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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Danube Crested Newt

Triturus dobrogicus

Triturus dobrogicus is a slender crested newt, 13-18 cm long, from the Danube basin and the plains of the large rivers. It is the smallest and most aquatic of the crested newts, with an orange to red belly and sharply defined black spots. The male develops a serrated crest in spring. The species is rare in captivity, and its care follows that of the other crested newts.

Family: Salamandridae

Mild skin toxins

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-18 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**7-17 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Wetland and temperate woodland and meadow**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**12-20 °C**
Temperature, night	**8-15 °C**
Humidity	**70-95%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 15-30 cm
Water temperature	**10-20 °C**
UVB	**Not required**
Winter rest	**4-10 °C** 6-12 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	**12-36 months**
Eggs per season	**200**
Hatching	**14-35 days**
Larval period	**60-120 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet, other larvae and small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

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 *Triturus dobrogicus*, and the species is rare in captivity.
TEMPERATURE	*Triturus dobrogicus* loves cool conditions. The water is kept at 10-20 °C and must never become warmer; the animals are active down to about 5 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	In the aquatic phase humidity is not a problem. In the land phase the soft skin dries out quickly, so the substrate must be damp, with a humidity of 70-95%.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Water depth is 15-30 cm, and the water is kept at 10-20 °C. The species is used to river water and tolerates many kinds of water, but chlorine harms it; tap water that has stood for a couple of days is unproblematic.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The animals are nocturnal and do not need UVB. The plants need light to grow, and an ordinary aquarium lamp is enough.
FEEDING	In the water *T. dobrogicus* takes earthworms, freshwater shrimp (*Gammarus*), bloodworms, daphnia and white worms. Frozen bloodworms and fish food are also taken, but often have to be offered with tweezers at first.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Triturus dobrogicus* is nocturnal and hides in vegetation by day. In the water the animals snap at anything that moves, including each other during feeding, and in the wild they also eat smaller newts and tadpoles.
NATIVE RANGE	Austria, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Moldova.