



Development of castes within a colony

All insects have basic physical structures in common. Nevertheless, every species looks differently. In the case of ants, even the members within a colony look differently. We speak of **castes** whose morphology and behavior are adapted to certain tasks.

1. Compare the morphology of worker, queen, and – if available – male ants with the aid of the table. Make guesses before observing the ants in your nest closely using stereo microscopes.
2. Explain the different appearances with the function of worker, queen, and male ants (final column in your table).

Body part / appearance	Worker	Queen	Male (if available)	Possible reasons for differences
Body size (in comparison)	The queen is larger because it lays eggs and therefore has larger ovaries.
Head-thorax-ratio
Thorax-gaster-ratio
Mouthparts
Size of compound eyes
Simple eyes on the forehead
Wing (roots)
Color
Other