

TEMNOTHORAX NYLANDERI COLONY JOURNAL

21 August 2007

I obtained this colony from the German ant supplier Ant Store on 21 August 2007.

These ants are yellow - and tiny, with the largest worker being about the size of a first generation *Lasius niger nanitic*, and the smallest being merely 2mm in size. The queen is about 5mm. These ants prefer to live on the surface of the ground rather than within it, and frequently nest under stones, in bark, and inside acorns. My colony arrived in the traditional glass test tube from Antstore, but was actually living in an open acorn within the tube. I have placed the test tube into the *Lasius niger* tank, along with some pieces of dead wood. *Temnothorax nylanderi* avoid contact with other ants and are safe (allegedly) to be kept with other species.

9 September 2007

It would appear that it is not going to be easy to report on these ants very often due to the fact that they are so small they go quite unnoticed in the leaf litter of their tank. They have vacated the acorn and nested, I believe, under a piece of wood. I removed the acorn from the test tube and placed it into the tank, and removed the test tube altogether. I have seen a few of them foraging and eating, but only on the occasional day.

6 October 2007

I have not seen anything of these ants over the past few weeks, and it appears that they have not been foraging at all; however, they are so small that they could be foraging among the leaf litter and I not notice it. Due to the fact that the outside temperature, particularly at night, has been dropping, it is probable that these ants are preparing for hibernation.

22 October 2007

Hibernating!

15 April 2008

I have not seen these ants at all since the last update, though I do not get to check on the as often as I like. I can only assume that they are still alive. Being so small they are difficult to spot very easily.

28 April 2008

I actually spotted a worker from this colony today! She was walking around among the leaf litter in their tank. These ants are tiny – 2 mm! You can only see them if you really look for them. This was encouraging as it means there is a very good chance that the rest of the colony is still alive – somewhere!

30 April 2008

These ants are certainly out of hibernation now; there have been up to half a dozen workers from what I could see, feeding from a piece of freshly killed cricket.

08 May 2008

Today I removed a dried out cricket corpse that had been in the tank for the past week, and there was still one worker ant feeding from it (or at least exploring it). I gently removed her back into the tank and throw out the old bit of food before placing in some fresh cricket. No ants have been to investigate it yet.

9 August 2008

Due to the lack of time that I have to dedicate to my many ant colonies, I have decided to give several of them away, and this colony is one of them. Therefore this journal is now closed. Sorry for any disappointment to those that may have been following the progress of this colony.

JOURNAL CLOSED