

BREEDING RESULTS

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Thamnophis radix haydeni

The size of the terrarium is 100x40x50 cm (lxwxh). The daytime temperature is in summer 24-28°C and in winter 23-27°C. At night the temperature is 17-19°C in summer and 14-17°C in winter. The animals had a winterrest during 6 weeks in a bucket in the cellar (11-14°C). The male was 3.5 years old and 75 cm of length. The female was 3 years old and measured 100 cm. 25 Januari 1988 copulations took place. From 2 weeks before delivery the female refused to feed. She weighed 530 gram before delivery and only 360 gram after it.

7 April 1988 60 young snakes were born and 2 unfertilized eggs were laid. The babies had a weight of 1-1.5 gram and a length of 17-19 cm. They sloughed immediately after birth and the very same day they fed on earthworms (later they took fish).

Last Last year I had two times only one young snake from the same parents: The first nest contained only one egg, the second consisted of 1 healthy baby, 3 dead young snakes and many unfertilized eggs. For me this baby snakes belong to F1.

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Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix - Copperhead

The animals are housed in terraria measuring 35x35x50cm (lxhxw) (1 snake each terrarium). Day temperature is about 25°C in summer and 15°C in winter. The night temperature is 15°C in summer and 10°C in winter. Stimulus for copulations was a cold period from November until March (no real hibernation). The female was 3 years old and had a length of 85 cm. The age of the male is unknown, he had a length of 80 cm. Copulations were not observed. The female fed as usual.

On 20 June 1988 15 young snakes were born (F1) measuring 20 cm. There was no need for forcefeeding because they fed freely on littermice from 25 June 1988. In 1987 I have also bred with these snakes. The same female had a clutch of 6 then.

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Agkistrodon contortrix mokeson - Copperhead

For housing and breedingcircumstances see report *Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix*.

The age of the wild caught animals is unknown. They had a length of about 80 cm. On 21 February 1988 copulations were noticed. Until the end of pregnancy the female fed as usual. On 16 June 1988 7 young snakes were born (F1). They had a length of 20 cm and sloughed for the first time on 20 and 21 June. The babies were forcefed on littermice.

In 1987 I again bred with those animals. The female gave birth to 7 young snakes.

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Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata (F₂)

The parent snakes, aged three to four years old, measured about 120 cm. The female weighed 300 g, the weight of the male was 350 g. The animals lived in a terrarium of 90x60x120 cm (lxwxh). The temperatures fluctuate within the terrarium as follows: at day summer top 28-32°C, bottom 26-30°C; at night summer top 23-27°C, bottom 19-24°C at day winter top 24-28°C, bottom 18-22°C; at night winter top 20-24°C, bottom 16-20°C.

The stimulus used for inducing copulation were changes in day length and temperature in the terrarium to produce annual cycles. In summer the day length was 12 hours, in winter only 8 hours. Copulations (not observed) were probably in March 1986. At this time the male refused food. During the last four weeks of pregnancy the female did not feed.

On 20 and 21 May 1986 twelve eggs were laid. The incubation temperature was 29°C (on warm days rising to 31°C). About 20 July 1986 (exact date is not known because I was on holiday) eleven babies hatched from ten eggs; so one pair of twins. The young snakes weighed about 7 g and measured about 20 cm except two of them (probably the twins) that weighed 5 g and measured only 12 cm.

The first sloughing was between 23 and 30 July 1986. Two young snakes were force-fed on heart and beef. Two babies were fed by placing little mice into the mouth which were then freely eaten. The seven others fed freely on litter mice a fortnight after birth.

It was the first time I have bred with these snakes.

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Trimeresurus albolabris (F₂)

The snakes are housed in a terrarium measuring 75x40x80 cm (lxwxh). The daytime temperature varies between 23-30°C in summer and between 20-25°C in winter. The temperature at night is 20-26°C in summer and 18-23°C in winter. The female was 4 years old and 65 cm of length, the male was 3 years old and had a length of 45 cm.

In August and September 1986 several copulations were noticed. Since November 1986 the female refused all food. At 24 May 1987 22 young snakes were born (second generation captive bred). Their length was 18 cm and their weight 6 gram. The first sloughing was within 2 weeks after birth.

Some of the young snakes had to be forcefed. Within 8 weeks they all fed freely. In 1985 and 1986 I had clutches of eggs produced by the same species, (even the same female). The circumstances were as mentioned above.

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