
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

The snakes are kept in a terrarium measuring 100x40x50 cm (lxwxh). Daytime temperature is 26°C in summer and 25-26°C in winter. Night temperature is 18-19°C in summer and 16-18°C in winter. No special stimulus for mating is used. The female was 3.5 years-old, the male was 3 years-old. They measured respectively 94 and 75 cm. On 18 June 1987 copulations were noticed. The female refused food commencing 5 weeks before delivery (perhaps because it was time for sloughing?). On 28 August 1987 1 healthy (17.5 cm) and 2 dead baby snakes were born. Also 15-20 unfertilized eggs were found. The young snake sloughed for the first time on 28 August and fed freely on fish and earthworms from 29 August 1987. In early 1987 I had bred with the same parents. Except for hibernation then, as a stimulus for copulation, circumstances were the same. This copulation seemed to be the same as the copulation in autumn under natural circumstances, with the difference that delivery was delayed until next summer.

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Elaphe guttata guttata (2x)

The parent snakes (captive bred in Blijdorp Zoo) are 2 years and 8 months old, measuring about 120 cm. They are housed in a terrarium measuring 60x120x60cm (hxlxw). The temperature in summer is 25-28°C by day, dropping to 20-22°C at night. During the months November, December and January the animals were hibernated at 3-10°C. There was no illumination and no water. Copulations were observed on 31 March, 4 April and 8 May 1987. From 18 April 1987 both females refused to feed. On 15 June 1987 female 1 laid 15 eggs. Female 2 laid 23 eggs at 20 June 1987. Eggs were incubated at an average of 27.5°C (variations between 26-29°C). In clutch 1 on 19 August 1987 7 snakes hatched. Their weight varied between 4 and 7.5 gram. Their length was about 25 cm. First sloughing was on 27 August 1987. In the other clutch only one snake hatched on 25 August 1987. It weighed 5 gram, measured 25 cm and sloughed for the first time on 5 September 1987. Another egg was opened too early because there were fungi on it. The young snakes fed freely on litter mice (up to 1.5 weeks-old) from 12 September 1987.

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Thamnophis sirtalis (m) X Thamnophis radix (f)

The age of the animals is unknown. They each measure 72 cm. They are housed in a terrarium measuring 60x50x55 cm (lxwxh). Daytime temperature is 28°C in summer and 17°C in winter. At night the temperature drops to 20°C in summer and 15°C in winter. Differences in length of day were used as a stimulus for mating. In the period December to

February day length was 6 hours, slowly lengthened up to 16 hours a day in April. Since the end of March 1987 copulations occurred. The female refused food from a week before delivery. 19 June 1987 21 young snakes were born. One of them was dead. Also 5 unfertilized eggs were found. The babies belong to F1. They had a weight of ca. 3 grams and a length of ca. 17 cm. There was no need for force feeding since they fed freely on pieces of earthworms and fish from 9 July 1987. Previously I bred under same circumstances with *Thamnophis radix*, but with other individuals.

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