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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Black Knobby Newt

Tylototriton asperrimus

Tylototriton asperrimus is a dark, warty crocodile newt of 12-15 cm with knobbly rib protuberances and heavy dorsal ridges. The species lives in humid mountain regions in the Chinese province of Guangxi and has given its name to a whole group of closely related crocodile newts, which have only recently been split off as separate species.

Family: Salamandridae Former name: *Echinotriton asperrimus; Pleurodeles asperrimus* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**12-15 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-25 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Montane forest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**80-100%**
Water	**Water section** depth 1-5 cm
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**8-12 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Eggs per season	**30-80**
Hatching	**20-36 days** at 22-24 °C
Larval period	**50-110 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 *Tylototriton asperrimus*.
TEMPERATURE	In summer the enclosure is kept at 20-24 °C by day and 18-21 °C at night, which corresponds to summer in the range.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity is 80-100 %. The enclosure is misted daily with a plant mister, and there must be both damper and drier zones so that the air does not stand still.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water section must have soft, slightly acidic water; rainwater or reverse-osmosis water suits. The pH of the water is not documented for *Tylototriton asperrimus*; *Tylototriton ziegleri* is kept at pH 6.4-6.8.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Light is of no particular importance to the animals and is arranged for the plants: LED strips or fluorescent tubes for 12 hours in summer and 10-11 hours in winter. UVB is not necessary for this secretive species.
FEEDING	Adults are given compost worms, crickets, house crickets, waxworms, earthworms and isopods of suitable size about twice a week. In winter they eat irregularly and much less.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	In the closely related species the animals live very secretively and are seen mostly when fed or when the males are in the water. Pairs or small groups can be kept together in a spacious enclosure with many hiding places.
NATIVE RANGE	China.