

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.

Python molurus bivittatus.

The animals were kept in a terrarium measuring 200x100x70 cm (lxwxh). By day the temperature in summer was 29⁰C and in winter 25⁰C, dropping at night to 24⁰C in summer and 22⁰C in winter. The male was four and a half years old and measured 250 cm. The female was six and a half years old and had a length of 350 cm. Temporary separation of the sexes, light- and temperature cycles and a higher night temperature in the mating season were the stimuli used to induce copulation. Copulations took place between 1 and 11 March 1986. From 4 April 1986 the female refused all food. On 15 May 1986 she laid twenty-three eggs that were incubated at a temperature of 32⁰C and a humidity of 100%. Between 12 and 15 July 1986 twenty-two snakes (F₁) hatched, weighing 110-125 g and measuring 53-60 cm. They sloughed for the first time about 30 July 1986. Since that day they fed freely on little mice. I bred with the same male twice before, but different females were used. Female 1 had 31 babies from 30 eggs (twins). Female 2 copulated with the same male later in the season. Perhaps it was too late, because from 42 eggs only 6 babies hatched.

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Elaphe guttata guttata (F₂).

The (wild caught) female was aged seven. The male was captive bred three years ago. Their length was about 120 cm. They were housed in a terrarium of 100x75x100 cm. By day the temperature in summer was about 30°C and in winter about 25°C. At night the temperature was about 25°C in summer and 15°C in winter. From early December until the end of March the animals were hibernated at 10-15°C. Copulations were observed between 20 March and 11 April 1986. From 2 May 1986 the female refused food. On 14 June 1986 eighteen eggs were laid, and incubated at about 30°C. On 8 and 9 August 1986 eighteen snakes hatched. They had a length of 27 cm and a weight of 6 g. They sloughed for the first time on 15, 16 and 17 August 1986. From 25 August 1986 they fed freely on littermice. I have bred with these snakes before. Circumstances were the same except for the incubation temperature which is 2°C higher than previously and resulted in an incubation period six days shorter than before.

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