

Pheidole pallidula

BIG-HEADED ANT

QUICK DESCRIPTION

Pheidole pallidula is a small fast-growing species of ant. This species is easily recognizable by the characteristic **large head of the majors**. For this reason, they are also informally called "**big-headed ants**".

DISTRIBUTION

Pheidole pallidula is mainly a **west-Mediterranean species**, but can easily be found **all across Europe and in some parts of North Africa**.

TEMPERATURE

Pheidole pallidula, like many other Mediterranean species, are very adaptable to temperature changes. The ideal temperature for this species is **between 21 and 28 degrees Celsius**. If you live in a cold area or you usually use an air conditioner in the room your ants are in, maybe **a heat mat or a heat cable could be useful**.

HUMIDITY

When it comes to humidity levels, Pheidole pallidula doesn't have extreme demands. They like a range of moisture levels that go **from 60% to 70%**. One thing you have to take into account is that this species **doesn't like extremely dry climates**. If you notice that your nest dries out too quickly, you may have to consider changing the setup a bit.



FOOD

As the sugar source, you can give them **sugar water or some drops of honey**. Given their fast growth rate, they also need a lot of protein. As the source of protein you can give them almost every type of insect. In the wild they love **crickets, worms, fruit flies and spiders**. Pheidole pallidula also likes to eat **some types of small seeds**.

HIBERNATION

Pheidole pallidula needs hibernation. They hibernate through the winter, **from around late November to early March**. For this species, the ideal temperature for hibernation is around **15 degrees Celsius**.

NEST TYPE

The most important thing you have to consider when choosing the formicarium for Pheidole pallidula is that they are notoriously **extremely good escape artists**. One of the best solutions to this problem is using an **acrylic nest**. Another option could be **a more naturalistic setup**.