

# Famous Hanzaki at Yubara : “Ma-chan” and “Ryu-chan”

In Yubara, there are two Giant Salamanders that were particularly well-known by the residents : “Ma-chan” and “Ryu-chan”.

Ma-chan was born in Yubara, and before WW2 was raised inside of the souvenir shop “Ueki Honten” in order to attract customers.

The visitors were stunned by her large 1.5m build in the shop’s shallow pond.

She was loved by the local residents,(including the shop owner, of course) but sadly passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1993.

When she died, she weighed 38kg and was 148cm long.

She is said to be the Number One Hanzaki ever from Japan.

She has been preserved and is currently on display.



Ma-chan  
Died 17<sup>th</sup> August 1993  
At 148cm long, she weighed 38kg.



There is a stuffed toy called “Hanzaki Ma-chan” made in Ma-chan’s image

It is unknown exactly when “Ryu-chan” was introduced to the Hanzaki Center where he was raised.

With an extremely large build-said to be the largest in Japan by many experts-he was the King of his circular water tank.

Experts have deemed him to be a Chinese Giant Salamander, due to both the shape of his head and his coloring, which are special characteristics of the breed.

He passed away on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010, weighing 60kg and measuring 160cm long.

He was probably the largest Giant Salamander in Japan.

He has also been preserved using taxidermy, and is on display.



Ryu-chan's taxidermy