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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Wenxian Knobby Newt

Tylototriton wenxianensis

Tylototriton wenxianensis is a medium-sized, almost entirely black crocodile newt with orange toe tips and tail edge. It lives hidden in forest and scrub in the mountains of central China and enters the water only to breed; the eggs are laid on land. Little is known about its care, so this guide is based on close relatives.

Family: Salamandridae

Mild skin toxins

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-16 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	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**18-24 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-20 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water section** depth 3-5 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 the ground**
Eggs per season	**30-80**
Hatching	**20-36 days** at 22-24 °C
Larval period	**80-130 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	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Tylototriton wenxianensis*.
TEMPERATURE	In summer the enclosure is kept at 22-24 °C by day, in winter at around 18 °C, and at night it may fall to 15-20 °C. Brief spells of lower temperatures do no harm.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	In summer the enclosure is misted daily so that the moss and substrate stay moist and the humidity is 70-90 %.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water is soft and slightly acidic, pH 6.4-6.8, and at most about 5 cm deep. Outside the breeding season the animals hardly use the water section; in winter it can be almost dried out, leaving only a little water for humidity.
LIGHTING AND UVB	UVB is not necessary. The species lives hidden and does not like strong light; the lighting is first and foremost for the plants. Provide about 12 hours of light in summer and 10-11 hours in winter.
FEEDING	The diet is not documented for the species. The genus takes ordinary newt food: earthworms, crickets, woodlice and waxworms. Adults are fed about twice a week, and in winter they eat irregularly and much less.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animals live very secretively and can be kept alone, in pairs or in small groups. Keep the species on its own, without other amphibians. Handle the animals only when necessary, with clean, wet hands or powder-free gloves.
NATIVE RANGE	China.