

**Biosystematic of *Rattus turkestanicus* (Rodentia) of
Mashhad-(Iran)**

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ABSTRACT

To identify northern Khorasan's wild rat sampling has been done by means of living traps on foothills of Mashhad outskirts. Samples have been subjected to chromosomal, morphological and morphometrical studies. Chromosomal results compared with those of Turkemanistan and Afghanistan. With regard to morphology and morphometry the prominent characters of *R. turkestanicus* have been compared with those of *R. rattus* and *R. norvegicus*. The results showed that the *R. turkestanicus* with 24 chromosomes is similar to *r. turkestanicus* of Afghanistan and Turkemanistan but differs from *r. rattus* and *R. norvegicus* on the basis of external and cranial characters. Khorasan's wild rat differs from *R. rattoides* of Indian subcontinent and having arboreal behaviour, lives sympatrically with forest dormice.

Key words: *Rattus turkestanicus*, Morphology, Morphometrics, Cytotaxonomy, Mashhad.

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