

# BREEDING RESULTS

*Have you bred snakes? If so, please ask the Secretary or one of the English Editors to send you a form on which you can fill in the data of your breeding results. Unsuccessful attempts are also important.*

*The result of your efforts will be printed in one of the future publications, to help other members with their breeding attempts.*

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## Chondropython viridis.

The snakes are housed in a terrarium measuring 200x80x120 cm (lwxh) in which the temperature is 20-35°C by day and not less than 18°C at night. The animals are adults, probably 3 to 4 years old, and measure 120-150 cm.

After a period of about one month, during which the sexes had been kept separate with 8 hours light a day, the snakes were put together. They copulated between 9 and 12 January 1983. From copulation to the hatching of the young the female did not eat.

On 16 March 23 eggs were laid. 14 Eggs were discarded by the female and so were incubated artificially at a temperature of 28-32°C, depending on the outside temperature; all 14 eggs died within two weeks. The other 9 eggs were incubated by the female. Two to three weeks before hatching two eggs died.

On 17 and 18 May 1983 (that is after 62 days) three young hatched, the remaining four eggs contained fully developed dead young. All 23 eggs were fertile. The three young are yellow with red markings and about 30 cm of length.

The sloughings of no. 1 occurred on 31 May, 25 June, 26 July and 29 August; the sloughings of no.

2 on 5 June, 10 July and 8 August; the sloughings of no. 3 on 5 June, 15 July and 11 August.

No. 3 and 1 started to feed voluntarily on baby-mice on 7 June and 10 June respectively. No. 2 did not want to eat (babymice, frogs, lizards and insects were offered). It was force-fed with legs of mice until it started to feed voluntarily on 27 July (i.e. after 70 days).

All three are now eating baby- and litter-mice.

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Corallus caninus.

The age of the snakes is unknown. They are kept in a terrarium measuring 100x60x170 cm (lwxh), in which the temperature is 28°C in the day, 24°C at night.

A long separation and a short day rhythm encouraged the animals to copulate between 21 December 1982 and 15 January 1983.

After 20 March 1983 the female refused to eat.

On 7 October 1983 16 young were born, one of which was dead. Their weight was 27-33 g and they had an average length of 43 cm.

The first shedding was between 28 October and 14 November 1983. One of the babies had to be force-fed with 5-day old mice, the others started to eat freely from 29 October 1983.

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Elaphe guttata guttata.

The animals are kept in a terrarium measuring 80x80x80 cm, with a temperature during the day of 28-30°C, and at night 20°C.

The age of the parent snakes is unknown. No stimu-

lus was used. Copulations were seen on March 11th, 17th, 21st and 31st and April 2nd 1983.

During the last 3-4 weeks of pregnancy the female refused any food.

21 Eggs were laid in June 1983 and brooded at 30°C. On July 18th and 19th 9 young snakes (F1) hatched. They had an average weight of 3.75 g and an average length of 22.5 cm.

The first sloughing took place at July 23rd 1983. One of the babies had to be forcefed with a mouse-head, but after some time, this one too ate litter-mice freely.

With the same species was also bred in this Zoo in 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1982.

Stichting Koninklijke Rotterdamse Diergaarde.

(J.A. Assink, hoofd levende have).

Postbus 532, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta.*

The terrarium measures 190x60x100 cm (lwxh). The temperature varies, depending on the place in the terrarium, between 18 and 35°C during the day and 20°C at night.

After a period of cold, followed by a period of lengthening daylength the female (4 years old) copulated with the six-year old male in early April. The female kept on eating during the pregnancy. Early May 1983 12 eggs were laid, which hatched July 12th and 13th 1983, after brooding at 28-31°C.

These young (first captive bred generation) measured 35-40 cm. They sloughed the first time about 5-10 days after hatching. Forcefeeding was not necessary, as shortly after shedding they started to eat mice and rats.

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Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata.

The terrarium measures 80x80x80 cm. The animals (captive bred, but age unknown) are kept at a temperature of 28-30°C during the day and 20°C at night.

Although no stimulus was used, mating behaviour was seen at the end of February 1982. The female refused to eat during the last four weeks of pregnancy.

On April 14th 1982 40 eggs were laid, which were brooded at 30°C.

On June 6-8th 9 eggs hatched, with many of the remaining eggs containing completely developed, dead young.

About 14 days after birth, the young (F2) had a weight of 5-9 g. They sloughed for the first time between June 12-16th 1982.

Some of the animals started to eat freely, while others ate when a littermouse was put in front of their nose. The latter started to eat freely after 2-6 months.

In "Blijdorp" the same female bred in 1979 en 1981, 13 and 17 babies respectively.

In 1983 all eggs were rejected, probably due to the death of the old male. This nest was probably produced after sperm-storage.

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Elaphe obsoleta rossalleni.

The animals are housed in a terrarium measuring 50x40x60 cm (lxwxh). The temperature during the day is 26-30°C, and at night 15-18°C. The male (born 20 October 1980) and the female (age unknown) were kept separate.

At the time of copulation (26 or 27 March 1983)

there was a short day rhythm of 8 hours light a day.

The female refused food during the whole pregnancy. On June 3rd 1983 17 eggs were laid, the pregnancy lasting 69 days. This is extremely long (probably caused by low temperature at night). Literature talks about pregnancy of 50 days at most.

On July 23rd-25th 1983, after brooding at 30.5<sup>0</sup>C, 12 young hatched, this is after 50-52 days. (At a temperature of 26-27<sup>0</sup>C brooding takes 65-80 days). These young snakes belong to the third captive bred generation. About two weeks after hatching their weight was about 9 g. On July 30th and August 1st the first sloughing took place. Most of the babies had to be forced with litter-mice. The last one started to eat freely on December 26th 1983, eating a nest rat.

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