

WHOSE FOOTPRINTS?

HOUSE MOUSE

Mus musculus



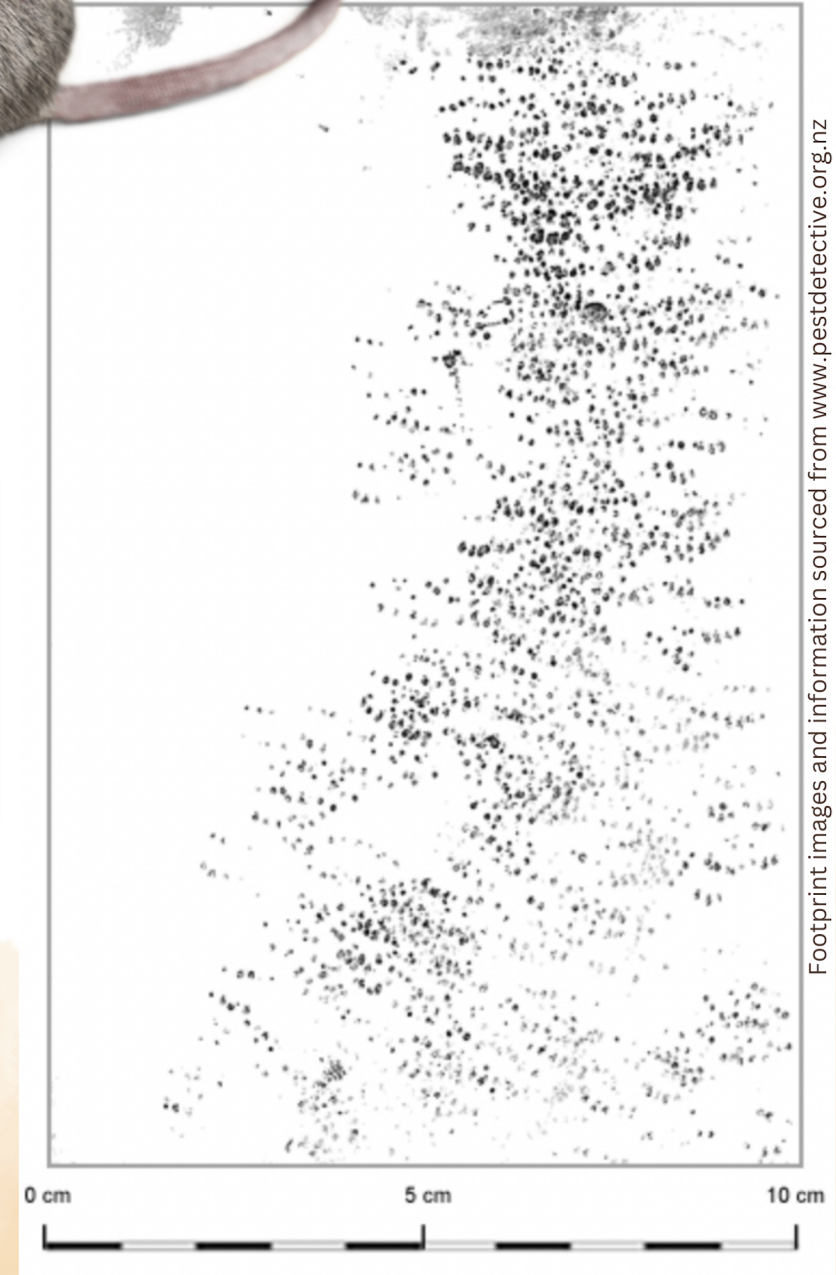
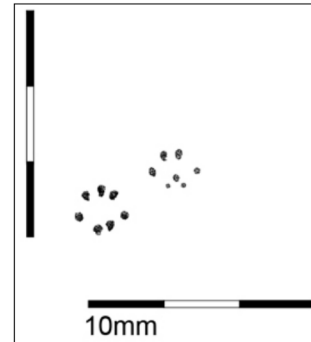
Description: Small furry rodent with a slender body and a tail approximately its body length. Grey-brown fur on upper body, with a variable belly colour.

Behaviour: primarily nocturnal, most active during dusk and dawn.

Size: Body length of up to 115mm (excluding tail), weigh 15-30g.

Footprints: Four toes on forefoot, five on hindfoot, with small prints resembling scattered dots.

