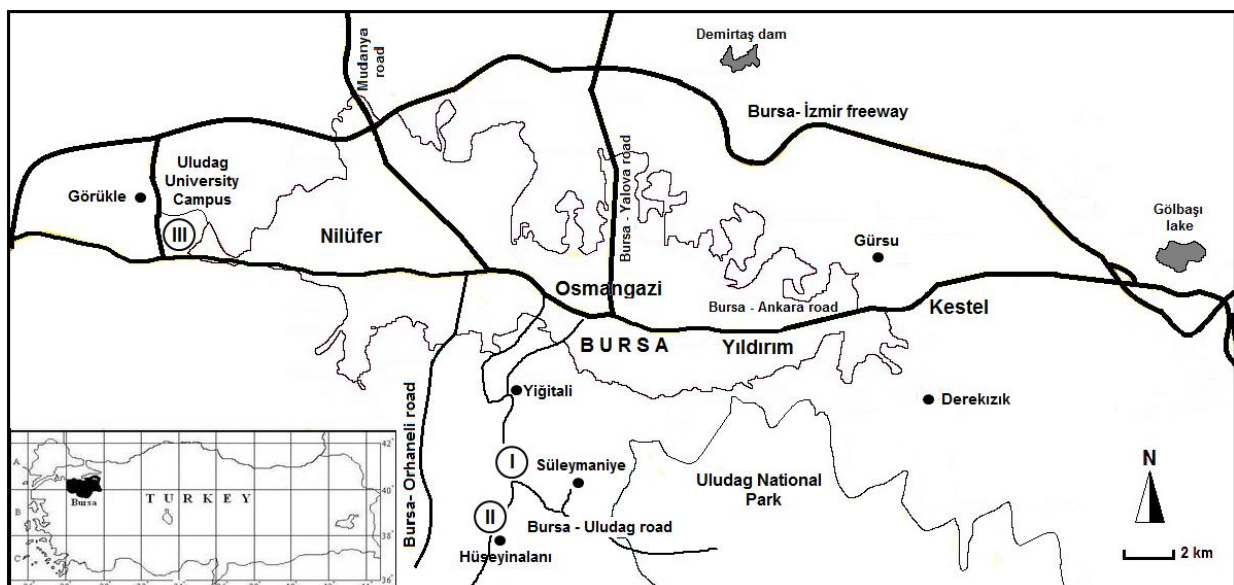
**Table 1.** The average monthly values ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) of airborne pollutant gases in Bursa province and Nilüfer district in 2012.

Months	Bursa					Nilüfer				
	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO	NO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO	NO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO
January	72	80	65	101	839	23	121	62	183	1469
February	82	50	45	95	664	13	41	52	93	653
March	58	35	34	69	654	7	24	39	63	334
April	124	19	27	61	580	5	11	27	38	-
May	275	39	35	72	905	15	5	22	27	-
June	290	46	40	86	300	-	4	28	32	145
July	22	2	30	32	273	-	2	30	32	140
August	36	25	34	59	271	32	3	36	39	161
September	27	24	37	61	305	8	3	41	44	234
October	51	23	38	60	615	13	3	42	45	495
November	52	23	16	41	900	12	3	3	6	736
December	55	23	18	44	1134	14	3	3	6	1091
<b>Mean</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>546</b>

**Table 2.** Variation in the number of vehicles and population in the study area in 2008-2012 years.

a: (Anonymous, 2012); b: (Anonymous, 2013)

Years	Bursa		Nilüfer		Bursa-Uludağ road at Yiğitalı in Uludağ	Hüseyinalan in Uludağ	
	Traffic <sup>a</sup>	Population <sup>b</sup>	Traffic <sup>a</sup>	Population <sup>b</sup>	Traffic <sup>a</sup>	Traffic	Population <sup>b</sup>
2008	498.087	2.507.963	38.183	270.502	1.469	The total number of registered vehicles 291	136
2009	513.498	2.550.645	38.581	282.991	1.438		120
2010	538.598	2.605.495	40.459	289.911	1.462		121
2011	574.926	2.652.126	78.961	316.540	1.425		128
2012	607.585	2.688.171	78.865	339.667	5.081		115
<b>Mean</b>	<b>546.539</b>	<b>2.600.880</b>	<b>55.010</b>	<b>299.922</b>	<b>2.175</b>		<b>291</b>



