

Camponotus sylvaticus

(Olivier, 1792)

A long-legged, red-and-black Mediterranean carpenter ant that sprints out of reach after dark and needs a few patient years to grow into a big colony.



Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE

22–28 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY

40–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION

8–14 °C

Nov – Feb



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS

Jun – Aug

Hot days, Humid air



WORKERS

6–12 mm

majors up to 15 mm



QUEEN

14–17 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE

Reaches 5,000 workers

Growth: Moderate

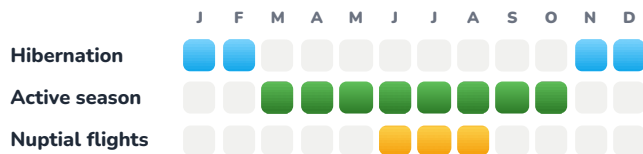


ESCAPE RISK

High

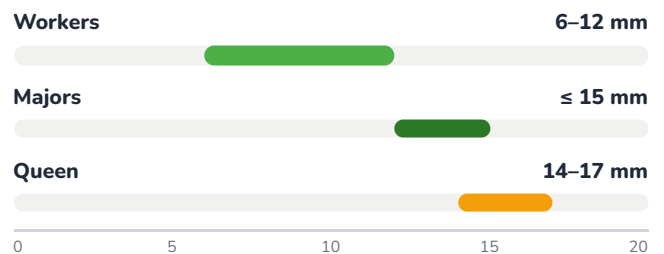
Escape artists: use a closed outworld and a good barrier

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

WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ Fully claustral: the queen needs no food until her first workers arrive
- ⚠ A real escape artist that needs an escape-proof setup

BEST NESTS

1. Ytong nest
2. Acrylic nest
3. Naturalistic setup

Notes from keepers

TIP

Expect a very slow start. One long-term colony had only about fifteen nurses after its first year, around fifty workers early in the second and hundreds by its end, and from then on it needed a bigger nest and far more food every season.

WATCH OUT

The workers are long-legged and extremely fast. One keeper watched them skim over an anti-escape coating and lost many every time the lid was opened, so feed through a small hatch or from a connected foraging box and back the barrier up with a second one.