Ecological impacts damage: Mice eat some native species and compete with birds for food sources like berries and seeds.



WHOSE FOOTPRINTS?

STOAT

Mustela erminea

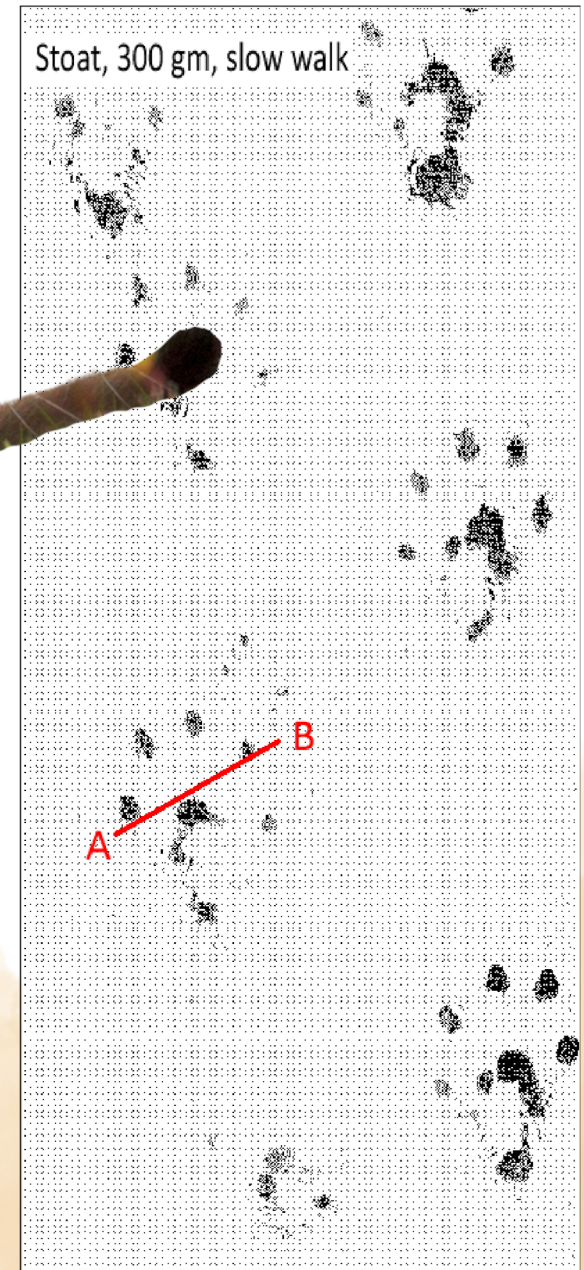
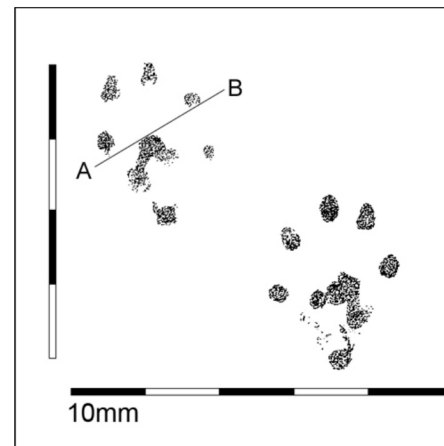
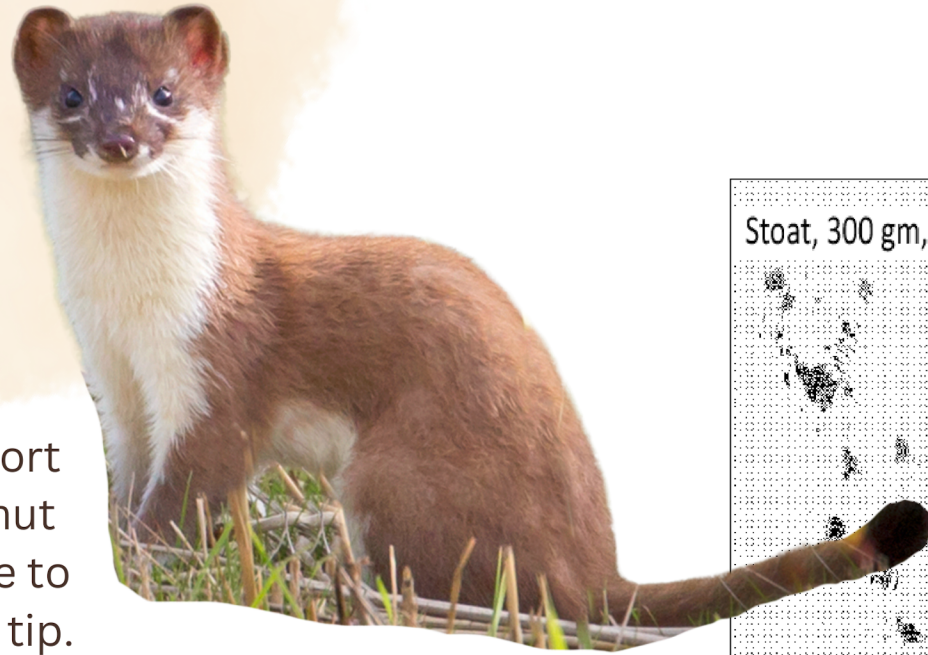
Description: Sleek, long-bodied with short legs, black eyes, and round ears. Chestnut brown fur on the head and back, a white to yellow belly, and a distinctive black tail tip.

