

Supporting figures

site West-Vleteren



site Oudenburg

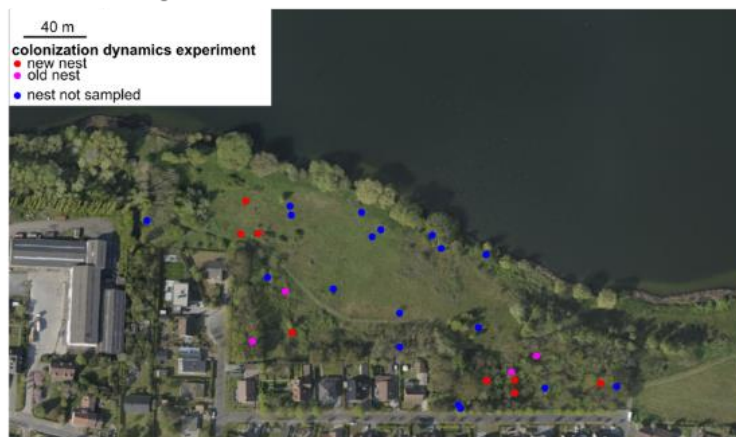


FIGURE S1. Map of red wood ant nest distribution. a) study site West-Vleteren (WV) with the sampled forest fragments: here both spatial distribution and colonization dynamics were tested b) study site Oudenburg (OB): here we only tested colonization dynamics.



FIGURE S2. Overview of the sampling of myrmecophiles. a) rectangular “accumulation” pitfall to assess the spatial distribution of myrmecophiles outside the nest (here displayed without the plastic roof) b) Forest pitfall with grey roof outside red wood ant mound. c) Intranidal pitfall positioned in red wood ant mound to sample intranidal guests. The pitfall was completely covered with nest material afterwards. d) Newly founded red wood ant nest. e) Non-invasive pitfall with wood chips and a plaster floor used to sample myrmecophiles in the colonization dynamics experiment. Two of the four holes in the wall can be seen.

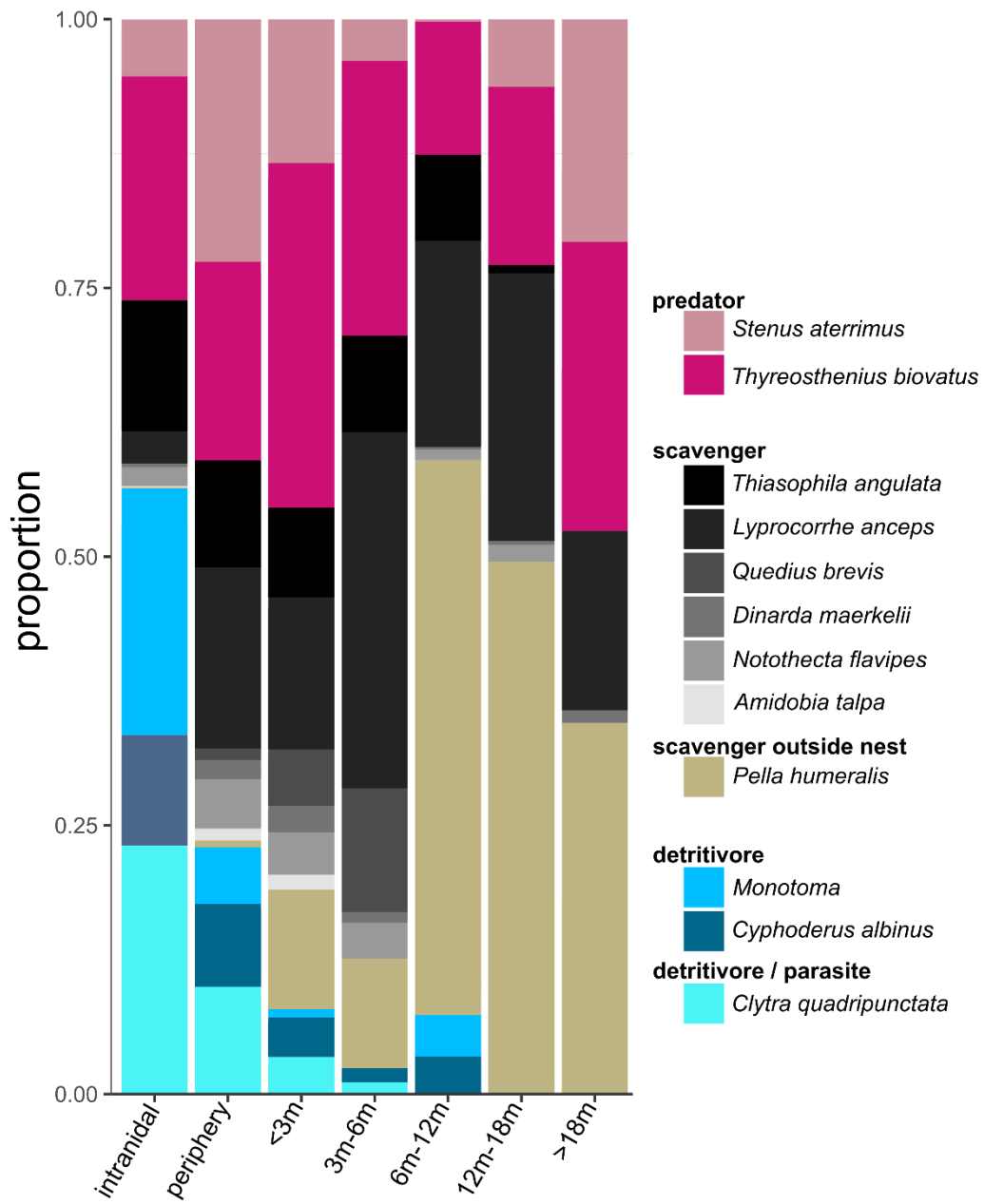


FIGURE S3. Relative abundances of the 12 most widely distributed myrmecophile species (present in more than 10 traps) along the spatial gradient.