

## Windy Hill Sanctuary - Narra Long Life Bait Trial Report February 2017

One of the key elements of successful rat trapping is the longevity of the bait used.

Peanut butter has been the main rat trap bait used over many years but can be rendered unpalatable by mould, old age, or disappear altogether when ants and other invertebrates take the bait. In all instances the trapping device is less than optimal lessening the efficacy of the trapping programme.

In 2015, the Sanctuary began trials of a range of long life lures for traps from Alpeco Ltd. Made from a polymer base the lures come in three flavours – vanilla, meat, and fish - and fit neatly into a Snap E rat trap. In addition, a block of the same flavour can also be added to the station to lift the attraction to rats. Both the lure and the block are pictured below.



The method used was to compare the trap catches between stations baited alternately with peanut butter and a Narra lure.

Between 20-25 of each bait type was established on an identified trapping route. The route was varied over time to allow for diversity of habitat and rat abundance. The stations were checked at least monthly and the peanut butter refreshed. Each trial went on for a minimum of 3 months.

<b>Results - NARA LONG LIFE BAIT TRIAL</b>										
Area - WH P2-5      25 traps Nara / 25 traps Control - Peanut Butter										
Baited	2/10/15									<b>To tal</b>
Checked	8/10/15	14/10/15	19/11/15	4/12/15	17/12/15	11/1/16	2/2/16	25/2/16		
Control -PB	13	1	0	5	11	5	0	1	<b>36</b>	
NARA	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	<b>7</b>	
Area - WH P33a      25 traps Nara / 25 traps Control - Peanut Butter										
Baited	25/2/16									
Checked	14/3/16	22/3/16	14/4/16	26/4/16	4/5/16	10/5/16	13/5/16	19/5/16		
Control -PB	2	5	2	7	1	5	2	2	<b>26</b>	
NARA	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	<b>14</b>	
Area - WHP2-PR2      25 traps Nara / 25 traps Control -Nara soaked in peanut oil										
Baited	19/5/16									
Checked	3/6/16	28/6/16	15/7/16	1/8/16						

Control-PB	5	5	3	2						15
NARA	5	5	1	2						13

<b>Area - WH P1-6 20 Long life meat lure + / 20 traps Control Peanut Butter</b>										
Date Baited	24/8/16									
Checked	22/9/16	13/10/16	16/11/16	22/11/16	15/12/16					
Control-PB	4	6	5	0	2					17
Meat Lure	1	2	2	1	1					7

<b>Area - WH P 1-6 20 Long life fish lure + / 20 traps Control Peanut Butter</b>										
Date Baited	24/8/16									
Checked	22/9/16	13/10/16	16/11/16	22/11/16	15/12/16					
Control-PB	8	2	3	0	3					16
Fish Lure	3	0	0	0	2					5

<b>Area - WHP 1-6 20 Long life vanilla lure + / 20 traps Control Peanut Butter</b>										
Date Baited	31/8/16									
Checked	22/9/16	13/10/16	16/11/16	23/11/16	15/12/16					
Control-PB	2	5	2	0	1					10
Vanilla	0	1	1	1	1					4

### Discussion

The results clearly indicate that none of the three lures were as effective as fresh peanut butter. However, the results gained from soaking the vanilla lures in peanut oil (yellow highlight) and then using them were successful enough to warrant a larger trial of this method.