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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Chinhai Spiny Newt

Echinotriton chinhaiensis

Echinotriton chinhaiensis is a critically endangered salamander found only in a small area of Beilun District, east of Ningbo in Zhejiang, China. The eggs are laid on land beside small, still ponds, and the larvae live in the water for 58-88 days. The species reaches sexual maturity only after about ten years and can live to at least 20 years. Almost nothing is known about the care of adults.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14-21 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-25 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Wetland and temperate woodland and meadow**
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	**29-31 days** at 20 °C
Larval period	**58-88 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Other larvae and small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Echinotriton chinhaiensis*. Most studies concern eggs and larvae.
TEMPERATURE	The temperature for adults is borrowed from *Echinotriton andersoni*: 18-25 °C by day and 15-20 °C at night. The requirements of adults have not been studied in *Echinotriton chinhaiensis*.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity is borrowed from *Echinotriton andersoni*: 60-80 %. Keep the leaf litter and soil damp but not wet, and part of the substrate should be drier, so the animals can choose. Eggs on land must be kept moist at all times.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water area is a bowl-shaped depression, about 30 cm across and 10-20 cm deep in the middle, with an even slope all the way round, so the animals are not at risk of drowning.
LIGHTING AND UVB	UVB is not necessary. The animals are assumed to be most active at dusk and at night; this is borrowed from *Echinotriton andersoni*. A light period of about 10 hours suits, and the light must also be able to keep the plants alive.
FEEDING	The diet of adults is not documented. In *Echinotriton andersoni* it is earthworms, crickets, snails, woodlice and small beetles, and the food must be small enough to be swallowed whole.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The behaviour of adults is not documented. The larvae are cautious: they avoid visible predators and reduce their activity when they sense predators by smell or sight. The animals are not suited to handling.
NATIVE RANGE	China.