**Figure 1.** The study area and locations.

In this study, the effects on the physiological parameters of lichens of air pollution caused by urbanization and traffic congestion were investigated. For this purpose, three region with different levels of urbanization, population density, and motor vehicles density in the different distances from the city center around the city of Bursa was chosen (Fig. 1, Table 3). In the city of Bursa is dominated the Mediterranean climate. The average annual precipitation is 707.5 mm, and the average annual temperature is 14.6 °C with an average humidity of 69.7 % (Fig. 2) (TSMS, 2018). In generally, the north-winds is dominated in Bursa. Whereas the dominant wind direction in summer is N49°E (61.3%), N53°E (53.6%) in autumn, and N72°E (62.8%) in the winter, the dominant wind direction in spring is S74°W(47.6%) (Öztürk, 2010).

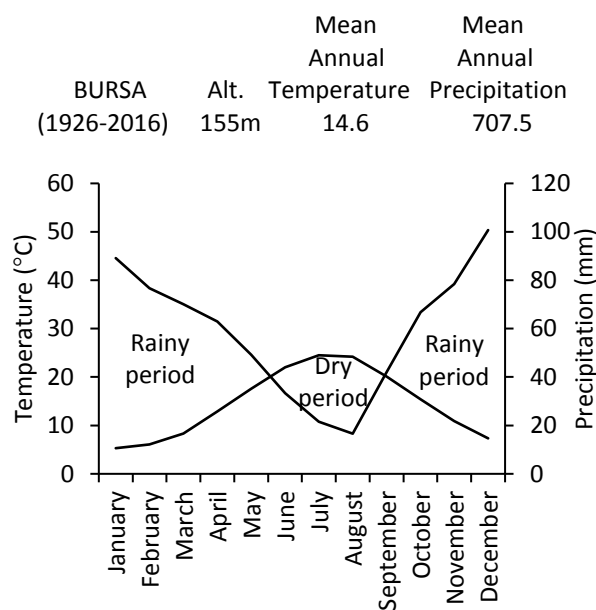


Figure 2. The climate diagram of Bursa city.

Table 3. Climatic and anthropogenic characteristics of the sites where the lichen samples collected.

	Sites		
	I	II	III
	4 km after Yiğitalı village on Uludag road	Hüseyinalanı	Uludag University Campus
<b>Location</b>	A rural mountain area (roadside)	A rural mountain village	Urban area
<b>Distance from city center</b>	14 km	17 km	20 km
<b>The main source of air pollution</b>	Motor vehicles.	A small number motor vehicles, and coal burning for heating purposes in winter.	This area is a region that is felt the most of the negative impacts of urbanization and motor vehicles on air quality
<b>Coordinate</b>	40°08'00"N–29°01'28"E	40°07'12"N–29°01'05"E	40°14'10"N–28°52'55"E
<b>Altitude</b>	900m	994m	128m
<b>Mean annual precipitation (mm<sup>3</sup>)</b>	1119	1119	677
<b>Humidity (%)</b>	71	71	67
<b>Mean annual temperature (°C)</b>	11	11	15
<b>Population (Number of persons)</b>	-	124	299.922
<b>The number of vehicles</b>	2175	291	55.010

Foliose lichen *P. sulcata*, fruticose lichens *E. prunastri* and *P. furfuracea* were selected as research material for have a wide distribution on the trunk of *Quercus* sp in Bursa province (Oran and

Öztürk 2012) and to be sensitive to air pollution (van Dobben and Braak 1999). Lichen samples from Sites I and II were collected on the trunk of *Quercus* sp. from the roadside on 14 October, 2008. *E. prunastri*

and *P. sulcata* were collected on the trunk of *Quercus* sp. and *P. furfuracea* on *Pinus* sp. from the Site III, on 17 February, 2009.

## 2.2. Experimental Procedure

Total Soluble Carbohydrate was assayed by anthrone-sulphuric acid method (Laurentin and Edwards 2003) which involved extraction with 15% trichloroacetic acid. The absorbance was measured at 620 nm.

Total protein content was determined spectrophotometrically at 595 nm and concentrations were calculated by comparing with a calibration curve of bovine serum albumin (Bradford, 1976).

