



## 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*





# PHEIDOLE PALLIDULA

## BIG HEADED ANTS

**Pheidole Pallidula**-Intermediate Species- Small in Size

The distinctive major workers have earned the genus Pheidole the nickname of "big-headed ants." The major workers of a Pheidole colony, while they may look fierce, are often quite shy and are often the first to flee on any hint of danger.

Pallidula however is a small ant from southern Europe. They are very aggressive against other ants and can recruit quickly at feeding places. They need a huge amount of food so with a lack they try to escape as soon as it runs low, their small size makes the escape artists. Therefore it is necessary to have good escape prevention in place.

In most cases, the major workers are employed within the nest to break up large food items, or outside to carry large items, such as seeds; many Pheidole species, including Pallidula are ecologically important seed consumers who consume small seeds.

In the wild they live in sand environments around the Med as well as in soil, typically under stones.

*Probably the smallest cutest ants we have seen!*

#### Colony Size

Up to 7,000 workers

Queen is fully claustral - requires no food until first workers

#### Queen

20 to 25 years (est.)

Polygyne - Can found with multiple queens

#### Temperature

Heated 21 to 28 degrees

#### Hibernation

Yes - Nov to Feb at 15 degrees

#### Polymorphic (Different size casts)

Yes - Minor, Media, Major

#### Sting

No

#### Bite

Yes

#### Diet

Lots of Proteins, Sugars, Water and Small seeds.

#### Nest Type

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

#### Size

Queen - 7-8mm

Worker - 2-4mm

Soldier (Major) 6mm

Polymorphic - Yes

#### Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 4 to 5 weeks

#### Sexually Mature Colony

1200+ Workers



#### Humidity

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

#### Fully Claustral

No food until first workers

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



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