

A report of house rat (*Rattus rattus* L.) damage on phylloclades of dragon plants (*Hylocereus* spp.)

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The dragon plant is an exotic fruit crop gaining importance in urban and peri-urban rooftop cultivation for its nutritional and commercial value. It requires minimal inputs for crop husbandry. Of late an unusual feeding pattern was observed in the phylloclades of dragon plants in the experimental unit of ICAR-Krishi

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Vigyan Kendra, Kollam. A motion-triggered camera was installed to monitor the pest, which was identified as *Rattus rattus* L. It badly damaged the phylloclades leaving the central core resulting in reduced photosynthetic activity and yield. This clearly highlights the infestation of rats on the phylloclades of dragon plants.

Keywords: Dragon plant, pests, phylloclade damage, *Rattus rattus*, rodent.