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CAECILIANS

Cayenne Caecilian

Typhlonectes compressicauda

Typhlonectes compressicauda is a fully aquatic, legless amphibian from the Amazon and the Guiana Shield with a long, dark, velvety body and a compressed dorsal fin towards the rear. The species gives birth to live young and is kept in a warm, soft-water, well-filtered aquarium with a heavy, tight-fitting lid.

Family: Typhlonectidae Former name: *Typhlonectes cunhai* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**26-80 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-14 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	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**24-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**24-30 °C**
Humidity	**100%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 30-35 cm
Water temperature	**24-30 °C**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects, complete diet, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**In groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Development	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**16 months**
Litter size	**1-8 young**
Gestation	**170-210 days**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Typhlonectes compressicauda is kept in an aquarium. Three adults need at least 100 × 45 × 45 cm (about 200 litres) with a large external filter. The larger the volume of water, the more stable the water quality.

TEMPERATURE
The water temperature should be 24-30 °C, and a natural seasonal variation within that range is good. Around 32 °C causes heat stress, and newborn young are more vulnerable to fungal infections below about 26 °C.

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, and that is why the specification box says 100 %.

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
Typhlonectes compressicauda eats almost any meaty food: earthworms, crickets, beetle larvae, shrimps and other crustaceans, mussels, bloodworms, thawed fish, newborn mice and prepared foods for amphibians.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is peaceful and likes to gather in hides and on floating plants, including the young around the mother.

NATIVE RANGE
Brazil, Peru, Colombia, French Guiana and Guyana.