

Special finds from around the world



Signature  
Collection Ant Antics

## 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*

## COLOBOPSIS TRUNCATA THE EUROPEAN DOORKEEPER ANT

### Colobopsis Truncata - **Experienced** - **Arboreal**

Rarely do we see such fascinating species as the Truncata. Not only that but they are from our very own European back yard.

#### *Formerly known as Camponotus Truncatas*

These tree dwellers make their homes in dead, fallen or rotting branches as well as up in trees which have not fallen too. They are a small and nimble species which does not require vast space at all., this is why one of their favorite places to found a colony is in an acorn.

What makes Truncata special is that their workers have developed a polymorphism where their heads are flat and box like. This wedge like head means workers can plug a nest entrance or tunnel with a living door.

*Using a living barrier of impassible heads their prominent mandibles can defend at the same time given they protrude from their heads. Truncata will charge any invader from insects to other ants. They are incredibly powerful for a small species and can easily push an attacker out of their nest.*

The queen also displays this feature and she uses her head to keep her foundation chamber shut while forming her colony.

Truncata are extremely aggressive to other colonies of the same species and can move quickly to eliminate their targets. Picking fights carefully of course as a Truncata colony will only reach up to 500 workers.

Predominately they eat other "wood life" using tunnels in their nest to find and capture it. They also keep aphid farms high up in the trees. Workers can also be found on the surface scavenging dead insects.

One thing is for sure, these wonders will not take up large amounts of space and will entertain you no end.

**Caution: This species has Formic Acid, Ensure your setup has adequate ventilation.**

#### **Colony Size**

Up to 500 workers

#### **Queen**

Fully Claustral (No food while founding)

Age - 14 to 20 years

Monogyne - One queen per colony

#### **Temperature**

Room 21 to 28 degrees

#### **Humidity**

50% to 60% in nest

#### **Hibernation**

Yes - late December through mid February at 15 degrees.

#### **Polymorphic (Different size casts)**

Yes - Workers have round heads, Majors have flat heads.

#### **Sting/Spray/Bite**

No

#### **Diet**

Protein, Sugars, honey and Insects

#### **Nest Type**

Natural, Wood, Acrylic, Glass.

#### **Size**

Queen - 6mm - 7mm

Worker - 3mm - 6mm

Major - 6mm - 7mm

#### **Development**

Egg to Adult Worker - 7 to 9 weeks



#### **Fun Fact:**

Truncata are one of very few species who are capable of Thelytoky. Then a queen dies an unfertilised worker will take on the role of laying both workers and alates for the colony.

The colony will in theory continue indefinitely, however alates are vital for the combining of genes and evolution of the species moving forward.



Ant Antics  
Priory Street  
Carmarthen  
SA31 1LS  
antantics.co.uk  
info@antantics.co.uk