

BREEDING RESULTS

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Natrix maura.

Size of the terrarium: 60x40x40 cm (lxwxh). **Day and night temperature:** in summer 25-40°C (day) and 10-20°C (night); in winter 4-8°C (day and night). **Copulation stimulus:** hibernation in a refrigerator from 7 November 1989 until 12 february 1990, at a temperature of 4-8°C. **Age of parent snakes:** 4 years old. **Length of parent snakes:** female 61 cm, male 44 cm. **Date of copulation:** immediately after hibernation. **Date of egg-laying:** 15 May 1990 and 1 July 1990. **Number of eggs:** 8 in May and 6 in July. **Incubation temperature:** 28-30°C. **Date of hatching:** 8-14 July and in August 1990. **Number of young:** 6 live and 2 dead young from the first clutch and 4 live and 2 dead young from the second clutch. **Generation of young:** F2. **Length of young:** 16-20 cm. **First feeding of young:** some weeks after birth. **Prey:** small fish, worms and smelt. **Remarks:** I have bred before with the same species. From 1986 -1990 150 specimens have been produced (F1 and F2) by six different females. The female mentioned in this report also had offspring in 1988 and 1989. Conditions were the same.

S.C. Bol, Nieuweweg 88, 2675 BE Honselersdijk, The Netherlands.

Sistrurus catenatus tergeminus - Western Massasauga.

At the beginning of August 1990 I bought three of these animals: a brace of wild-caught adult animals (age unknown) and a two-year-old female (F1). These animals were housed in a terrarium measuring 125x45x45 cm (lxwxh), which was heated by a 40 Watt spotlight and a 18 Watt tube.

Both females immediately ate well, the male however stubbornly refused both live as well as dead food. After two months I force-fed this animal with an adult mouse which previously had died from a rattlesnake bite (*Crotalus viridis viridis*). This mouse was digested well.

Hibernation started at the beginning of November 1990 for my animals. All lights were turned off for one month, whereafter the animals were placed in the cellar underneath the house for two months at a temperature of 10°C. At the beginning of February 1991 the Massasaugas were woken and placed in a terrarium measuring 75x65x65 cm (lxwxh). After only a few days the male got sexually active, it took the females longer to get into this state. The male was stimulated by spraying water; low hiding places of bark troubled him and these were replaced with a cardboard box. A copulation between the male and the F1 female occurred on 9 May after which on 19 July nineteen juveniles were born.

During her pregnancy the female kept on eating and increased in length. Two of the juveniles died straight after being born, all the others shed their skins after five days and since then were force-fed on a weekly basis with parts of beefheart. After one month these animals started to eat pinky mice on their own. For me this was the first breeding result with this species.

Herman Bronsgeest, Lauwerbes 12, 2318 AT Leiden, The Netherlands.

Sistrurus miliarius barbouri - Dusky pygmy rattlesnake.

As from September 1990 I own three specimens of F2 *Sistrurus miliarius barbouri*. On purchasing the animals they were about 35 cm. The male and one female had no rattles, the other female had a well developed rattle.

From the start all animals ate well on half-grown mice and grew in accordance with this. The animals were housed in a terrarium measuring 100x40x40 cm (lxwxh), heated by a 40 Watt spotlight and a 18 Watt tube. The lights were turned off from the beginning of November up to the beginning of December 1990. A few days after the lights were turned on again the male became sexually active and on 3 January 1991 he mated with the female with the rattle. At that time both animals measured about 50 cm. During her pregnancy this female kept on growing as well as eating.

On 21 May 1991 thirteen juveniles were born all of which shed their skins after four days. Directly after birth sexual dimorphism was clearly visible. For some weeks I had to force-feed the juveniles with beefheart: after being housed at other snake keepers they immediately started on pink mice. All juveniles developed rattles. the adults keep on growing; both females measured in October 1991 respectively 65 and 60 cm and the male 75 cm. For me this was the first breeding result with this species.

Herman Bronsgeest, Lauwerbes 12, 2318 AT Leiden, The Netherlands.

Vipera aspis zinnikeri

On 15 March 1991 I bought an adult brace of this species (F1). Both animals had been in a period of winterrest but with their previous owner they showed no signs of mating.

To stimulate the animals to do so I placed them in a terrarium together with a brace of subadult *Vipera latastei latastei* (F1). This terrarium measured 125x45x45 cm (lxwxh). After a couple of hours the males of the two different species started to fight. The male of the *Aspisadder*, who was the larger one of the two, mated with the female on 21 March.

After one month this female stopped eating. On 14 June she gave birth to seven juveniles, four of these were born dead. The live ones shed their skins after four days and from then on started to feed without any problems on the thighs of one-day-old chicks. Straight after birth sexual dimorphism was clearly visible and after a few weeks mating efforts were observed amongst the juveniles. Up to now this is observed regularly. For me this was the first breeding result with this species.

Herman Bronsgeest, Lauwerbes 12, 2318 AT Leiden, The Netherlands.