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## Poster Session 1 – Rodent Management

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### **29 Predation by *Rattus rattus* on the *Hantavirus* reservoirs rodent, *Oligoryzomys longicaudatus* in Laguna del Laja National Park, Chile**

**Jonathan Guzmán, Nicole Espinoza, Nicole Verdugo**

Jonathan Guzmán, Dpto. Ciencias Básicas - Universidad de Concepción, Los Ángeles, Chile, jonathanguzman@udec.cl

Rats are known to introduce disease and to displace native small mammals through competition and predation. In spite of the dramatic impact on other animals (e.g. seabird, small lizard, snakes eggs and insects), the effects of rat predation on small mammals may be overlooked because it is poorly known, difficult to document, and has not been the focus of research. In Chile, the black rat *Rattus rattus*, is widely distributed with naturalized populations that had invaded natural areas in the Mediterranean zone and coastal forest but, limited by desert, high altitude and high latitude. Here, we recorded the species richness and abundances of rodents in a deciduous forest (Laguna del Laja National Park, South of Chile) during winter and spring of 2013 and, correlated these data, with the potential predation by the black rat. Our outcomes account the winter as more diverse (five species) and abundant (52 individuals) season for the presence of rodents, with the species *Abrothrix olivaceus*, *Abrothrix longicaudatus*, *Oligoryzomys longicaudatus* and the exotic *Rattus rattus*, being *Oligoryzomys longicaudatus* and *Rattus rattus*, the most and less plenty respectively. In spring, only nine individuals of *Abrothrix olivaceus* and *Oligoryzomys longicaudatus* were recorded. The analysis of teeth and hair under electron microscope images of the stomach contents for the five *Rattus rattus* captured in winter, are showing a selection for the abundant long-tailed pygmy rice rat *Oligoryzomys longicaudatus*, a native rodent considered as the major reservoir of *Hantavirus* in Chile and Patagonian Argentina. In addition, our results are indicating a seasonal distribution of the black rat in the area (not present in spring), and open the question on its predation conduct on this *Hantavirus* reservoir in other places of its distribution, as well as on the other small mammals and small animals in Chile.

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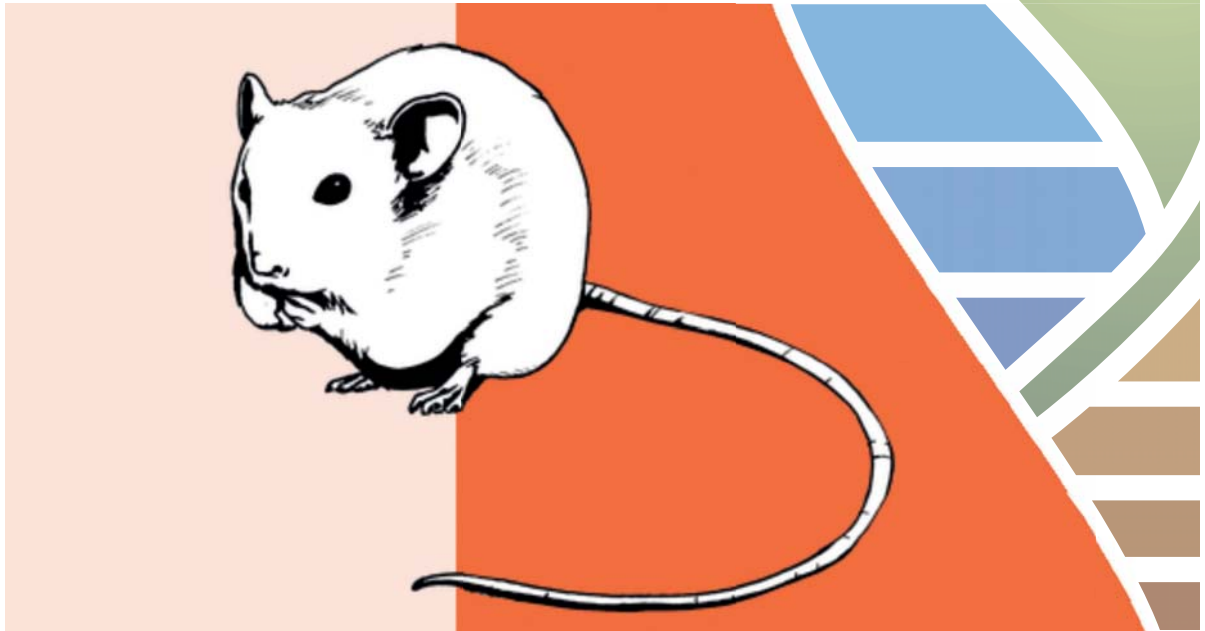
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Jens Jacob, Jana Eccard (Editors)

6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Rodent  
Biology and Management  
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Book of Abstracts



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**Editors:**

Jens Jacob<sup>1</sup> and Jana Eccard<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Julius Kühn Institute, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants,  
Institute for Plant Protection in Horticulture and Forests, Vertebrate Research,  
Toppeideweg 88, 48161 Münster, Germany

<sup>2</sup>University of Potsdam, Institute of Biochemistry and Biology,  
Animal Ecology Group, Maulbeerallee 1,  
14469 Potsdam, Germany

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