



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 CRUENTATUS

THE DEFENDER ANT

Camponotus Cruentatus - Beginner (From 10 workers)

Cruentatus are a large and beautiful carpenter species found in southern Europe. With distinctive colouration their majors and queen have a vibrant orange/red like colouring on their gaster.

Being very active they are great for new keepers as they provide plenty of movement in their setup. But these colonies are difficult to found and require patience until they reach 10 workers and become more resilient to disturbance.

Commonly found in wooded environments like forests this species loves moist habitats. Dead and decaying wood is a favorite but in addition to this they can commonly frequent urban areas where sheds and decking can be found.

Informally named by us as the "Defender Ant" the Cruentatus earns their name because of their generally evasive behaviors, as scavengers they will seldom take on live prey but when a threat comes near their nest they rally quickly and using brute force quickly overwhelm and overcome ant invaders using their strong mandibles and acid glands. Hence the term "Defender Ants"

Cruentatus are highly polymorphic offering extremely diverse worker casts with Minor, Media and Major's.

Colony Size

Up to 10,000 workers

Queen Age; Up to 25 years

Fully Claustral - No food until first workers

Monogyne (single Queen per colony)

Temperature & Humidity

Nest 24 to 28 degrees

Nest 50%-60% Humidity | Outworld 30%-50% Humidity

Hibernation

Yes - October through March at 15 degrees.

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

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

Sting | Bite

No Sting | Yes Majors can bite

Diet

Protein, Lots of Sugars, Lots of Water.

Large ants are always very hungry.

Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Glass, Plaster.

(These ants can chew through Ytong and Wood, caution in housing is needed.)

Size

Queen - 14mm-17mm

Worker - 6mm-10mm

Major - 11mm-14mm

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 9 to 12 weeks



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



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