

Kiore / NZ Rat



Pacific rat, *Rattus exulans*, collected 07 Dec 2005, Hen & Chickens Island, Whangarei, New Zealand. Gift of Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust, J W B Mackay, J C Russell, and anonymous donor, 2005. [CC BY-NC-ND licence](#). Te Papa (LM001379)

Rats are introduced pests which threaten the long-term survival of native species. They include the Pacific rat/Kiore, ship or common rat and Norway or brown rat.

Kiore, introduced by early Maori voyagers, predate rare weta, snails, frogs, lizards, tuatara, birds and bats, as well as other insects and the flowers, fruits and seeds of plants.

Ship rats and Norway rats also eat any small animals and plant material, including the adults, eggs and chicks of many rare birds.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NZ RATS (Click on each link to take you to the website)

- [Department of Conservation printable fact sheet](http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/about-doc/concessions-and-permits/conservation-revealed/kiore-pacific-rat-polynesian-rat-lowres.pdf) - <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/about-doc/concessions-and-permits/conservation-revealed/kiore-pacific-rat-polynesian-rat-lowres.pdf>
- [The Threat of rats in NZ](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests/) - <http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests/>
- [Information about the Kiore - Pacific rat](http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/about-doc/concessions-and-permits/conservation-revealed/kiore-pacific-rat-polynesian-rat-lowres.pdf) - <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/about-doc/concessions-and-permits/conservation-revealed/kiore-pacific-rat-polynesian-rat-lowres.pdf>
- [Pests and Predators](http://www.wicked.org.nz/Interactives/Pests-and-Predators) - Click on a pest, drag it into the forest scene, then release it to see what impact it has on certain plant and animal life - <http://www.wicked.org.nz/Interactives/Pests-and-Predators>
- [Fact sheet from the Christchurch Library](https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/rats/) - <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/rats/>

FUN (BUT SCARY) FACT

Rats breed so quickly that in just 18 months, 2 rats could have created over 1 million relatives!
