

2017

15 June 2017, Thursday

I obtained this small colony of *Tapinoma erraticum*, from Ants Kalytta today. The colony consists of one queen and about 50 workers, with a few pupae, and even a couple of callows present. Currently they reside in a test tube which I have placed open, into a small plastic tub which is attached to a horizontal acrylic ant farm I brought from Antstore last year. So far, I have tried this acrylic ant farm with three varied species of ant, and none of them like it, but I thought I would try it with these ants.

The ants are currently dashing about now as I have opened their tube up and placed it into the set up. They should settle and start to explore soon. More updates to follow.

18 June 2017, Sunday

These ants settled down very quickly from their journey from Germany, but have remained in their test tube despite having access to the horizontal acrylic ant farm. This is now the fourth ant species I have offered this type of ant farm to, and none of them seem to like it. The Goblin Colony workers explore it, and place their dead in it, but so far have refused to move in. Perhaps when they colony gets very large they will move in. There have been a few escapees which I found out was via the tiniest of gaps in the acrylic ant farm where the connecting tube joins, but I have now sealed that up. The queen remains hidden and some of the pupae are changing from a white colour to orangey-red, which means they are close to emerging into adult ants. They have eaten everything I have given them so far.

22 June 2017, Thursday

On looking in the colony today I noticed two winged males, which was a bit of a surprise. The males of this species are quite large compared to their workers, but their shape distinguishes them from winged queens. It'll be interesting to see how many more males are produced this year, and when they will attempt to fly.

23 June 2017, Friday

Couldn't go for my usual early morning run this morning as I hurt my back playing with a cat yesterday, so I am comforting myself by eat a pack of green Jelly babies >.< Anyway, this morning I dug out one of my spare small (kit A) ant farm nesting boxes, filled it with damp sandy loam, and attached it to the Goblin Colony foraging box, removing the unused acrylic horizontal ant farm. I attached this about two hours ago, but they haven't found it yet.