



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 two, 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, Provide her with some food (Fire Ant Queens are semi-claustral and require feeding during founding [except Fugax which requires no food until first workers]).

If she has workers now, feed her extra and resume twice 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 BITES

Your fire ants will love you for feeding them plenty of insects, proteins and sugars. Mix it up a bit and offer a changing choice of food for them.

ALWAYS have water on hand.

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



SOLENOPSIS FUGAX

THIEF ANTS

The Thief Ant - Advanced Species

Fugax are a similar species to the Geminata with the exception that they are smaller and have adapted to European climates enabling hibernation.

They are fast, hyper aggressive ants and grow at an incredible rate. Being polygynous means colonies have multiple queens and can reach 100k workers with ease.

Being thief ants Fugax are advised to be kept by experienced keepers because they are quick, they sting and in the wild they raid enemy nests to steal food and brood to eat for themselves. This is usually done by their own small tunnel dug into the enemies nest. Their tunnel is too small for the foreign species to navigate but offers easy access for Fugax to raid. But given this behaviour Fugax will constantly be looking for weaknesses in your barrier and trying to escape to find brood to raid. Their high drive and activity however makes for hours of fun enjoyment but be careful as a colony with a way out will attack and steal from your other colonies.

This species stings, in comparison it is around the potency of a mild nettle. However each ant can sting multiple times in quick succession so caution in handling is advised.

Colony Size

Up to 10,000 workers per queen.
Queen is claustral - No food while founding.

Queen Age

10 to 17 years (est.)
Polygyne (Can have multiple queens)

Temperature

Heated 21 to 28 degrees

Hibernation

Yes - Nov to Late March at 10-15 degrees

Sting

Yes - Venemous sting, individually like a stinging nettle, in mass... painful.

Bite

They Try

Diet

Lots of Proteins, Sugars & Water.

Nest Type

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

Size

Queen 6--7mm
Worker - 1.5-3mm
Polymorphic - No

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 5 to 9 weeks



Nest Humidity 50 to 70%
Fully Claustral Queen



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