

Special finds from around the world



Signature
Collection Ant Antics

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



TESTACEUS & HOST TETRAMORIUM THE UNIQUE STORY OF CO-EXISTENCE

Rare find -**Intermediate-Social Parasite**

Parasitic: Strongylognathus Testaceus (& *Host*):Tetramorium Caespitum
(Pavement Ant)

This is a remarkable story in the world of ants and the way they live. Typically parasitic queens infiltrate a hosts nest by fooling the workers to believe she is part of the colony. Once inside the risk of being killed is all worth while when it is the host nest Queen who is at risk. Unsuspectingly a parasite will then kill the host queen and take her place laying her own eggs with the free acquired colony on hand to defend their new Queen and raise her brood.

For Strongylognathus testaceus however the story takes a different turn. In her case she keeps the Tetramorium Queen alive and using pheromones she dictates and inhibits the host Queens laying of future reproductives.

Our parasite queen has a full colony and can replace its slave workers by allowing the old queen to lay, but she can lay her own eggs for the colony to raise. Her workers will typically make up around 1% of the total colony.

These ants are wonderfully aggressive in heat. In addition to this they are small and agile, great escape prevention is required.

Colony Size

Up to 20,000 workers with around 200 to 500 being parasite workers.

Queen Age

12 to 18 years

Temperature

Room 21 to 24 degrees

Humidity

50% to 60% in nest

Hibernation

Yes - late October through early March at 5 to 10 degrees.

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

No - Workers vary by a few mm but not considered polymorphic.

Sting/Spray/Bite

No

Diet

Protein, Sugars, honey and Insects

Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Glass.

Size - *Host*:

Queen - 6mm-8mm

Worker - 2mm-4mm

Parasite:

Queen - 4mm-5mm

Worker - 2mm-4mm

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 7 to 9 weeks



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



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