

# 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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## Elaphe guttata guttata (F<sub>3</sub>).

The snakes are kept in a terrarium measuring 75x70x60 cm (lwxhx). In summer the daytime temperature is 28-32°C, in winter it is 24-26°C. The night temperature is 26-32°C in summer and 22-23°C in winter. The varying light cycle follows the natural Dutch daylength. This was the stimulus for copulation. The parent snakes were about 11 months of age (F<sub>2</sub>) and measured 80-90 cm.

Copulation was not observed. The female fed as usual during pregnancy. On 23 May 1986 10 eggs were laid. They were incubated at 23-33°C. The eggs hatched between 21 and 29 July 1986, this resulting in young snakes, measuring 12-15 cm and weighing 19 g. The other eggs were opened. One of them contained a full grown dead baby. The hatchlings sloughed for the first time on 1 August 1986. Three of them were force-fed on mouse legs. From 28 August 1986 they have fed freely on pink mice.

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## Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata (2x).

The animals are housed in a terrarium measuring

170x70x60 cm (lxwxh). For temperature and light conditions see report on breeding *Elaphe guttata guttata*. The animals measured about 150 cm; the female was about eight years old, the age of the male is unknown. Copulations were not observed. From 8 May 1986 onwards the female refused food. On 5 June 1986 36 fertile and 1 infertile egg were laid. They were incubated at 24-33°C. Between 7-9 August 1986 34 snakes hatched. One egg was split by the baby snake, which turned around and subsequently died in the shell. The babies weighed about 14 g each and measured roughly 16 cm. All of them were force-fed.

On and after 25 June 1986 copulation was observed, copulation probably also occurred prior to this. The female did not feed from 1 July 1986 onwards. On 30 and 31 July 1986 she delivered 39 eggs and they were incubated at 24-33°C. On 11-13 October 1986 32 little snakes hatched, measuring 16 cm and weighing 14 g. They sloughed for the first time on 19 October 1986 and fed freely on pink mice, with effect from 20 October 1986.

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*Boa constrictor constrictor*.

The wild caught animals are housed in a terrarium of 200x75x150 cm (lxwxh). For light and temperature conditions see report on *Elaphe guttata guttata*. The animals were 12-13 years old, the female measured 260 cm, the male 220 cm. The dates of copulation are not known. Since December 1985 the female refused to feed. The birth was very problematic. Usually the female produces pieces of urate and then delivers within 24 hours. In this case the female produced 4 pieces of urate on 20 June 1986, but no young followed. It was thought that she may have been egg bound. When on 3 July

1986 still nothing had happened, the female was injected subcutaneously in her tail with 2 ml Calcium on 2 and 3 July 1986. Calcium is a labour inducer because egg binding is often due to lack of Calcium. The usual dose for an animal of this weight (15 kg) is 3 ml once. On 7 July 1986 the first contraction occurred at 16.30 hours, but in spite of pressing nothing came out. On 19.00 hours she was injected with 0.5 ml Oxytocin.

At 22.15 hours the first baby was born, at 22.45 the second. After that the delivery was normal. In half an hour all baby snakes (22, of which two were stillborn) were delivered. Ten infertile eggs were also laid.

The young snakes weighed 145 g and measured 54 cm. On 20 July 1986 they sloughed for the first time and next day they fed freely on full grown mice. I have often bred this species before. From these individuals I had 15 babies in 1981, 26 in 1983. In both cases everything was normal.

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*Boa constrictor constrictor*. (F<sub>2</sub>).

These 5 year old captive bred animals (F<sub>1</sub>) are housed in a terrarium of 250x70x100 cm. For light and temperature conditions see breeding report on *Elaphe guttata guttata*. The female measured about 220 cm, the male was about 190 cm. On 21 January 1986 copulations were noticed, but the female had refused food since 17 December 1985. On 3 August 1986 10 young Boas were born and 5 unfertilized eggs were delivered. The babies had an average weight of 130 g and an average length of 52 cm. They sloughed for the first time on 15 August 1986 and since that day have fed freely on full grown mice. From these individuals I had a litter of 10 snakes in 1984.

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Boa constrictor constrictor (F<sub>2</sub>).

The snakes live in a terrarium of 250x70x100 cm (lxwxh). For light and temperature conditions see breeding report on *Elaphe guttata guttata*. The captive bred animals are 5 years old and measure 230 cm (female) and 190 cm (male).

Copulation was not observed but the female refused food from 20 February 1986. On 8 August 1986 she delivered 21 babies. Two of them had coordination problems. Ten infertile eggs were also found.

The little snakes weighed about 125 g and measured about 52 cm. They sloughed for the first time on 17 August 1986. I have bred with this male before, but not with the same female.

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Lampropeltis getulus floridana

The animals were imported in 1983-1984. Their age was unknown, their length about 140 cm. They were brought into a terrarium of 100x50x50 cm (lxwxh). The daytime temperature was: in summer 25-30°C; in winter: 16-18°C; dropping at night to 16-20°C in summer and 14-15°C in winter. The cooler period of one and a half month stimulated the animals to copulate. Copulations were observed from 23

January 1986 onwards. The female fed as usual until 27 March. On 29 March 1986 sixteen eggs were laid. They were incubated at about about 28°C (tank 1) and about 29°C (tank 2). On 19 May (fifty-one days later) the first heads could be seen. On 20 May 1986 the first snake hatched. The hatchlings of tank 1 were two days later than those of

tank 2. Fifteen snakes hatched; one died because of the high humidity down in the tank. The little snakes weighed 15-18 g and measured about 35 cm. They sloughed for the first time from 30 May 1986 onwards and fed freely the next day. Again between 2 and 17 April copulations were observed. From 26 May 1986 the female refused all food. On 9 June 1986 she laid fifteen eggs which were incubated at 26-29°C. On 27, 28 and 29 July 1986 fifteen snakes hatched, weighing about 15 g and measuring about 30 cm. The first sloughings commenced on 4 August 1986. In 1984 I also had babies from these snakes, see *Litteratura Serpenticum*, vol. 5 (3), pp. 110-113.

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