

Camponotus nicobarensis

Mayr, 1865

Nicobar carpenter ant

An adaptable, fast-growing carpenter ant from Asia that forages mostly by night and does not need a winter rest.



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At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
22–28 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
50–70 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
Not needed



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
Mar – Jun



WORKERS
5–8 mm

majors up to 12 mm



QUEEN
14–16 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 10,000 workers

Growth: Very fast



ESCAPE RISK
High

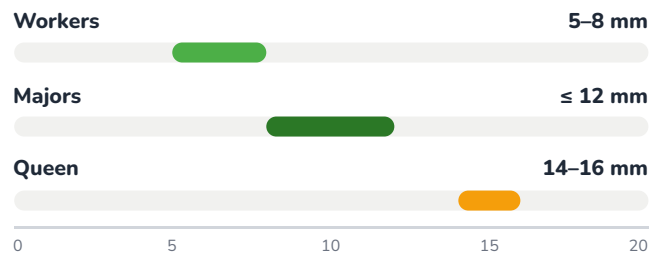
Escape artists: use a closed outworld and a good barrier

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. Wooden nest

WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ Fully claustral: the queen needs no food until her first workers arrive
- ✓ No hibernation to manage
- ⚠ A real escape artist that needs an escape-proof setup
- ⚠ Grows very fast and needs plenty of protein and space
- ⚠ Colonies get huge and need room to expand

Notes from keepers

TIP

Offer sugar as syrup or sugar water on a piece of cotton or in a feeder, not as open drops: the workers run through the drops, stick and drown, and one keeper lost several that way. Taste varies between colonies, and some ignored plain sugar water but loved invert syrup, so try a second sweet food if one is refused.

WATCH OUT

Treat them as climbers: keepers report workers walking up glass and even jumping. Use a tight lid with a barrier such as paraffin oil or Fluon, and seal every gap, because some ants died squeezing between a Ytong nest and the glass.