

2017

13 June 2017, Tuesday

I obtained this small colony of *Myrmica rubra*, a red stinging ant found throughout Europe, including the UK, from Ants Kalytta via a friend. The colony consists of one queen and about 50-60 workers, with a few larvae present. Currently they reside in a test tube which I have placed open, into a small outworld. Attached to the outworld is a horizontal acrylic ant farm I brought from Antstore last year. So far, I have tried this acrylic ant farm with three different species of ant, and none of them like it, including these rubras. I am not sure why they don't like it but I will keep trying.

The ants settled in very quickly into their new home and seem happy. They have been eating flies, cockroach and protein jelly. I am going to do an over-feeding challenge with this colony, which is something my friend Dermv used to do with his dermestids colonies. Should be interesting.

18 June 2017, Sunday

These ants have settled in well, but have not moved out of their test tube, despite having the acrylic ant farm attached to it. They have explored it in few numbers, but so far don't seem to like it. The queen looks healthy and remains in the test tube, near the cotton wool wick at the far end of the tube. They have eaten everything I have given them, leaving little leftovers. I have noticed some of them wrestling with each other. Ants don't usually attack their own, but perhaps this is some hierarchy behaviour amongst the workers.

22 June 2017, Thursday

This colony appears to have abandoned their test tube for a corner of the foraging box, near the water bowl, though the queen, brood and a few workers remain in the test tube. I have ordered a large ant farm set up, which should arrive tomorrow to transfer this colony into. I am giving up on the acrylic horizontal farm. None of my ant colonies seem to like them.

23 June 2017, Friday

KK, seeing as these ants are ignoring the horizontal acrylic ant farm, I have attached their foraging box to a new glass ant farm (Starter Kit C), which I filled with damp sandy loam. I have covered it up with a dark cloth and left them to it. This was about two hours ago, and a couple of workers are exploring it already. Be interesting to see what they think of it.

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