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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Paddle Tail Newt

Paramesotriton labiatus

Paramesotriton labiatus is an almost fully aquatic newt known only from the Dayao mountains in Guangxi in southern China. The species is critically endangered, and almost nothing is known about its care. It is often confused with others, because the salamanders that carry the name *labiatus* in the trade belong to the genus *Pachytriton*.

Family: Salamandridae Former name: *Pachytriton labiatus; Paramesotriton ermizhaoi* **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	**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**
Eggs per season	**20-115**
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	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
Almost nothing is known about the care of *Paramesotriton labiatus*.

TEMPERATURE
Paramesotriton labiatus must be kept cool like the rest of the genus: 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 labiatus lives almost all the time in the water, so air humidity plays a small role; 70-90 % in the room is fine. A cork island or land area must be kept moist if the animals use it. Misting is not necessary.

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 well oxygenated, and extreme values of pH and hardness are avoided.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Paramesotriton labiatus 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 labiatus is a predator.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Species of the genus *Paramesotriton* are shy at first, but often become confident and swim towards the front when there is food. The males can be aggressive, especially in the breeding season, and the females may fight over food.

NATIVE RANGE
China.