Chlorophyll a (Chl-a) and chlorophyll b (Chl-b) contents of samples were determined in accordance with the Jeffrey and Humphrey method (1975) with 90% acetone as a solvent. Carotene was determined according to the Lichtenthaler and Wellburn (1985) method with 90% acetone.

## 2.3. GST activity

Freezed samples were homogenized 15 minutes after the addition cold buffer (potassium phosphate) at pH 6.7 (1/3 mass/volume) using a porcelain mortar. The homogenate was centrifuged at 9000 g for 40 minutes at 4°C (Ferrat *et al.* 2003). The supernatant was separated using a micropipette. The supernatant was used for determining GST enzyme activities. Care was taken to achieve homogenization, centrifuging and all enzymatic studies at 0-4°C. Measurements were made using the method of Bowman *et al.* (1990) and Habig *et al.* (1974) with GSH and CDNB as a substrates. GST enzyme activity was determined by tracing the formation of the thioether link between the GSH catalyzed by the enzymes and CDNB in Cecil 5000- Spectrophotometer. The activity was measured as the absorbance change per minute at 340 nm at 25°C.

## 2.4. Statistical Analyses

The significance of differences among the sites of the physiological parameters of lichen species collected from the three field sites were evaluated by a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with Tukey test. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS for Windows (Version 22). To determine correlation between climatic conditions, population and traffic in the sites, with the physiological parameters of three lichen species were used to Pearson's correlation coefficient. The difference was considered to be significant at  $p < 0.05$ .

