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SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Lasius brunneus* (Latr.) (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) found indoors.** – In May 2003, a naturalist colleague Mr Mike Paice gave me four ants; he had found them in a house in the village of Jacob's Well, near Guildford, Surrey, where they had been infesting a tin of biscuits. To my surprise, they were *Lasius brunneus*. In virtually all of the literature, this species is described as being 'fugitive', alluding to its evasive, secretive and non-aggressive habits. To find it invading a house is very unusual. From my own experience the normal ant found indoors is the ubiquitous black pavement ant, *Lasius niger* (L.), which commonly invades kitchens. Busy ant trails often lead to small amounts of spilled food in larders and cupboards or spoiled fruit at the bottom of the fruit bowl. In Norway and Sweden, *L. brunneus* is recorded from timbers in old houses and farm buildings (Collingwood, C. A. 1979. The Formicidae (Hymenoptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. *Fauna Ent. Scand.* **8**: 98–99). The house in Jacob's Well is old, part of it, and the adjoining barn having been built around 1640, so the ant may well have been nesting in some of the ancient building timber. – RICHARD A. JONES, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ. bugmanjones@hotmail.com



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