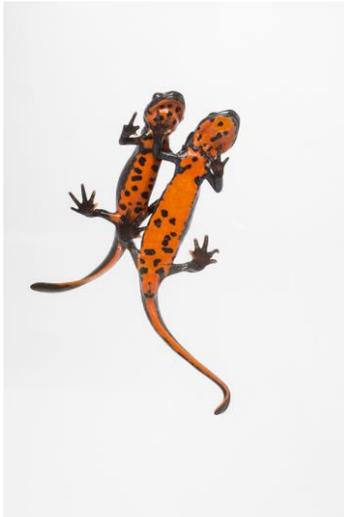


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Nicole Minadeo
nminadeo@sheddaquarium.org



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

Immerse yourself in the amazing world of *Amphibians* at Shedd Aquarium's special exhibit featuring 40 species of salamanders, frogs, toads and worm-like creatures called caecilians. Learn how these fascinating animals reproduce and adapt to survive today's changing world, and every day actions we can take to protect their future. *Amphibians*, sponsored by Walgreens, runs May 2015 through 2017.

Shedd Aquarium is supported by the people of Chicago, the State of Illinois and the Chicago Park District.

Shedd Aquarium is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).

Connect with Shedd Aquarium [online](#) through [Facebook](#); [Twitter](#); [YouTube](#); and [Flickr](#).

###