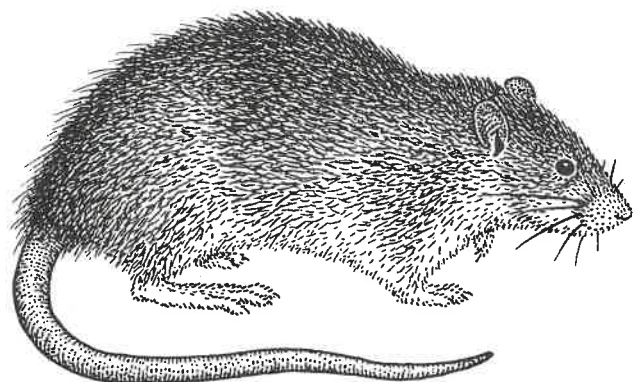


# *Rattus norvegicus* (BERKENHOUT, 1769)



P. Twisk

## Distribution

**World:** a native of north-east Asia but now cosmopolitan.  
**Europe:** throughout Europe, but sporadically in sparsely inhabited areas, namely parts of Fennoscandia. Not as widespread in the Mediterranean region as farther north. Although some records of brown rat in Europe date back to the Middle Ages, its permanent and widespread diffusion occurred at the time of the Industrial Revolution (17th–18th century).

## Geographic variation

Beside the nominate subspecies occurring in Europe, *R. norvegicus caraco* (Pallas, 1779) is recognized for Asia.

## Habitat

Being a good swimmer, it inhabits river banks and sewerage systems. Where synanthropic, it is linked to the waste and refuse water produced by man (store houses, animal farms, etc.); occurs also in crop fields near water.

## Population status

Common. It is considered a pest.

## International legal & conservation status

None.

## Brown rat

AL	Miu i murrme i kanaleve	LT	Brong rat
BG	Сив плъх	LV	Pelēkā žurka
CZ	Potkan	MK	Стаорец скитник
DE	Wanderratte	MT	Far tal-Kampanja
DK	Vandrerotte; Brun rotte	NL	Bruine rat
EE	Rändrott	NO	Brunrotte
ES	Rata parda	PL	Szczur wędrowny
FI	Rotta	PT	Ratazana-de-água; Ratazana-castanha
FR	Brúna rotta	RO	Sobolanul-de-casă; Cloșanul
GR	Δεκαπότης	RU	Серая кыса; Пасюк
HR	Štakor selac	SE	Brun råtta
HU	Vándorpatkány	SI	Siva podgana
IR	Franncach donn	SK	Potkan hnedý
IS	Brúnrotta	TR	Göçmen siçan
IT	Ratto delle chiaviche	YU	Сиви пацов
LT	Pilkoji žiurké		

## Other information

Like the black rat, *R. norvegicus* is responsible for much damage to buildings, facilities and food-stuffs, as well as the spreading of pathogens such as leptospirosis, hantavirus, rickettsiosis, borreliosis and many others hazardous to man and animals.

## Literature

Becker (1978a) – review  
von Dirk (1976)

G. Amori & M. Cristaldi

