
THINGS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT *CANDOIA CARINATA*
CARINATA AND *CANDOIA CARINATA PAULSONI*.

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On the Snakeday in October 1989 I bought a couple of *Candoia carinata carinata*. The former owner told me that they had never eaten on their own. He had to force-feed them for months. The female weighed 22 g and the male 23 g.

The animals were housed separately in small plastic terrariums with sphagnum on the floor and with a small water dish. The next day I offered them pink mice. These were not eaten, and because a young *Candoia aspera* had once eaten a goldfish, I tried to feed these snakes with fish too. I bought a small clawed toad (*Xenopus*) and two small aquarium fish. At home, I put them in the water dish of the male snake. One of the fish jumped out of the water and was grabbed by the male immediately and swallowed. The toad was also eaten. The fish in the water dish was not grabbed until it jumped out of the water.

I became enthusiastic and bought some small goldfish which I offered the female. It ate one of the fish immediately.

In nature newborn *Candoia carinata carinata* may eat small fish, because a lizard or frog is too big for a little snake of only 3 g.

Both snakes now feed well, and two or three goldfish a week are no exception. A few weeks after buying the snakes they weighed 34 and 40 g.

I also possess some young *Candoia carinata paulsoni* which I had fed for some time with paws of ephemeron chickens before a diet of

young mice. After a while the mice were not grabbed as eagerly as before. As I had no nest mice for a while, I offered a goldfish, without any problem. One should only offer fish which are not too broad, because these do not fit in the small mouths.

The fish were digested very well. The snakes even preferred fish, and did not take mice anymore. By rubbing mice with fish, I got them onto a mice diet.

Some snake keepers do not like to feed fish because of the smell. I have not noticed it yet. Now, I feed my two *Candoia carinata paulsoni* with fish, the other snakes get mice.

If there is any change of note, I will report it in another article.