

Rattus norvegicus

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Brown Rat

Rattus rattus

Rattus rattus

Tree/Black Rat

Description

- There are 3 different way of identifying each species:
 1. Tail: the Brown Rat has a long tail and the Tree Rat has a short tail.
 2. Ears: the Brown Rat has small ears and the Tree Rat has big ears (they cover the eyes if you ever catch one!)
 3. Throat, chest and belly: the Brown Rat is normally pure white or cream, occasionally bluish grey while the Tree Rat is usually a grizzly grey. However they do differ in colour
- Also, the droppings of the Tree Rat are spindle-shaped while the Brown Rat has capsule-shaped
- Both species are omnivorous, eating plants and fruits, invertebrates, young birds and offal



The Tree/Black Rat *Rattus rattus*.
Photo: naturephoto-cz.eu/pic



Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*
Photo: naturephoto-cz.eu/pic

Distribution

- Are found almost all over the island
- Both species are found among farm buildings, in flax, in Lantana scrub and waste land close to the shore.

Habitat

- The Brown Rat is found in sewers, cellars and other spaces below floor level, whereas Tree Rat is found in the roof spaces and tall warehouses.
- The Brown Rat also has burrows in the backs of the watercourses and the rubbish tips, while the Tree Rat is found in trees and shrubs.