BEST ANTS UK | ANT CARE SHEET

Keeping ants since 1997

Intermediate

Crematogaster cerasi

Common acrobat ant

A small, bold North American acrobat ant that flips its heart-shaped gaster over its head when alarmed. A North American ant, not sold by Best Ants UK and possibly illegal or impossible to import to the UK.

ORIGIN

North America

Southern Canada to northern Mexico; dead wood, bark

NEST TEMPERATURE

22–26°C

Active season; heater at 24°C in cool homes, a warm spot up to 28°C speeds the brood

OUTWORLD TEMPERATURE

22–28°C

By day like the nest or a degree or two cooler

HUMIDITY

Nest 50–60%

Outworld about 50%, never watered

WINTER

Rest 3–4 months, 5–10°C

Ideally 8–10°C, never below 4°C, hibernation unit only; nest slightly damp, no food. Not in a queen's first year

MOVE TO A NEST

50+ workers

A queen on her own too (tiny workers)

SIZE

Queen about 8 mm

Workers 3–5 mm, glossy black gaster

COLONY

One queen

Several thousand workers when mature

Food

- **Proteins:** Protein Jelly (keep in the fridge) or Cricket Mash. Live food only for established colonies: scalded, cut in half
- **Carbohydrates:** organic Ant Honey or Ant Nectar, far better than sugar water or home-made mixes; small drops

- Twice a week, small amounts, outworld only; leftovers out after 2 days. Founding queen: a tiny drop of protein jelly on tin foil once a week

Water

- Distilled or purified water only. Never tap, rain or bottled mineral water, even boiled (mould and fungus).
- Pipette a few drops through the watering hole; stop when 1–2 drops appear inside. About once a week, or when the meter drops below 50%.
- Never water the outworld; keep it at about 50% humidity. A watering test tube in the outworld gives a safe drink.

Best setup

- A7 Plus ant farm kit only (small nest, built-in digital meter); Nest + Outworld option if you already have your ants
- Advanced Heating System Small 4W under one quarter of the nest, opposite the watering area, set to 24°C (in cool homes)
- Daylight, never direct sunlight; away from windows, radiators, vibrations, speakers and kitchens
- Escape risk: high, small fast climbers that chew soft seals and cotton. PTFE Fluon band on the top inner edge of the outworld lid, reapplied every 2–4 weeks

Good to know

- North American ant: not sold by Best Ants UK, and possibly illegal or impossible to import to the UK. We never encourage importing ants
- Flips its gaster over its head when alarmed; tiny sting, harmless to people. No rest in a queen's first year
- Never release it. Can't keep it? See our ant adoption page

Read the full care guide | **All our ant care sheets**

Best Ants UK care sheet. These notes cover the essentials only: read the full care guide and our ant farm setup guide from A to Z.