

PHEIDOLE PALLIDULA COLONY JOURNAL

27 May 2008

I received this colony today from Ant Store, consisting of about 50-60 workers, 2 soldiers, a few larvae, and 1 queen. These ants are tiny; about 2-3mm (workers). The queen is huge in comparison. They are in an Ant Store starter kit and are busy exploring the foraging tank. The set up is currently on my computer desk and the ants are, as I type this journal entry, being viewed "live" by my friend "Offit Lad" via my webcam on MSN.

13 June 2008

This ants have been eating like there's no tomorrow, and have created quite an extensive nest with a lot of long, thin tunnels, including a chamber at the very bottom of the ant farm. There must be some 'inner' tunnels and chambers hidden from view as I cannot see any brood or the queen (both of which I know are present). The workers keep also finding their way out of the foraging box and onto my computer desk.

9 July 2008

DISASTER!!!

Yesterday I was watching the workers in this colony bring out the head of what I assumed was a soldier, judging by its size. However, shortly afterward this was followed by a large ant abdomen – too large for a soldier. I knew then that what I was seeing was the remains of the queen. Why she had died I have no idea; perhaps she was an old queen when I got her; perhaps she had some disease; perhaps she had something else wrong with her. The colony is now doomed as there is no queen to produce more ants. There is still some brood in the nest, but these will only produce workers or soldiers. A sad day ☹

26 July 2008

On checking the colony again today, I see only one solitary soldier ant, no others, and no brood either. It is amazing how quickly a colony will die out when the queen dies/is taken away. It is as if the ants give up and just lie down and die. There is no sign of any corpses :-S

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