Intermediate

Crematogaster lineolata

Lined acrobat ant

A tiny, lively acrobat ant from eastern North America that flips its heart-shaped gaster over its head when alarmed. In the wild it builds little tents over the aphids it farms.

ORIGIN
Eastern and central USA
Oak woodland, forest, grassland

NEST TEMPERATURE
22–26°C
Heater at 24°C in cool homes

OUTWORLD TEMPERATURE
18°C night, up to 28°C day
By day like the nest or a degree or two cooler

HUMIDITY
Nest 50–60%
Outworld about 50%, never watered

WINTER
Rest Nov–end of March
Steady 8–10°C only in a hibernation unit, or room temperature

MOVE TO A NEST
50+ workers
A queen on her own too: tiny workers

SIZE
Queen about 7–9 mm
Workers about 2.5–4.5 mm, red-brown and black

COLONY
Usually one queen
Several thousand workers when mature

Food

- **Proteins:** Protein Jelly (keep in the fridge) or Cricket Mash
- **Carbohydrates:** organic Ant Honey or Ant Nectar, far better than sugar water or home-made mixes (small drops so tiny workers don't get stuck)
- Twice a week, small amounts, outworld only; remove leftovers after 2 days. Live food only for established colonies: scalded, cut in half, never for small colonies.

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 with a built-in digital meter)
- 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; a steady spot, as they are very sensitive to vibration
- Escape risk: high. 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, may be illegal or impossible to import to the UK, and we don't encourage importing ants
- Keep one queen per colony: keepers report queens put together kill each other. A small nip, but harmless to people
- Never release: it is not a UK ant. 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.