

Camponotus cruentatus

(Latreille, 1802)

Blood-spotted sugar ant

A matte-black Mediterranean giant with a rust-red band across its gaster, shy while small and fiercely territorial once the colony grows.



Photo: Jonghyun Park, CC BY 4.0



At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
25–30 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
40–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
10–15 °C

Nov – Feb



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
Jun – Jul

Hot days, Calm weather



WORKERS
6–10 mm

majors up to 15 mm



QUEEN
15–18 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 3,000 workers

Growth: Fast



ESCAPE RISK
Medium

Keep an escape barrier on the outworld



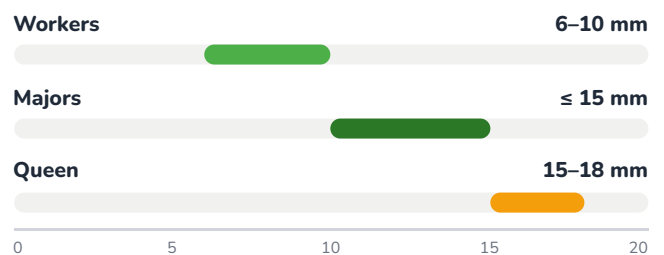
Year at a glance



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



Sizes on the same scale



Care at a glance

FOOD

Sugar

Insects

BEST NESTS

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

WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ Fully claustral: the queen needs no food until her first workers arrive
- ⚠ Curious workers: keep an escape barrier on the outworld



Notes from keepers

TIP

Offer a warm end and a cooler end, for example with a heat mat along one side of the nest. The colony moves its brood into the warmth, and several keepers saw development stall in a nest that stayed cool.

WATCH OUT

Keep the arena dry and give the nest one damp chamber. Keepers lost workers and grew mold in nests that were watered too often, yet one keeper blamed an almost dry nest for a queen that laid very few eggs, and moistening it again helped.