

Lasius niger 5

Obtained: 22 May 2013

This colony consisted of about 6-10 small workers, no brood and one fertile queen. I placed them into my glass ant farm and let them do their stuff.

3 August 2014

First of all, apologies for the huge gap in this journal but I had lost my original journal.

I have just returned home from 6 months out of the country. Before I went the colony had increased in size a little but not by much, and their nest consisted of one small chamber. However, when I got back home yesterday I checked their nest, not expecting to see much, but was pleasantly surprised to find that the colony had grown in size to about 50-70 workers, loads of brood, and the queen still reigns. This colony looks promising. I gave them a piece of wax worm, their first insect protein type food for 6 months, and they swarmed all over it. Now I am home for a good period of time I will be able to give them plenty of food which will cause their colony, hopefully, to flourish.

8 August 2014

This colony still doesn't forage in huge numbers by they definitely are getting busier. I gave them some crickets, flies, wax worm and a large fruit beetle grub, all of which they eat from. I saw the queen yesterday; very photophobic but good to see her alive and well.