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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Pygmy Marbled Newt

Triturus pygmaeus

Triturus pygmaeus is a newt from the south-western Iberian Peninsula and the smallest species in the genus, at 10-13 cm in total. It is recognised by its green, black-marbled pattern, the thin orange stripe down the back and the pale belly with dark spots. The species is cool-loving and thrives in a cool aquaterrarium with aquatic plants and good hides.

Family: Salamandridae **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-13 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-25 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and 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	**60 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**12-20 °C**
Temperature, night	**8-15 °C**
Humidity	**70-95%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 10-25 cm
UVB	**Not required**
Winter rest	**6-10 °C** 6-10 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	**24-36 months**
Eggs per season	**200-350**
Hatching	**14-21 days** at 12-15 °C
Larval period	**56-70 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Triturus pygmaeus can be kept all year round in an aquaterrarium, and many adults readily stay in the water. An enclosure of 60 × 30 × 30 cm suits two animals, and a larger one gives more peace.

TEMPERATURE

Triturus pygmaeus is cool-loving. The daytime temperature is 12-20 °C and the night-time temperature 8-15 °C. Temperatures above 22 °C for long periods should be avoided, as the animals become sluggish and lose their appetite.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

The skin dries out quickly, so the humidity over the land section must be 70-95 %. Mist the land section with dechlorinated water once or twice a day, and let moss and soil hold the moisture without the substrate becoming sodden.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The water section is 10-25 cm deep and 10-20 °C. Dechlorinated tap water that has stood for a few days suits well, as the chlorine must be gone, but water quality is otherwise not critical.

LIGHTING AND UVB

UVB is not necessary for the species, which lives hidden and is nocturnal.

FEEDING

Triturus pygmaeus is voracious and eats any small animal it can swallow. In the water it is given earthworms, mosquito larvae, tubifex, daphnia, shrimps and dry food from the bottom; molluscs and small fish are also taken.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is calm and can be kept in pairs or in a small group. In the breeding season a group with more females than males is a good choice, so the females are left in peace.

NATIVE RANGE

Portugal and Spain.