



## Collecting and keeping *Temnothorax* ants

*You need: Bowl, zip lock bag, marker, brush, three chamber-nest, Vaseline, filter paper, spray bottle with water, spray bottle with honey, house crickets, food bowl, metal plate, inlay nest, red foil*

1. Search for hollow acorns in the foliage and open them above the bowl using your fingernails.
2. As soon as you have found an ant colony inside an acorn, transfer the acorn with all its ants from the bowl into the bag (using the brush).
3. Close the bag carefully.
4. Mark the bag with your name.
5. Prepare a new nest site for your ant colony:

 **Attention!**

Put only one ant colony (one acorn) into a bag at a time!



### 1<sup>st</sup> step: Preparing the three chamber-nest

Brush all the inner walls sparingly with Vaseline. Place filter paper on the floors of the three chambers and moisten the chamber on the right (using the spray bottle).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> step: Provide nutrition

Place the food bowl in the center of the three chamber-nest and the metal plate (=water point) in the chamber on the right. Put a little drop of honey and a little piece of house cricket in the food bowl. Place a drop of water on the metal plate.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> step: Provide a substitute for the acorn

Remove all the remaining huge acorn pieces. For this purpose, use the brush to push the ants and their offspring (!) out of the acorn into the bag. Place an inlay nest with the transparent cover down inside the bag, close the bag carefully, and leave it in a horizontal position from now on.

 **Attention!**

Have a close look at acorn pieces!  
Ants and their offspring often stay between the acorn layers.

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### Next lesson:

6. Take the inlay nest carefully out of the bag and place it with the transparent cover up inside the three chamber-nest in the chamber on the left. The entrance must be in the direction of the conjunction between the chamber on the left and the middle chamber.
7. Cover the inlay nest with red foil.
8. Use the brush to transfer free ants from the bag to the three chamber-nest and lock up the nest with the cover.
9. Mark the three chamber-nest with your name.