



Foto 1. *Candoia aspera*, in copula. Foto: C.A.P.  
van Riel.

BREEDING CANDOIA ASPERA (GUNTHER, 1877).

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### DISTRIBUTION

In my collection, I have two pairs of *Candoia aspera*, all from New Guinea. This species is also found on the neighbouring islands: the Moluks, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Union-, the Tokelau- and the Solomon Islands including Bougainville.

### BIOTOPE

*Candoia aspera* prefers a damp biotope. This species is usually found near and in rivers and lakes, under moist soil, moss and leaves, between tree trunks and roots.

### FOOD

In their natural biotope these snakes feed on lizards (skinks of the genus *Sphenomorphus*), frogs and small mammals. In the terrarium they will also accept mice and small rats.

### MY SNAKES

I bought my first pair in September 1984. The male weighed 238 g, the female 525 g. Both snakes had a yellow-brown colour. In May 1985 I received a second pair. The male had a weight of 150 g and

had a black-red colour; the female weighed 264 g and had a yellow-red colour.

## TERRARIUMS

Both pairs are housed in terrariums of 90x40x37 cm (lxwxh) each. In both terrariums I have placed a water tank. The floor is covered with moist beech leaves and some plants complete the furnishing. The terrariums are heated by means of floor heating, only under a small part of the terrarium floor.

## COPULATION PERIOD

To stimulate copulation, I imitated a cooler period from 15 October 1985 until 1 February 1986. To achieve this, I simply turned off the heating. I had separated both sexes and put them together on 1 November 1985. The copulation frequency observed was : in November 1985 the snakes copulated twice (the first time on 4 November), in December 1985 they also copulated twice; then they copulated three times in January 1986 and three times in February 1986, the last time on 18 February 1986. All copulations took place in the water tank.

During my holiday, which took place from 3 till 18 October (I was not at home), the first female gave birth to 21 youngsters, which unfortunately were all born dead. This happened on 10 October. The second female gave birth to five youngsters on 17 October, of which one was born dead. I kept the young snakes separated in small tanks, placed in an incubator with a temperature of +27°C and a humidity of 80-90%.

One of the young snakes voluntarily ate young mice from the beginning, a second youngster followed a few weeks later. One youngster had to be force-fed. The fourth young snake died after a few weeks.

## REFERENCES

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Foto 2. *Candovia aspera*, vrouwtje / female. Foto: C.A.P. van Riel.



Foto 3. *Candovia aspera*, juvenile. Foto: C.A.P. van Riel.