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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Tam Dao Newt

Paramesotriton deloustali

Paramesotriton deloustali is a large, robust, almost fully aquatic newt of 15-20 cm from cool mountain streams in northern Vietnam. It is dark brown with orange to red blotches on the belly and a broad, flat head. The species needs cool, clean water, and the males are aggressive towards one another.

Family: Salamandridae Former name: *Mesotriton deloustali; Pachytriton deloustali* Published 16 November 2026 **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest, 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	**100 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**16-22 °C**
Temperature, night	**14-18 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 20-30 cm
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per season	**20-115**
Clutches per year	**1**
Hatching	**21-56 days** at 18-25 °C
Larval period	**80-110 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	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Paramesotriton deloustali*.
TEMPERATURE	*Paramesotriton deloustali* must be kept cool: 16-22 °C by day and 14-18 °C at night, and the water must not become warmer than 22 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	*Paramesotriton deloustali* is almost fully aquatic, so room humidity plays a small role; 70-90 % is fine. The land area must be moist for young animals that are still terrestrial.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water should be 20-30 cm deep for adults. Use dechlorinated tap water or spring water. The water must be clean and well oxygenated, and extreme values of pH and hardness are avoided.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Paramesotriton deloustali* does not need strong light. A single fluorescent or LED tube on a timer provides a fixed daily rhythm of about 12 hours. UVB is not necessary.
FEEDING	*Paramesotriton deloustali* is a greedy feeder. Chopped earthworms are the staple, and the animals also take crickets, waxworms, freshly moulted mealworms, cockroaches and pieces of shrimp.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Paramesotriton deloustali* is slow and a little shy, but eats willingly and often becomes confident. Males defend a territory and bite other males and often females too, especially when the male's tail shines and he fans it.
NATIVE RANGE	Vietnam.