

Polyrhachis dives

Smith, 1857

Asian spiny weaver ant

A spiny, fast-moving climber that weaves its nests with silk from its own larvae and lives in colonies with many queens.

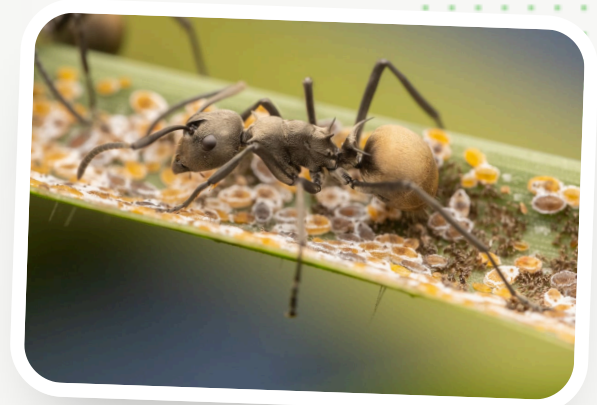


Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE

25–30 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY

60–80 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION

Not needed



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS

No data yet



WORKERS

5–8 mm

All the same size



QUEEN

9–12 mm

Several queens



COLONY SIZE

Reaches 3,000 workers

Growth: Fast



ESCAPE RISK

High

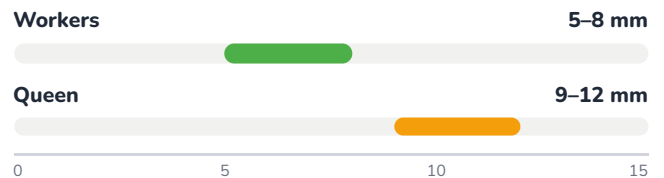
Escape artists: use a closed outworld and a good barrier

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. Acrylic nest
3. Ytong nest

WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ No hibernation to manage
- ⚠ A real escape artist that needs an escape-proof setup
- ⚠ Semi-claustral: the founding queen has to be fed
- ⚠ Needs constant warmth all year round

Notes from keepers

TIP

Give them a tall setup with cork bark, twigs, moss and dry plant material, and let them weave their own nest. Keepers report colonies moving into a cork piece, a hollow seed pod or a cavity in wood, while a heated nest basin offered to them was ignored at first.

WATCH OUT

Seal the setup completely and do not rely on an oil film alone. One keeper saw a worker, startled by a twitching cricket, race far up an oiled glass wall before slipping back, and a new colony vanished through a small gap into the electronics of a thermometer housing. Keepers combine an oil or PTFE barrier with talcum, a tight lid and fine gauze.