

Carebara diversa

(Jerdon, 1851)

Asian marauder ant

A raiding marauder whose columns of tiny workers and giant-headed majors look like army ants, with the smallest workers riding on the biggest.



Photo: Jonghyun Park (clurarit), CC BY 4.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE

26–30 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY

60–80 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION

Not needed



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS

No data yet

After rain



WORKERS

2–9 mm

majors up to 15 mm



QUEEN

19–25 mm

One or more queens



COLONY SIZE

Reaches 10,000 workers

Growth: Fast



ESCAPE RISK

High

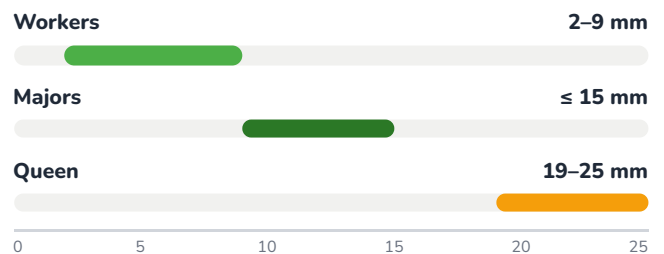
Escape artists: use a closed outworld and a good barrier

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

Insects

Sugar

BEST NESTS

1. Naturalistic setup
2. Ytong 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
- ⚠ Needs constant warmth all year round
- ⚠ Colonies get huge and need room to expand

Notes from keepers

TIP

Give them a deep soil nest, or a soil and Ytong mix, that stays moist but well ventilated, and let the ants dig and shape it themselves. Keep at least one chamber always wet, because a dried-out colony can die within a day, and boil garden soil first to avoid mites and mold.

WATCH OUT

Do not start small. Keepers report that lone queens are very hard to raise and that colonies of only a few hundred workers often thrive for the first months and then fade after most of a year, as the short-lived minors stop being replaced, so an established colony with plenty of brood is the safer start.