

Camponotus maculatus

(Fabricius, 1782)

Spotted sugar ant

A fast-growing, big-headed carpenter ant from Africa with a yellowish thorax and a spotted gaster, and no need for a winter rest.



Photo: Jonghyun Park, CC BY 4.0



At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
24–28 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
50–70 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
Not needed



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
No data yet



WORKERS
6–10 mm

majors up to 16 mm



QUEEN
15–18 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 5,000 workers

Growth: Very fast



ESCAPE RISK
Medium

Keep an escape barrier on the outworld



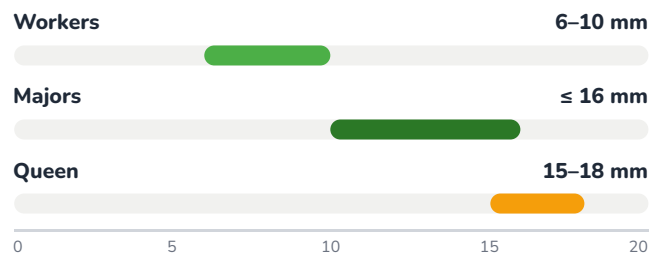
Year at a glance



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
- ✓ No hibernation to manage
- ⚠ Curious workers: keep an escape barrier on the outworld
- ⚠ Needs constant warmth all year round
- ⚠ Grows very fast and needs plenty of protein and space



Notes from keepers

TIP

Warm only part of the nest and put the heat mat partly under it, not against the glass. In one keeper's setup the whole colony avoided a heat mat on one side until it was moved partly under the nest, after which the brood settled over the warm spot, and too much heat at the glass front seemed to drive part of the colony out of the nest.

WATCH OUT

Plan the next nest early and seal the outworld well. Colonies can outgrow a nest surprisingly fast, the workers climb walls, and keepers expect escapes when a new nest is connected, so use a tight lid with a slippery barrier such as Fluon or an oil line.