

La dieta Bhatkar

Scritto da Diana Bonetta
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La **dieta Bhatkar** è una dieta artificiale per l'allevamento delle formiche.

La sua validità è stata scientificamente accertata nel 1970 presso l'università della Florida, testando l'efficacia della formulazione su 28 specie di formiche rappresentanti 4 diverse sottofamiglie di Formicidae.

Ecco la ricetta.

Ingredienti:

- 5 grammi di Agar-Agar; (*)
- 500 cc di acqua;
- 1 uovo di gallina intero;
- 62 cc di miele;
- 1 pastiglia di complesso vitaminico/minerale (es. Multicentrum).

Mettere l'agar a mollo in 250 cc di acqua e riscaldare fino alla bollitura. Spegnerne la fiamma e permettere al liquido di tornare a temperatura ambiente.

Triturare finemente la pastiglia vitaminica, con un pestello o il fondo di un bicchiere.

Unire al composto di acqua e agar a temperatura ambiente la pastiglia vitaminica polverizzata, il miele, altri 250 cc di acqua e l'uovo intero, e frullare alla massima velocità per 3 minuti.

Versare il composto in capsule Petri (o altri recipienti, es. bicchierini per il caffè di plastica), porre i contenitori nel frigorifero e lasciare solidificare.

Conservare il composto in frigo o congelarlo nel freezer e offrirne alle formiche piccoli cubetti volta per volta.

(vedi discussioni: 1- [come somministrare l'alimento alle formiche](#) , 2- [esempio di Bhatkar](#))

(*) : l' [Agar-Agar](#) è un gelificante. Si può comprare in erboristeria, nelle sezioni "prodotti naturali" di alcuni ipermercati molto forniti, o anche in diversi negozi online.

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La prima pagina:

ARTIFICIAL DIET FOR REARING VARIOUS SPECIES OF ANTS^{1,2}

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ABSTRACT

A diet consisting of agar, whole egg, honey, vitamins, and minerals was found to be satisfactory for rearing 28 species of ants representing 4 subfamilies of Formicidae.

For many years, workers have sought a convenient food for rearing ant colonies. A few diets have been successful for rearing a limited number of ant species, but most of the diets have had one or more drawbacks. Some deteriorated rapidly; others required much time to prepare. Hamburger, fried chicken, peanut butter, pieces of sugar cane, or honey are fed to ants routinely in many laboratories. Several researchers have depended upon a supply of live meal worms, especially *Tenebrio molitor* Linnaeus, or cockroaches of several species. Fielde (1904) recommended a variety of foods including honey or molasses, banana, apple, mashed walnut, and the muscular parts of insect larvae. Wheeler (1910) used a thick mixture of raw egg yolk, honey, and sugar, with an occasional feeding of hashed meal worms, or of the larvae and pupae of other ants. Andrews (1937) used earthworms, insects, and honey, but not in the form of a mixture. Forrest (1962) fed various materials such as bread dipped in honey, jam, hard-cooked egg yolk, and insects to several unrelated species of ants. Khan, Green, and Brazzel (1967) reared the imported fire ant, *Solenopsis saevissima richteri* Forel, on baby food (high meat dinner of pork or beef) along with more commonly used materials. For rearing carpenter ants, *Camponotus* spp., Carney (1970) preferred honey, egg white, butter, and meat meal, mixed and boiled with enough pectin to solidify the mixture.

To study the aggressive behavior of the imported fire ant, *Solenopsis saevissima richteri* Forel, toward native North Florida ants, a practical food was needed which would serve for rearing a large number of species of ants. An agar based diet appeared to have the best possibilities, and several combinations were investigated. The most successful diet consisted of 5 g of agar, 500 cc of water, 1 whole hen's egg, 62 cc of honey, and 1 vitamin-mineral capsule (McKesson Bexel, see Table 1 for composition). The agar was placed in 250 cc of water, heated to boiling, and allowed to cool to room temperature. The contents of the vitamin-mineral capsule, the honey, 250 cc of water, and the egg were blended with a Waring blender at 2,000 rpm for 3 min and folded into the agar. This was then poured into Petri dishes and allowed to solidify. The media was kept in the refrigerator and was cut into $\frac{3}{4}$ inch squares at feeding time.

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²Florida Agricultural Experiment Stations Journal Series No. 3669.