

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.

Corallus enydris enydris - Garden tree boa.

The parent snakes (age unknown) have been in my possession since 17 May 1984. The female measures 1.50 m, the male 1.30 m. They are kept in a terrarium measuring 70x50x90 cm (lxwxh), with a night-temperature of 24°C and a day temperature of 30°C in the warmest place. The temperature is equal in summer and winter. No stimulus for mating was used. Copulations were observed on 15, 21 and 25 May 1985. On 14 August 1985 the female ate a chick but subsequently refused food. On 10 December 1985 at 02.00 h five young snakes were born (first generation captive bred). They sloughed for the first time on 26, 29 and 30 December 1985.

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Chondropython viridis - Green tree python.

The parent snakes (both at least ten years old) are housed in a terrarium measuring 100x60x75 cm. The day temperature is 28°C in summer, 25°C in winter. The night temperature is 25°C in summer, 22°C in winter. The period of lower temperatures was apparently the stimulus for the copulations

seen on 1 November and between 10 and 19 December 1984. From 17 November the female refused food. On 8 March 1985 eighteen eggs were laid. The eggs were incubated at 30°C. On 7 and 8 May 1985 eleven young snakes (F₁) hatched. Some of them were force-fed on mice, the others fed freely following their first slough. I have previously bred with the same individuals under the same circumstances.

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Elaphe guttata guttata - Red phase albino Corn snake.

A pair of amelanistic (red phase albino) corn snakes are maintained in a vivarium measuring 60x70x100 cm (lxwxh). The female was born in 1983, and measures 100 cm; the male, born in 1978 is 120 cm long. Both adults are captive bred, but the generation is unknown.

During summer the vivarium temperature is 25-30°C by day, falling to 20°C by night. A four-month long period of semi-hibernation at 4°C is given in winter.

The female refused food from 16 March 1985, although mating was not observed until 21 March 1985. Six fertile eggs and one infertile one were laid on 3 May. These were incubated at 25-27°C and hatched between 7 and 9 July 1985. Sadly only four eggs produced viable young; the other two, although fertile, failed to hatch because they dehydrated whilst the author was away on holiday. The young were 24-28 cm in length and shed between 15 and 19 July 1985. All fed on 22 July on pink mice. No force-feeding was necessary.

The author has bred the species before (since 1981) but never with the individuals involved above.

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Elaphe guttata guttata - Corn snake.

A pair of corn snakes are kept in a 60x70x100 cm (lxwxh) vivarium. Summer temperature is 25-30°C by day, dropping to 20°C by night. A four-month long winterperiod of inactivity at 4- 6°C is administered.

The female, a three-year old F₁ captive bred specimen measures 90 cm, the seven year-old male is 120 cm. Food was accepted by the female on 19 March 1985, but not subsequently. Copulation was observed in March 1985. Ten eggs, of which two were infertile, were laid on 3 May 1985. Seven of these hatched between 10 and 14 July 1985, having been incubated at 25-27°C. The eighth was opened during incubation for 'control'. The young measured between 20 and 24 cm, and shed on 21 July 1985.

All fed voluntarily for the first time (on pink mice) on 25 July .

The author has bred the same species annually since 1981, but only with the same individuals on one previous occasion (in 1984).

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Boiga dendrophila melanota.

A pair of snakes are maintained in a vivarium measuring 60x70x100 cm (lxwxh) with temperatures of 25-30°C summer day time, 20°C summer nights, 15-25°C winter day time and 15-20°C winter nights. Both snakes measure about 200 cm. The female was born on 10 May 1981, but the age of the male is unknown. To induce copulation winter is a time of short days and cooler temperatures. Copulation was not observed, the female continued feeding whilst pregnant, and four eggs were laid on 24 and 25 June 1985. The eggs were incubated at

25-27°C. On 21 October one young hatched. The single young, measuring 35-40 cm, sloughed for the first time on 9 November and fed of its own accord on 18 November, being offered bloody mice. The same snakes have been bred under identical conditions in 1983 and 1984.

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Agkistrodon blomhoffi brevicaudus.

A pair, both born in 1982 and measuring 45-60 cm in length, are kept in a terrarium measuring 60x40x35 cm (lxwxh) with temperatures of 25-30°C summer day-time, 20°C summer nights, 18-25°C winter day-time and 15°C winter nights. As a stimulus for copulation the winter days were short and cooler.

Copulation was observed in October 1984, and the female who continued feeding as normal, gave birth to five young on 8 March 1985. The young measured about 12 cm and sloughed soon after birth.

The natural food of the newborn young is probably frogs but due to supply my snakes were force-fed mouse tails and bloody mice until they were five months old, when they started feeding on bloody mice on their own accord.

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Elaphe taeniura friesei.

A pair of three year old snakes, both about 170 cm in length, are kept in a terrarium measuring 120x70x100 cm (lxwxh). Temperatures are 25-30°C in summer day-times, 20°C summer nights, 15-20°C winter days and 15°C winter nights. As a stimulus to induce copulation day-times are short in winter

with no heating and no food offered to the snakes for at least three months.

Copulation was observed on 2 March, 30 March, 10 April and 12 May 1985. The female fed on 7 May 1985 and laid eight eggs on 9 June 1985. The eggs were incubated at 25-27⁰C and on 14 and 15 August 1985 all eight hatched.

The young measured 30-35 cm and sloughed for the first time between 22 and 25 August 1985, with all feeding on bloody mice on their own accord on 25 August 1985.

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Lamprophis fuliginosus - Brown house snake.

A pair are kept in a terrarium measuring 120x50x40 cm (lxwxh) with temperatures of 25-27⁰C on summer days, 20⁰C summer nights, 15-20⁰C winter days and 15⁰C winter nights. As a stimulus to induce copulation the days are shortened with no heating between December and February. The male measures 70 cm and the female 120 cm; both were born on 10 November 1980.

Copulations were observed between January and April. The female fed on 10 March and then refused food until after laying. Fifteen eggs (three of which were infertile) were laid on 19 May 1985.

The eggs were incubated at 25-27⁰C with twelve hatching between 24 and 26 July 1985. The young all measured about 18 cm and sloughed for the first time on 4 August 1985. Nine fed on their own accord on 7 August 1985 when offered bloody mice, the other three having to be force-fed.

This pair have previously bred in 1982, 1983, 1984 (Litt. Serp. (1985), Vol. 5: 88-95).

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Thamnophis proximus.

The female was pregnant when she came in my possession on 3 May 1986. The former owner did not use any stimulus for the copulation. He had some successful clutches of young of this species before. Details are not known. The female was placed in a terrarium of 100x50x70 cm (lxwxh) with peat on the bottom, some branches, stones and some plants. She shared the terrarium with a male *Thamnophis proximus* and a couple *Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis*. The temperature varied by day between 24 and 29°C dropping at night to 20-24°C. Early in the morning of 9 August 1986 I was surprised to find two baby snakes, one climbing a branch and the other between the stones. After some searching I found four others. The length of the snakes varied between 18 and 20 cm. They were placed in a smaller terrarium. From the second day onwards pieces of fish were eaten. The first sloughings were in the fourth, fifth or sixth week. One baby was force-fed, because it did not grow. It eventually sloughed in the seventh week after birth. During pregnancy the female did not change her behaviour and she fed like the others. But after delivery and feeding on some fishes, she stayed in a branch at the top of the terrarium for a week. The long pregnancy might be caused by stress of the move whilst the female was gravid. The breeding results in *Litteratura Serpantium* proved most useful in helping me raise the young.

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