

Temnothorax unifasciatus

(Latreille, 1798)

A tiny, peaceful ant with a dark band across its gaster, small enough that a whole colony can live inside an acorn.



Photo: Philipp Hoenle (myrmecophil), CC0 1.0

At a glance



NEST TEMPERATURE
20–26 °C

In the nest



NEST HUMIDITY
50–60 %

In the nest



HIBERNATION
5–10 °C

Nov – Mar



NUPTIAL FLIGHTS
Jul – Aug



WORKERS
2.5–3.5 mm

All the same size



QUEEN
3.5–4.5 mm

One queen



COLONY SIZE
Reaches 200 workers

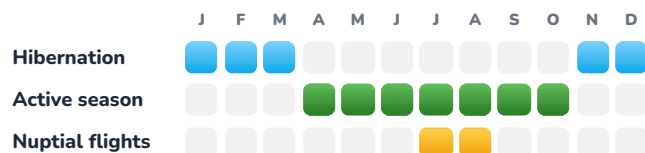
Growth: Moderate



ESCAPE RISK
Medium

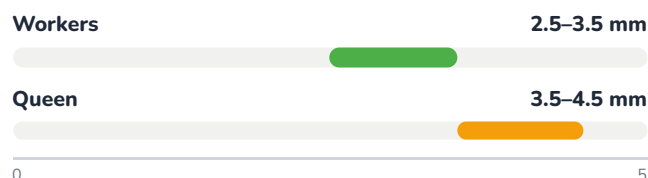
Keep an escape barrier on the outworld

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. Acrylic nest
3. Naturalistic setup

WHY THIS RATING

- ✓ Fully claustral: the queen needs no food until her first workers arrive
- ⚠ Curious workers: keep an escape barrier on the outworld
- ⚠ Needs a cold hibernation, for example in a fridge
- ⚠ The workers can sting

Notes from keepers

TIP

Give them seasons instead of a constant warm room: keepers describe a hardy species that does better with cooler nights and a real winter rest. Just keep the nest itself from getting hot and soggy, because a sunny, damp setup cost one keeper about two dozen workers and several pupae.

WATCH OUT

Never put out a free drop of honey or sugar water, because even a tiny drop can trap and drown a worker. Soak a piece of cotton in the liquid instead and replace it often.