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This book is tentative Proceedings of the 38th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation

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APPLYING AMBAR RESIN AND BEEWAX TO NORMAL MEDICAL TREATMENT PROCESS OF INJURED LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLES

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Sea turtles are endangered species all around the world. Two species of sea turtles loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) are using Turkey's Mediterranean coastline for nesting and foraging. Dozens of sea turtles are being injured or died in consequence of fishery interactions, speed boat accidents, ghost nets etc. along the coastline of Turkey. The first sea turtle rescue center (DEKAMER) in Turkey was established in 2008 and a total of 250 injured turtles were admitted to the center, during 2008-2017. Most turtles are being admitted by serious head injuries and, amputated extremities, carapace damage. Treatment of these injuries requires long term rehabilitation process. There are many medications that was described for sea turtles but a need of a faster medication techniques are obvious. We used a new medication in order to fasten recovery process of traumatic injuries on sea turtles. Two loggerhead individuals with serious head injuries treated with topical antibiotics, beeswax and amber (*Liquidambar orientalis*) tree resins. Head injuries recovered very fast in 9 months period. Using new therapeutic medications with natural and herbal support resulted positively in a small group of patients admitted to DEKAMER. It's quite likely that using this method may increase treatment of injured turtles and shorten the duration of treatment at rehabilitation centers. We present the pictures of the recovery of one loggerhead turtle that released after 15 months of treatment.