**Figure 8**

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

**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**. **G 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, most epidermal cells exhibited basophilia, while LCs displayed acidophilic or eosinophilic cytoplasm (pink-red color) (**circles**). Some LCs in the DSH region contained eosinophilic granules surrounded by a clear halo (**yellow arrows**). Epidermal basophilia decreased in all cutaneous regions of the 24-month-old adult axolotl, but the LC granules remained intensely acidophilic (**yellow arrows**). Notably, the epidermis of the 48-month-old adult axolotl was highly acidophilic, as were the granules of the LCs (**yellow arrows**). A metachromatic flocculating material (purple color) (**black arrows)** covering the epidermal surface was prominent in the 4-month-old specimen, becoming fainter in the 24-month-old adult axolotl (DSH) and markedly eosinophilic in the 48-month-old adult axolotl.