WASTE BINS ATTRACT RATS – A CASE STUDY OF CUBBON PARK, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA, INDIA

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Rats are murine rodents, medium sized mammals, mostly belonging to the genera *Rattus* and *Bandicotta* in India. They are larger than mice, with a semi-pointed snout, and a few whiskers, and a long tail, grouped under the Family Muridae. They are omnivorous and are known to eat both plant and animal foods, including left over in food packets. There are 56 species of rats in the world (https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rat).Rats are well known to carry different zoonotic diseases, capable of transmission from animals to man. As such, and even then, instead of using rodenticide, owls predating on rodents can be introduced along with regular removal of leftover foods. In the Cubbon Park, on Sunday, May 12, 2024, several rat holes were observed (Figs. 1 & 2). It is noticed that perforated cylindrical metallic bins, with upper and lower perforations (Fig. 2), were placed at different locations for visitors, instead of using non -perforated wheel fixed open top, or with movable lid, thick plastic bins as placed in residential complexes and lake side parks of this city.

Fig.1 A waste bin with many rat holes

Fig.2 Metal waste bins with a large rat hole

Advantages for placing perforated metallic bins may possibly be there but it needs to be experimentally and authentically ascertained as ground level side perforations are likely to spread more ground level smell of availability of food to attract rats. However, smell perhaps less can be blown to the ground level air from single open top hard plastic bins placed in different lake side parks in Bengaluru megacity.

REFERENCE

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rat