

Integrated Pest Management

Chemical

Baiting with pesticides such as rodenticides is commonly used as a control or eradication tool.

Commercial baits can be brought from most stores to manage rats in small areas like homes and stores. For larger ranges, bait stations (spaced at 50 to 200 m) are used or spread along the ground.

Rodenticides should be used with caution. Poisoning of other animals and people may occur including. Rats may also learn to avoid these baits. So, even though baits are used, keeping track on the number of rats continue to be important.

Pesticides made using plants are used within the Pacific and are less toxic than chemical pesticides. The young leaves of the legume shade tree *Gliciridia* are pounded and mixed with cooked rice, maize or other bait. The bark can be used as well.

The Solomon Islands use the white inner flesh of *Barringtonia asiatica* fruits as part of a rat poison. Add the scraped fruit to cooked rice or shredded coconut. These plant-derived baits should be changed daily and kept away from pets.

Rodenticides

Rodenticides are pesticides that kill rats. Rodents include not only rats and mice, but also other mammals.

Rodents, humans, dogs and cats are all mammals, so our bodies work in very similar ways. Rodenticides have the same effect when eaten by any mammal. They can also affect birds. Flavourings that are added to attract rats may include fish oil, molasses or peanut butter. Baits used in agriculture and natural areas may contain ground meat, vegetables, grains, or fruits. These may be attractive to children and pets, so they should never be used or stored within their reach.

References:

<http://coconutpests.org/pests-and-diseases-of-coconut/rats>

<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/rodenticides.html>

