

Mice

Mice are small, grey/ brown rodents. The head and body are about 10cm long. Mice may be tiny but they are a big problem for our native birds, plants and insects. They live in almost every area of New Zealand.

Why mice are pests

Mice eat some native species as well as the foods they eat. They take foods that birds would normally eat like berries and seeds. they can affect every part of an ecosystem. Without mice, we would have a lot more New Zealand animals and plants around!



House mouse with young in a nest. Photo: DOC

Why did people bring mice to New Zealand?

People brought mice to New Zealand on ships, probably by accident. The first mice came here in 1824, on a ship from Australia called 'Elizabeth Henrietta'*

Mouse facts:

- Mice will eat just about anything! They eat invertebrates, seeds, fruits, leaves, birds' eggs, fish eggs, chicks and insect larvae
- *When mice first arrived in NZ, people had never seen them before and called them "Henriettas" after the ship they came from.
- All mice and rats are called kiore in Te Reo Māori



Mouse footprints: Photo: Liz Maire



Mouse droppings