

SHIP RATS

Droppings: Small cylindrical pellets on average 6.8 mm - 13.8 mm long, ends tapering to a point.

Kill signs: Shell fragments in predated nests, distinctive parallel double incisor marks in chewed flesh, neatly chewed holes in snail shells. Piles of insect legs near feeding areas. Food caches in trees or epiphytes.

Vegetation damage: Seeds with neatly chewed holes to access contents, larger fruit may show distinctive parallel double incisor marks about 2 mm wide. Caches are created in sheltered areas such as under logs or in trees on old bird nests.

Can be confused with:

Mouse, kiore, and ship rat droppings have pointed ends. Small ship rat droppings could be mistaken for those of mice or kiore, and large mouse or kiore droppings for ship rats. Norway rat dropping tend to be large and have much rounder tips.



NORWAY RATS

Droppings: Cylindrical pellets, 13.4-19.1 mm long, blunt ended or tapering to a point.

Kill signs: Double incisor marks in food remains, droppings around kills. Shell fragments in nests.

Vegetation damage: Seeds with neatly chewed holes to access contents, larger fruit may show distinctive parallel double incisor marks.

Can be confused with:

Norway rat droppings are larger and have a blunt end compared to the tapered ends seen in ship rat droppings. Kiore droppings are smaller than ship rat droppings and they also have pointed ends.



MICE

Droppings: Very small pellets, 3.9-7.6mm long, deposited singly wherever they go. They have a distinctive strong 'soiled' smell. They scatter single droppings as they run, but there may be groups of droppings where they stop to feed or where they use the same path several times.

Kill signs: Tiny (0.5mm wide) double incisor marks.

Vegetation damage: Eats seeds and small fruits.

Can be confused with:

Large mouse droppings could be mistaken as juvenile kiore or ship rat droppings. Mouse droppings may be confused with weta droppings, but weta droppings have a blunter end and often have a ridge running along the length of the dropping on one side. Stick-insect droppings can look like a tube of stacked circular disks, especially when dry.



MUSTELID

Stoat droppings are long, thin and taper towards a twist at each end. They are hard and black when dry and are often in conspicuous positions e.g. on top of a rock (this is because they use them for territorial marking). Droppings are typically 40-80 mm in length, can be curled, and will be full of feathers, fur, bones, or insect cuticle.

Weasel droppings are typically smaller 30-60mm but not always. Ferrets droppings also overlap these measurements too.



STOAT SCAT

WETA

Large wētā droppings can resemble small ship rat droppings but tend to be thinner, have a blunter end, and are often ridged lengthwise, as in the example at right. The ridging can be darker, resulting in a striped appearance, which fades with time.



POSSUM

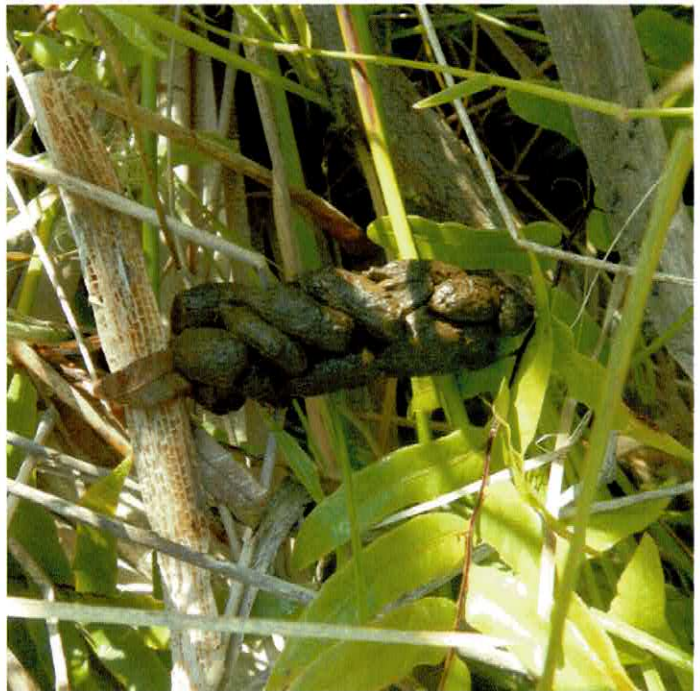
Droppings: Droppings (pellets) are long and cigar or crescent shaped, like jellybeans, with slightly pointed ends. Can be found singly or in groups, and are usually about 15-30 mm long and 5-14 mm wide. The colour and texture vary with diet, but they are often various shades of green, darkening with age.

