



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



FORMICA SANGUINEA

THE RAIDING SLAVE MAKER ANT

The Slave Maker Ant - Intermediate

This truly remarkable species is found throughout Europe. "The Slave Maker" queens are ants known as social parasites. This means she will invade a nest of another formica species by tricking the workers into thinking she is one of them, then she kills the nests queen becoming the new queen.

Our Queens are placed with Serviformica brood and happily raise them as their slaves, that is what make this species interesting, they take part in nest raids during the summer months in which they raid other formica nests to steal pupae which they raise as their own to boost numbers (Making-Slaves). Once a foreign nest is found, scouts return to spread the word causing a raiding party hundreds strong to conduct the pupae mission.

In captivity your colony can survive just fine without host pupae, although she will begin with a few slaves. However, if desired, you can place other formica pupae into your setup and raise yourself a delightful multi-coloured colony.

Warning: This species has a potent formic acid which they spray. A stressed colony in an un-vented setup could run into problems as they defensively spray their acid.

Colony Size

1,000-3,000 workers

Queen Age

10 to 15 years

Monogyne (single Queen per colony)

Temperature

Room 20 to 26 degrees

Hibernation

Yes - October through March at 5 to 10 degrees.

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

No - Workers vary by a few mm but not considered polymorphic.

Sting/Spray

Spray formic acid - Caution in poorly ventilated outworlds.

Bite

Yes - a Pinch

Diet

Protein, Sugars, honey and Insects

Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Glass.

Size

Queen - 12mm

Worker - 4mm-9mm

Polymorphic - No

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 10 to 12 weeks



Humidity

50-60%

Fully Claustal

No food until first workers

For any questions you have please get in touch through our website messenger.



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