

## VARIATION AND FREQUENCY OF RODENT SPECIES IN KHORAM-ABBAD DISTRICT IN IRAN

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**Abstract** Rodents are able to transfer more than 35 diseases to human and also cause huge damages on the economy of many countries. Khoram-Abbad district is located in mountainous area, Zagros mountain chains, Southwest of Iran. Due to presence of varying ecosystems in this district, many species of rodents can be found here. A study was conducted between June 2002 and April 2003 to determine their species composition and where they were found. A total of 168 rodents were trapped during belonged to 2 suborders, 3 families, 9 genus and 9 species. *Merionus persicus* was the most dominant species (38.09%), while *Sciurus anomalus* was the rarest species (1.19%) among specimens. The highest biodiversity (7 species) was observed in altitude between 1800-2000 m above sea level with colder climate and grassy and wet land. In contrast, by decreasing altitude to 800-1200 m, warmer climate was recorded with drier and less grassy land. Diversity of species was also reduced to 2 species (*Mus musculus* and *Rattus rattus*) while these species were rare at level more than 1400 m.