herpy

SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Hong Kong Warty Newt

Paramesotriton hongkongensis

Paramesotriton hongkongensis is a robust, almost fully aquatic newt of 11-16 cm from the forest streams of Hong Kong and coastal Guangdong. It is brown with large orange to red blotches on the belly and is a hardy, cool-loving aquarium animal that grows slowly and needs cool, clean water.

Family: Salamandridae **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**11-16 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest 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	**18-22 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 15-20 cm
UVB	**Not required**
Winter rest	**8-12 °C** 2-6 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	**24-60 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	*Paramesotriton hongkongensis* is kept in an aquarium of at least 60 × 30 × 35 cm (about 60 litres) for a pair.
TEMPERATURE	*Paramesotriton hongkongensis* must be kept cool: 18-22 °C by day and 16-20 °C at night, and the water must not exceed 22 °C. Warm rooms in summer require cooling with a fan, cooling elements or placement in a cool room.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	*Paramesotriton hongkongensis* is aquatic, so air humidity plays a small role; about 70-90 % in the room is fine. A cork island or land area must be kept moist if the animals use it.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water should be about 15-20 cm deep. Use dechlorinated tap water or spring water. *Paramesotriton hongkongensis* is not fussy about water values as long as the water is clean, and extreme values of pH and hardness are avoided.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Paramesotriton hongkongensis* does not need strong light. A single fluorescent or LED tube the length of the aquarium on a timer provides a fixed daily rhythm of about 12 hours and is enough for the plants. UVB is not necessary.
FEEDING	*Paramesotriton hongkongensis* eats most things: chopped earthworms, crickets, waxworms, freshly moulted mealworms, cockroaches, snails, fly larvae and pieces of shrimp, as well as prepared food for amphibians and aquatic turtles.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Paramesotriton hongkongensis* is shy at first, but the animals often become confident and swim towards the front when there is food.
NATIVE RANGE	Hong Kong SAR China and China.