**Figure 6**

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

**4 months 24 months 48 months**

**DSH**

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

**VST**

**Legends and Description**. **PAS 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 scale bar in the photomicrographs represents 25 µm. The age of each specimen is indicated in each column. In the 4-month-old specimen, PAS positivity (light to intense purple-magenta color) is prominent in the apical domain of the cuboidal cells of the apical stratum, as well as in the flocculating material covering the outer surface (**black arrows**). This characteristic is particularly noticeable in the DSH and VSH regions. The LCs display PAS-positive cytoplasm (**circles**), which is more intense in the apical portion. The LCs exhibit unstained vesicles, some with PAS-positive centers or compact PAS-positive granules, more evident in the DSH and VSH regions (**yellow arrows**). In the 24-month-old specimen, the apical stratum contains PAS-positive cuboidal and squamous-shaped cells. The PAS-positive flocculating material on the outer surface is more pronounced in the DSH and VSH regions (**black arrows**). The LCs exhibit abundant, well-differentiated, and strongly PAS-positive granules (**yellow arrows**). In the 48-month-old specimen, some basal LCs resemble those of the 4-month-old specimen (**circles**). At the same time, LCs in the spinous stratum also exhibit abundant and strongly PAS-positive granules similar to those in the 24-month-old axolotl (**yellow arrows**).