



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..

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 or small seeds, 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

MESSOR ACICULATUS

ASIAN HARVESTER ANT

Japanese Harvester Ant

Small to Medium in Size

Monogyne or Polygyne - Can be a single queen or multiple queens

As the Messor Barbarus is common the Europe, the Aciculatus is one of the most frequently met species in Japan. The Japanese Harvester ant is slightly smaller than their EU cousins and typically coloured all black which has a glossy finish with tiny beige hairs on their body.

As with other Messors they harvest seeds which are eaten by the ants, using the large Majors jaws to de-shell them they are chewed into a protein rich food source known as "ant-bread". It is this these ants get 90% of their nutrients from. In the wild they build their nests under stones and vegetation. For small ants they build impressive nests up to 4 meters below the surface.

Aciculatus have interesting food collection patterns whereby food located close to the nest results in a mass gathering of ants above ground. This is speculated to be a defensive move. However food found by scouts further afield is usually limited to only a few workers collecting it. It is perceived that Aciculatus understands the risk of distant foraging and reduces the ants "just in case".



Colony Size

Excess of 10,000 workers

VERY TIMID and cautious until 30 to 50 workers.

Queen

Up to 25 years | Polygyne (Can found with multiple queens)

Temperature

Heated 18 to 26 degrees

Hibernation

Yes - November to Feb

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

Yes

Sting

No

Bite

Yes

Diet

Seeds, Nuts, Grains, Occasional extra protein. If they are accepting honey it is a sign they are dehydrated or there is a lack of water.

Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Glass.

Size

Queen - 10mm

Worker - 3mm-5mm

Polymorphic - Yes

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 8 to 10 weeks

Special Note

Messor Aciculatus are prone to drowning, always use cotton with water.



Humidity

Nest - 60-70% | Seed Store 40-50%

Fully Claustal

No food until first workers

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



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