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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Azarbaijan Mountain Newt

Neurergus crocatus

Neurergus crocatus is a slender mountain stream newt of 16-18 cm from the border region between Turkey, Iraq and Iran, dark with round yellow spots and a yellow-orange belly. The species is rare in captivity and needs cool water, a cold winter rest and an experienced keeper. It is vulnerable in the wild.

Family: Salamandridae

Mild skin toxins

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**16-18 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**12-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rocky terrain 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 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**10-20 °C**
Temperature, night	**8-15 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 15-30 cm
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**4-5 °C** 4-12 weeks
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	**48-60 months**
Eggs per season	**20-60**
Larval period	**90-120 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	Little is known about the care of *Neurergus crocatus*, and the species is rare in captivity.
TEMPERATURE	*Neurergus crocatus* likes cool conditions. By day 10-20 °C suits, and at night 8-15 °C, as in *Neurergus strauchii*. In the breeding season the water should be 12-15 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	The species tolerates drought fairly well, but humidity must be checked regularly. 60-80 % suits.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water is 15-30 cm deep. It should be alkaline and hard, as at the habitat, and limestone in the aquarium helps keep it that way. Use dechlorinated tap water.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species does not need any special lighting. Daylight or fluorescent tubes are enough, with a day length that follows the seasons. UVB is not necessary. Always provide shade and hides.
FEEDING	The amount of food is smaller than for many other salamanders, because the animals grow slowly. The food should therefore be varied and nutritious. Insects and their larvae are preferred, for example crickets.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Neurergus crocatus* is most active at dusk and at night. Animals in water are lively and move a great deal, while animals on land move little and can be shy. The animals can be kept in groups of 4-5.
NATIVE RANGE	Turkey, Iraq and Iran.