

# 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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*Bothrops schlegelii* (3x) - Palm tree viper.

One male of this species is housed with three females in a vivarium measuring 78x40x80 cm (lxwxh). This is well planted, and has climbing places. The adults, which are all between four and seven years old vary in length from 55 to 78 cm.

During the summer they are kept at 18-29°C by day, cooling to 17-21°C at night. The winter temperature is not much different, ranging from 21-30°C by day falling to 16-21°C at night.

No particular stimulus was used to induce copulation, which was noted on 8 April, 9 April and 3 May 1985. All three females were gravid, and stopped feeding in September or October 1985.

Young were born on 14 December 1985, 15 December 1985 and 11 January 1986 (in response to the matings noted above). A total of 46 young were produced, all living. They averaged 3.3 g in weight and measured between 15.5 and 17.7 cm. The young were force fed initially on beef with a vitamin and mineral supplement, and did not commence voluntary feeding on new-born mice until 31 March 1986.

All three females had produced viable young following matings with the same male on 29 August 1983, 7 November 1984 and 25 December 1984, under identical conditions.

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Corallus enydris enydris - Garden tree boa.

In a terrarium of 150x60x110 cm (hxwxl) a five-year old male and a seven-year old female are housed. The daytime temperature in summer is about 24°C, in winter about 24°C and at the hot spot about 35°C. The night temperature in summer is about 20°C, in winter about 18°C and at the hot spot about 28°C. The seasonal rhythm (winter is simulated by a slight temperature drop and a higher relative humidity) is believed to be the stimulus for copulations in April 1984. The female regularly refused to eat from June 1984. On 21 October 1984 at 21.00 hours, nine healthy snakes were born. They weighed about 21 g and measured about 52 cm. They sloughed for the first time between 31 October and 4 November 1984. Three specimens were force-fed on litter mice, the others fed freely: one on 3 November, two on 4 November and three on 7 November.

This is the fourth litter from this female. She first bred in 1979 (eight young snakes) with a different male, the other litters were from the existing male: 1980 nine young snakes, 1983 thirteen babies, 1984 nine youngsters. The circumstances were the same each time.

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Natrix sipedon sipedon - Northern water snake.

The terrarium measures 190x60x100 cm (lxwxh). The daytime temperature in summer is 20-35°C, in winter 2-10°C. The night temperature in summer is 15-20°C, in winter 2-10°C. The age of the snakes

is unknown. The female measures about 110 cm, the male about 70 cm.

Hibernation was the stimulus for copulations during March 1985. The female kept eating until two weeks before delivery.

On 26 July 1985 sixtythree young snakes were born, two of them were females. The babies measured about 20 cm and sloughed the very same day. Since 27 July 1985 they fed freely on earthworms and fish.

In 1983 the same couple produced ten stillborn youngsters. No copulations were noticed that year.

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*Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca* - Rosy boa.

The snakes are kept in a terrarium of 60x40x30 cm. The daytime temperature is about 28°C and the night temperature is about 20°C. A male and a female, both four years old, are housed together. The animals were hibernated from 29 January 1984 until 31 March 1984 at a temperature of 12-14°C. After that period the pair was separated. After a time both snakes fed and excreted, and the male was then placed with the female. Because they failed to show interest in each other, they were separated again. The female sloughed on 29 April, the male on 23 April. Both snakes were well fed. On 30 April they were reintroduced to each other, and 18 and 27 May 1984 copulations were noticed. During the pregnancy the female fed on smaller preys than usual, and only occasionally did she feed at all. On 19 October 1984 three young were born, each weighing 23 g and measuring 28 cm. One of the babies died after four days. At night it bit and constricted itself. The remaining young snakes sloughed on 6 and 15 November 1984 res-

pectively. Force-feeding was not necessary, because one of them fed before sloughing and the other just afterwards on 7 November 1984.

I had not bred from these snakes before, although in 1983 copulations were observed. It is probable that the animals were too young at that time.

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*Pituophis melanoleucus catenifer* - Pacific gopher snake.

The snakes are kept in a terrarium of 80x72x72 cm (lhxw). The daytime temperature is 26-28°C, dropping at night to 19-22°C. The male is 3.5 years old, the female about 5-6 years old (both are wild caught). A hibernation period of 2-3 months was the stimulus for the mating in March 1984. The female regularly refused food from April 1984 until laying the eggs on 25 June 1984. The seven eggs were incubated at 27-28°C. On 23 and 24 August 1984 six little snakes hatched, the seventh egg was infertile. The babies weighed about 30 g, measured 38-40 cm and sloughed for the first time on 14 September 1984. One of them was force-fed on litter mice, the others fed freely.

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