Studies on the bait shyness and poison aversion in *B. bengalensis* using vacor and zinc phosphide as rodenticides have revealed an aversion. Bait shyness developed due to vacor lasting for 7-15 days only and it lasts up to 15-22 days in case of zinc phosphide.

Some observations on the cacao (*Theobroma cacao* L.) feeding behaviour in rodents

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Rodents cause considerable damage to cacao in south India. They usually damage the ripe pods but when ripe pods are not available they attack immature pods also. With the help of their sharp incisors they gnaw a hole on the pod surface. They eat the sweet mucilagenous covering of the beans and the beans are seldom consumed by them. The rodent damaged cacoa pods usually remain on the tree for months together and they may in turn act as the nucleus for 'black pod' a disease caused by the fungus *Phytophthora palmivora*.

The rodent damaged cacao pods can be easily identified by the incisor markings on the pod surface. But no information was available to distinguish between the squirrel *(Funambulus spp.)* and rat *(Rattus rattus)* damaged pods. My observations on the cacao feeding behaviour in squirrels and rats, both in field and in laboratory, revealed that the squirrels damage the centre or the terminal portion of the pods, whereas the rats damage the stalk portion. Moreover, the nibbled area in squirrel damaged pods is mostly oval to oblong in shape and in rat damaged pods it is round to triangle.