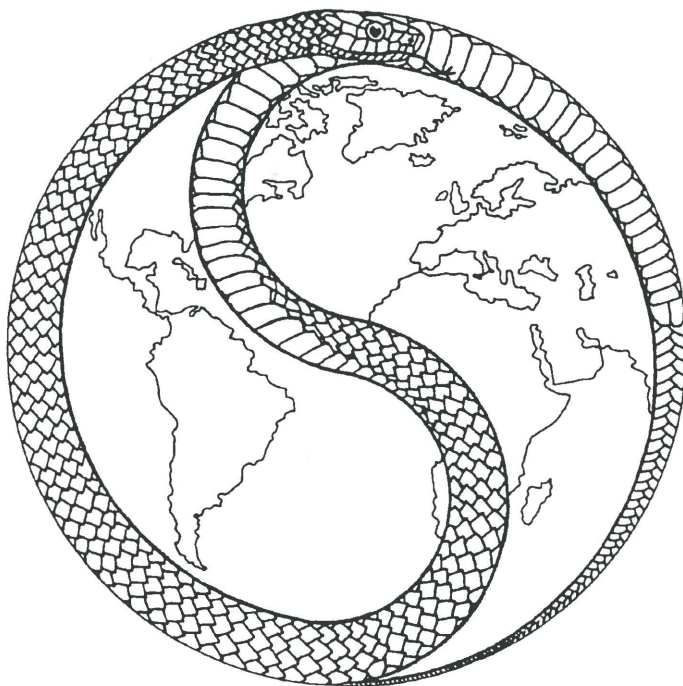


# LITTERATURA SERPENTIIUM

English Edition

Volume 14 - 1994

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# LITTERATURA SERPENTIIUM

## English Edition

Volume 14, Number 1, February 1994

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## A NEW EDITORIAL BOARD

By: Cécile and René van der Vlugt and Marcel van der Voort

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With the appearance of number 6 of volume 13 of *Litteratura Serpentina* the editorial board has, much to their regret, said goodbye to Piet Schiereck, the editor-in-chief for the last five years. Although we regret his decision, we can also understand it. Next to his normal daily work for the last five years, he has been busy editing, translating, coordinating, phoning, faxing, planning, keeping up (international) contacts with all the people who are directly or indirectly involved in this magazine or in the society, attending meetings of the committee or the editorial board and finally taking the responsibility for this magazine: all taken together certainly no sinecure. We sincerely thank Piet for all the efforts he put in during these years.

With this change a moment of reflection has come to the new editorial board. Due to the efforts of especially Piet Schiereck over the last five years all essential actions necessary for the appearance of our magazine have nearly become almost automatic. Besides being a pleasant situation for the editors, it can also be dangerous: there is no reason to mark time and to evaluate the way things are running.

We would like to take this opportunity to line up a number of facts. For example, we asked ourselves the question if the contents of our magazine needs any adaptations. The experienced snake keeper who has introduced himself, with or without much difficulty, to the field of herpetology, relies - very conceivable - mainly on his own attainments. Too easily it may be disregarded that many new members have joined the society in the past few years. New members, who struggle with the same problems the more experienced snake keeper faced a number of years ago. When one leafs through the volumes of the last couple of years one has to conclude that there is not much of interest for the beginning snake keeper: over the last few years hardly any articles have been published on the problems encountered by a beginning snake keeper. Therefore, the new editorial board has the intention to adjust the contents of *Litteratura Serpentina* in such way that both the more experienced as well as the starting herpetologists will find something that suits him.

To get to know what questions starting herpetologists would like to see answered, we invite those who are wrestling with any herpetological problem to notify the editorial board. They will then try to have the question answered by a more experienced member. Hence, it would be pleasant if members having years of experience with their snakes would be prepared to cooperate in answering the questions of beginners. Would you please let us know if we can pass these questions on to you?

