



## 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 JAPONICUS

## THE BLACK ASIAN CARPENTER

### Camponotus Japonicus - Beginner Species

The Japonicus is a fantastic example of one of Asia's biggest species of Carpenter ant. They are large and black with queens coming in at 18mm.

Naturally you can expect slow growth but with the right conditions they flourish and are very hardy as a species. This is a trait which is gained from nesting primarily in the solid under decaying wood where thermal changes are less of an issue with the woods decaying surface heat.

Because colonies are relatively small on average with only 500-800 workers they must use a display of force to "look bigger" to an invader. For this reason Japonicus are avid defenders, this is enhanced by their ability to use formic acid. Disturbing their nest will result in extremely hostile and defensive behaviour with even the queen investigating and prepared to fight.

The easiest thing to note is the striking colourings of the shiny black appearance. Workers are polymorphic and have both Minor and Majors who range from 4mm to 12mm in size. With a full gaster white/clear bands form which adds a great diversity to appearance.

They will happily scavenge proteins, something they need in abundance for their large size. Typically a Japonicus worker picks their fights carefully and does not attack large prey. These ants love sugar too, boy do the love sugar, as with most carpenters their "sugar ant" nickname is well earned!

#### Colony Size

Up to 1,000 workers with an average of 500

#### Queen

Age - Up to 18 years

Fully Claustral - No food until first workers

Monogyne (single Queen per colony)

#### Temperature & Humidity

Nest: 24 to 28 degrees | 21 to 30 degrees in Outworld

50% to 70% in Nest | 30% to 60% in Outworld

#### Hibernation

No

#### Polymorphic (Different size casts)

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

#### Sting | Bite

Formic Acid | Majors can Pinch

#### Diet

Protein, Lots of Sugars, Lots of Water

#### Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Glass,, Ytong

#### Size

Queen - 17mm-18mm

Worker - 4mm-10mm

Major - 11mm to 12mm

#### Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 6 to 10 weeks



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



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