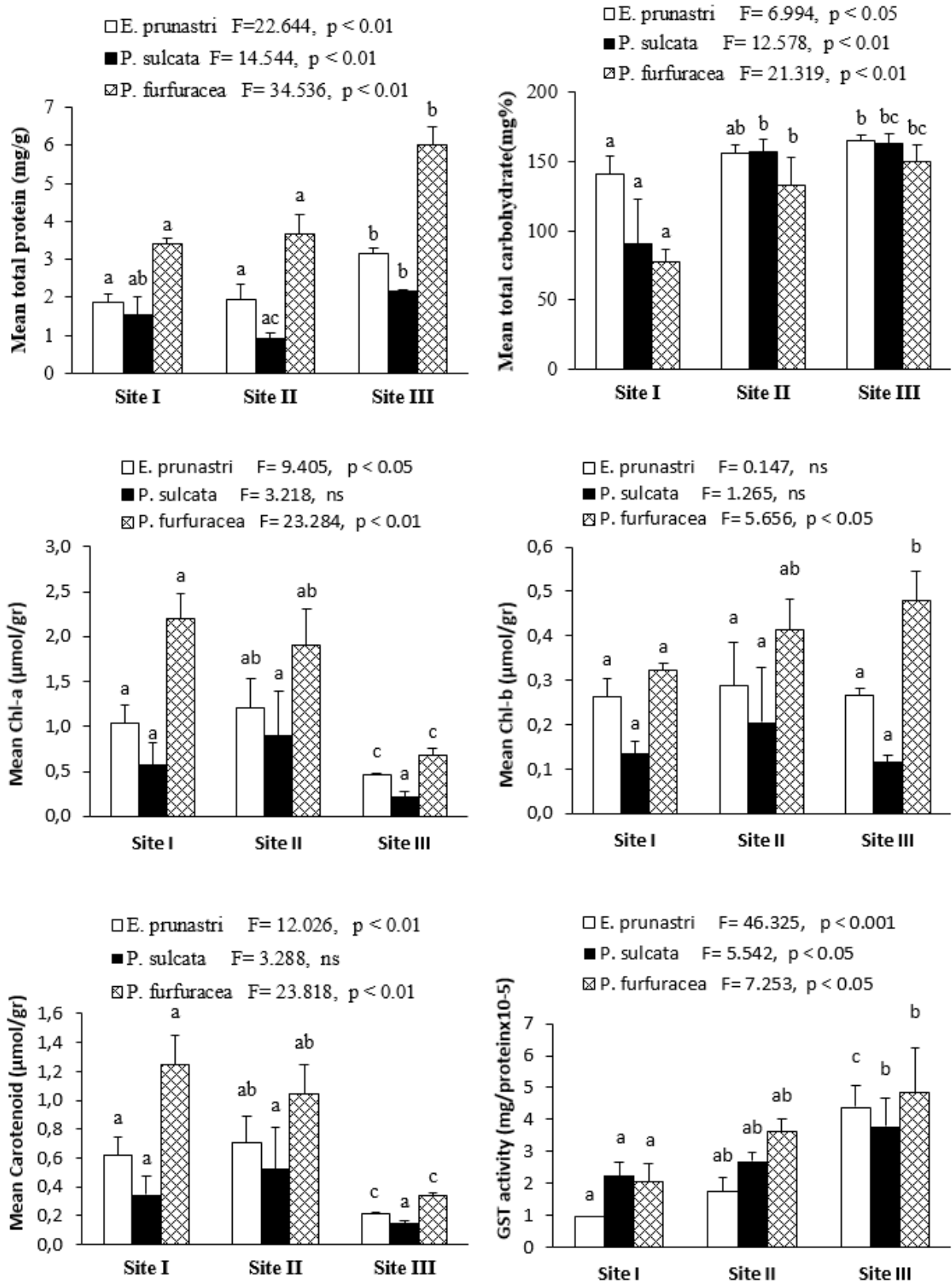
## 3. Results

In this study, physiologic parameters of the foliose lichen *P. sulcata* and fruticose lichens *E. prunastri* and *P. furfuracea* were measured at different three localities and the results were given in Fig. 3.

Compared to variations in the total protein content for each lichen species between the sites, all lichen species showed similarities in the Site I and II, and the Site III was statistically significant and different from other sites. In contrast, variations in the total carbohydrate content for each lichen species are similar in site II and III, and is different in site I. The total protein content measured in thalli of *E. prunastri* and *P. furfuracea* is increasing with an increase in air pollution towards from the site I to III (Fig. 3).

Chl-a and carotenoid content measured in thalli of *Parmelia sulcata* showed no differences between the sites, and *E. prunastri* and *P. furfuracea* are significant differences, especially sites I and III. In terms of Chl-b, only *P. furfuracea* has significant differences between Site I and III. The lowest Chl-a content for each lichen species was measured in samples collected from Site III. Variation in the Chl-a content of *E. prunastri* and *P. furfuracea* between the sites was significant, *P. sulcata* was not. Especially, levels of Chl-a in thallus of *P. furfuracea* collected from urban areas (Site III) was decreased, and increased in a rural area (Site I and II). Indeed, the highest levels of Chl-a was measured at Site I in a rural area. GST activity for all lichen species showed similarities at the sites II and III, and

especially were detected significant differences between sites I and III (Fig. 3).



**Figure 3.** Comparison of the Mean  $\pm$  SD values by one-way ANOVA with Tukey test of the physiological parameters of lichen species collected from the three localities.

Pearson's correlation coefficients between climatic and anthropogenic conditions in sites and the physiological parameters of three epiphytic lichens were given in Table 4. Protein content and GST activity for each epiphytic lichen species have been found to be a significant correlation with climatic parameters, population and traffic. Protein content

and GST activity were showed a negative correlation with rainfall and humidity, while positively correlation with temperature, population and the number of motor vehicles. GST activity was increased by increasing the level of pollution in sites, and Chl-a content decreased.

**Table 4.** Pearson's correlation between population and traffic with the physiological parameters in thalli of *E. prunastri*, *P. sulcata*, and *P. furfuracea* in rural and urban environmental conditions.

