

Camponotus fallax

(Nylander, 1856)

A shy, slender tree dweller that freezes when startled, nests in dead branches and keeps its colony small.



Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0



At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE

21–27 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY

40–50 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION

5–10 °C

Nov – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS

Apr – Jun

Hot days



WORKERS

4–8 mm

majors up to 9 mm



QUEEN

8–11 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE

Reaches 300 workers

Growth: Moderate



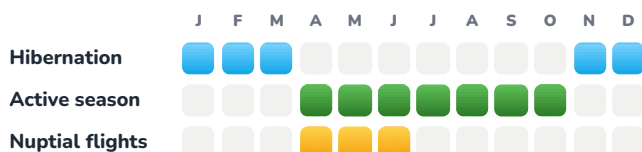
ESCAPE RISK

Medium

Keep an escape barrier on the outworld



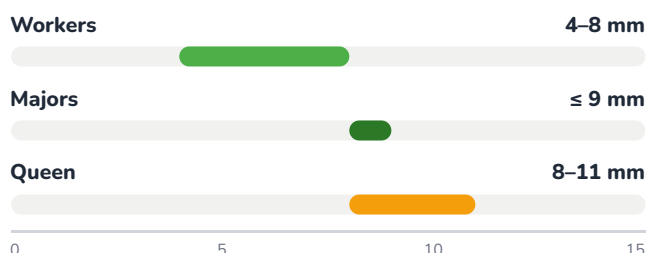
Year at a glance



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. Wooden nest
2. Ytong 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
- ⚠ Needs a cold hibernation, for example in a fridge



Notes from keepers

TIP

Copy the dead wood a founding queen would choose: a cardboard or wood mat in the test tube or a small wooden chamber, darkness and quiet. Offer a drop of honey in the first days, with a small soft insect if you like, since the queens take the honey far more eagerly, then take everything out after a day and leave her alone, because this queen is nervous and slow to start.

WATCH OUT

Small workers drown easily. One Italian colony died when its workers dug into the cotton of the water tank while the keeper was away, and in the same diary thread another keeper reported that carpenter ant workers kept drowning in sugary liquid despite rescue twigs, so offer honey in small drops and keep any cotton plug of a water tank out of their reach.