

Camponotus lateralis

(Olivier, 1792)

A small, shy carpenter ant with a red head and a black gaster that passes itself off as an acrobat ant and shadows its trails to find food.



Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
21–27 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
40–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
8–12 °C

Nov – Feb



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
Apr – May

Hot days, Calm weather



WORKERS
3–7 mm

Many sizes



QUEEN
8–10 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 1,000 workers

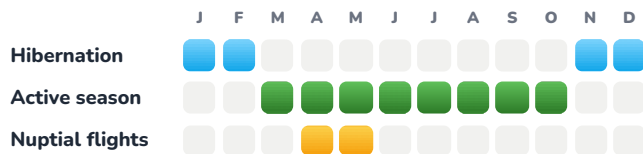
Growth: Moderate



ESCAPE RISK
Medium

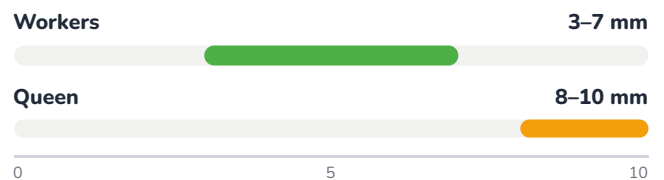
Keep an escape barrier on the outworld

Year at a glance



Months 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. Acrylic nest

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 compact, dry, warm nest and a separate water source. It comes from dry, sunny Mediterranean woodland and does not like damp, and one keeper's colony kept its brood in a corner away from the moist part of the nest.

WATCH OUT

Be patient with founding queens. This is a slow starter that can take a long time to lay, and the first batch of workers is small. Keepers advise leaving a young colony in its test tube, with its water reserve, through the first winters instead of hurrying it into a nest.