

Colobopsis truncata

(Spinola, 1808)

European gate-keeper ant

A shy tree dweller whose soldiers, and the queen herself, seal the nest door with flat, plug-shaped heads.

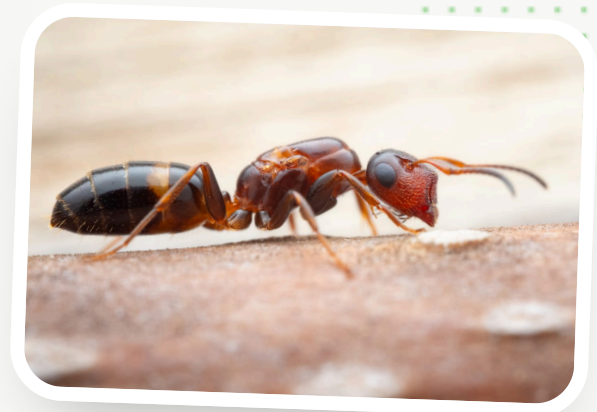


Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE

21–28 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY

40–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION

5–10 °C

Nov – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS

Jun – Aug



WORKERS

3–5 mm

majors up to 6 mm



QUEEN

6–8 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE

Reaches 300 workers

Growth: Moderate



ESCAPE RISK

Medium

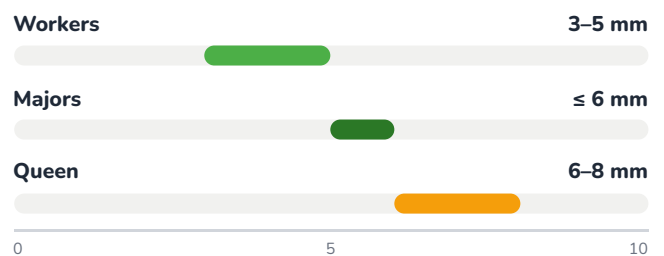
Keep an escape barrier on the outworld

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
- ⚠ Curious workers: keep an escape barrier on the outworld
- ⚠ Needs a cold hibernation, for example in a fridge

Notes from keepers

TIP

Offer a wooden nest or a set of half oak galls, with the entrance holes drilled in advance as German keepers advise. The ants pick one chamber, add satellite chambers later, and a soldier often sits in the entrance on guard.

WATCH OUT

Founding queens often fail in a plain test tube. The queens that laid and raised their first workers were given a tiny, dark chamber with a single narrow entrance to guard, such as a hollowed acorn cap, a hollow twig or a short piece of thin tubing, and keepers suspect that the size of the chamber matters more than the material.