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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

## Hong Kong Warty Newt

# *Paramesotriton hongkongensis*

*Paramesotriton hongkongensis* is a robust, almost fully aquatic newt of 11-16 cm from the forest streams of Hong Kong and coastal Guangdong. It is brown with large orange to red blotches on the belly and is a hardy, cool-loving aquarium animal that grows slowly and needs cool, clean water.

Family: Salamandridae  Published 16 November 2026  **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **11-16 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **10-15 years** |
| Active | **At dusk and at night** |
| Lifestyle | **Aquatic** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest and wetland** |
| Skin toxins | **Mild**<br>Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **60 × 30 × 35 cm**<br>L × W × H for 2 adults |
| Temperature, day | **18-22 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **16-20 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-90%** |
| Water | **Aquaterrarium**<br>depth 15-20 cm |
| UVB | **Not required** |
| Winter rest | **8-12 °C**<br>2-6 weeks |
| Diet | **Insects and worms/snails** |
| Kept | **In pairs or in groups** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Development | **Larvae in water** |
| Egg-laying site | **In water** |
| Sexually mature | **24-60 months** |
| Eggs per season | **20-115** |
| Clutches per year | **1** |
| Hatching | **21-56 days**<br>at 18-25 °C |
| Larval period | **80-110 days**<br>from hatching to metamorphosis |
| Larval diet | **Other larvae and small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)** |
| Parental care | **None** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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|---|---|
| CITES | **Appendix II** |
| EU annex | **Annex B** |
| IUCN | **Near Threatened (NT)** |

## Care at a glance

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|---|---|
| THE ENCLOSURE | *Paramesotriton hongkongensis* is kept in an aquarium of at least 60 × 30 × 35 cm (about 60 litres) for a pair. |
| TEMPERATURE | *Paramesotriton hongkongensis* must be kept cool: 18-22 °C by day and 16-20 °C at night, and the water must not exceed 22 °C. Warm rooms in summer require cooling with a fan, cooling elements or placement in a cool room. |
| HUMIDITY AND MISTING | *Paramesotriton hongkongensis* is aquatic, so air humidity plays a small role; about 70-90 % in the room is fine. A cork island or land area must be kept moist if the animals use it. |
| WATER AND WATER QUALITY | The water should be about 15-20 cm deep. Use dechlorinated tap water or spring water. *Paramesotriton hongkongensis* is not fussy about water values as long as the water is clean, and extreme values of pH and hardness are avoided. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | *Paramesotriton hongkongensis* does not need strong light. A single fluorescent or LED tube the length of the aquarium on a timer provides a fixed daily rhythm of about 12 hours and is enough for the plants. UVB is not necessary. |
| FEEDING | *Paramesotriton hongkongensis* eats most things: chopped earthworms, crickets, waxworms, freshly moulted mealworms, cockroaches, snails, fly larvae and pieces of shrimp, as well as prepared food for amphibians and aquatic turtles. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | *Paramesotriton hongkongensis* is shy at first, but the animals often become confident and swim towards the front when there is food. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Hong Kong SAR China and China. |