

Camponotus japonicus

Mayr, 1866

Japanese carpenter ant

A sturdy, matte-black giant of East Asian fields and parks that builds up slowly, yet can follow the same queen for many years.



Photo: ippanjin, CC BY 4.0



At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE

22–28 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY

50–70 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION

8–12 °C

Nov – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS

Apr – Jun

After rain, Hot days, Calm weather



WORKERS

6–12 mm

majors up to 14 mm



QUEEN

15–18 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE

Reaches 1,000 workers

Growth: Moderate



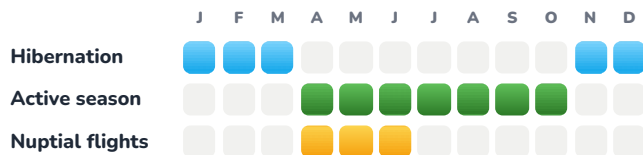
ESCAPE RISK

Medium

Keep an escape barrier on the outworld



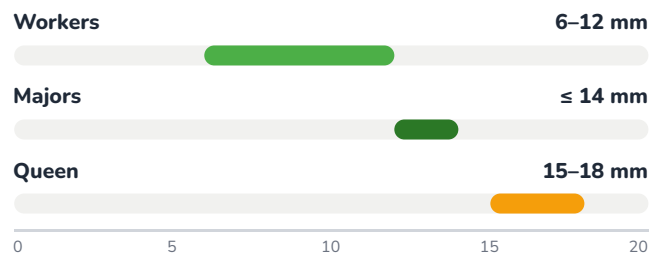
Year at a glance



Months in the native range of the species. The weather decides the exact days, and colonies kept indoors can follow a different rhythm.



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

Give the colony a cool winter rest from late fall to early spring, for example in an unheated room or a shaded, sheltered spot, as Japanese keepers do. The ants cluster together and usually need no food, but the nest must not dry out, and even colonies kept warm tend to slow down and pause their brood for a while in winter.

WATCH OUT

Expect a slow start and do not hurry the colony into a big nest: ants dislike a nest that is far too large, and some young colonies in captivity stall for months. Move up in small steps once the brood and workers fill the current space.