Messor barbarus

RED-HEADED HARVESTER ANT

QUICK DESCRIPTION

Messor barbarus is a species of **harvester ant,** the common name given to any of the species of ant that collect seeds. These species of ants like to store the seeds inside the nest, keeping them ready for every eventuality.

DISTRIBUTION

This beautiful red-headed species of harvester ant is native to the land surrounding the Mediterranean. They can be found in some countries located in **Southern Europe** and **Northern Africa**.

TEMPERATURE

Messor barbarus, like many other Mediterranean species, are very adaptable to temperature changes. The ideal temperature for this species is **between 21 and 26 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

This species like a range of moisture levels that go from **50%** to **60%**. This range of moisture is perfect for the nest chambers dedicated to the brood and the colony. For **the granaries**, the chambers dedicated to the seeds, the moisture should be very low, and should stay in the **10%** to **50%** range.

FOOD

Unlike other species, Messor barbarus can obtain every element by **only eating seeds**. The seeds contain some dose of **protein, carbohydrates and also fats!** When the colony has grown to a certain size, you can also give them some additional source of protein, in order to boost the development of the brood.

HIBERNATION

Messor barbarus needs hibernation. They hibernate through the winter, **from around late October to early March**. For this species, the ideal temperature for hibernation is around **15 degrees Celsius**.

NEST TYPE

One of the most used nest types for this species is **Ytong**. Ytong is a particular type of aerated concrete, usually used in construction. Other nest options for this species are **acrylic nests** and **natural setups**, perfect for replicating their natural environment.

BRUMA ANTS