



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 30+ 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



TETRAMORIUM CAESPITUM

A PAVEMENT ANT SPECIES

The Black Pavement Ant - Beginner

If you are looking for a beginner species of ant which can reach high numbers quickly without a large footprint then these little girls are perfect for you.

Caespitum are extremely diverse in their choice of habitat, choosing their nest locations anywhere from pasture to meadow, from sand to soil. Most famously though and where they get their name is from the colonisation of pavements and urban areas.

Caespitum are formidable aggressive fighters, pre-nuptials when their alates need all the protein they can get. (a demand which usually cannot be met) they wage war on a neighbouring colony in a bid to conquer and gain mass resources for their own colony. These are pictured and documented as huge black ant gatherings in the street, but look closer and you have stumbled by a war of epic proportions right under your sole.

Farming aphids is a primary source of sugars, however they can quickly gather around waste bins and windows if you leave sweet things there. Caespitum will also take on insects like small fruit flies and mosquitoes as well as other ants for their proteins.

This Species of ant that is very suitable for beginners, In terms of growth they are quite fast to develop once the colony reaches 20 workers and over. I

This species is also a very important host species for the parasite queen *Strongylognathus testaceus* who after becoming covered in the colonies pheromones, enters a nest and works along side the Caespitum queen. keeping her alive and producing workers the host queen can no longer make alates, instead she is forever at the mercy of her parasite in a unique and strange game of slavery. See our specials to see if we have any of the rare *Strongylognathus testaceus* colonies in stock.

Colony Size

Up to 10,000 workers

Queen

Age - Up to 25 years

Monogyne - One Queen per colony

Fully Claustral - No food until first workers

Temperature & Humidity

Nest 21 to 24 degrees | Outworld 18 to 30 degrees

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

Hibernation

Yes - November to March

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

No

Sting | Bite | Spray

No

Diet

Insects, Sugars, Carbs

Nest Type

Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Ytong, Plaster, Glass

Size

Queen - 6mm-8mm

Worker - 2mm-4mm

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 6 to 8 weeks



Handy tip: Tetramorium is a small species and good escape prevention is needed



Ant Antics
 Priors Street
 Carmarthen
 SA31 1LS
antantics.co.uk
info@antantics.co.uk