

Camponotus ligniperda

(Latreille, 1802)

Brown-black carpenter ant

One of Europe's biggest ants, a glossy red-and-black giant that lives by its own slow seasonal clock.

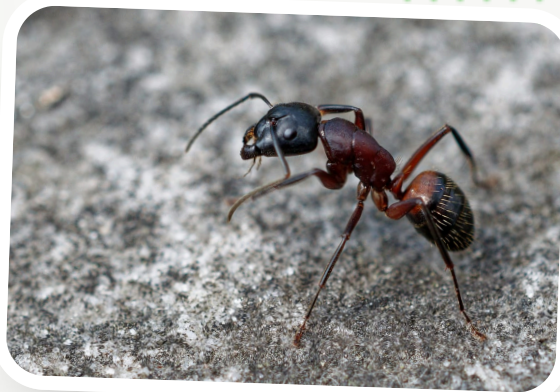


Photo: Donald Davesne, CC BY 4.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
20–25 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
50–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
5–8 °C

Oct – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
May – Jun

Hot days, Humid air



WORKERS
6–10 mm

majors up to 14 mm



QUEEN
16–18 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 5,000 workers

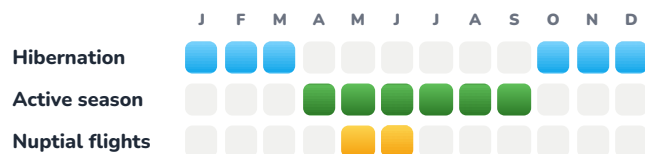
Growth: Moderate



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. Ytong nest
2. Wooden 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

Offer a damp chamber next to a drier part of the nest. The ants carry eggs and larvae to the moister spots, and a nest kept completely dry slows the brood down.

WATCH OUT

Do not keep the colony warm all year. It follows an inner yearly clock, and constant heating can make it wrap up its season early and drift into winter rest in late summer. A small warm corner for the brood is enough.