

TAWHITI KIORE

Kiore (pacific rat) came with the first migrants to Aotearoa in their waka (canoes). They were regularly hunted and eaten.

Three types of rat traps were commonly used, these included the pitfall trap, the taupopoki (spring snare trap), and the tawhiti makamaka (portable rat trap).

Read more about the way that kiore was prepared and the technology involved in catching them.



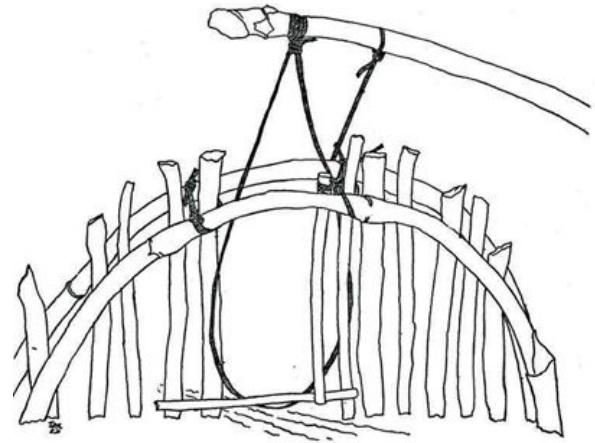
Tawhiti makamaka, a portable rat trap

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The taupopoki were set up on the paths where the rats would usually run.

As the rat runs through the loop the snare would lift off the ground, closing the rope around the rats neck.

Lifting the rat off the ground was important, otherwise the rat could simply chew through the rope and get away.



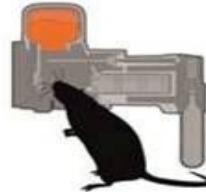
Taupopoki, a snare trap

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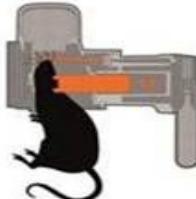
Today we are still interested in catching rats, but this is done for conservation, rather than dinner. Mostly we trap for black rats, which pose a threat to our native bird life.

The A24 rat trap is another incredible Kiwi innovation. When the rat tries to reach the lure inside the trap they brush past a trigger which fires a piston, killing them instantly. The piston retracts and resets ready for the next rat.

SNIFF SNIFF



KAPOW!



AUTO-RESET



SNIFF SNIFF...



SCAVENGED



TE TĀHERE MANU

Birds were an important food source for early Māori. There were kinds of bird traps including the korapa.

This trap was pegged upright, and bait - worms, berries or grubs - was scattered beside it. When birds arrived, the string was pulled and the trap landed on the bird. The korapa were used to catch small birds such as robins.

[Investigate other methods](#) of catching birds.