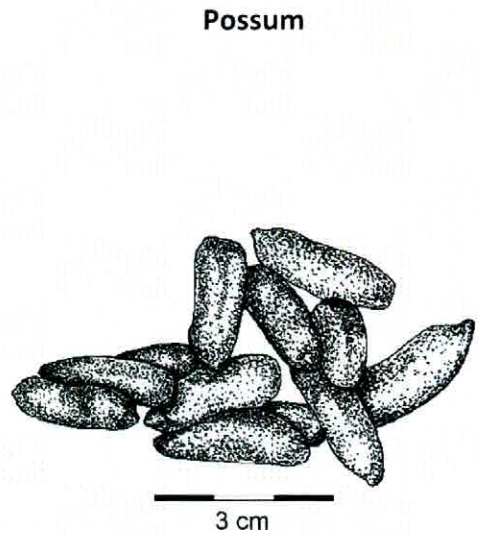
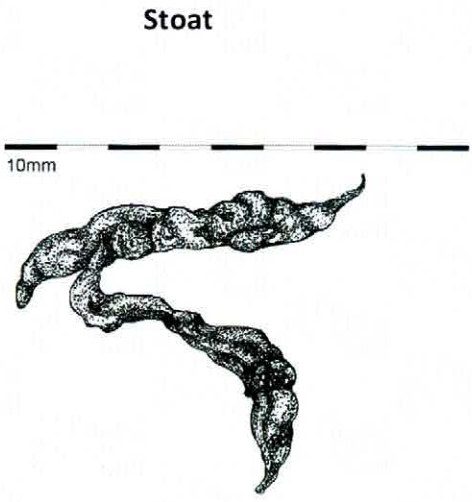
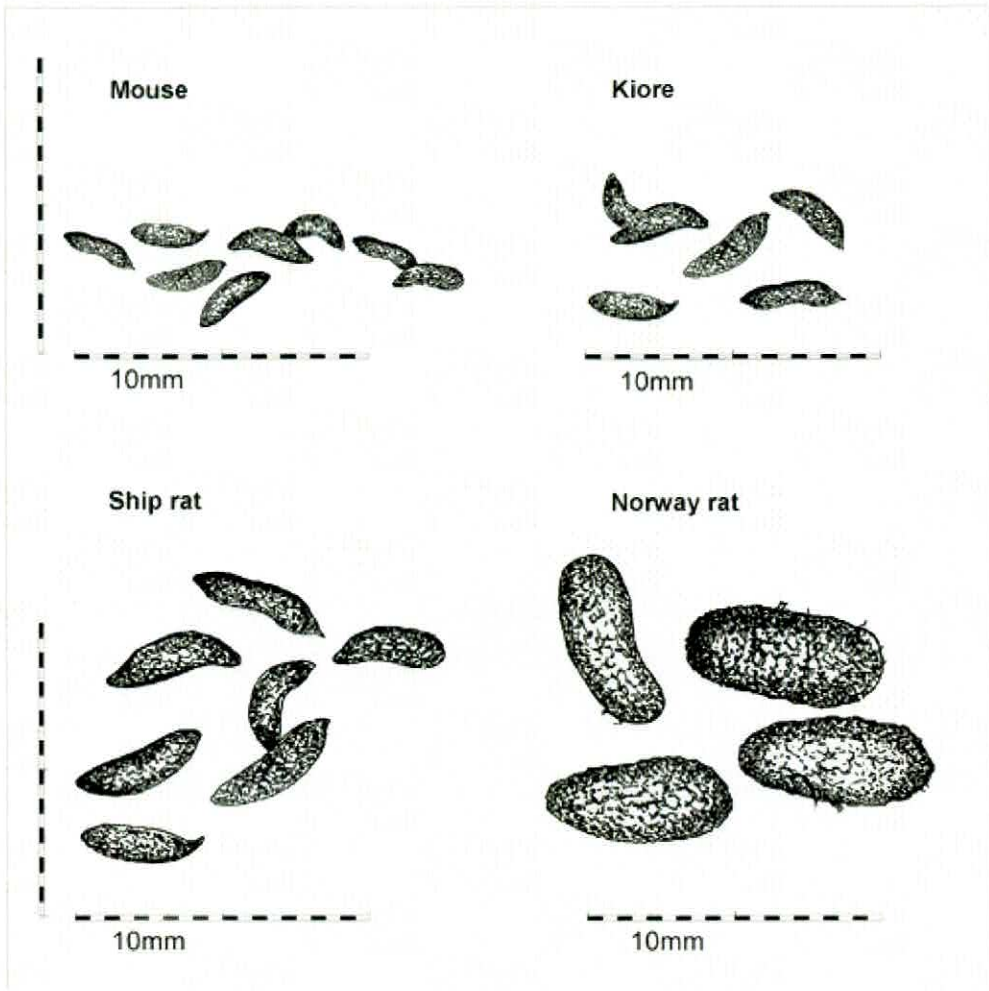
Kill signs: Messy eaters, regurgitated pellets, egg shell fragments pushed into the egg.

Vegetation damage: Ragged edges on leaves, often in tree tops. Partially eaten leaves, leaf stems, fruits and flowers on the ground. Bark chews and scratches.

Can be confused with:

Droppings are quite different to deer or goat pellets because of their elongated shape, whereas ungulate pellets are round. Possum droppings are often found on logs and stumps, while deer and goat droppings are mostly found on the ground and often in pellet heaps.





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<http://www.pestdetective.org.nz/>

<https://www.verminexuae.com/rodents.html>