



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



APHAENOGASTER GIBBOSA

THE STEALTHY ANT

Nocturnal Stealth Hunter - Beginner

Gibbosa are a fantastic looking species, one of only 200 Aphaenogaster species worldwide including the ones found in fossils.

The appearance of the Gibbosa even has a prehistoric feel and it makes them unique in their characteristics.

The Gibbosa is named by us as the "Stealthy ant" because of their ability to move and live fairly inconspicuous lives. This does not mean they do not venture out to the surface though.

Gibbosa will hunt prey in the dark of night, aiming for smaller prey, they farm underground aphids and they can even consume small seeds using their strong mandibles. Seeds such as Grass, Poppy and even Chia would prove edible to them.

You will find Gibbosa in the wild frequenting woodland and forests where there is ample rocks to which they can nest under. It is a great home for them with the rock surface temperatures remaining more constant like a cave. The preferred areas in our experience is pine forests.

Probably the most interesting thing about Gibbosa is that they are sometimes capable of Thelytoky. This means where a queen dies, her unfertilised workers are capable of laying and producing more unfertilised female workers and even future Queens. This trait is a little hit-and-miss with the Gibbosa though. But if a dominant worker is near the queen at time of death they can make clones of their "mother". Essentially this means that a colony of Gibbosa once established can never die out, The new designated workers will send out queen alates to pass on their genetic line.

Gibbosa are well suited as a beginner species as their care requirements are small, but these sneaky ants will discreetly find weak-spots in any setup and they will be out under the cover of darkness without your knowledge.

Colony Size

Up to 10,000 workers

Queen

Age - Up to 25 years

Monogyne - One Queen per colony

Fully Claustral - No food until first workers

Temperature & Humidity

Nest 21 to 24 degrees | Outworld 18 to 28 degrees

Nest 50%-67% | Outworld 30% to 50%

Hibernation

Yes - November to February at 12-15 degrees

Polymorphic (Different size casts)

Slightly, there is differentiating castes although not extreme

Sting | Bite | Spray

No

Diet

Insects, Sugars, Carbs

Nest Type

Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Ytong, Plaster, Glass

Size

Queen - 7mm

Worker - 6mm-7mm

Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 5 to 8 weeks



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