

Turkish Journal of Zoology


Turkish Journal

of

Zoology

Population Dynamics of Soft-Furred field rat, *Millardia meltada*, in Rice and wheat Fields in Central Punjab, Pakistan

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Abstract: Data on the abundance, reproduction, diet and damage index of the soft-furred field rat *Millardia meltada* were collected during the rice and wheat seasons. The abundance of *Millardia meltada* remained high at the post-harvest stage of the rice and wheat crops. The ploughing of fields did not affect the abundance of *Millardia*. The mean annual prevalence of pregnancy was 50% and the mean embryonic litter size 6.2 ± 0.4 . *Millardia* continued to eat wheat and rice grains over a long period even when there was no crop standing in the fields. The damage indices in rice and wheat crops were 17.8 and 28.3% respectively.

Key Words: *Millardia meltada*, abundance, reproduction, diet, rice, wheat, Punjab

Turk. J. Zool., **27**, (2003), 155-161.

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