Behaviour: Stoats exhibit both diurnal and nocturnal activity patterns, and often maintain multiple dens for food storage.

Size: Males measure 280mm from nose to tail, while females are 250mm long.

Footprints: Each foot bears five toes with fur between toes and non-retractable claws.

Ecological impacts: Stoats prey on and have a serious impact on New Zealand's native fauna.



WHOSE FOOTPRINTS?

HEDGEHOG

Erinaceus europaeus occidentalis

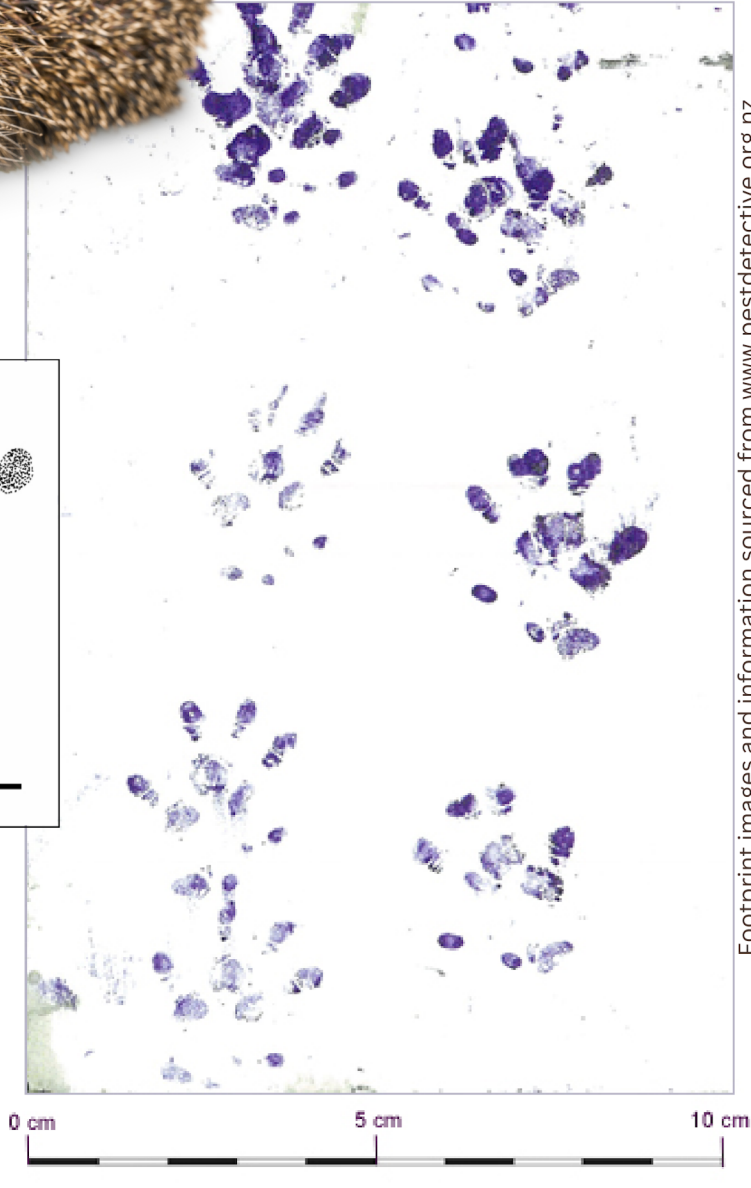
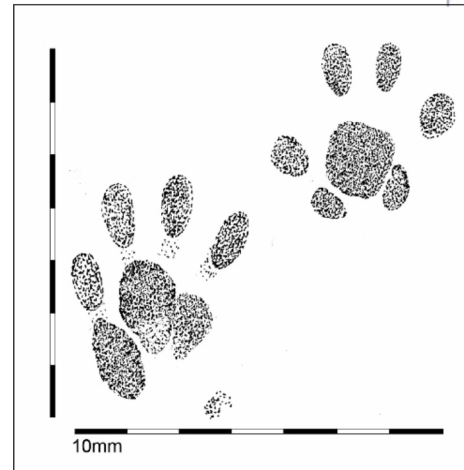
Description: round back covered in brown and white spines, short legs, a pointed snout with a black nose.

