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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Guizhou Warty Newt

Paramesotriton caudopunctatus

Paramesotriton caudopunctatus is a robust, almost fully aquatic newt of up to 16 cm from the mountain forests of south-central China. The species name refers to the small spots on the tail. The species grows unusually slowly, is rare in captivity and needs cool, clean water.

Family: Salamandridae **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-16 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest, 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	**16-22 °C**
Temperature, night	**14-18 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 15-20 cm
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**108-120 months**
Eggs per season	**20-115**
Clutches per year	**1**
Hatching	**21-56 days** at 18-25 °C
Larval period	**80-110 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	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Paramesotriton caudopunctatus*, and the species is rare in captivity.
TEMPERATURE	*Paramesotriton caudopunctatus* must be kept cool: 16-22 °C by day and 14-18 °C at night, and the water must not become warmer than 22 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	*Paramesotriton caudopunctatus* is almost fully aquatic, so air humidity plays a small role; 70-90 % is fine. A land area must be moist for as long as the animals use it.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water should be 15-20 cm deep. Use dechlorinated tap water or spring water. The water must be clean, and extreme values of pH and hardness are avoided.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Paramesotriton caudopunctatus* does not need strong light. A single fluorescent or LED tube on a timer provides a fixed daily rhythm of about 12 hours. UVB is not necessary.
FEEDING	*Paramesotriton caudopunctatus* eats the same as the rest of the genus: chopped earthworms, crickets, freshly moulted mealworms, cockroaches and pieces of shrimp. Adults are fed twice a week, young 3-4 times a week.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Paramesotriton caudopunctatus* is more active than most species in the genus. Young land animals, by contrast, are very secretive and rarely seen.
NATIVE RANGE	China.