**Ant documentary**

**Day 1 (9/5/2017)**

Nuptial flight was noticed. Many males and females were gathered around a water puddle, of which some had drowned. I collected 6 queens and one male that was still attached and mating with one of the queens. 2 of which were in the process of digging holes. All queens had already shed their wings except the mating pair. All have been kept in individual containers and fed a single grain of rice, piece of a cookie, and a Q-tip dipped in water.

Only one queen is smaller and more of a red color and was identified as House Stark. The mating pair was named House Lannister. The others of which I have difficulty being identified separately by visual means were identified by the following: House Targaryen, Drogon,Viserion, & Rhaegal.

From local ant nests and online research, I am quite positive the species is identified as Big Headed Ants (*Pheidole*) or Harvester Ants (Pogonomyrmex)

 **Day 2 (9/6/2017)**

Seems like the nuptial season is over, as there are only a dozen male and females sparsely running around, and a bunch of dead ones all over the area. I can see new dug up dens of new queens, which the entrance has been blocked off. I guess I am lucky to have the ones I caught, as I wasn’t in the area over Labor Day weekend. My observations of the ants are as follows:

House Targaryen: When opening the lid, she is very aware of her surrounding and is reared up in a seemingly attack mode. After a while she calms down and wanders her area and grooms herself. Seems healthy. Water is added, food is still present.

House Stark: Very calm and not shocked when opening the container. Very laid back. Seems to be the only one that the water didn’t dry up. Seems healthy. Water is added, food is still present.

House Lannister: The male is still alive and both still have their wings intact. The male is very laid back, while the female seems to be trying to get out of the container. She might not be a fan of the male being with her, but I am assuming he will die soon from what I read online. Both seem healthy. Water is added, food is still present.

Drogon: When opening the lid, she is very aware of her surrounding and is reared up in a seemingly attack mode like House Targaryen. After a while she calms down and wanders her area. Seems to like to hangout on the moist Q-tip. Water is added, food is still present.

Viserion: Very calm and not shocked when opening the container. Oddly enough she had frayed out the Q-tip to be a more fluffed, and is seen continuing to loosen the cotton out. Water is added and she took to drinking immediately, food is still present.

Rhaegal: Very calm and not shocked when opening the container. Seems to like being on the moist Q-tip, rarely wanders. Water is added, food is still present.

**Day 3 (9/7/2017)**

Walking around outside, I spotted one queen running around aimlessly. So I figured I guess this will be lucky number seven aka House Greyjoy. Opened all the containers today. All Queens seemed to be stunned and ready to defend themselves, except for House Stark who remained calm. I decided they needed a source of protein, so they got pieces of chicken. I also added an additional Q-tip so they have extra water, as I will be gone for my usual 3 day weekend. I hope they all survive and the water lasts this long. I also noticed that in House Targaryen and Viserion’s containers might be developing mold, but we will see on Monday if I need to clean their spaces. Otherwise, they still seem healthy. Also as expected the Male in House Lannister died, and the Queen’s wings are degrading, but not falling off. This weekend will prove if this journal continues.

**Day 6 (9/10/2017)**

I was called in to work today for a couple hrs. And when I checked up on the ants I had some bad news. House Greyjoy and House Lannister died. To make matters worse, Viserion, House Stark, and House Targaryen seem to have mold issues. I cleaned out the old containers to transplant Viserion & House Stark, but I believe House Targaryen has a couple eggs, so I do not want to ruin them. So I will see what tomorrow brings for this situation. Added water to all, removed food, as I found out all these ants are fully claustal, meaning they don’t need to rely on food till they have workers.

**Day 7 (9/11/2017)**

I came in work, and to my surprise, Viserion, Drogon, & House Stark have all died. Leaving only Rhaegal & House Targaryen left. I was able to acquire a test tube, so one of these two will get that set-up as I see online that might be more promising for survival, as water won’t be limited. The other one I will need to figure out a similar set-up. I just don’t know how I can rig it. But time is wasting and eggs might be coming soon, as I think House Targaryen didn’t have eggs or maybe ate her eggs. But once these set-ups are complete, I will not be checking up on them so often as to not stress them too much.

**Day 14 (9/18/2017)**

Last Thursday I had finally set up the test tube for Rhaegal. As for House Targaryen, I made a make shift test tube from a syringe, which over the weekend seems like a promising substitute. And speaking of which, my observations of both of them looks to reveal they have both laid eggs, so that is exciting, I will continue to not bother them as much as possible to not stress them.

**Day 22 (9/26/2017)**

With the continued process of hardly bothering the Queens, I have finally did a more in-depth observation of them. Rhaegal looks happy and the most promising to have a successful colony. I can count out at least 7 eggs in her 1st batch that she seems to scatter to keep them in the right conditions. House Targaryen has some concerns, one is the issue to maintain the water levels, which I think the last time might have drowned her eggs, as I do not see any eggs in this observation. However, she has made a sort of burrow in the cotton (possibly for better water access) and she might have moved her eggs in there, which would camouflage in the white cotton. So with her I guess only time will tell, or hopefully she lays more soon. The next time I bother them will most likely be when I relocate my desk as I will be transitioning to day shift eventually as I was promoted at work (and yes I am keeping these Ants at my workplace).

**Day 28 (10/2/2017)**

Despite how promising everything has seemed for Rhaegal, she has been found deceased. House Targaryen is now my sole survivor. This concerns me, as if she dies, I am out of luck for another year to try this again. But I am considering combining the test tube with the syringe to see if this combined setup will work without me having to keep adding water for her. I first thought to move her just into the test tube, but I don’t want to risk the loss of any hidden eggs, as there are a few that are visible. 3 eggs to be exact. I now wonder if these are the original ones, or new eggs due to the water overload when I accidently drowned the 1st batch. After some observation, I think I will hold off on adding the test tube. She seems very attentive to her eggs, so I hypothesis that the eggs have hatched and she is now feeding and caring for them, so I might as well not mess with what is working. Apparently I have about another month before the babies become Pupae stage, as the average cycle for ants are 8 to 12 weeks from egg to adult according to online research. Also instead of House Targaryen, I am going to refer to her as Khaleesi.