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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Guizhou Crocodile Newt

Tylototriton kweichowensis

Tylototriton kweichowensis is a robust, blackish-brown crocodile newt of 15-21 cm with three broad orange to reddish stripes along the body. It lives on land in the mountains of Guizhou and Yunnan and enters the water mainly to breed. It is best kept in a large enclosure with both land and water.

Family: Salamandridae Former name: *Pleurodeles kweichowensis* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-21 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Montane forest 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	**90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**18-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 10-15 cm
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**On leaves over water**
Eggs per season	**50-150**
Clutches per year	**1**
Hatching	**10-12 days** at 25 °C
Larval period	**80-100 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Tylototriton kweichowensis* needs a large enclosure, because the animals are big and heavy, need a solid land area with a hiding place for each animal, and need enough water for both larvae and a filter.
TEMPERATURE	The species thrives at ordinary room temperature: 18-25 °C by day and 15-20 °C at night. In summer the day may well be at the high end, and in winter the animals are kept at 15-20 °C around the clock.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity must be high, but the substrate not wet; 70-90 % is an estimate. Keep the land section damp without letting it turn to mud, and part of the substrate may well be drier.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water section takes up roughly half of the enclosure. The depth is not documented for the species; 10-15 cm is borrowed from *Tylototriton verrucosus*.
LIGHTING AND UVB	UVB is not necessary, and the species is most active at dusk and at night.
FEEDING	Adults are fed chopped earthworms, crickets and other prey of suitable size. Waxworms and other fatty larvae are popular, but should not be a staple. With a varied diet, vitamin and mineral supplements are normally not necessary.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is slow and clumsy. 2-3 animals can be kept together when there are enough hiding places for each animal.
NATIVE RANGE	China.