Size: Body length of 150-270 mm, weigh around 650-700g.

Behaviour: primarily nocturnal.

Footprints: a central pad and five toe-pads, with wider and rounder prints on their forefeet and longer, narrower prints on their hindfeet. Claws may be visible.

Ecological impacts: prey on the eggs and chicks of native ground-dwelling birds and consume large numbers of native invertebrates.



WHOSE FOOTPRINTS?

POSSUM

Trichosurus vulpecula

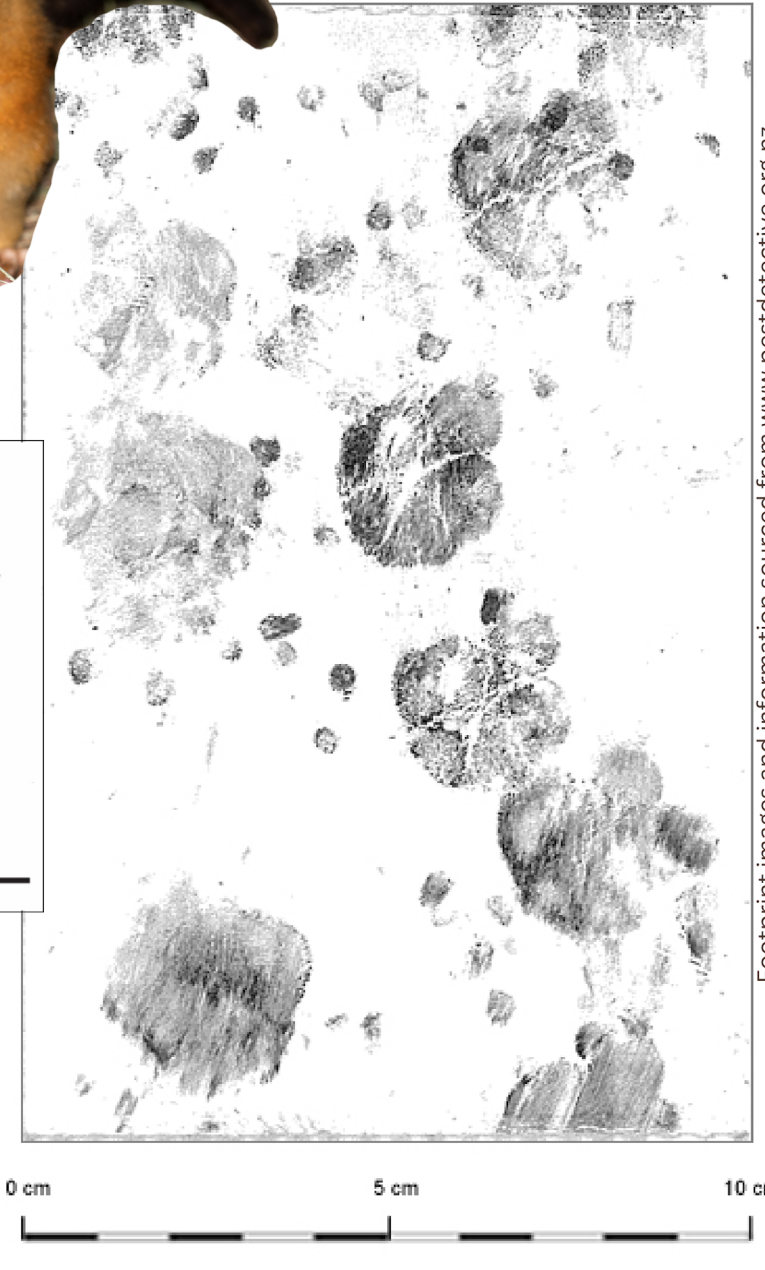
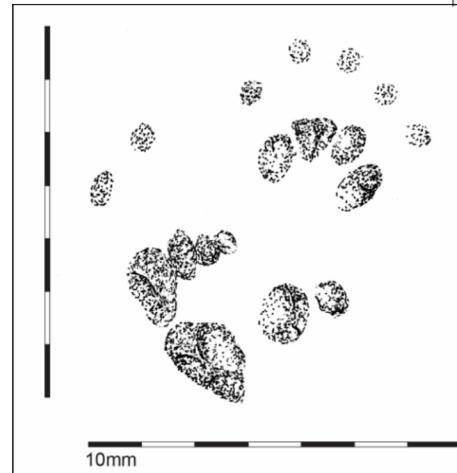
Description: furry bodies, long bushy tails, and shorter front legs. Protruding brown eyes, a pointed snout with a pink nose, and pointed ears lacking fur on the inside.

