

Nursing Behavior

The eggs are protected by the most dominant male from the end of October as they incubate, and they hatch when they are around 3cm long.

When they are born, their arms and legs have barely begun to form, so their bodies lay on the river bed, and slowly grow as the egg sac disappears.

Their legs are fully grown by the following January, and they leave their cave when the now fully-black Salamanders are around 5cm long, and explore the wintry river waters.

During that 5 month period, the dominant male continues to protect the eggs and children.



a male protecting the eggs inside the breeding hole

(Photographer: Narimoto)