

## BREEDING RESULTS

*Ask Marcel Schellekens, Lange Voren 11, 5133 TM Riel, The Netherlands for special forms to report your breeding results.*

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The recent call to register your breeding results was quite successful. Many people used the new breeding registration form as it was published in *Litteratura Serpenti* 14-6. Not only is publication of your breeding results something to be proud of but it is also nice for all the other readers of *LS*. Tell us more about your successful breeding attempts. Of course we prefer a (short) article, accompanied by some photographs, to be sent to the editor. But you can also fill out the special breeding registration form and send it to: Marcel Schellekens, Lange Voren 11, NL-5133 TM, Riel, The Netherlands.

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### *Lamprophis fuliginosus*

**Size of the terrarium:** 100x50x60 cm. **Day and night temperature:** summer: 20-28°C (day) and 20-24°C (night). Winter: 20-24°C (day) and 16-20°C (night). **Copulation stimulus:** not used. **Age of parent snakes:** male unknown; female one year. **Length of parent snakes:** male and female both 80 cm. **Date of copulation:** 12 January 1994. **Refusing food of the female:** from the 20th of February 1994. **Number of eggs:** 5 (at the end of the incubation, only one egg was left). **Incubation temperature:** between 26 and 29°C with an average of 28°C. **Date of hatching:** 5 June 1994. **Number of young:** 1. **Generation of young:** F2. **Length of young:** approx. 25 cm. **First slough:** 14 June 1994. **Remarks:** The only young died on the 20th of June 1994, caused by an infection of the intestine. The breeder hadn't bred with this species before.

Bert Huisman, Papaverstraat 98, 7514 XH Enschede, The Netherlands.

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### *Crotalus mitchelli mitchelli* - Speckled Rattlesnake

**Size of the terrarium:** 75x65x50cm (lxwxh). **Day and night temperature:** in summer 30-35°C (day) and 22°C (night); in winter 13-14°C (day) and 8°C (night). **Copulation stimulus:** hibernation at 8-14°C from 6 November 1993 until 15 February 1994. **Age of parent snakes:** male offspring 1992; female has been in captivity for four years now. **Length of parent snakes:** male  $\pm$ 80cm; female  $\pm$ 70cm. **Date of copulation:** 6 March 1993. **Refusing food of the female:** Since the 8th of July 1994. **Date of hatching:** 22 July 1994. **Number of young:** 2 (1.1). **Weight of young:** 22 and 24 g. **Length of young:** 28cm. **First slough:** 30 July 1994.

**First feeding of young:** 30 July 1994 (pink mice). **Remarks:** In the terrarium, sand was used as the substrate. Furthermore the terrarium is provided with stones and a shelter, that occupies ¼ of the terrarium.

Hans v.d. Velde, Torresstraat 23<sup>III</sup>, 1056 RR Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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*Morelia spilota variegata* - Carpet python

**Size of the terrarium:** Each adult housed in separate halves of a terrarium measuring 120x60x75 cm in total. **Day and night temperature:** 25-28°C (summer); thermal cycling from mid-October 1992 to late January 1993 involved a daytime temperature of 30°C (±2°C) falling at night to 18-20°C. This was achieved by simply turning up (day) or down (night) a mechanical thermostat controlling domestic light bulbs. **Copulation stimulus:** Thermal cycling as described. Both animals continued to feed until early December. The dividing wall of their terrarium was removed in mid-December and copulation followed. **Age of parents:** male 3-4 years, female 5 years - both captive bred. **Length of parents:** Both approx. 1.5 metres at time of breeding. **Dates of copulation:** 24.12.92, 29.12.92 and 31.12.92. **Date of laying:** 7.3.93. (around 74 days gestation). **Number of eggs:** 11. Nine of these were incubated maternally by the female in her half of the terrarium at around 35°C and the other two eggs (left outside of the female's coils) were artificially incubated in a 4 litre plastic box on damp peat at 32°C. **Date of hatching:** 28.4.93. The 9 eggs brooded by the female all hatched after 53 days since first witnessed mating (24.12.92). One of the two eggs in artificial incubation (1 infertile within days of being layed) finally hatched on 18.5.93 after 73 days since laying. **Number of young:** 10 (3 male and 7 female). **Generation of young:** F2. **First shedding of skin:** 13 to 14 days after hatching. **Remarks:** This species proved easily to breed using only one adult pair and old-fashioned equipment (Nova Slik-Stat and 60W light bulbs). The young did not all feed to begin with, but once they began to feed all of them did so with enthusiasm on pink mice. Eight of the young were sold, a pair were retained and another young female purchased from another breeder to form a new breeding group. At the time of writing (October 1993) the parents are being thermally cycled again with a view to breeding. The young snakes were easily sexed by probing, the males probing to 8-10 subcaudals, and the females from 2-5 subcaudals.

A complete account of this successful breeding can be found in **The Herptile**, Vol.18, No.3, pp. 117-129. *Journal of the International Herpetological Society*.

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