



## 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*



# TETRAMORIUM SEMILAEVE

## A PAVEMENT ANT SPECIES

### Tetramorium Semilaeve - Beginner

Semilaeve, like other pavement ants are small in size and grow quickly, they are boast rapid egg production and a formidable hatch rate. Colonies can quickly reach peak workers in the space of just 2 to 3 years.

*Semilaeve are found across 3 continents, Africa, Asia and Europe. Found typically in on the South coast of Europe they prefer environments which are Mediterranean in climate.*

With their rapid growth comes an incredible hunger for protein to feed the new brood. Pavement ants have no fear against larger insects at all and will happily form fast moving armies to take down prey.

After all there is only 1 thing an ant truly fears, and that is a smaller ant.

Semilaeve are extremely aggressive, the requirement of such large amounts of both brood protein, seeds and sugars (carbs) for adult workers makes them territorial and they will defend their land with their lives..

This Species of ant that is very suitable for beginners although it is worth noting that due to their size good escape prevention is needed to contain them.

Due to the nature of their natural environment, these ants are mainly active throughout the year but need to hibernate from Early November through to Mid March.

#### Colony Size

Up to 7,000 workers

#### Queen

Age - Up to 30 years

Monogyne - One Queen per colony

Fully Claustral - No food until first workers

#### Temperature & Humidity

Nest 21 to 25 degrees | Outworld 18 to 30 degrees

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

#### Hibernation

Yes - November to March

#### Polymorphic (Different size casts)

No

#### Sting | Bite | Spray

No

#### Diet

Insects, Sugars, Carbs

#### Nest Type

Acrylic, Sand, Earth, Ytong, Plaster, Glass

#### Size

Queen - 6mm-8mm

Worker - 2mm-4mm

#### Development

Egg to Adult Worker - 6 to 8 weeks



Handy tip: Tetramorium is a small species and good escape prevention is needed



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