<i>E. prunastri</i>	Sites	Protein	Carbohydrat	Chl-a	Chl-b	Carotenoid	GST
Sites	1	0.833**	0.828**	-0.639	0.024	-0.686*	0.927**
Altitude	-0.811**	-0.930**	-0.602	0.864**	0.106	0.892**	-0.917**
Precipitation	-0.866**	-0.939**	-0.658	0.849**	0.086	0.881**	-0.944**
Temperature	0.866**	0.939**	0.658	-0.849**	-0.086	-0.881**	0.944**
Humidity	-0.866**	-0.939**	-0.658	0.849**	0.086	0.881**	-0.944**
Population	1.000**	0.931**	0.784	-0.894*	-0.188	-0.917*	0.944**
Traffic	0.850**	0.937**	0.642	-0.855**	-0.092	-0.886**	0.937**
<i>P. sulcata</i>							
Sites	1	0.458	0.810**	-0.382	-0.111	-0.380	0.781*
Altitude	-0.811**	-0.832**	-0.429	0.667*	0.402	0.668*	-0.743*
Precipitation	-0.866**	-0.790*	-0.506	0.636	0.363	0.637	-0.770*
Temperature	0.866**	0.790*	0.506	-0.636	-0.363	-0.637	0.770*
Humidity	-0.866**	-0.790*	-0.506	0.636	0.363	0.637	-0.770*
Population	1.000**	0.991**	0.416	-0.753	-0.533	-0.752	0.713
Traffic	0.850**	0.803**	0.484	-0.646	-0.375	-0.647	0.763*
<i>P. furfuracea</i>							
Sites	1	0.870**	0.896**	-0.887**	0.805**	-0.898**	0.839**
Altitude	-0.811**	-0.942**	-0.566	0.903**	-0.613	0.896**	-0.644
Precipitation	-0.866**	-0.955**	-0.639	0.925**	-0.663	0.921**	-0.695*
Temperature	0.866**	0.955**	0.639	-0.925**	0.663	-0.921**	0.695*
Humidity	-0.866**	-0.955**	-0.639	0.925**	-0.663	0.921**	-0.695*
Population	1.000**	0.943**	0.546	-0.931**	0.508	-0.946**	0.589
Traffic	0.850**	0.952**	0.618	-0.920**	0.649	-0.914**	0.681*

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 (\*\*\*) and 0.05 levels (\*\*)

Variations in Chl-a and carotenoid content in thalli of *E. prunastri* and *P. furfuracea* were found statistically significant. Variations in Chl-a and carotenoids content in both fruticose lichen species were showed a positive correlation with rainfall and humidity, while negatively correlated with temperature, population and the number of motor vehicles. On the contrary, Carbohydrate and Chl-b content in thalli of three epiphytic lichen species

were not a significant correlation with climatic and anthropogenic parameters.

#### 4. Discussion

A study of 24 lichen species given from 29 localities in the city of Bursa, the city center is designated as lichen desert. Only a few crustose and foliose lichen species is located in a narrow struggle zone at around the city center. *P. sulcata* and *P. furfuracea*

were collected from the struggle zone and normal zone in 1995 year (Öztürk *et al.* 1997). Foliose lichen *P. sulcata*, fruticose lichens *E. prunastri* and *P. furfuracea* are the most common epiphytic lichen species in all altitude in Uludag Mountain (Öztürk and Güvenç 2010).

The main pollutants that caused air pollution in urban environments, road sides and in areas close to the road is emitted gases from motor vehicles such as sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO) and particularly nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) (Gilbert *et al.* 2007). The distribution and species composition of lichens was known to varied depending on air pollution and the environmental changes (Giordani, 2007; van Herk *et al.* 2002).

The total nitrogen content in lichens is shown to variations from species to species with increasing of the flow of traffic on the road. There was no effect on the nitrogen concentration of a nitrophytic lichen, *Physcia adscendens* (Fr.) H. Olivier, of traffic density on the road. On the other hand, the nitrogen concentration of a acidophytic lichen, *Hypogymnia physodes* (L.) Nyl., was significantly increases due to the traffic density on the roads (Gombert *et al.* 2003). The trunk pH of trees is higher in traffic areas due to the presence of pollutants such as alkaline dust particles and/or atmospheric ammonium (Frati *et al.* 2006). It is known to cause an increase in eutrophic and basophilous lichens, and a decrease in oligotrophic and acidophytic ones (van Herk, 2001). A high correlation between the accumulation of nitrogen in lichens and the proximity to areas with a dense traffic has been established in urban areas. The traffic is the main cause for the decline in lichen diversity and abundance (Llop *et al.* 2012).

