

Rats are various medium-sized, long-tailed [rodents](#). Species of rats are found throughout the order Rodentia, but stereotypical rats are found in the genus [Rattus](#). Other rat genera include [Neotoma](#) ([pack rats](#)), [Bandicota](#) ([bandicoot rats](#)) and [Dipodomys](#) ([kangaroo rats](#)).

Rats are typically distinguished from [mice](#) by their size. Usually the [common name](#) of a large [muroid](#) rodent will include the word "rat", while a smaller muroid's name will include "mouse". The common terms *rat* and *mouse* are not [taxonomically](#) specific. There are 56 known species of rats in the world.