

HERPETOLOGIA

A column for short
herpetological contributions

ON EARWIGS AND SNAKE EGGS

*Jan van Tessel,
Tijmstraat 3,
3551 GK Utrecht. The Netherlands
Phone 030-2432695.*

Many snake keepers must have had the experience that during the incubation of a clutch of snake eggs some of the eggs became moulded. This can have many causes. One of these can be that the substrate on which the eggs are incubated is not adequately sterilised so that a bacterial infection can develop. In a

book on insects I read something interesting. Earwigs clean their eggs by licking them and in that way prevent them from becoming moulded. I don't think it is neither practical nor advisable to clean eggs and substrate by licking before incubating the eggs. However, anyone who owns a microwave can easily take some precautions.

Mix the substrate with a little water and sterilise it by heating the mixture thoroughly in the microwave. When placing the eggs on the sterile substrate use a clean spoon to prevent bacteria getting onto the eggs.

