

Lasius emarginatus

RED GARDEN ANT

QUICK DESCRIPTION



Lasius emarginatus is a **small-sized fast-growing species of ant**. Very similar to *Lasius niger*, this species can be effortlessly recognized by its characteristic reddish thorax, very visible in the workers and the queens.

DISTRIBUTION



Lasius emarginatus is **extremely common in Europe**, where it fills the yards of every house on the continent. They like to nest **under sidewalks, in gardens, and between the cracks in the walls**.

TEMPERATURE



Lasius emarginatus is very adaptable, and can easily be kept at room temperature. If you wanna speed up the colony development a bit, the ideal temperature would be **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 could be a useful ally**.

HUMIDITY



When it comes to humidity levels, *Lasius emarginatus* doesn't have extreme demands. They like a range of moisture levels that go **from 50% to 60%**. If you notice that your nest dries out too quickly, **you may have to consider changing the setup a bit**.



FOOD



Lasius emarginatus loves every type of high-sugar food. **Honey, fruit, sugar water, ant jellies, jams...** They go crazy for them! As the protein source, you can give them almost every type of insect. In the wild they usually eat **crickets, different types of worms, fruit flies, and spiders**. In a nutshell, everything they find on their path!

HIBERNATION



Lasius emarginatus 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, one of the best options when it comes to choosing a formicarium for *Lasius emarginatus*, is **a very basic but effective Ytong nest!** Other valid alternatives for housing this species are a more classic **sandwich nest**, and a more modern **acrylic nest**.