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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Vietnam Crocodile Newt

Tylototriton vietnamensis

Tylototriton vietnamensis is a small, dark crocodile newt of 12-17 cm from a few forest remnants in northern Vietnam. The animal is black to brownish grey, with clearly yellow to orange-red fingers, toes and tail base, and lives mostly on land. The species was only described in 2005 and is vulnerable in the wild.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**12-17 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**7-18 g**
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 40 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**23-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**23-25 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water section** depth 1-5 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**
Sexually mature	**18 months**
Eggs per season	**5-178**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Hatching	**28 days** at 22-24 °C
Larval period	**60-180 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 vietnamensis* is kept in a rainforest enclosure with a water section.
TEMPERATURE	From March to October the enclosure is kept at 23-25 °C. A separate night temperature is not documented, so the specification box shows the same range around the clock.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity is 70-100 % in the warm part of the year. The enclosure is misted daily with a plant sprayer or a rain system; the amount depends on the size and ventilation of the enclosure.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water section is 1-5 cm deep and takes up a quarter of the floor area. The water is soft and slightly acidic (pH 6.4-6.8) as in the wild. Always provide an easy exit with stones, gravel or a flat bank.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Light is of no particular importance to the animals, and they do not like strong light. Lighting can be set to suit the plants, with LED strips or fluorescent tubes, or just the light that falls into the room. UVB is not necessary.
FEEDING	Adults are fed earthworms, crickets and waxworms, and the feeder animals are themselves fed a varied diet and dusted with vitamin and mineral supplements.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The animals seek cover and do not like bright light. Males go into the water in the breeding season, become paler and develop noticeably different skin, and wait for the females. For the rest of the year both sexes live on land.
NATIVE RANGE	Vietnam.