



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 HERCULEANUS

THE LARGE NORTHERN CARPENTER ANT

Camponotus Herculeanus - Beginner

Herculeanus are in many ways similar to the Ligniperda with the exception they are mostly found in Northern Europe and at least 300 meters above sea level. They also have an all black gaster and dull in colour vs the Ligniperda. These ants belong to some of the the largest carpenter ants in Europe and the beautiful deep purples under light make them a delight to watch.

Typically making their homes in trees or dead wood, their ideal habitat is on the edges of the deciduous forests of central Europe. They can sometimes frequent open spaces too where they dig their nest under a stone deep into the ground.

Large and powerful, Herculeanus take a fairly long time to establish, taking up to 12 weeks for a brood hatch you will need patience to observe them. Once established they make for great entertainment with their boisterous charm.

As with all Carpenters they are perfectly capable of defending themselves and do so with some powerful mandibles. However, they are avid aggressors too. They will show dominance with their aggression against other camponotus colonies and even Formica colonies. Their size means that its light work splitting an enemy in half.

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

Colony Size

5,000-8,000 workers

Slow growing species.

Queen Age

Up to 25 years

Monogyne (single Queen per colony)

Temperature

Room 21 to 24 degrees

Hibernation

Yes - October through March at 5 to 10 degrees.

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

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

Sting

No

Bite

Yes - Majors can pinch

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 - 13mm-15mm

Worker - 6mm-13mm

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 8 to 10 weeks



Humidity

50-60%

Fully Claustal

No food until first workers

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



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