Size: Similar size to a cat.

Behaviour: nocturnal, skilled climbers.

Footprints: five-toed fore-feet, distinct hind-feet imprints, and claw marks. Possible tail drag marks.

Ecological impacts: Reach high population densities and they defoliate canopy and understorey vegetation. They also compete with and prey on our native fauna.



WHOSE FOOTPRINTS?

SHIP RAT

Rattus rattus



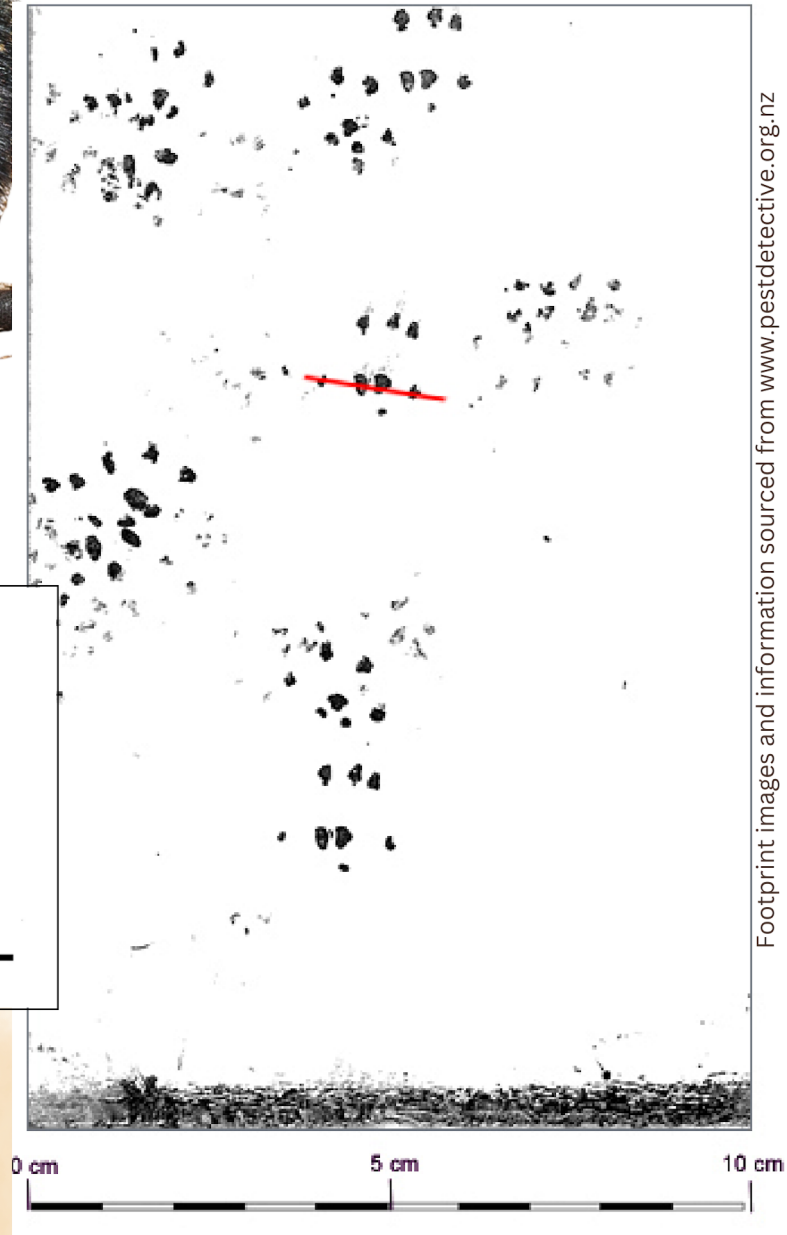
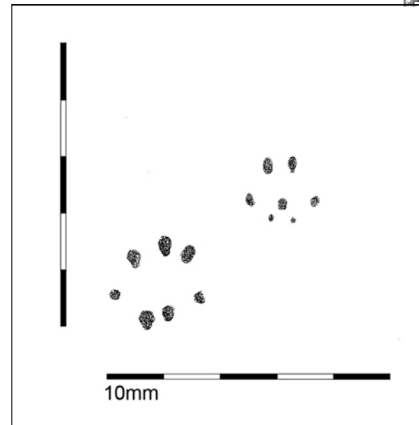
Description: Beady eyes, dark tail much longer than body, grey-brown or black fur, rounded hairless ears, long whiskers.

