

**Ralph Brockman (LA)** registered his Capra World Slam recently, and it is now time to recognize him. As I was going over his file, I recognized one mistake he made... which was quite interesting and understandable. He had all three of the turs marked on his form, and had pretty good photos of each. You should remember some of the discussion about the turs from earlier, and this will go right along with that. Ralph got his Dagestan (Eastern) tur in Azerbaijan in 1988. It is a classic tur from that country. However, he lists both the Kuban (Western) and Mid-Caucasian turs from 2002, as taken in Russia's Kabardino-Balkariya region. All of this region lies within the borders of only the Mid-Caucasian tur. It is understandable why Ralph got confused, as indeed the two turs he took do not look anything alike. One has more of a Dagestan look, while the other looks more like the Kuban. Remember that this very reason is why we (and SCI) designated the Mid-Caucasian tur category.

It was also interesting to see the guides in Ralph's photos. I recognized them immediately. When **Mark Jackson (IN)** and I hunted there in 2001, we had these same guides. Anyway, Ralph, we are going to have to call both of those turs the Mid-Caucasian, even though they do look different... but that will really make no difference, as Ralph had a total of 14 Capra animals documented and he only needed 12, of course. Congratulations on your Capra World Slam, Ralph, and thanks for getting it all documented.

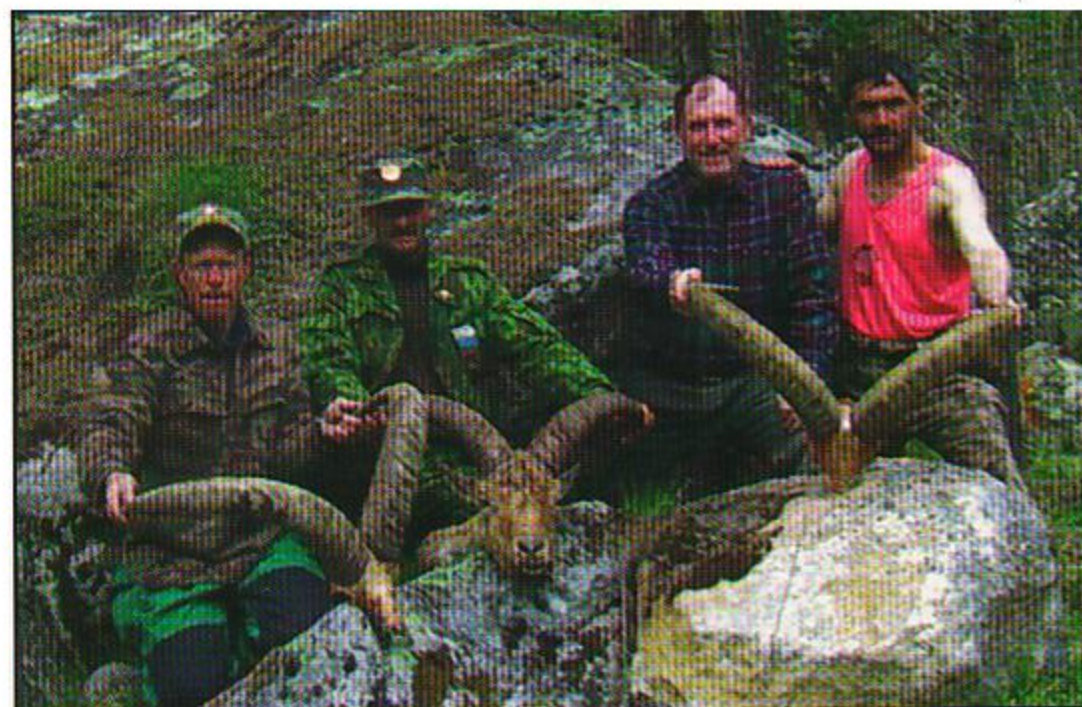
The photos I chose from Ralph's set, and one of my own from the Fall 2001 *OVIS*, should further shed more light on this business about the three turs. Within the transition zone between the Kuban of the western Caucasus Mts. and the Dagestan of the eastern Caucasus, these animals have developed into a separate animal. How long did this take? Hundreds or thousands of years? Probably the latter, so why should we lump them into a category where they do not fit? Thus, the Mid-Caucasian tur category.



*Ralph Brockman (LA, center) with one of his 2002 Mid-Caucasian turs. The guide on the left is Meesha. This tur resembles its cousin, the Kuban, to the west.*



*Ralph Brockman (LA, left) and guide Muyed (right) with Ralph's 2002 Mid-Caucasian tur. Notice the similarity of this tur to its eastern cousin, the Dagestan.*



*L to R: Mark Jackson (IN), Meesha, Dennis Campbell (AL), and Muyed. The two largest turs were taken by Mark and the smallest by Dennis. The turs in this area resembled the Kuban tur in horn configuration, but had the smooth texture of the Dagestan tur. Both are classified as Mid-Caucasian.*