

Lasius fuliginosus

(Latreille, 1798)

Jet black ant

A glossy black, sweet-smelling carton builder that cannot start a colony without borrowing another ant's workers.



Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
20–26 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
50–70 %

In the nest



HIbernATION
5–8 °C

Oct – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
May – Jul



WORKERS
4–6 mm

All the same size



QUEEN
6–6.5 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
No data yet

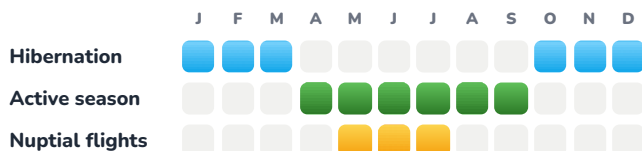
Growth: Fast



ESCAPE RISK
High

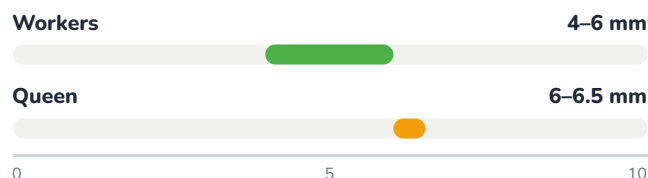
Escape artists: use a closed outworld and a good barrier

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. Ytong nest
2. Wooden nest
3. Test tube setup

WHY THIS RATING

- ⚠ A real escape artist that needs an escape-proof setup
- ⚠ Social parasite: the queen needs host workers to start
- ⚠ Needs a cold hibernation, for example in a fridge

Notes from keepers

TIP

Most keepers start with an adopted queen: soon after the flight, put her with a group of young *Lasius* workers and plenty of cocoons. The natural host is a queenless *Lasius umbratus* colony. *Lasius niger* workers and cocoons have also worked in captivity, although *niger* workers are poor at opening the queen's first cocoons, which her young workers need to get out.

WATCH OUT

They are very hungry for sugar and protein, so keep diluted honey and fresh water always available and feed the brood generously: a colony with lots of larvae empties its honey supply and takes insects every day.