

Dinomyrmex gigas

(Latreille, 1802)

Giant forest ant

A night-active giant of the Southeast Asian rain forests, whose sprawling colonies settle border disputes with ritual tournaments between big-headed majors.



Photo: Jonghyun Park, CC BY 4.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE

22–26 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY

70–90 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION

Not needed



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS

No data yet

After rain



WORKERS

18–25 mm

majors up to 30 mm



QUEEN

30–32 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE

No data yet

Growth: Moderate



ESCAPE RISK

Medium

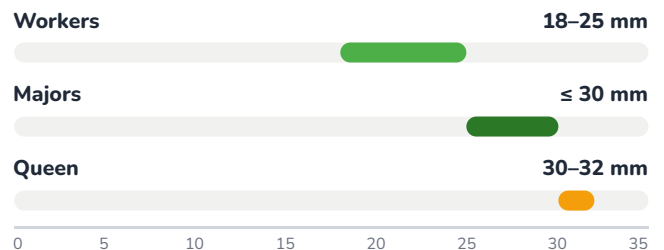
Keep an escape barrier on the outworld

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. Naturalistic setup
2. Ytong nest
3. Wooden nest

WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ Fully claustral: the queen needs no food until her first workers arrive
- ✓ No hibernation to manage
- ⚠ Curious workers: keep an escape barrier on the outworld

Notes from keepers

TIP

Plan for several connected nests instead of one block. In nature a colony spreads over many mostly underground nests joined by trails, with the queen in a central one, and the German species directory describes its space needs as extreme.

WATCH OUT

Keep it moderately warm and very humid rather than hot. The one peer-reviewed rearing used plaster nests at a steady moderate temperature with very humid air, and keepers who reached the first workers used a dark, humid container. Some shops advise a warmer nest, but others warn that this nocturnal forest ant copes badly with heat.