

Rodent identification guide

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN EGG INDUSTRY



COMMON NAMES	BLACK RAT, ROOF RAT, SHIP RAT, FRUIT RAT	NORWAY RAT, NAVY RAT, SEWER RAT	HOUSE MOUSE, FIELD MOUSE
SCIENTIFIC NAME	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	<i>Mus musculus</i>
FUR & COLOUR	Smooth and soft – black / grey / brown	Rough and shaggy – grey / brown	Sleek – brown / grey
DESCRIPTIVE FEATURES	Thin, large and hairless ears large eyes / pointed snout	Thick, opaque and fine haired ears small eyes / blunt snout	Large ears relative to body small eyes / pointed snout
ADULT LENGTH (nose to end of tail)	330-470mm	330-440mm	140-190mm
DROPPINGS	Scattered / pointed ends  7-14mm	Grouped / rounded ends  14-19mm	Scattered / pointed ends  4-7mm
HABITAT & BEHAVIOUR	Nests in walls, roof cavities, vines and trees agile climber / somewhat neophobic ^	Nests in burrows; can climb but not agile / neophobic ^ / hoards food for future consumption (including bait)	Nests in burrows or crevices neophilic* / good climber
FEEDING RANGE	Up to 30 metres	Up to 50 metres	Up to 35 metres
LIFESPAN	9-18 months	9-18 months	9-18 months
LITTER SIZE	5-10	7-12	4-12
REPRODUCTION RATE	5-6 litters per year	6 litters per year	11 litters per year

^ avoids novel objects and new foods *The behavioural tendency to explore or investigate new or novel things.

Rodenticides to use

	BLACK RAT, ETC	NORWAY RAT, ETC	HOUSE MOUSE, ETC
Baits containing second-generation brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone and flocoumafen	✓	✓	✓
Zinc phosphide (requires a permit and is generally only recommended during plagues)	✓	✓	✓
Cholecalciferol (vitamin D ₃)	X	X	✓

Physical features comparison

Comparison of the physical features of the black rat (*Rattus rattus*), Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) and house mouse (*Mus musculus*) to assist with the identification of rodents on farm.

