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## Sewer- dwelling carnivore shocks Far East

BY EMMA HARTLEY

HOSPITALS IN Far-Eastern cities as far apart as Singapore and Kuala Lumpur are overwhelmed with cases of septicaemia, following a massive and inexplicable increase in the numbers of a tropical rodent, *snapsus lavatoria*.

Known in Australia as the ‘little arse nipper’ (in deference to its larger cousin the ‘giant arse nipper’) the creature’s main habitat is inside the short section of pipework just beyond the ‘S’ bend of domestic WCs.

Although the small mammal can subsist for long periods on faeces, it is thought that an enriched diet caused by the inability of western tourists to keep down local food has caused a massive growth in its numbers. This might explain why *snapsus* is most commonly found in hotel en suite toilets.

The presence of the small furry creatures would go largely unnoticed, were it not for the abnormal behaviour of some individuals. The animals occasionally swim round the ‘S’ bend and leap out of the water, attacking the exposed flesh of anyone using the lavatory. Their sharp canine teeth inflict small but painful puncture wounds, and they sometimes hang on as their luckless victim rushes, knickerless, down to reception for help.

For unknown reasons they seem to strongly favour the buttocks of caucasian women in the 20 to 30 age group, and these women are strongly advised by the Foreign Office to hover at least 1 metre (3 feet) above the toilet seat at all times.