

Camponotus vagus

(Scopoli, 1763)

Hairy carpenter ant

A fast, hairy, matte-black giant that sprints over sun-baked deadwood and bullies its neighbors at the food.



Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE

22–28 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY

50–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION

5–10 °C

Oct – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS

Apr – Jun

Hot days, Calm weather



WORKERS

6–12 mm

majors up to 13 mm



QUEEN

14–16 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE

Reaches 2,000 workers

Growth: Moderate

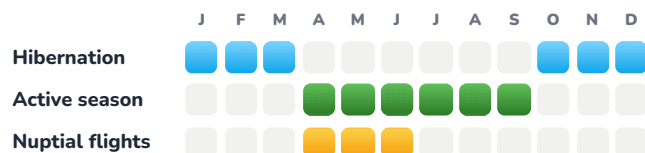


ESCAPE RISK

High

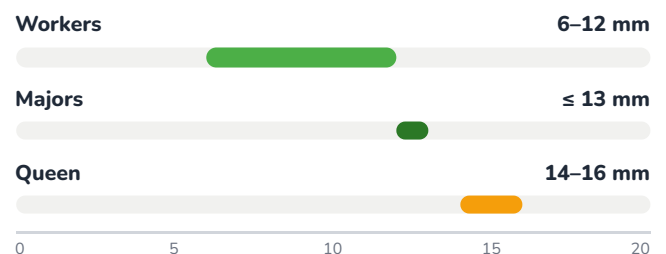
Escape artists: use a closed outworld and a good barrier

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

BEST NESTS

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

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
- ⚠ Needs a cold hibernation, for example in a fridge

Notes from keepers

TIP

Do not wet the wood or cork of the nest itself. Give water in the arena or in a test tube instead: the workers take it up themselves and carry it to the places they want to moisten, while a nest that stays too wet turns moldy.

WATCH OUT

They are fast, strong climbers that can hop small gaps and chew through soft nest material and plastic, so use a lid that fits tightly and check connecting tubes and joints regularly. One keeper's thick plexiglass lid even warped at the edges in a humid arena and no longer sealed.