

Rat

Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Rodentia

Genus: *Rattus*



For Further details

Habit and habitat

Nocturnal: Most rats are active at night, foraging for food and water.

Social: Rats are social animals that live in colonies, forming complex social structures within their groups.

Wilderness: Rats inhabit natural environments like woods, forests, fields, and meadows.

Urban & Rural: They thrive in human-populated areas, infesting sewers, landfills, abandoned buildings, and cellars.

Characteristics

- **rat**, (genus *Rattus*), the term generally and indiscriminately applied to numerous members of several rodent families having bodies longer than about 12 cm, or 5 inches. (Smaller thin-tailed rodents are just as often indiscriminately referred to as mice.)
- Males are longer and heavier than are females.
- Many members of the species are black in color with a lighter colored ventral belly. The species is often divided into subspecies based upon color patterns which can occur in any combination of black, white, grey, and agouti.
- Rats are generally slender with a pointed head, large eyes, and prominent, thinly furred ears.
- They have moderately long legs and long, sharp claws. The bald soles of their narrow hind feet possess fleshy pads of variable size, depending on species.
- The skull and nasal bones are relatively narrow. One of the main ways to differentiate between *R. rattus* and *R. norvegicus* is that *R. rattus* has a finer covering of hair, a lighter skull, and a slightly differently shaped upper first molar.
- Social groups of *R. rattus* are often formed of multiple males and multiple females. One male is dominant and a linear male hierarchy may form.