

LASIUS FLAVUS 2 COLONY JOURNAL

14 March 2009

On Friday 13th March (yesterday), I got home from work just in time to meet the Parcel Force man who had a package for me; my new *Lasius flavus* colony that I had “accidentally” (:-P) ordered from Antstore earlier in the week. This colony consists of a small number of tiny, nanitic workers, about 15-20 in number, a tiny amount of brood, and one large, healthy looking queen. I have not attached a foraging box to this ant farm as these ants are subterranean foragers (meaning they rarely come to the surface, but forage underground for their food). Instead, what I have done is to attach the test tube they arrived in directly to the side of the ant farm itself. Once the ants move into the nesting box, I will use the tube they arrived in as a water reservoir, and place food in another test tube at the opposite end of the ant farm. I will probably keep the whole farm covered up to fool the ants into thinking they are underground, even when they are not.

05 April 2009

Hmm. These ants have done nothing whatsoever as far as I can see. They appear to be quite content just sitting at the far end of the tube. So far as I am aware they have not ventured out of the tube into the ant farm. Sometimes a tiny worker will walk toward the opening of the tube only to wander back to its nest mates. Oh well, experience tells me just to leave them to do what they wish to do.

25 April 2009

Much the same as above really; the ants are still nesting in the test tube which is attached directly to the nesting box. They seem happy enough there so I will let them get on with it. I am sure that as the colony grows so they will expand out of the tube.

13 June 2009

After the ants not even attempting to move out of the tube or even bring sand particles into the tube, I decided to check the sand out. It was far too wet. I removed all the sand and replaced it with soil; this time the ants showed much more interest and have now move out of the tube.