

Manica rubida

(Latreille, 1802)

A big, rusty-red mountain hunter that heaps crater-like mounds around its nest entrances, stings like a wasp and punishes mistakes in the founding stage.



Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
20–28 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
50–70 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
5–10 °C

Oct – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
Apr – Jun

Hot days



WORKERS
5–9 mm

All the same size



QUEEN
10–13 mm

One or more queens



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 3,000 workers

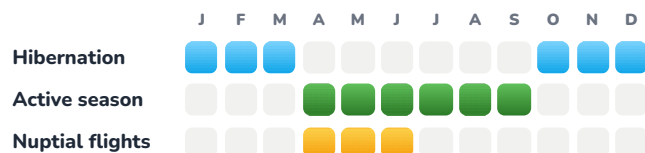
Growth: Fast



ESCAPE RISK
Medium

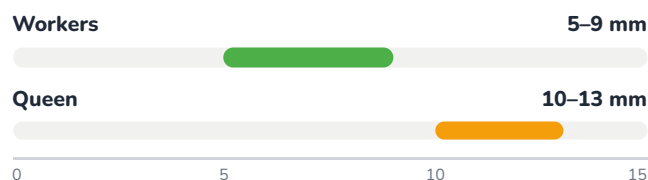
Keep an escape barrier on the outworld

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

WHY THIS RATING

- ⚠ Curious workers: keep an escape barrier on the outworld
- ⚠ Semi-claustral: the founding queen has to be fed
- ⚠ The workers can sting

Notes from keepers

TIP

Offer a gradient from damp to fairly dry instead of a soaked nest. A keeper who gave a colony three chambers from wet to nearly dry found it living in the driest one, but small colonies are also very sensitive to a nest that dries out.

WATCH OUT

Founding queens hunt for themselves, so make sure they can reach food from the first day: a small outworld or very regular feeding, and once the first larvae appear a small protein piece she can carry at least once a day. Keepers who raised many colonies feed once or twice a day at that stage.