Also linked with the phenomenon 'young - old subscriber' is the following: in early volumes of *Litteratura Serpentina* proportionally more papers appeared on medical-herpetological issues than in later volumes. However, not everyone has these early volumes at their disposal although back volumes can be ordered from the Treasurer (see colophon). Moreover, it might be that since the appearance of an early paper new data have become known about specific diseases in snakes, so an adaptation or addition to the

already known treatment or medication is desirable. We aim to keep the subscribers of *Litteratura Serpentina* up-to-date on this as well.

Those who have been subscribed to *Litteratura Serpentina* for some longer time, may have noticed that a number of regular features silently dropped out of the picture in the course of time and that another feature started to lead a distressed existence. The former refers to the feature 'Literature' and the latter to 'Breeding Results'.

We feel that the feature 'Literature' should be a regularly returning part in *Litteratura Serpentina*. Many interesting, herpetological data would otherwise remain unknown to most of the members. If this feature could revive again, everyone could keep abreast with a variety of developments through abstracts of a number of international herpetological magazines. Moreover, it would be pleasant when those who are interested in a complete copy of an article, could receive this through one of the editors of *Litteratura Serpentina*. The editorial board calls for members who also subscribe to another herpetological magazine and are willing to write a periodical report on its contents for publication in *Litteratura Serpentina*. In addition, it would be nice when someone would be willing to coordinate, edit and translate these reports to English (or Dutch). Interested co-workers for this feature are asked to contact Marcel van der Voort.

For the column 'Breeding Results' the editorial board has been strengthened by Marcel Schellekens. Special breeding forms can be obtained from him, which he will subsequently edit and translate for the English or Dutch edition of *Litteratura Serpentina*. The breeding forms will be adapted in such a way that a more scientific report will be possible. When you intend to report on more breedings, you could copy the form several times yourself. The need for this column is apparent from the fact that Marcel Schellekens has already received a reasonable number of data to process. In the future you will therefore find the feature 'Breeding Results' more regularly than before.

Undoubtedly you will also have a herpetological experience that does not seem to justify a full length article but nevertheless is interesting enough to share with others. By the introduction of a new feature 'Herpetologia' we hope to establish that our readers will start to write down remarkable experiences and send them to us. This will make it easier to send in copy and other people will learn of your experiences. We gladly invite you to send in your contributions to this feature.

Recently Twan Leenders from Nijmegen, The Netherlands, came up with the idea to develop a herpetological 'register.' A special computer program has been developed for this and you can read more on this interesting new development in our hobby on page 7 of this issue.

You have become used to see colour pictures of snakes in each issue of *Litteratura Serpentina*. Luckily, together with their articles most authors supply pictures or slides of which subsequently a litho can be made. In the course of 13 volumes *Litteratura Serpentina* the editorial board has build up a nice collection of snake pictures. Nevertheless, it is sometimes inevitable that an interesting article has to appear without illustrations: either because the author was not able to supply pictures or the quality of the pictures was too low. The editorial board would like to have more snake pictures to their disposal to fill in any possible gaps in their own archive. We therefore call upon all members to place proper snake pictures at *Litteratura Serpentina*'s disposal. Naturally your name will be referred too if the picture is printed.

It would be nice if the European Snake Society and especially our magazine *Litteratura Serpentina* became better known both at home and abroad. The editorial board has English and Dutch promotion material to their disposal which you could leave at interesting herpetological addresses during your journeys. Members of the committee and the editorial board will send this material on your request.

It is bound to come: a final call on your solidarity. The editorial board would like to create a basis as broad as possible, but this will only succeed with your help. That this is very well possible has been shown before: after a cry of distress by Piet Schiereck a few years ago asking for more co-workers on features or on translations, the number of co-workers increased very satisfactory. We ask again: support us in our attempt to make an attractive magazine by writing an article, making pictures available, sending in your breeding results, supply data to your 'book keeper', periodically sending in a small literature report on your (foreign) snake magazine, being adviser on specific problems or assisting in translational work. We count on you.