

# Formica cinerea

## WOOD ANT

### QUICK DESCRIPTION



**Formica cinerea** is a **medium-sized fast-growing species of ant**, very easy to find all across the European continent. The workers of this species range between **5 and 8 mm**, and the queen has a size of approximately **12mm**.

### DISTRIBUTION



Formica cinerea is mainly a **Mediterranean species**, but can easily be found **all across Europe and in some parts of North America**.

### TEMPERATURE



Formica cinerea, like many other Mediterranean species, are very adaptable to temperature changes. The ideal temperature for this species is **between 21 and 27 degrees Celsius**. If you live in a cold area or you usually use an air conditioner in the room your ants are in, maybe **a heat mat or a heat cable could be useful**.

### HUMIDITY



When it comes to humidity levels, Formica cinerea doesn't have extreme demands. They like a range of moisture levels that go **from 50% to 60%**. One thing you have to take into account is that this species **doesn't like extremely dry climates**. If you notice that your nest dries out too quickly, you may have to consider changing the setup a bit.



### FOOD



As the sugar source, you can give them **sugar water or some drops of honey**. Given their fast growth rate, they also need a lot of protein. As the source of protein, you can give them almost every insect. In the wild they love **crickets, worms, fruit flies and spiders**.

### HIBERNATION



Formica cinerea needs hibernation. They hibernate through the winter, **from around late October to early March**. For this species, the ideal temperature for hibernation is **between 5 and 8 degrees Celsius**.

### NEST TYPE



In my opinion, when it comes to choosing a formicarium for Formica cinerea, **the best choice would be a Ytong nest**. A great advantage of using this type of nest is that **it creates a strong contrast with the ants**. The workers of this species are of a very dark color, and given that the Ytong is almost always completely white, **it makes watching the ants extremely easy and enjoyable!**