



## READY TO GO?

### WAITING IS THE FIRST THING.

*That's right, sit back and let your queen wait in the dark for the next hour or 2, nice and quiet so she relaxes after her long journey. It will de-stress her and make her much less grouchy when you meet her.*

### OPEN AND CHECK HER

*Once calm, carefully open and check her to make sure she made the journey ok. When you see she is happy, put her back away at the right temp then check her weekly for workers. (some queens need feeding while founding, you can see if your species does on the next page).*

*If she has workers now, feed her and resume weekly checks until 100+ workers where she will be ready for her first nest.*

*Try and keep checks to a minimum (we know it is hard, we just want to watch ours all day too!) but she will thank you for it with extra brood and a lower chance of eating her eggs.*



### FIRST BITE

*Once you have workers add a tiny drop of our very own sugar snap (even species not crazy for sugar could use the extra energy when they first found). Remove uneaten snap the following week and replace with protein, visa versa.*

### SNUGLY

*The temperature of the nest should sit between **The temperatures given on the fact sheet overleaf** - ideally with a gradient. Try to monitor it though as exceeding 30 degrees could make your queen become infertile and should be avoided if at all possible.*

### HUMIDITY IS KEY

*Temperature and humidity, when perfect can increase brood growth and help your queen produce bigger, faster growing colonies. Keep your nest humidity within the target range and remember to water the nest weekly.*

### TEST TUBE CHANGES

*Try to avoid changes unless you see a discoloured water, black mold or they run out of water. If vital then we have provided a spare tube and cotton wool for your tube change.*

*Attach the 2 tubes together using a plaster (or something breathable) leaving a 1mm gap between tubes as you affix the plaster. Leaving the old tube exposed to light make the new tube dark and warm.*

*Please do not force a move, your queen could take weeks. She will move over when she is ready*



# MONOMORIUM SUBOPACUM

## A SELF REPRODUCING ANT

### Small but fascinating- Intermediate

M.Subopacum are a very small species of ant, but with it they have a mindset like "small dog syndrome". They are extremely able, robust and incredibly active. Here you have a fearless and bold species.

*Subopacum are commonly found along the mediterranean coastline into north africa and beyond. Their ideal conditions are in dead wood, under trees and bushes... hardly noticed in the undergrowth.*

Reproduction of Subopacum is what makes them popular with keepers far and wide. They inbreed. The queen is capable of producing males (drones) with a different genetic identity to that of her alates (princess'). As such they can reproduce in the nest and their polygyne nature can see hundreds of queens in a single colony.

All those queens means a whole lot of workers too, reproducing quickly they are considered stable at 300+ workers and colonies can grow into the tens of thousands quite fast. In captivity the colony should never die if conditions are right and numbers will be staggering.

Subopacum are a delight to watch for any keeper, in the wild they travel long distances to food sources as they form trails working day and night to do so. This is purely as a result of their confidence in numbers, with tiny stings they can quickly overpower prey and their "alarm call" is fast spreading in the colony making them very efficient at swarming food sources.

Food of choice for Subopacum includes flowers, aphid honeydew, brood of other ants, small insects and even soft seeds.

Great escape prevention is needed for this species, they are small, able and form long trails in the wild. Especially where multiple queens exist they will constantly be looking to split the colony and extend territory.

#### Colony Size

up to 10,000 workers per queen

#### Queen

Age - 9 to 14 years

Polygyne - Multiple Queen per colony

Semi Claustral -But will 99.9% fail without workers

#### Temperature & Humidity

Nest 23 to 27 degrees | Outworld 22 to 24 degrees

Nest 50%-60% | Outworld 30% to 50%

#### Winter Rest

Yes - November to February at 15 degrees

#### Polymorphic (Different size casts)

No

#### Sting | Bite | Spray

Yes -small stink, un-noticable

#### Diet

Insects, Sugars, Carbs

#### Nest Type

Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Ytong, Plaster, Glass

#### Size

Queen - 4mm-5mm

Worker - 2mm-2.5mm



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