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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Emperor Crocodile Newt

Tylototriton shanjing

Tylototriton shanjing is a robust, dark brown crocodile newt from Yunnan in south-western China with a bright orange head, dorsal ridge, gland warts and tail. It grows to 12-20 cm, lives on land almost all year and enters the water only to breed. The animal is calm and hardy, but its skin secretes a toxic substance, so wash your hands after any contact.

Family: Salamandridae

Mild skin toxins

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**12-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**24 months**
Eggs per season	**30-150**
Hatching	**10-12 days** at 22-25 °C
Larval period	**90-150 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Other larvae and small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**75 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**18-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Tylototriton shanjing* is a terrestrial newt that needs water only in the breeding season. Four adults can be kept in an enclosure of 75 × 30 × 30 cm; floor area is more important than height, and a pair needs at least 60 × 30 cm.
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature is 18-25 °C and the night temperature 15-20 °C. In summer it may well reach 24-26 °C by day. In winter the animals are kept cooler, at about 15-17 °C around the clock, on a drier substrate.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	The species prefers fairly dry conditions, drier than other terrestrial crocodile newts. 60-80 % humidity is an estimate. Mist lightly so that the wet end of the substrate is always damp, and leave the dry end dry.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Outside the breeding season the water is a shallow bowl with sloping sides and dechlorinated tap water, changed regularly. In the breeding season there must be a larger water area of at least 30 × 30 cm (see "Mating").
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Tylototriton shanjing* is active at dusk and at night and lives hidden, so it rarely comes out while the light is on. UVB is not necessary. The lighting is for the plants; an LED bulb that gives off almost no heat is enough.
FEEDING	Earthworms are the best staple food; large earthworms are cut into suitable pieces.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animal is calm and slow and can become very tame: many beg for food at the glass once they have got used to their keeper. It is still not an animal for daily handling.
NATIVE RANGE	China.