



## FORMICA RUFIBARBIS 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, put her back away at the right temperature then check her bi-weekly until you see she has 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 BITES

*Once you have workers you can then begin providing them with food. Always remove uneaten food after 48 hours.*

*Water is essential all of the time but weekly feedings are a good bet at first (for food). Sugars provide carbohydrates and our snaps is the perfect treat for that. You can also make your own, use fruits like apple, banana, grape e.t.c and of course honey is fantastic too.*

*For proteins start small, chopped insects, protein shakes e.t.c*

### 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 have negative affects on your queen.*

### 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 but remember to allow a small gap for air to get in. Allow your queen to move into the new tube on her own. Make the new tube dark and the old tube light, it helps her decide!*

*Please do not force a move, your queen could take weeks. She will move over when she is ready and in her own time.*



# FORMICA RUFIBARBIS

## THE RED BARBED ANT

### Endangered in the UK | Easy to keep -

Formica Rufibarbis is endangered in the UK, now known only to a handful of locations they are on the Red List and efforts are being made to try and save them. Their conservation makes the capture or keeping of UK species (or any EU species where on the Red list) against the law.

For this reason, and to conserve endangered stocks our queens are sourced from Western Russia where, like much of Europe they are thriving.

However back in the UK the only nests are located on a heath in Surrey, the exact location is kept discreet as not to entice intrigued locals however there is a more pressing issue at play. Their nests are only a few hundred meters away from some very persistent slavemakers - Formica Sanguinea.

*Rufibarbis are like many other Formica, a bullied species. They are a host for Formica Sanguinea who take over their nests in a bid to start their own. Unlike the other species though, Rufibarbis are much better equipped and skilled at fending off would-be invaders.*

They prefer to nest in open spaces and have a single entrance hole. Their nests are usually found in warmer soils, by riverbanks, grassland & heaths. They can be found under stones and items on the ground nesting in places with less moisture.

Rufibarbis can be easily confused with other Formica species, coupled with discreet nests they can be hard to observe, however larger workers will display a black head and gaster with a lighter red/orange thorax.

Being extremely aggressive is not only beneficial against slavemakers, it enables them to take down larger prey and using teamwork, bring it back to their nest. They also have no problem waging war against other ant species and will regularly attack other species found on their routes.

Your nest however will need some ventilation and relative peace and darkness to protect against their formica acid, a build up will harm the colony.

## KEY STATS

### Queen

Age - Up to 17 years (estimated)

Monogyne and Polygyne - 1 to 3 queens per nest

Fully Claustral - No food until first workers

### Temperature & Humidity

Nest 22 to 28 Degrees | Outworld 20 to 30 Degrees

Nest 45% to 65% | Outworld 30% to 60%

### Diapause / Hibernation

Yes - October through March at 6 to 10 degrees

### Polymorphic (Yes)

Worker range - 4mm to 7mm

### Bite | Spray

They will bite if threatened | Uses formic acid

### Diet

Sugars, Proteins (insects)

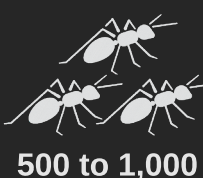
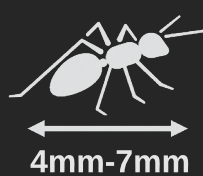
Always ensure a constant fresh water supply is provided

### Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Ytong, Earth, Glass

### Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 8 to 12 weeks



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