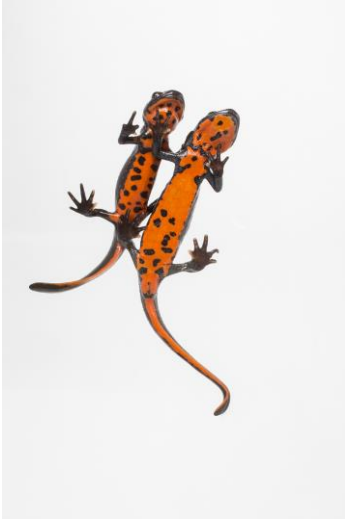


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## Fire-bellied newt

*Cynops orientalis*

The bright red or orange belly of this newt serves as a signal to predators to stay away. Like all newts, the fire-bellied newt excretes a toxin through its skin that paralyzes and sometimes kills the predator that eats it.

- Female fire-bellied newts are larger and rounder than males.
- This species lives in a variety of still-water habitats including pools, ponds, ditches and

paddy fields in forested and deteriorated areas.

- Newts like water with vegetation for hiding and laying eggs.
- Breeding season is from March to July.
- When breeding, a female newt lays one to four eggs on the underside of an underwater leaf. She may deposit up to 100 eggs in a breeding season, one leaf at a time, sometimes folding the leaf to hide the eggs.
- Larvae hatch in two to three weeks and the animal reaches maturity in one to three years.

### Quick Facts

**Length:** 2.3 to 3.1 inches (6 to 8 cm)

**Appearance:** A fiery red or orange belly with scattered black blotches

**Life Expectancy:** Unknown

**Diet:** Aquatic worms and insect larvae

**Range:** Southwestern China in still-water habitats up to 3,200 ft

**Behavior:** In colder areas, this newt will spend the winter under water or in crevices in the ground

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