Rodent Management – Session 2

An Africa Centre of Excellence for Innovative Rodent Pest Management and Biosensor Technology Development (ACE IRPM&BTD) in sub-Saharan Africa

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Rodents are some of the most serious mammalian pests in sub-Saharan Africa. The economic, health and social impact of rodents is not adequately quantified, species identity is not well known and the ecology and dynamism of populations are understudied in sub-Saharan Africa. An Africa Centre of Excellence for Innovative Rodent Pest Management and Biosensor Technology Development (ACE IRPM&BTD) was established in 2016/2017, based in Tanzania. The ACEIRPM&BTD shall enhance scientific knowledge (taxonomy, ecology, zoonotic diseases, pest management, biosensor using rats), technology and innovations (STI) on rodent pest management in Africa. ACEIRPM&BTD is currently focusing on two major activities (i) Postgraduate training (16 registered PhD candidates undertaking studies in Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia). Ten MSc. candidates will embark on research activities in 2018/2019 (ii) Curriculum development for MSc. programmes to train potential candidates for PhD studies on rodents. About 35 PhD and 80 MSc candidates will enrol in the next five years. Studies already being undertaken include: (i) Landscape ecology and population dynamics of rodents in Afro-alpine ecosystems, Ethiopia (ii) Diversity and population dynamics of rodents and associated ectoparasites in Mt. Elgon ecosystem, Uganda. (iii) Prevalence and diversity of haemoflagelates and filarial worms in rodents and shrews in Uganda (iv) Habitat disturbance, population dynamics and community structure of rodents in forest reserves, Uganda. (v) Ectoparasites and gastrointestinal helminthes diversity in rodents and shrews in Siemens Mountains, Ethiopia. (vi) Prevalence of Leptospira in rodents, shrews and humans in Uganda (vii) Community ecology of rodents in the Selous ecosystem, Tanzania (viii) Ecology of rodents and flea ectoparasites in plague endemic foci in the Rift Valley, Tanzania. (ix) Biosensor technology development using the African giant pouched rats, *Cricetomys gambianus* (5 studies in pipeline). The ACEIRPM&BTD will support high impact research on rodents in Africa and welcomes collaboration with scientists from all over the world.

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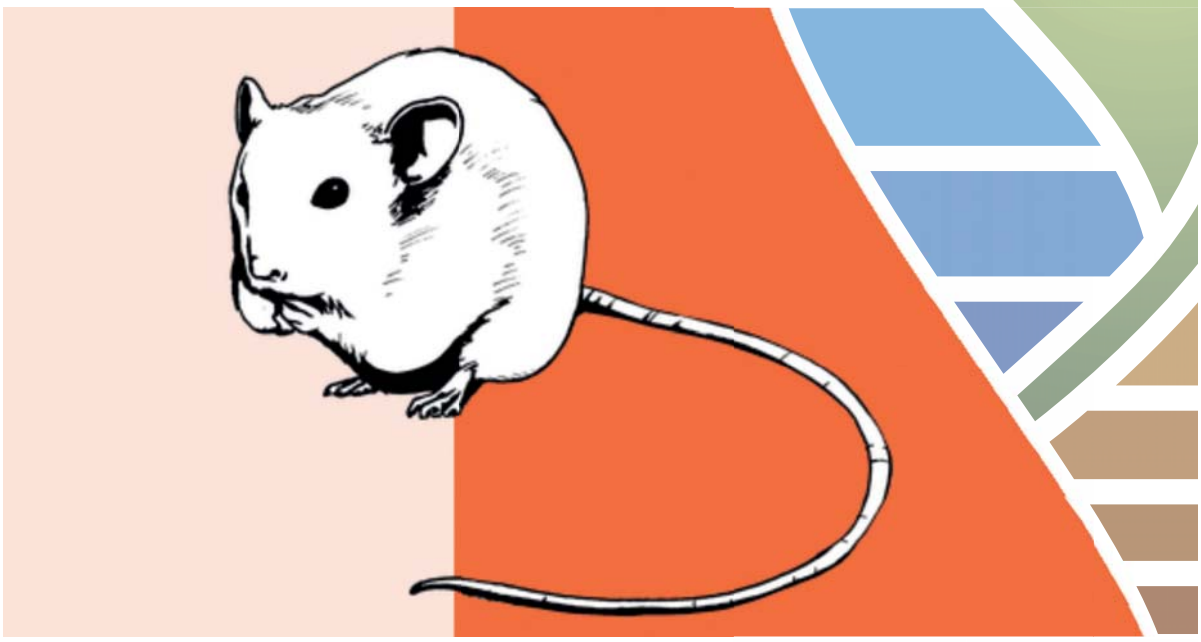
6th International Conference of Rodent Biology and Management and 16th Rodens et Spatium

Potsdam, Germany, 3-7 September 2018

Book of Abstracts



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