West Java with an area of about 46.746 sq. km and a population of about 18.5 millions is a region with hills and mountains and beautiful valleys. It has rich agriculture including rice and vegetables, further with flourishing animal husbandry (Fig. 1). The scourge of the country are the rats which are found in large numbers in the fields and houses causing much damage; as reported by the Agriculture Service the

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* Reported during "Unesco-Symposium:
damage caused by rat annually is about 17% of the sawahs which means a loss of nearly 45,000 tons of rice.

Apart from the damage to foodstuff the rat may also be a factor in some epidemics. The rodents are reservoir for different types of parasites carrying them from animal to animal (Becker).

![Fig. 2a-c. Rats of Westjava. a Rattus diardi; b Rattus brevicaudatus; c Rattus norvegicus javanicus](image)

Investigations in this respect were undertaken by us and a study was started, for the first time in Indonesia, with regard to the ecology of the Murinae and their parasites.

The research-works were carried on in cooperation with the Pooling-Test-Service of the Lembaga Pes Bandung.

**Material and method**

The rodents were trapped and after classification of the hosts the determination of the ecto — and entoparasites was made in the laboratories of our central-institute.

The rats were found to include three species:

1. *Rattus rattus diardi* (Black rat, house rat, Alexandrian rat). It is an active climber; mainly found in ships, ports, garrets. Often these animals infest restaurants and other premises where food is attainable. It weighs about 200 g; the droppings are scattered, spindle shaped, smooth (Fig. 2a).