

# Pacific Pests, Pathogens, Weeds & Pesticides - Online edition

## Rats (035)

### Summary

- Three types. Pacific rat (Asia and Pacific islands, small, nests on the ground); black rat (worldwide, often nests in trees) and brown rat (worldwide, mostly in human settlements; nests underground). Important pests.
- Attack cassava, cocoa, coconut, oil palm, peanut, maize, rice, sweetpotato, and others in storage; also, carry fleas with bacteria causing scrub typhus.
- Cultural control: do not leave food for rats to eat; aluminium bands around coconuts; snap-traps; cats.
- Chemical control: *Gliricidia* leaves (or *Barringtonia*, flesh of fish poison tree) mixed daily with e.g., cooked rice or root crops; alternatively, warfarin or brodifacoum in baits with coconut, wheat or maize (place in e.g., bamboo sections. Put out in evening and collected in mornings).

### Common Name

Polynesian rot, black rat (also called ship rat), brown rat

### Scientific Name

*Rattus exulans* (Pacific rat); *Rattus rattus* (black rat); *Rattus norvegicus* (brown rat).



Photo 1. Cocoa pods eaten by rats.



Photo 2. Polynesian rat, *Rattus exulans*.



Photo 3. Black (or ship) rat, *Rattus rattus*.



Photo 4. Brown rat, *Rattus norvegicus*.

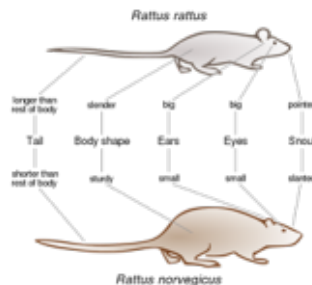


Diagram comparing the characteristics of black and brown rats.



Photo 5. An example of a snap trap.

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Information from CABI (2019) *Rattus* (rats) Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/46827>); and Rat - Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rat>); and *Rattus exulans* (Pacific rat) (2019) Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/46834>); and *Rattus rattus* (black rat) (2019) Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/46831>); and from *Rattus norvegicus* (brown rat) (2019) Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/46829>). Photos 2&4 Gerald McCormack, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritage (<http://cookislands.bishopmuseum.org/>). Photo 3 Black rat. Wikipedia. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_rat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_rat)). Diagram

[Vergleich\\_Hausratte\\_Wanderratte\\_DE.svg](#), based on the work by Karim-Pierre Maale. ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Comparison\\_Black\\_Rat\\_Brown\\_Rat\\_EN.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Comparison_Black_Rat_Brown_Rat_EN.svg)). Photo 5 Snap trap. (<http://www.easypestsupplies.com.au/rat-snap-trap-x-5.html?gclid=CNL64OV9L4CFdd6vQod2k8Ayg>).

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