
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.

Elaphe schrenckii

The age of the parent snakes is unknown. They have been in my possession for 5 years now. Their length is 175 cm. They are kept in a terrarium measuring 160x70x100 cm (lxwxh). Daytime temperature is 28°C in summer and 20°C in winter; at night the temperature is 22°C in summer and 16°C in winter. A length of day of 6 hours in winter rising to 16 hours in summer stimulated the snakes to copulate on 28 April 1987. From 15 May 1987 the female refused all food. On 14 June 1987 she laid 11 eggs that were incubated at 27°C. On 28 July 1987 10 babies (F1) hatched. They had a weight of 16 gram and a length of 32 cm. They sloughed for the first time on 4 August and fed freely on litter mice since that day, so there was no need for force feeding.

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Thamnophis sirtalis similis (2x)

The parent snakes (at least 2 years old) are kept in a terrarium measuring 75x50x65 cm (lxwxh). The temperature is 25°C to 35°C in summer and 20°C in

winter, dropping at night to 22°C in summer and 18°C in winter. Copulation was not observed. The first female refused no food during pregnancy. On 15 June 1987 16 young snakes were born (F1) measuring 21 cm. They sloughed for the first time at 12 July 1987. From 24 June 1987 they fed freely on fish. Six of them died for unknown reasons in the period between 9 and 28 August 1987 (perhaps caused by a treatment against flagellates during pregnancy?). The second female refused food from a week before delivery. On 1 July 1987 she gave birth to 18 young snakes (F1): 13 alive, 5 dead. The babies had a length of 22 cm. They sloughed for the first time on 14 July 1987 and next day they fed freely on fish. There was no need for force feeding.

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Sistrurus miliarius barbouri (F2)

The animals are kept in a terrarium measuring 40x50x50 cm. The temperature by day is 28°C in summer and 24°C in winter, dropping at night to 24°C in summer and 20°C in winter. The female was captive bred in 1985 and measured 45 cm. The age of the male is not known., his length was 50 cm. Usually the male and female are housed separately. During November and December 1986 they were kept in the same terrarium. On 12 December 1986 copulations were observed. Three weeks before delivery the female stopped feeding. On 30 May 1987 10 young snakes were born, of which 1 died after 5 days. The babies had an average weight of 5 gram and a length of 16 cm. They sloughed within 2 weeks and were force fed on litter mice.

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The animals are housed in a terrarium measuring 100x65x80 cm (lxwxh). By day the temperature is 27-33°C in summer and 15-20°C in winter. At night the temperature is 20-25°C in summer and 10-15°C in winter. Between 17 December 1986 and 17 March 1987 the snakes were hibernated, without illumination at 10-20°C. The age of the parent snakes is unknown. The female measured 60 cm, the male 50 cm. Copulations were seen on 18,19 and 20 March 1987. On 8 July 1987 4 fertilized eggs were laid, on 9 July another 18 unfertilized and 4 fertilized eggs were found. The eggs were incubated "au bain marie" at 28°C. On 23 September 1 snake hatched weighing 4 gram and measuring 18 cm. It sloughed for the first time on 2 October 1987 and fed freely on litter mice from 14 October. So there was no need to force feeding.

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