herpy

SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Bosca's newt

Lissotriton boscai

Lissotriton boscai is a small, mostly aquatic newt of 7-9 cm from Portugal and western Spain. It is brownish to greenish with dark spots and an orange belly, and in the breeding season the male develops a coloured protuberance on the tip of the tail instead of a crest. The species is cool-loving and adaptable and thrives in a cool aquaterrarium.

Family: Salamandridae Former name: *Triturus boscai* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-9 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**4-12 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
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	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**12-20 °C**
Temperature, night	**8-15 °C**
Humidity	**80-100%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 10-20 cm
UVB	**Not required**
Winter rest	**6-10 °C** 6-8 weeks
Diet	**Insects, small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies) and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Eggs per season	**150-440**
Hatching	**8-28 days**
Larval period	**45-105 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	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Lissotriton boscai is mostly aquatic, and an aquaterrarium suits it best. An enclosure of 60 × 30 × 30 cm holds up to 4 animals, and a larger one gives more peace.

TEMPERATURE

Lissotriton boscai is cool-loving. The daytime temperature is 12-20 °C and the night-time temperature 8-15 °C. Temperatures above 22 °C for long periods should be avoided.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

The skin dries out quickly, so the humidity over the land section must be 80-100 %. Mist the land section with dechlorinated water once or twice a day, and let moss and soil hold the moisture without the substrate becoming sodden.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The water section is 10-20 cm deep and 10-20 °C. Use dechlorinated tap water or rainwater; the chlorine must be gone, but water quality is otherwise not critical.

LIGHTING AND UVB

UVB is not necessary for the species, which lives hidden.

FEEDING

Lissotriton boscai eats any small animal it can swallow. In the water it is given daphnia, mosquito larvae, tubifex and small earthworms, and it also takes frozen food from the bottom.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is peaceful and can be kept in pairs or in a group with more females than males, so the females are left in peace in the breeding season.

NATIVE RANGE

Portugal and Spain.