



Digital supplementary material to

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The content of this digital supplementary material was subject to the same scientific editorial processing as the article it accompanies. However, the authors are responsible for copyediting and layout.

Video S1. 3D printing process of artificial galls. (separate .mp4 file)

Video S2. Example of colonization by *Crematogaster scutellaris*. (separate .mp4 file)

Tab. S1. Checklist of the ant species found inside the artificial galls without chamber and with a chamber on plants in the natural site. The total number of galls colonized by each species or not colonized by ants, while the colony composition illustrates the number of galls with presence of queen(s) only (Q), queen(s), and brood (QB), workers and brood (WB), workers only (W), or a complete colony (COL) with queen, brood and workers (Q+B+W) in the ant-colonized galls.

Species	Field area											
	Artificial galls											
	Galls without chamber on plants						Galls with chamber on plants					
	Colonized galls	Colony composition					Colonized galls	Colony Composition				
		Q	QB	WB	W	COL		Q	QB	WB	W	COL
<i>Crematogaster scutellaris</i> (Olivier, 1792)	25	2	-	15	8	-	19	2	1	14	2	-
<i>Colobopsis truncata</i> (Spinola, 1808)	9	-	-	-	-	9	7	2	-	-	-	5
<i>Dolichoderus quadripunctatus</i> (Linneus, 1771)	1	-	-	-	-	1	9	2	-	-	-	7
<i>Camponotus fallax</i> (Nylander, 1856)	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Temnothorax italicus</i> (Consani 1952)	3	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	2
Galls not colonized	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-

Tab. S2. Checklist of the ant species present inside the natural galls placed on the trees in the natural site. The total number of galls colonized by each species or not colonized by ants, while the colony composition illustrates the number of galls with the presence of queen(s) only (Q), queen(s), and brood (QB), workers and brood (WB), workers only (W), or a complete colony (COL)

Species	Field area					
	Tot	Natural galls				
		Colony Composition				
		Q	QB	WB	W	COL
<i>Crematogaster scutellaris</i> (Olivier, 1792)	27	3	6	11	1	6
<i>Camponotus lateralis</i> (Olivier, 1792)	2	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Dolichoderus quadripunctatus</i> (Linneus, 1771)	7	-	-	-	-	7
<i>Temnothorax italicus</i> (Consani 1952)	3	-	-	-	-	3
<i>Camponotus fallax</i> (Nylander, 1856)	3	-	-	-	-	3
Non-colonized galls	38					

Tab. S3. Checklist of the ant species present inside the artificial galls on the ground in the natural area. The total number of galls colonized by each species or not colonized by ants, while the colony composition illustrates the number of galls with number of galls with the presence of queen(s) only (Q), queen(s), and brood (QB), workers and brood (WB), workers only (W), or a complete colony(COL)

Species	Field area						Field area					
	Tot	Galls without chamber on the ground					Tot	Galls with chamber on the ground				
		Q	QB	W B	W	COL		Q	QB	W B	W	COL
<i>Crematogaster scutellaris</i> (Olivier, 1792)	14	-	-	17	7	-	10	-	1	5	4	-
<i>Temnothorax lichtensteini</i> (Bondroit, 1918)	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Temnothorax unifasciatus</i> (Latreille, 1798)	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Temnothorax italicus</i> (Consani 1952)	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Lasius fuliginosus</i> (Latreille, 1798)	4	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
<i>Mirmecyna graminicola</i> (Latreille, 1802)	2	-	-	-	-	2	0	-	-	-	-	-
Non-colonized galls	17	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-

Tab. S4. Checklist of the ant species found inside the artificial galls placed on trees in the urban site. The total number of galls colonized by each species or not colonized by ants, while the colony composition illustrates the number of galls with the presence of queen(s) only (Q), queen(s), and brood (QB), workers and brood (WB), workers only (W), or a complete colony (COL).

Species	Urban area					Urban area					
	Galls without chamber on plants					Galls with chamber on plants					
	Tot	Colony Composition				Tot	Colony Composition				
	Q	QB	WB	W	COL	Q	QB	W B	W	COL	
<i>Crematogaster scutellaris</i> (Olivier, 1792)	19	-	17	7	-	10	-	1	5	4	-
<i>Colobopsis truncata</i> (Spinola, 1808)	1	-	-	-	-	1	8	1	7	-	-
<i>Camponotus lateralis</i> (Olivier, 1792)	5	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	2
<i>Dolichoderus quadripunctatus</i> (Linneus, 1771)	5	-	-	-	-	5	17	-	-	-	17
Non-colonized galls	10	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-

Tab. S5. Checklist of the ant species present inside the artificial galls on the ground in the urban area. The total number of galls colonized by each species or not colonized by ants is given (Colonized galls), while the colony composition illustrates the number of galls with the presence of queen(s) only (Q), queen(s), and brood (QB), workers and brood (WB), workers only (W), or a complete colony (COL).

Species	Urban area					Urban area					
	Galls without chamber on the ground					Galls with chamber on the ground					
	Tot	Colony Composition				Tot	Colony Composition				
	Q	QW B	WB	W	COL	Q	QW B	WB	W	COL	
<i>Crematogaster scutellaris</i> (Olivier, 1792)	4	-	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	3	-
<i>Pheidole pallidula</i> (Nylander, 1849)	7	-	-	-	2	5	5	-	-	-	5
<i>Tapinoma magnum</i> (Linneus, 1771)	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
No-colonized galls	9	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-
Damaged	19	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-