



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 BARBARICUS

THE CAREFUL COLONIALIST

Camponotus Barbaricus - Beginner Species

Barbaricus are some of the largest species of carpenter ant in Europe. Big and bold workers have a luscious rusty orange colouring to their thorax which has much more orange tones than a Ligniperda.

Found in the West and South Mediterranean Barbaricus like to build their nests in the soil underneath fallen logs, branches and or stones.

Barbaricus differ from other large carpenters as despite their large size they can grow rather fast in the right conditions. You can expect around 1k workers in just 18 months if you get their setup "just right"

"Timid Giants" is the perfect term for Barbaricus, they are primarily nocturnal and are rather slow if un-threatened. Being quite shy you can easily handle a worker or guide an escapee's path back to the test tube. But aggravate at your own peril, making them feel threatened will result in an aggressive defense of their land.

Barbaricus are clever, they may be slow but they are the tortoise in the race. Moving efficiently they will lay claim to any profitable resource and send out the larger workers to keep guard of it. This becomes an "outpost", be it water, food or aphids their outposts are quickly turned into satellite nests for the colony. You will regularly see your camponotus "basking" in their outworld around resources, seemingly relaxing and taking a break.

They will happily scavenge proteins, something they need in abundance for their large broods. But these ants love sugar too, boy do they love sugar!

Colony Size

Up to 10,000 workers

Queen

Age - Up to 21 years

Fully Claustral - No food until first workers

Monogyne (single Queen per colony)

Temperature & Humidity

Nest: 22 to 25 degrees | 18 to 28 degrees in Outworld

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

Hibernation

November to March at 15 degrees

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

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

Sting | Bite

No | Yes - Majors can Pinch

Diet

Protein, Lots of Sugars, Lots of Water

Nest Type

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

Size

Queen - 15mm-17mm

Worker - 8mm-12mm

Major - 13mm to 17mm

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 7 to 10 weeks



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



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