**Figure 10**

**Leydig cells (LCs) and apical stratum of *A. mexicanum* (CI)**

**4 months 24 months 48 months**

**DSH**

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| --- | --- | --- |
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| **VSH** |  |  |
| **DST/F** |  |  |
| **VST/F** |  |  |
| **CRS** |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**VST**

**Legends and description**. **CI stain**.Dorsal skin of the head (**DSH**), Ventral skin of the head (**VSH**), Dorsal skin of the trunk at the forelimb level (**DST/F**), Ventral skin of the trunk at the forelimb level (**VST/F**), Caudal ridge skin (**CRS**) and Ventral skin of the tail (**VST**). The bar of the photomicrographs corresponds to 25 µm. The age of each specimen is indicated in each column. The apical stratum in the 4-month-old axolotl exhibits a cuboidal morphology and displays intense positive staining with CI (**black arrows)**. As axolotls mature to 24 and 48 months, this stratum transitions to a squamous morphology while maintaining CI positivity in the apical domain, appearing as a flocculent material on the epidermal surface (**black arrows)**. Some cuboidal cells in adult axolotls retain CI positivity like that observed in the 4-month-old specimen. The LCs and their granules were CI-negative; however, they demonstrated a strong affinity for nuclear fast red staining, as observed with AB pH 2.5.