Size: average body length of 150-200mm (without tail).

Behaviour: nocturnal, excellent climbers.

Footprints: Four-toed forefeet and five-toed hindfeet. If you draw a line between toes 1 and 4, it bisects the central pad.

Ecological impacts: ship rats are good climbers and prey on chicks and eggs in nests. They also compete with native species for food and habitat resources.



WHOSE FOOTPRINTS?

NORWAY RAT

Rattus norvegicus

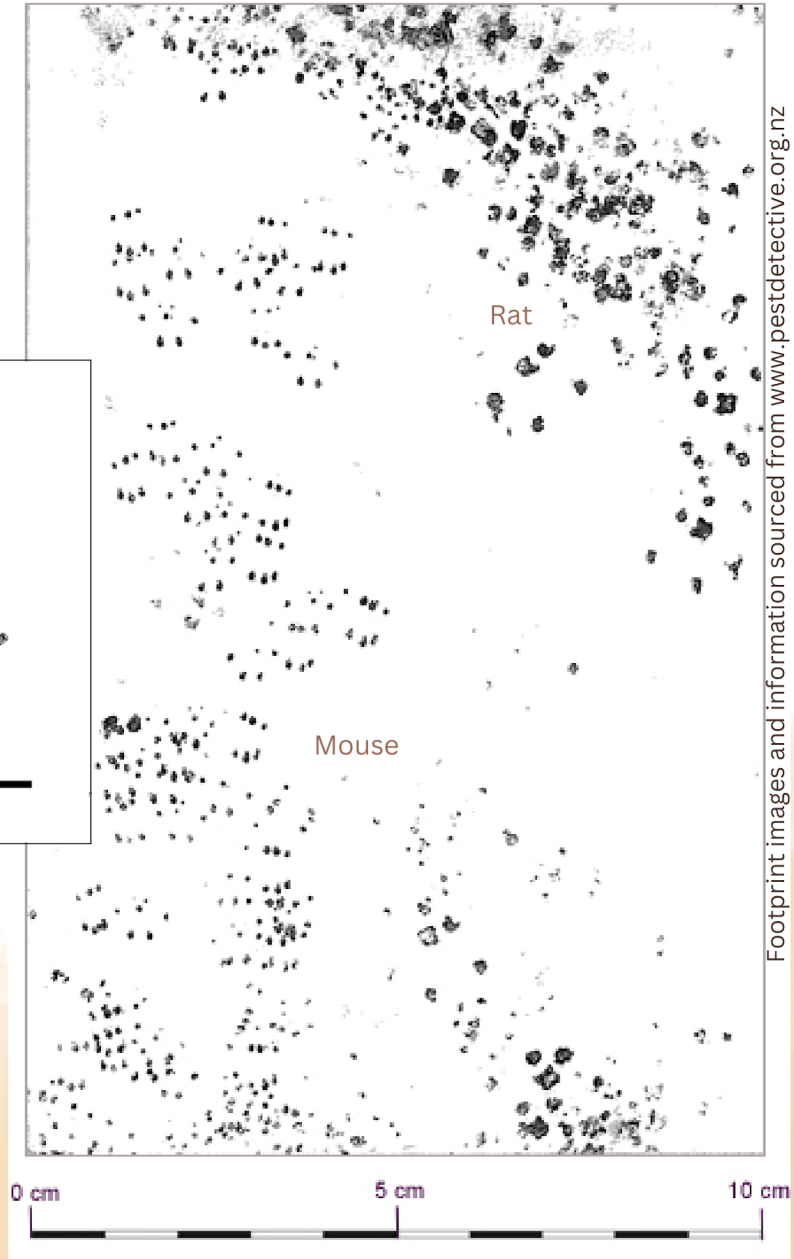
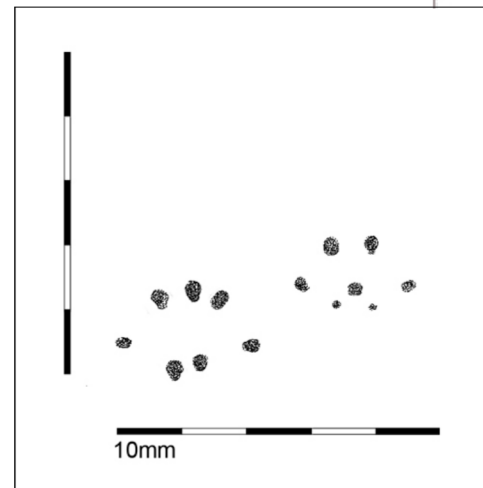
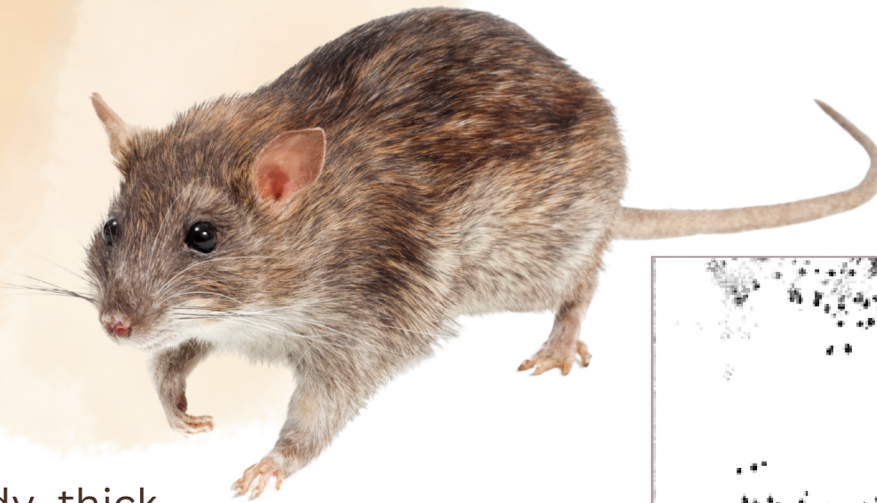
Description: Tail shorter than body, thick, with pale underside. Grey-brown or black fur. Small ears. Has beady eyes and long whiskers.

Size: Average body length, without tail, is 192mm for males and 184mm for females. Weight 170-270 g, up to 450 g.

Behaviour: nocturnal, excellent swimmers. Most common near water.

Footprints: Four-toed forefeet and five-toed hindfeet. If you draw a line between toes 1 and 4, it bisects the central pad.

Ecological impacts: prey on ground-nesting birds, their eggs and their chicks.



WHOSE FOOTPRINTS?

TREE WETA

Hemideina thoracica



Description: large, robust insects with strong hind legs, large mandibles, and long antennae.

Size: Up to 40mm in length.

Behaviour: primarily nocturnal and arboreal, Agile climbers and skilled jumpers.

Footprints: two to four small dots in a row.

Ecological impacts: Tree weta play a crucial role in the ecosystem as herbivores, feeding on leaves, flowers, and other plant material. They also serve as prey for a variety of predators, contributing to the overall biodiversity of their habitat.

