

## HOW TO PREVENT HANTAVIRUS



The blooming of the Chilean bamboo attracts the long-tailed pygmy rice rat (between 2.3 and 3.1 inches long), which feeds on it. The rat is a reservoir host of the Andes virus, responsible for the hantavirus, a potentially-fatal lung disease.



- 1 Camp only in designated areas. Choose locations located far from potential rodent shelters, such as firewood piles, litter and dense vegetation.
- 2 Use floored tents and keep them shut.
- 3 Store your food in tightly-closed containers away from rodents' reach.
- 4 Do not leave food or water on plates or in open containers.
- 5 Dispose of your trash in designated areas. If there is no bin nearby, put it on heavy-duty trash bags for later disposal in designated areas.
- 6 Before drinking water from natural sources, add a drop of bleach for every liter of water and let it act for 30 minutes.
- 7 Do not touch leaves, stems and grains with your mouth.
- 8 Do not enter into reedbeds, abandoned sites, stables, sheds or firewood bins. These are potential rodent nests.
- 9 Hygiene is key - wash your hands properly and clean plates and utensils after use.
- 10 Clean up your camping site before leaving.