



Anomalous Pigmentation in a Young Marbled Newt, *Triturus marmoratus* (Latreille 1800), from Northwestern Spain

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Marbled Newts (*Triturus marmoratus*) are medium-sized newts (115–149 mm total length in males, 130–162 mm in females) endemic to the northern Iberian Peninsula and southern France (Herrero et al. 2003; García-París et al. 2004). The predominant ground color is green or greenish-yellow with numerous prominent black spots that collectively form a reticular pattern (Montori 2014). During the aquatic phase, these newts primarily occupy still waters (i.e., natural and artificial ponds, water troughs, lagoons, pools, reservoirs, water tanks, backwaters, bends, or abandoned arms, pools, and areas of aggregate extraction or abandoned quarries that accumulate water), particularly those that maintain a considerable volume of water and are characterized by a substantial presence of aquatic vegetation, but avoiding areas with even moderate currents (Montori 2014).

At 1930 h on 8 January 2022, we encountered a juvenile (80 mm total length) with anomalous coloration during a monitoring visit to an urban park in Vigo (Pontevedra, northwest Spain). This park acts as an urban refuge for a population of hundreds of newts. This juvenile was yellowish, instead of the typical green, and with clear areas instead of the darker pattern that usually characterizes the species (Fig. 1), which is suggestive of a deficiency in blue and black pigments.

Similar cases have been characterized as hypomelanism, an aberration with less than the normal amount of pigmentation (Allain et al. 2023), or xanthism, a predominance of pigments responsible for yellow coloration (Benito 2024). As xanthic individuals, as in albinism, often have red eyes due to the lack of melanophores (Allain et al. 2023), hypomelanism would appear to be a more accurate description in this case.

Other examples of anomalous pigmentation, including albinism (Budó Ricart 1998; Diego-Rasilla et al. 2007), melanism (Domènech 2001), and hypomelanism (Gosá 2021), have been reported previously in Marbled Newts.

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Figure 1. Juvenile Marbled Newts (*Triturus marmoratus*), one showing the pigmentary anomaly alongside another with normal coloration. Photograph by Cesar Ayres.

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