

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.

Boa constrictor - Common boa.

The terrarium originally housed two female and one male Common boa. On 7 November 1984 another (seven year old) female (captive bred by Mrs. Pilot) and another (eighteen months old) male (captive bred by Ron and Pia Kivit) were placed with them. The room temperature was 22-24°C, dropping at night to 18-19°C. Because we thought it too cold (outside it was freezing) we switched on a room heater, raising the temperature to 28-29°C. The result was the first copulation of the above mentioned animals on 29 November 1984. The last of the eight copulations was on 28 December 1984. The female ate regularly until 10 April 1985. Initially it was difficult to determine whether she was pregnant or not. Weighing 10 kg and measuring 2 m she was already quite fat. After some time lumps were visible in her body. On 14 May 1985 the female was seen laying on the floor during the day. Usually she only laid there at night normally preferring to spend the day sunbathing on the bench, under the spotlight. 16 May 1985 she delivered twenty-six living boas, very weak and colourless (not fully developed) measuring 25-30 cm. Four of them had a birth aberration: one at the mouth, one at the neck and two measured only 15 cm.

Thirteen unfertilized eggs were also found. The female had no impulse to defend her babies. Two hours after delivery she fed on two rats. Now she is so gluttonous that we have to feed her before entering the terrarium. This was her first clutch of young.

During the pregnancy the female had some problems with her health. During the weeks up to 15 December 1984 a blister was formed on her mouth, under her right nostril, between lip and teeth. The blister became so voluminous that the mouth could not be closed. Teeth got loose, some dropped out, and some of them were lodged in the gums. The veterinarian gave an injection against bacterial infections and an injection with vitamins. He told us to clean the mouth with 1% H₂O₂ and dab some Kanasulfan ointment (antibiotic) on the spot, once a day during two weeks. It did not help, on 21 December 1984 the problems recurred. The whole treatment was repeated for four weeks (except the vitamins). On our own accord we raised the H₂O₂ concentration to 3%. The result was amazing: the blister disappeared within a few days.

Our thanks for Ron and Pia Kivit who were a great help in this nerve-wracking time.

Peter and Nel Gomes, Kikkenstein 8-II, 1104 AA Amsterdam Zuidoost, The Netherlands.

Boa constrictor - Common boa.

The male, eighteen months old, was captive bred by Ron and Pia Kivit. The female under discussion came from Surinam and was about seven to eight years old. The female was already living in the terrarium with two other females, when the male was introduced on 7 November 1984. Immediately he tried to mate with the three females. The first copulation with the female under consideration was

observed on 30 December 1984, between 06.00 and 18.30 hours. At the site of the copulation, traces of sperm were found. Until 12 February 1985 the female fed as usual. After a short time lumps could be seen in her body, showing she was gravid. A month before delivery we could see the babies move in the mother's body. Up to early May the female was placid. She did not mind the other three snakes, who came and laid with her. However, in May 1985 she became restless, crawled round the terrarium and started to drink a lot, from the hand as well as out of the water tub. During the last week of May she apparently tried to give birth but nothing happened. She remained restless. On 9 June 1985 she produced very wet, white (not yellow) faeces. On 10 June she produced a fatty yellow secretion. On 11 June 1985 at 13.30 hours the delivery started, it took about one hour. Twenty-seven young snakes were born, two of them were dead and one was not very healthy. Another one died later that day. Three unfertilized eggs were found.

The babies were very abnormally coloured, especially on their tails.

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Thamnophis sirtalis floridana (2x) - Florida garter snake.

The snakes are housed in a terrarium of 160x50x50 cm (lxwxh). The daytime temperature is 27-29°C in summer and 22-23°C in winter. The night temperature is 18-22°C in summer and 14-18°C in winter. In winter no artificial daylight is on and the length of the day is thus shorter than in summer. The ages of the parent snakes are unknown. The female measured about 95 cm, the male had a length of about 80 cm. The male is wild caught and very

shy.

The female was pregnant when I first obtained her. She fed well and put on 40% of her weight in 28 days. On 10 June 1985 eighteen young snakes were born, weighing 2-4 g and measuring 17 cm. They sloughed the very same day. Force-feeding was unnecessary because they all fed freely on earthworms and tadpoles from 21 June onwards.

On 10 July 1985 copulations were observed. The mating was not spontaneous. The female kept feeding but she ate little and unregularly. On 10 January thirteen living and one dead (underdeveloped) snakes were born. They sloughed the same day. Two babies died the next day. The young snakes of this clutch were weaker and smaller than previous.

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Corallus enydris enydris - Garden tree boa.

Early in June 1984 I bought a female *Corallus enydris enydris*. On arrival she weighed 225 g and was kept in a terrarium of 60x45x35 cm (lxwxh). After the first week she started to feed, but one month later she started to regurgitate her prey, three days after feeding. A treatment with Ronidazole was therefore given each day during the first week of August. Two days after the treatment she ate a rat of 40 g. From then until 14 December 1984 she fed and sloughed regularly. Then she sloughed again and on 31 December 1984 I found three placenta in the water tub. After some searching I found three young *Corallus enydris enydris* in the living room, weighing 22.5 - 25 g. Each animal differed in colour. On 4 January 1985 the mother sloughed and thereafter started her own feeding and sloughing rhythm. The babies sloughed between

19 and 31 January 1985.

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Chondropython viridis - Green tree python.

A pair of six year old snakes are kept in a terrarium measuring 100x50x100 cm (lwxh). Day temperature is 26-29°C with night temperature dropping to 20-24°C.

Copulation was not observed. Sixteen eggs were laid on 14 February 1984, the female having refused food for six weeks prior to actual laying. The eggs were incubated at 29 - 29.5°C and four young hatched between 20 and 21 April 1984. The four young all weighed about 10.5 g and measured around 31 cm. All sloughed for the first time on 2 May 1984. Three of the young were force-fed freshly killed new-born mice, the fourth freely ate a ten day old (too big?) mouse but died two days later.

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Corallus enydris enydris - Garden tree boa.

The snakes (age unknown) are kept in a terrarium measuring 100x50x80 cm (lwxh). The ambient day temperature is 25°C, the night temperature 15°C, but warmer below the spotlight. Date of copulation is unknown. Three months before delivery the female ate a rat. On 13 December 1985 eight young snakes were born (F₁) weighing between 17 and 24 g. The animals sloughed for the first time on 26, 27, 28 December 1985 and 1 January 1986. Most of them were force-fed on pink mice and naked rats. Three of them have fed freely on mice, rats and

hamsters since 20 December 1985 and 4 January 1986.
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Corallus caninus - Emerald tree boa.

The animals are kept in a terrarium measuring 100x60x75 cm (lwxh). Day temperature is 28°C in summer and 25°C in winter. The night temperature is 25°C in summer and 22°C in winter. This period of lower temperatures was believed to be the stimulus for the copulations that were observed between 10 October and 10 December 1984. With effect from 11 December 1984 the female refused food. On 31 August 1985 twelve young snakes (F₁) were born. They sloughed on 16 September 1985. Three of them were force-fed on pink mice, the others fed freely from 16 September onwards. The author has bred with these animals before.

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