

Project 005

Queen Capture Kit

Steve Cowles (May 2023)



Purpose

Most years we complain about flying ants, usually once a year on a warm summer's evening, generally when it has rained earlier in the day. This is the 'nuptial flight' for ants when they leave their nest to fly away, mate, and start a new colony and my cunning plan is to interrupt the process by stealing a few mated queens for my evil experiments.

Since I'm only likely to get one chance, history suggests this is most likely to be at some point during July, but it has been getting a few days earlier in recent years.

Preparation is all and I now have this small box at the foot of my stairs to grab in a rush the first time I spot someone complaining about flying ants on Facebook. I will be heading off to the cycle path as ants are often seen on the footpath there.

My Kit

This is my first attempt at preparing a queen kit, maybe it will change over time but I found myself a small but strong cardboard box. I figure that if it is too big I'll not carry it about at the right time of year and maybe miss the opportunity. I've selected

- some unused takeaway sauce pots, these stack into a small space
- a lightweight carrier bag
- a sheet of 'blue roll'
- a couple of cotton buds
- a cotton wool ball

The whole thing is 150 x 110 x 70mm.

