Antarctic Publications by Turkish Scientists (2020/2021 Update)

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Information Paper submitted by Turkey

Summary

This paper presents up to date information on the scientific publications on the Antarctic by Turkish scientists for the 2020/2021 season.

Background

Turkey has been progressing in polar sciences in line with the goals of the National Polar Science Program 2018-2022. To this aim, five Antarctic expeditions were organized since 2017. These expeditions hosted many scientists with individual scientific projects from different disciplines. As a result of the conducted projects, scientific publications have been published for sharing the obtained knowledge from the White Continent.

Publications

The number of scientific publications on the Antarctic published by Turkish scientists, which are supported by Turkish Antarctic Expeditions, since the announcement of the National Polar Science Program 2018-2022 is shown in Figure 1. As seen in the figure, an increasing momentum has been observed in terms of contribution to the polar sciences literature. These articles were published in SCI journals such as Polar Science, Marine Policy, Climate Dynamics, Advances in Polar Science, Advances in Atmospheric Sciences, Geomicrobiology Journal, Polar Biology, Quaternary Science Advances, Antarctic Science, Lithos and Czech Polar Reports. It should be noted that the conducted studies in Antarctica mainly involve fieldwork and the finalization of these studies in laboratories may take years after the expeditions. Therefore, it is expected that the number of publications will increase through the following years.

Figure 1. The number of publications since 2017 to present.

The dominancy of the life sciences is evident when these publications are categorized according to the scientific disciplines of SCAR (Figure 2). This is interpreted as a result of the intense interest shown by scientists studying life sciences to project calls and hence to Antarctic expeditions. For the other scientific disciplines, a balanced distribution is observed. In addition to these publications, 7 undergraduate thesis, 15 master thesis and 2 doctoral dissertations on polar sciences have been completed in Turkish universities since 2017.

Figure 2. Distribution of publications according to the four SCAR scientific disciplines.

Conclusion

Following the goals of the National Polar Science Program 2018-2022, Turkey has been increasing polar research activities and thus contributing to the polar science literature. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the polar research activities worldwide, and it is expected that it will negatively affect the number of publications for the following years as well.