

Aphaenogaster senilis

Mayr, 1853

A long-legged, restless hunter that spreads by splitting its colony instead of flying, and carries liquid food home on bits of debris.



Photo: Diego González Dopico, CC BY 4.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
21–27 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
50–65 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
12–16 °C

Dec – Feb



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
No flights

Colony fission



WORKERS
5–7 mm

All the same size



QUEEN
8–10 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 3,000 workers

Growth: Fast



ESCAPE RISK
Medium

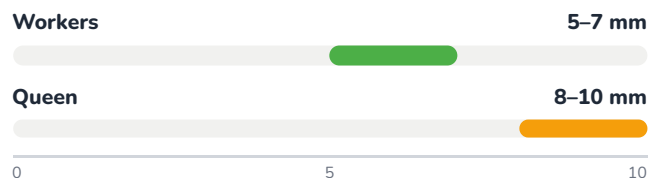
Keep an escape barrier on the outworld

Year at a glance



Months for temperate Europe and the Mediterranean. The weather decides the exact timing, so it can come earlier or later where you live.

Sizes on the same scale



Care at a glance

FOOD

Insects

Sugar

WHY THIS RATING

⚠️ Curious workers: keep an escape barrier on the outworld

⚠️ The workers can sting

BEST NESTS

1. Ytong nest
2. Naturalistic setup
3. Acrylic nest

Notes from keepers

TIP

Offer liquid food with a few grains of sand or tiny sponge pieces beside it. The workers cannot pass liquid mouth to mouth, so they soak these bits and carry them to the queen and the brood, and one keeper saw plain dishes buried under moss and substrate instead.

WATCH OUT

There is no nuptial flight and the queens do not found colonies alone, so the species is sold as a fragment with a queen, workers and brood. When you move it, empty the tube into the foraging area instead of connecting it to the new nest, because the workers can attack each other during a move.