

Rodent Pests and their Control, 2nd Edition





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Edited by

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and

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Preface

From comments that we have received, it seems that the first edition of this book was welcomed when it was published in 1994 – both by those studying and those practising rodent pest management. The concept of a book that combined information from the latest scientific research with advice about the practical implementation of pest management programmes appears to have been a good one. Therefore, the basic plan of the original book has been retained.

This is not a fast-moving branch of science and there was never an urgent need to bring forward another edition. Eventually though, we were persuaded that enough had changed, and sufficient new information had accumulated, to make a second edition worthwhile after an interval of 20 years.

We began the task of producing this edition several years ago, but pressure of work on us both, and commitments in our personal lives, have meant that progress has been much slower than we wanted. So we should first express our grateful thanks to those authors who diligently met the initial submission deadlines and then waited (mostly) with great patience to see the book finally come into print. We are also grateful to those authors who needed more time, and more encouragement, to complete their allocated chapters, having recognized from our own lives the difficulties of finding time to do the necessary work. Indeed, without all of the authors, we would have no second edition.

In producing this new edition we have taken the opportunity to add some additional chapters and substantially to modify others. The humaneness of vertebrate pest control interventions has come to greater prominence since the publication of the first edition and a chapter on this is now provided. The important issue of the presence of residues of anti-coagulant rodenticides in wildlife is also recognized with a chapter on that subject. The use of rodenticides for the removal of rodents as detrimental alien invasives in island ecosystems was in its infancy at the time of the first edition, but has since become a major aspect of practical wildlife conservation on a global scale. Preeminent scientists in all of these areas have contributed to the new edition. It is satisfying that, once again, these new chapters combine up-to-date scientific research with highly practical advice to practitioners.

We thank the CAB International staff, Alex Lainsbury and Rachel Cutts, whose patience must have been sorely tried many times, but whose support and encouragement were never less than exemplary.

Finally, we wish to remember the authors from the first edition who have died since its publication: Norman Gratz, John Greaves and Mogens Lund. All of these men made significant

contributions to the study and development of rodent pest management in their lifetimes. The book's first edition, as well as their published literature, stand testament to these contributions and to their scientific standing. Their knowledge and experience were much missed in the preparation of this new edition, and our thanks go to those other authors who stepped in to help us with the important chapters that they contributed to the first edition.

Alan Buckle
Robert Smith
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