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CAECILIANS

Kaup's Caecilian

Potamotyphlus kaupii

Potamotyphlus kaupii is a fully aquatic, eel-like caecilian from the river systems of the Amazon and Orinoco. It has a smaller head and a paler colour than *Typhlonectes* and needs clean, well-oxygenated water. The species gives birth to live young and is harder to keep than the related *Typhlonectes* species.

Family: Typhlonectidae Former name: *Potomotyphlus kaupii* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**30-70 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**60-114 g**
Lifespan	**16 years**
Active	**By day, at dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**26-29 °C**
Temperature, night	**26-29 °C**
Humidity	**100%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 30-35 cm
Water temperature	**26-29 °C**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects, complete diet, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**In groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Development	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**1-9 young**
Gestation	**180-300 days**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Potamotyphlus kaupii* is kept in an aquarium. Its care is less well known than that of *Typhlonectes*, and the aquarium should imitate rocky, oxygen-rich streams rather than muddy, still water.
TEMPERATURE	The water temperature should be 26-29 °C and kept stable; the species breeds without a change of seasons. During gestation 29 °C is good, as it produces more viable young. Around 32 °C causes heat stress in aquatic caecilians.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Air humidity is irrelevant, because the animal lives in the water. The air under a tight-fitting lid is saturated with moisture, which is why the box says 100 %. What counts is the quality of the water; see the section on water.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Caecilians absorb substances through the skin, so water quality is crucial. The filter must be cycled before the animals go in.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Ordinary aquarium lighting for 12 hours a day is enough. The animals prefer darkness, so there must always be dark hides.
FEEDING	*Potamotyphlus kaupii* eats meaty foods like the related *Typhlonectes* species: earthworms, crickets, beetle larvae, shrimp and other crustaceans, bloodworms, thawed fish and prepared amphibian food.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animals are social and lie together in hides, and they are kept in groups. During feeding they may bite each other in their eagerness for food. In the aquarium they are active both day and night.
NATIVE RANGE	Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and French Guiana.