Air pollutants, especially SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> gases released from motor vehicles were observed to reduce the fluorescence of chlorophyll a in thalli of the foliose lichen *Flavoparmelia caperata* (L.) Hale (Tretiach *et al.* 2007). Another similar result was obtained from *Usnea* sp. In parallel to the increase of air pollutants emitted by road traffic was increased the content of Chl-a+b in thalli of *Usnea* sp, and degradation of Chl-a (Carreras *et al.* 1998). Evaluated the relationship between traffic pollution and total protein and photosynthetic pigment content (Chl-a, Chl-b and carotenoids) in thalli of *Pyxine subcinerea* Stirt. in

Himalaya, the Chl-a, Chl-b and carotenoids content in thalli of *P. subcinerea* was decreased due to the traffic density on the roads, and was shown an increase in protein content (Shukla and Upreti 2008).

Another study investigated the effect of urbanization and traffic density on physiology of foliose lichen *Phaeophyscia hispidula* (Ach.) Essl., the concentration of total chlorophyll was decreased in the samples from contaminated sites, and was determined an increase in protein content (Shukla and Upreti 2007).

The lichen *E. prunastri* is one of the most widely used species for biomonitoring purposes, either as a bioindicator of air quality or as a bioaccumulator of atmospheric deposition (Ayrault *et al.* 2007). Low chlorophyll content and high chlorophyll degradation in *E. prunastri* was measured in the examples of the geothermal of Tuscany. H<sub>2</sub>S has been pointed out as the main pollutant responsible for lichen decline around power plants (Paoli and Loppi 2008). A low pH is known to be responsible for chlorophyll degradation (Garty *et al.* 1992), and photosynthetic efficiency of lichens has been found to decrease under low pH conditions (Gauslaa *et al.* 1996). Similarly, the lowest chlorophyll content was detected in lichens from the urban areas. Photosynthetic rates were extremely low in industrial sites in the urban areas, whereas the highest values were obtained for the rural areas (Garty *et al.* 2001). Chl-a content in thalli of *E. prunastri* was found to be a decrease in the vicinity of residential zones, major transport routes and an oil refinery. Chlorophyll content of *E. prunastri* has been shown to have a negatively correlated with the ratio of nitrophilous lichens, and a positively correlation with the epiphytic lichen diversity (Lackovic *et al.* 2013). The pollutants emitted by road traffic was found to reduce the content of Chl-a, Chl-b and total carotenoids in thalli of *E. prunastri*, and to increase in the total nitrogen content (Frati *et al.* 2006).

*P. sulcata* was found to be the most tolerant species to air pollution (Haffner *et al.* 2001). The chlorophyll content of *P. sulcata* was found to have a gradual decrease from urban to rural sites. Nevertheless, The highest rates of net



photosynthesis were measured at urban, and the lowest at rural stations (von Arb *et al.* 1990).

Similar to our results, maximum net carbon uptakes in *P.sulcata* was highest at polluted sites in winter than summer within sites by Ra *et al.*(2005). CO<sub>2</sub> uptake was similar at all sites in winter. Concentrations of total chlorophyll and carotenoids were generally higher in samples from the polluted sites compared to the clean site. On the contrary, the concentration of carotenoids in lichens from the contaminated area in our findings was measured as the lowest. SO<sub>2</sub> released from coal-fired thermal power plants was observed to reduce the chlorophyll a fluorescence in epiphytic lichen *P. sulcata* (Fernandez-Salegui *et al.* 2006).

Photosynthetic pigments are also influenced by climatic parameters (Paoli *et al.* 2010). Concentrations of Chl-a, Chl-b, and carotenoids in thalli of *E. prunastri* and *P. furfuracea* were found decreased with the decrease in altitude and along with the hottest and driest months of the year (Pirintsos *et al.* 2011). Concentrations of chlorophyll and carotenoid in the examined three lichen species in our study were lowest in urban area which altitude, rainfall and humidity is reduced, and temperature is increased.

Total chlorophyll content of *P. furfuracea* in Ankara was reduced with increasing of air pollution. Eventually, the concentration of Chl-a was decreased due to air pollution, and was a slight increase in the concentration of Chl-b (Yıldız *et al.* 2008).

The toxic effects of airborne pollutants on GST enzyme activities as one of the oxidative stress parameters were studied in the fruticose lichen *P. furfuracea*. As a result, GST enzyme activities and the protein content in polluted area were found higher than in the unpolluted area (Öztetik and Çiçek 2011). Although, the GST activity was increased in the lichen *P. adscendens* exposed to cadmium stress, total chlorophyll content was decreased compared with control thalli (Rustichelli *et al.* 2008).

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