



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



CAMPONOTUS SLYVATICUS

THE TWILIGHT SCAVENGER

Camponotus Slyvaticus - Beginner

Slyvaticus are a large and colourful species of Carpenter who are abundant in their favorite habitat, the ground around and in the pine forests of the Mediterranean - a habitat they share with Camponotus Pilicornis.

The Colouration is extremely diverse in this species. Typically the Queen is of a dark colour with shades of shiny bronze in her gaster lines and the workers are initially dark too. However as the colony matures the dark red colours on the thorax and gaster lines lighten to become bright red or (in most cases) a yellowish brown. (as pictured)

Slyvaticus are scavengers who avoid large prey and they do not actively take on enemies that can fight back wherever possible. Their foraging activities see them become extremely active outside their nest at Twilight while they scurry around for the days spoils or any small insect that does not exceed their size.

In addition to twilight foraging they spend their daylight hours tending to subterranean aphids in an effort to fill their very demanding sugar quota.

As with all carpenter ants Slyvaticus are happy to fight in order to assure their nest is defended. With such polymorphism the majors can easily slice through an enemy pinned by the minors.

Colony Size

2,000-9,000 workers (Average of 3,500)

Queen

Age; Up to 24 years

Fully Claustral - No food until first workers

Monogyne (single Queen per colony)

Temperature & Humidity

Nest - 22 to 26 degrees

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

Hibernation

Yes - October through March between 9 & 12 degrees.

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

Yes - Very polymorphic with Minor, Media and Major workers.

Sting | Bite

No Sting | Yes Majors can bite

Diet

Protein, Lots of Sugars, Lots of Water. Large ants are always very hungry.

Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Glass, Plaster. (These ants can chew through Ytong and Wood, caution in housing is needed.)

Size

Queen - 13mm-15mm

Worker - 6mm-10mm

Major - 11mm-13mm

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 9 to 12 weeks



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



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