

Harpegnathos venator

(Smith, 1858)

Giant jumping ant

A sharp-eyed, sickle-jawed hunter that freezes, wiggles its gaster and then leaps onto its live prey.



Photo: portioid, CC BY 4.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
24–28 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
60–80 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
Not needed



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
No data yet

After rain



WORKERS
14–18 mm

All the same size



QUEEN
16–20 mm

One or more queens



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 400 workers

Growth: Moderate



ESCAPE RISK
Medium

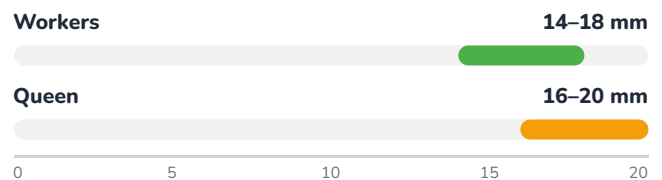
Keep an escape barrier on the outworld

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

Insects

BEST NESTS

1. Ytong nest
2. Naturalistic setup
3. Test tube setup

WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ No hibernation to manage
- ⚠ Curious workers: keep an escape barrier on the outworld
- ⚠ Semi-claustral: the founding queen has to be fed
- ⚠ Needs constant warmth all year round
- ⚠ The workers can sting

Notes from keepers

TIP

Give the nest steady warmth and moist chambers, and keep the arena drier. Keepers who relied on cool room temperature report slow brood and pupae opened and eaten before hatching, while most recent reports of healthy colonies use a heated nest or a warm room.

WATCH OUT

Offer only live prey. In a field test the workers did not attack cockroaches killed with boiling water, and most keepers report that colonies ignore dead insects. Small live crickets or cockroach nymphs work, some keepers remove the hind jumping legs of the crickets so the ants can catch them, and if the colony ignores one species, try another: one colony refused house crickets but carried a different cricket species straight into the nest.