



The user manual of the formicarium :

KING CORK FORMICARIUM+

MESSOR BARBARUS/ LASIUS NIGER + Basic décor items

One of the most common breeding mistakes is placing too small an ant colony in the formicarium that is too big for them!

If the number of purchased workers is smaller than the below-mentioned, the colony should be grown in a test tube or in a smaller nest.

For the King Cork formicarium - we recommend:

- **1 cork nest:**

min. the number to settle the formicarium: queen plus 200 ants (size like Messor barbarus)

the maximum number of ants that the formicarium can accommodate: queen plus 2,500-3000 workers

- **2 cork nests:**

min. the number to settle the formicarium: queen plus 400 ants (size like Messor barbarus)

the maximum number of ants that the formicarium can hold: queen plus 5000 workers

If there are fewer ants than the given minimum, the second nest can be plugged and opened for ants reaching a given minimum.

Preparation of the formicarium:

Before letting ants into the formicarium, read the following points:

1. **Unpack the set carefully**, and remove the top glass of the formicarium:



2. **Arrange sand and décor items in the arena part** at our own way. You shouldn't however, overdo it with sand, gravel, or earth so that ants do not bury themselves there.

3 **Irrigate the cork part** in such a way that the ants have access to the water, but that the cork nest was not completely wetted (maximum ¼ of the cork length)

There is a risk of the seeds deposited in cork nests by ants germinating chambers when irrigating the entire cork.

We irrigate the cork part from above: we let 2-3 injections of water with a pipette (the first hydration) During the first watering of the nest, the water slowly seeps in. At subsequent irrigation, the water will soak up faster.

The cork should be watered regularly - on average, every 8-10 days (depending on the season, and temperature). Observe the color of the cork. If changed, the nest can be considered to be watered.

If it is too dark, it may mean that we gave too much water (then you should limit watering to some time) If you irrigate the cork too often, mold may develop.

4. **Let the ants in**, putting an open test tube in the arena. Ants should not be stressed.

They should feel like they can go to a better, moistened space, and after some time (sooner or later) they will transfer themselves to the new formicarium. The ant resettlement process can take some time up to 2 weeks. This is usually done within 1-3 days.

5. **Enjoy the observation :)**

Feeding of ants *Lasius niger* :

1. When feeding small colonies with a **protein food** (mealworms, crickets, cockroaches) cut the insect into 3 parts and throw in the middle part of the insect. If you have a bigger ant colony it can eat an entire insect. We serve them once a week or twice a week depending on the size of the colony. The mealworm can be stored in the refrigerator/freezer. It should be thawed before serving.

2. **Feeding with honey, egg yolk, dried hemoglobin, dried smelt, dry food**

basic bee pollen: mix dry food in water and put a small drop on the feeder.

Feeding ants *Messor barbarus*:

1. **Seeds** - put on the rear part of the formicarium (on the arena). The seeds that Messory like are the seeds of the grass, linseed, poppy seeds and others.

Attention! Do not give the ants too many grains. A tiny purse that you buy in our store should last for 3 months. If the ants have too many seeds, they will not be able to turn them into ants bread and play with them (they are moved from place to place)

2. **Protein food**, e.g. mealworms, crickets, cockroaches - cut the insect into 3 parts and add the middle part of the arena. If you have a larger colony, it can eat the entire insect. We serve it once a week or twice a week depending on the size of the colony.

Note: Messors do not eat honey!

Formicarium care:

1. **Provide moisture in the nest** - the description is a few points higher in the point

"Preparation of the formicarium" - Ants will die without moistening the formicarium!

2. You should **collect leftover** food, e.g. mealworm shells, uneaten honey, and seed residues.

Not cleaning the formicarium may result in the development of mold or other microorganisms.

3. Formicarium can not be kept exposed to the sun or on the windowsill or on any other place stressful for the ants.

More on ant breeding:

1) General instructions in our store:

<http://www.antcenter.com.pl/pl/i/Instrukcje/17>

2) ANTCENTER channel on YT: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCONk6KmNKk6rvKmRWfL6m9w>

3) Breeding advice by phone: 728 215 422 (from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on working days)

4) AntCenter forum on FaceBook.

Remember that animals mean responsibility!

We wish you successful breeding 😊

AntCenter.com.pl