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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Anderson's Crocodile Newt

Echinotriton andersoni

Echinotriton andersoni is a compact, dark brown to black salamander, 14-21 cm long, from the central Ryukyu Islands of Japan. It lives mostly on land in damp forest, has knob-like warts along its sides and can push the tips of its ribs out through the skin as a defence. The species is rare and little known in captivity.

Family: Salamandridae Former name: *Pleurodeles andersoni; Tylototriton andersoni* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14-21 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest 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	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**18-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water section** depth 10-20 cm
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	**On the ground**
Eggs per season	**3-46**
Hatching	**20-27 days**
Larval period	**70-100 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Other larvae and small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Echinotriton andersoni*.
TEMPERATURE	The temperature is 18-25 °C by day and may fall to 15-20 °C at night. It should not stay above 25 °C for long. Heat lamps are unnecessary; keep the terrarium cool in summer and out of direct sun. Winter rest is not documented.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 60-80%. The leaf litter and soil are kept damp but not wet, and part of the substrate should be drier so the animals can choose. Provide a little air exchange so the air does not stand still.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water area is a bowl-shaped depression, about 30 cm in diameter and 10-20 cm deep in the middle, with an even slope all the way round, so the animals are never at risk of drowning.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species lives hidden and is most active at dusk and at night. UVB is not necessary. A light period of about 10 hours is suitable, and the light must also be sufficient to keep the plants alive. Avoid direct sun.
FEEDING	The animals take earthworms, crickets, snails, woodlice and small beetles. Earthworms and crickets are suitable as the staple, and the feeder insects must be small enough for the animal to swallow whole.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal lives hidden and is most visible at dusk and at night. Groups need plenty of hiding places. The animal is not suited to handling.
NATIVE RANGE	Japan.