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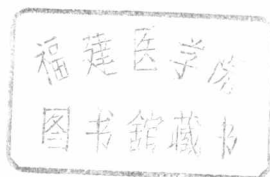
CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE

VOLUME 1

RATS

EDITED BY

DENNIS CHITTY



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CONTROL OF
RATS AND MICE

PREFACE

ANYONE who wishes to get rid of rats is strongly advised to obtain the government bulletins referred to in Chapter 1. This will be cheaper and better than trying to use the present volumes as a manual on rat control. There are other views, however, about dealing with rats. These views conflict with the official pamphlets (based on research by the Bureau of Animal Population) and are advocated in much more alluring terms. The private individual may take his choice of method; but where public funds and welfare are concerned the decision must be weighed more carefully. These volumes are intended to help those responsible for such decisions and to describe the viewpoint and techniques required to test existing systems and devise better ones.

Most of the chapters were first written in 1946-7, but it took until 1949 to complete the editing. The typescripts were then submitted for publication (as agreed) by the Agricultural Research Council; but because of a change in policy everything was sent back to us 18 months later. The problem of getting the work published at all was solved only through the generosity of the Delegates of the Clarendon Press and of a donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, who gave £2,000. This gift has already been acknowledged with gratitude by the University and I here add the very sincere thanks of my colleagues and myself. It now became necessary, however, to change the style of the work and limit it to about one-third of its original length, a job which few of the authors were in a position to do and which my own university work has delayed until now. I have had to adopt a fairly ruthless policy of cutting texts and depositing tables and must thank the authors for their kind acceptance of the changes. Those who have not actually worked on rat control may think that there is still too much detail; those who have will know that there is too little. The fuller data showed more clearly the complexity of the field work and the difficulty of reaching conclusions. However, workers in this country can consult our files, and others must in any case find out for themselves how far procedures may be applied elsewhere.

The arrangement of the chapters is planned as follows: strategy, materials, field methods, and general results of controlling rats by poison (Chs. 1-4); aspects of behaviour, especially towards baits (Chs. 5-9); results in particular environments (Chs. 10-14). Studies on methods of

control other than by poison have had to be omitted (Ch. 1, § 9) and the literature since 1946 has not been fully covered.

I wish to thank Miss Enid Richardson and Miss Rosemary Rowse for their remarkable ability to read mutilated typescripts.

D. C.

BUREAU OF ANIMAL POPULATION
OXFORD

1 *September* 1952

ABBREVIATIONS

A.R.C.	Agricultural Research Council
A.L.D.	Average Lethal Dose
Antu	α -naphthylthiourea
B.S.	British Standard
B.S.I.	British Standards Institute
B.S.T.	British Summer Time (G.M.T. + 1 hour)
D.B.S.T.	Double British Summer Time
L.A.	Local Authority
L.D.	Lethal Dose
M.A.F.	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
M.O.F.	Ministry of Food
M.O.H.	Medical Officer of Health
M.O.S.	Ministry of Supply
P ₃	Protected Poison Point
P.L.H.A.	Port of London Health Authority
R.C.T.	Rat Control Test
S.A.L.A.M.	Société Anonyme Levant-Africaine Méditerranée
W.A.E.C.	War Agricultural Executive Committee

Jargon has been avoided as much as possible, but certain terms have been used to save space, e.g. 'arsenic' for arsenious oxide, 'rusk' for moist sausage-rusk. The meaning of terms such as these may be found by looking them up in the index and seeing where they are 'defined' or 'described'.

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