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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Chuxiong Fire-bellied Newt

Cynops cyanurus

Cynops cyanurus is a newt of 8-10 cm from Yunnan and Guizhou in south-western China. The colour ranges from dark brown to golden, the belly is yellow to orange with black spots, and a yellow or orange mark just behind the eye is characteristic of the species. It is almost entirely aquatic, tolerates ordinary room temperature and eats readily. Larvae and juveniles, however, are sensitive to cold.

Family: Salamandridae Former name: *Hypselotriton cyanurus* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**8-10 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day and at night**
Lifestyle	**Aquatic**
Habitat	**Montane forest 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	**60 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**16-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 15-30 cm
Water temperature	**16-24 °C**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Eggs per season	**100-150**
Hatching	**21-28 days**
Larval period	**150-180 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Cynops cyanurus* is almost entirely aquatic and is kept in an aquarium. Three adults suit an aquarium of 60 × 30 × 30 cm with a water level of 25 cm, and more animals need more space.
TEMPERATURE	Adults thrive and breed at 21-24 °C in summer and 16-18 °C in winter, so they are well suited to an ordinary home. Healthy adults tolerate down to 10 °C and up to 27 °C briefly, but not for long at a time.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	The species lives in water, so humidity is not critical. Under a tight lid it is high, about 70-90 %. Misting is not necessary. Any island or land section should be damp, but a large land area is not needed.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water level should be 15-30 cm. For three adults, 40-50 litres of water is suitable. Use dechlorinated water, change a quarter of the water weekly, and remove uneaten food.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species does not need special lighting, and UVB is not necessary. Ordinary aquarium lighting that suits the plants is enough, and the days are shortened in winter.
FEEDING	The species is a very good eater and takes almost anything suitable that moves. Offer chopped earthworms, blackworms, bloodworms, daphnia and white worms.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is calm and can be kept in a group. Make sure every animal is eating. Adults eat eggs and small larvae of their own species, so the offspring are kept separately.
NATIVE RANGE	China.