

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.

Elaphe guttata guttata x *Elaphe guttata rosacea*.

The snakes are housed in a terrarium 100x60x40 cm (lxwxh). The day temperature is 26°C, dropping to 21°C at night. The snakes receive 16 hours of light per day. Throughout November and December 1984 the light was gradually reduced until by the end of December the daylength was only eight hours. The temperature was also reduced to 20°C by day and 18°C at night.

At the end of December no more food was offered (although both snakes had already refused food), and on 13 January 1985 the snakes were hibernated in cardboard boxes filled with damp hay. The snakes were continually checked, and the temperature monitored. The average temperature was 6.5°C. On 8 March both snakes were put back in the terrarium - the daylength was 10 hours. This was gradually increased to 16 hours by the end of April. No copulation or mating activity was observed. By the end of June the female was very restless. She sloughed on 22 June, and on 9 July laid 14 eggs. These were incubated at an average temperature of 26°C in perlite.

The first snake hatched out on 2 September 1985, after 55 days. Eleven snakes hatched, two looked like normal *Elaphe guttata guttata*, all of the others had reduced black markings on the belly,

and most had a pink colour to the normal white ventral surface. Two of the young in particular were very pink and had little black pigment at all.

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Lichamura trivirgata roseofusca

The animals are housed in a terrarium of 50x40x35 cm (lxwxh) with a daytime temperature of 24-32°C and a night temperature of 20-27°C.

In order to stimulate the mating, the snakes were kept in isolation boxes at a cool temperature (15-17°C) from 16 October 1983 until 16 January 1984. Copulations were observed between 15 May and 15 June 1984. The female did not refuse to eat. On 29 September 1984 four young snakes were born, weighing between 29.5-31.2 g and measuring about 25 cm.

The first shedding of the skin was on 14 October 1984. Force feeding was not needed; three days after birth the first hatchling fed on litter mice.

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Trimeresurus gramineus (2x)

In the terrarium of 90x50x70 cm (lxwxh) the daytime temperature is a minimum of 18°C and maximum 30°C, the temperature at night is a minimum of 18°C and maximum 25°C. During the day artificial light shines from 8.00 until 20.00 hours; furthermore there is a real daylight (depending upon the length of day outside).

The females are of the third generation and aged 6 years. The males are 6-year old, their generation is unknown. Copulations took place between 6 January and 29 February 1984. The first female

fed for the last time on 7 April 1984.
She delivered 37 young snakes on 15 June.
The second female took her last meal on 23
February 1984. She bore 22 babies on 11 July; of
these 5 were deformed.

The hatchlings had a weight of 5 g and measured
15-17 cm.

The young of the first female shed their skins for
the first time between 25 June and 1 July; those
of the second mother sloughed between 22 June and
31 July.

All babies were force fed with beef heart. Since
31 August 1984 they have fed freely on litter mice.

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