Supplementary Material

**Supplementary Table S1.** Rodent species and total rodent abundance per locality (n = 26) in South Africa.

| Nearest town to locality | *Aethomys chrysophilus* | *Dasymys* sp.  | *Gerbilliscus brantsii* | *Lemniscomys rosalia* | *Mastomys coucha* | *Mastomys natalensis* | *Micaelamys namaquensis* | *Mus* (*Nannomys*)spp. | *Otomys* spp. | *Rhabdomys dilectus* | *Rhabdomys pumilio* | *Saccostomus campestris* | *Steatomys pratensis* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Beaufort West |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 15 |  |  |
| Bethulie |  |  |  |  |  |  | 17 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bloemfontein |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 19 |  |  |  |
| Carolina |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5 |  |  |  |
| East London |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 22 |  |  |  |
| Garies |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 27 |  |  |
| Kimberley site 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 32 |  |  |  |
| Kimberley site 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 15 |  | 1 | 15 |  | 5 |  |
| Loeriesfontein |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 31 |  |  |
| Mahikeng |  |  | 20 |  |  |  |  | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Matjiesfontein |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 27 |  |  |
| Middelburg  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  | 2 |
| Mooinooi | 8 |  |  | 14 | 21 |  |  | 7 |  |  |  |  | 10 |
| Newcastle |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 23 |  |  |  |
| Pietermaritzburg |  |  |  |  |  | 26 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pretoria site 1 |  | 4 |  |  | 44 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 97 |  |  |  |
| Pretoria site 2 |  |  |  |  | 18 |  |  |  | 2 | 24 |  |  |  |
| Somerset West |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 34 |  |  |
| Springbok |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 120 |  |  |
| Stellenbosch site 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 42 |  |  |
| Stellenbosch site 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 40 |  |  |
| Stellenbosch site 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 118 |  |  |
| Stutterheim site 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 8 | 30 |  |  |  |
| Stutterheim site 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 13 | 25 |  |  |  |
| Wellington |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 32 |  |  |
| Zeerust | 2 |  |  | 2 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Supplementary Table S2.** The proportion (%) of rodent species infected with helminth species, relative to food preference (FP) in each locality (I = invertebrates, P = plant material, S = seeds – in order of preference), *N* (number of hosts examined), HSR (helminth species richness per host), and number of localities where host occurred (LOC).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Host species by family | % | \*FP | LOC | *N* | HSR |
| *Aethomys chrysophilus*1 (de Winton) | 100 | S/P/I | 2 | 10 | 6 |
| *Dasymys* sp.1 | 50.0 | P/I | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| *Gerbilliscus brantsii*2 (Smith) | 65.0 | S/P/I | 1 | 20 | 11 |
| *Lemniscomys rosalia*1 Thomas | 82.3 | S/P/I | 3 | 17 | 10 |
| *Mastomys coucha*1 (Smith) | 60.0 | S/I/P | 4 | 85 | 13 |
| *Mastomys natalensis*1 (Smith) | 84.6 | S/P/I | 1 | 26 | 5 |
| *Micaelamys namaquensis*1 (A. Smith) | 82.9 | P/S/I | 5 | 35 | 10 |
| *Mus* (*Nannomys*) spp.1  | 38.5 | S/P/I | 4 | 13 | 6 |
| *Otomys* spp.3 | 52.0 | P | 5 | 25 | 5 |
| *Rhabdomys dilectus*1 (de Winton) | 78.8 | S/P/I | 10 | 292 | 26 |
| *Rhabdomys pumilio*1 (Sparrman) | 67.5 | S/P/I | 10 | 486 | 16 |
| *Saccostomus campestris*4 Peters | 100 | P/S/I | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| *Steatomys pratensis*5 Peters | 41.7 | S/I/P | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| **Total** | **69.5** |  |  | **1030** |  |
| \*According to Skinner & Chimimba (2005).Rodent subfamilies according to Wilson & Reeder (2005). 1 = Murinae; 2 = Gerbillinae; 3 = Otomyinae; 4 = Cricetomyinae; 5 = Dendromurinae. |