

Colony Diary 002

Lasius Niger

Steve Cowles (May 2023)



Purpose

I'm conscious that a colony takes a long time to build, starting slowly and am concerned that if my other queen (any only ant) doesn't make it I will effectively lose a year.

To fix this I have bought another queen, this time I have chosen lasius niger, these are the black garden ant which most of us in the UK will have seen many times.

This diary is really for my own use to record what has happened and when so that I can look back and hopefully take some lessons from it.

Source

The ant was purchased from Amazon (the seller was antsrus) and she cost me £9.95 including postage and arrived in a few days in a test tube packed in a padded envelope. This purchase was just a queen with no brood.

Events

Although I am not planning to document every feed and every tiny thing which happen, I do want to keep enough of a record to act as a reminder when I look back so here goes.

Date	Event	Notes
04/05/2023	Delivery	The package was delivered late in the morning, I put it aside somewhere quiet until the evening before opening it carefully.
04/05/2023	Check	The queen is alive and very active and looks no worse for its journey. As stated, there is no brood.
04/05/2023	Note	<p>I have wrapped the test tube in tin foil to block out the light and put in a quiet place on top of a rarely used cupboard at around 20°C where it will be left for a few days to let them get over any travel stress before I have a proper look.</p> <p>I'm hoping to get a very small colony of workers together before the winter hibernation starts but have no higher expectations than that.</p>

Date	Event	Notes
07/05/2023	Check	It has been a few days, so I have checked again, all looks well but no more brood yet.
10/05/2023	Check	No change, the queen still looks healthy. I may leave it for longer before checking next if I have the patience.