



## 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, Provide her with some food (Fire Ant Queens are semi-claustral and require feeding during founding [except Fugax which requires no food until first workers]).*

*If she has workers now, feed her extra and resume twice 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

*Your fire ants will love you for feeding them plenty of insects, proteins and sugars. Mix it up a bit and offer a changing choice of food for them.*

*ALWAYS have water on hand.*

### 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*





# MANICA RUBIDA

## A EUROPEAN FIRE ANT SPECIES

### Intermediate Species

Manica Rubida is the largest stinging ant species native to Europe. This comes as their aggression is prudent in their endeavors. Manica will attack anything in range, especially in defense of their nests. Your Manica queen will instill one motto in her colony; "kill on sight"

Typically found in regions 500m or above sea level manica rubida are vastly populating most regions in Europe. Amazingly despite a relatively long brood length of up to 12 weeks this does not hinder the colony growth as the queen lays many many eggs at a time.

Typically polygynous queens gather to form mass colonies during nuptials and up to 100 queens have been found in a single colony.

This fantastic and entertaining species is protein hungry, and love sugars in the form of Aphids and Fruits primarily. They will entertain you for days on end watching them. Manica have a very "boss" style walk that displays their dominion over their territory.

**This species stings, in comparison it is around the potency of a stinging nettle. However each ant can sting multiple times in quick succession so caution in handling is advised.**

#### Colony Size

Up to 1,000 workers per queen.

Queen is semi claustral - requires food twice weekly in founding.

#### Queen Age

10 to 15 years (est.)

Secondary Polygyne (Mature colonies can take on extra queens)

#### Temperature

Heated 21 to 25 degrees

#### Hibernation

Yes - Nov to Feb at 10-15 degrees

#### Sting

Yes - Venemous sting, individually like a stinging nettle, in mass... painful.

#### Bite

Yes

#### Diet

Lots of Proteins, Sugars & Water.

#### Nest Type

Natural, Acrylic, Sand, Ytong, Earth, Glass.

#### Size

Queen - 9-13mm

Worker - 6-9mm

Polymorphic - No

#### Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 8 to 12 weeks



Nest Humidity 50 to 70%  
Semi-Claustral Queen



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



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