
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.

Thamnophis radix haydeni (2x)

The animals are housed in a terrarium measuring 100x40x50 cm (lxwxh). The temperature by day is 24-28°C in summer and 24-26°C in winter, dropping at night to 20-22°C in summer and 19-21°C in winter. A cooling period of 5 weeks in a bucket filled with sawdust placed in the cellar at 15-16°C, stimulated the animals to copulate. The exact date is not known, but it was thought to be mid December 1986. The female then was aged 2,5 years and measured 83 cm. The male was 3 years old and 65 cm in length. The female refused food from two weeks before delivery. On 29 March 1987 1 young snake was born, measuring 19 cm. The weight is not known. The little snake sloughed 1 hour after birth and after 2 hours it fed freely on earthworms. For me it was the first captive bred generation. The parent snakes come from the University of Utrecht.

In another terrarium I tried to breed with the same male and another female. The animals are kept in a terrarium measuring 100x40x50 cm (lxwxh). In summer the temperature is 24-26°C by day, dropping at night to 22-24°C. In winter the temperature is 18-21°C by day and 16-18°C at night. A cooling

period of 7 weeks at 14-16°C made the snakes copulate at 12 January 1987. The female was aged 2 and had a length of 70 cm, the male was aged 1,5 and measured 65 cm. From 3 weeks before delivery the female refused all food. On 14th and 19th April 1987 2 deformed dead young snakes were born, measuring resp. 18 and 18,5 cm. Once before I tried to make them copulate by cooling off (19°C) for 3 weeks in a terrarium. It failed, perhaps because the time was too short or the temperature was too high.

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Elaphe helena (F3)

The parent snakes are ca. 2,5 years of age. The female measures 100 cm, the male 80 cm. The terrarium measures 60x40x30 cm (lxwxh). The daytime temperature is the same in summer and winter: 28°C. The night temperature is 21°C in summer and 18°C in winter. Nothing special was done to make the animals copulate, but still it happened on 8 March 1987. On 2 April 1987 the female refused to eat a mouse. She sloughed on 17 April. On 24 April 1987 7 eggs were laid. They were incubated at a constant 28°C. On 3 July 1987 1 young snake (F3) hatched. It had a length of 30 cm and shed for the first time on 10 July 1987 and fed freely on litter mice from 11 July. I have never bred with this species before.

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Eryx conicus

In the terrarium (lxwxh = 90x45x35 cm) the temperature by day is 30°C in summer and 27°C in winter. The temperature at night is 20°C in summer and 18°C in winter. From 1 December until 15 January the parent snakes were kept separately in hibernation at 10°C. Their age is not known. On 5, 9 and 14 March 1987 copulations were observed. One female ate regularly until 1,5 month before delivery. Another female fed very often just after copulation. On 11 and 18 July 1987 two clutches each of 10 snakes (F1) were born, weighing 10 g. and measuring 20 cm. The youngs of the first female sloughed for the first time on 17 July 1987, those of the second on 27 July 1987. Since 20 July 1987 they fed freely on litter mice.

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Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis

Five females (nr. 1-5) and two males (nr. 1-2) were kept in a terrarium measuring 120x60x80 cm (lxwxh). The furnishing consists of peatdust, cobblestones, plants, branches for climbing and a big waterbasin. Temperature varies in summer between 20°C and 40°C under the spotlight (60 Watt) where the snakes like to sunbathe. The night temperature is 18-20°C. The stimulus for mating was a cooling period from December until February, when the temperature by day was 14-16°C and at night 12-14°C. Daylength was shortened. Four weeks after hibernation the temperature and daylength were at summer level again. On the evening of 23 March 1987 copulations between female 4 and male 2 were observed. The age of the animals (wild caught) is not known. The length of the female is

ca. 85 cm, of the male 78 cm. During pregnancy the female fed as usual, and became thicker every week. During the first 4 weeks her behaviour did not really change. During weeks 4-8 she was sunbathing very often; in weeks 9-10 she kept hidden in a warm place. Two days before delivery she became restless and started to crawl al through the terrarium. On 6 June 1987 (after 75 days) 14 snakes were born, measuring 15-18 cm. There was no need for force feeding because they fed freely on fish. Two days later earthworms were also eaten.

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Corallus enydris enydris (F2)

The parent animals were captive bred four years ago. The male measures 175 cm, the female 200 cm. They are kept in a terrarium of 50x50x170 cm (lxwxh). The daytime temperature in summer and winter is 30°C, at night in summer 20°C and in winter 30°C. No artificial stimulus for mating was used. At the end of April 1986 copulations were observed. From July 1986 the female refused to feed. On 10 January 1987 the youngs were born: eight of them healthy, one dead and three infertile eggs.

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