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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Black-spotted Stout Newt

Pachytriton brevipes

Pachytriton brevipes is a stout, smooth-skinned and fully aquatic salamander of 14-19 cm from clear, cool and fast-flowing mountain streams in south-eastern China. It is medium to dark brown with many black spots and a broad, oar-like tail. It is territorial and aggressive and requires cool, oxygen-rich water.

Family: Salamandridae

Mild skin toxins

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14-19 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**9-15 years**
Active	**At dusk 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 × 35 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**14-18 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-16 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 20-25 cm
Water temperature	**14-18 °C**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per season	**40**
Larval period	**80-110 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Little is known about the care of *Pachytriton brevipes*, and much of what is known about the genus applies to trade animals whose species is not certain.

TEMPERATURE

Keep the water at 14-18 °C by day and 12-16 °C at night. 21-24 °C is tolerated briefly, but longer periods above 18 °C harm health.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity plays no role for a fully aquatic animal. In a closed aquarium it is high by itself; the box's 70-90 % is an estimate. Make sure the air above the water does not become stagnant and warm.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The water must be clean, oxygen-rich and moving. A powerful filter (canister filter, undergravel filter or internal filter) is necessary; sponge filters and air stones are less effective and require more frequent water changes.

LIGHTING AND UVB

UVB is not necessary. The animals live in shaded streams, and the light should not be bright. The lighting can be set according to any plants, and direct sun is avoided because it heats the water.

FEEDING

The animals are voracious and eat worms, insects, frozen red bloodworms, beef heart, fish, dry food in pellets and small amounts of lean meat.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Pachytriton brevipes is territorial and aggressive. In nutrient-poor streams food becomes scarce, and the animals therefore defend an area against conspecifics.

NATIVE RANGE

China.