Genus Rattus

Vermin had become a big problem in Alqueria. That's vermin in the true sense of the word and not a euphemism for the more unsavoury elements of mankind. Alqueria would have a virtual monopoly if the latter was held to be true. These vermin were of the furry four legged variety that are reputed to run up people's trouser legs which is perhaps one of their less offensive pastimes.

Individuals of the genus Rattus had been mutating unseen along the banks of the Río Verde for years. The poor drainage, run off from Poyato's Remitroot production and pollution in general had produced a rich soup with the potential for producing genetic modification. The slow running river was a biological time-bomb which was in the process of a slow but profound detonation.

Some years ago when the rodents were of standard size but quite numerous the Alquerian Government made funds available for their eradication. However, a group of northern European politicians had threatened to visit the Village Republic on a fact finding mission. The money was used in bribes to prevent their coming. The rats were considered more acceptable than the arrival of the politicians. The physical size of these evil creatures, rats not the politicians has increased steadily ever since. The thought of a genetically modified politician is a moot point. Would it be an improvement or not?

The first sighting of one of these prodigious ratas was made by Loco Paco. People, quite naturally didn't believe him mainly on account of Bert, his imaginary five foot tall rodent friend with whom he conversed frequently and at length. It was only when Paco was seen chasing and was then chased by one of these monsters did people start to believe.

Since this initial sighting the rodents have become more brazen. One ordered a four course-meal including wine at the Bar La Casa Devante and paid with a stolen credit

card. Another hot-wired Rodriquez's Mercedes and 'cruised' down to the Costa del Sol committing petty crime and breaking every traffic regulation in the Peninsular en route. The situation was becoming dire. The final straw came when a dozen or so of the super rats broke into Poyato's Remitroot store and consumed the entire of last years vintage.

Now those familiar with Remitroot and its attributes will know that Remitroot Wine is not only a potent intoxicant it is also an aggressive aphrodisiac. The spectre of twelve huge rodents roaming Alqueria is frightening enough but rampaging drunk and sexually aroused rodents demanded action.

The elders of Alqueria had to act.
What was thier answer to the gigantic rodent issue?

We shall see.