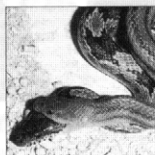


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FROM THE EDITORS

There has been a "special kind of snake virus" in the air over the last few months. Within a few weeks the editors received several articles on the same subject: hybridisation. We decided to publish all these articles in one edition and make hybridisation the special subject of this issue.

Johan Mavromichalis was the first to send us an article on hybrids. With his contribution we would like to open a discussion on this topic. A lot of snake keepers are concerned about the breeding and production of the different colour types and hybrids that can be seen at reptile hobbyist markets. Johan believes that this is a positive development.

The same week Emanuele Cimatti from Italy sent us an article on *Elaphe scalaris* breeding with *Elaphe guttata guttata* followed, within a few weeks, by another article on *Natrix natrix* breeding with *Natrix tessellata*. Last, but not least, Mark Vervest from Belgium wrote an interesting article on breeding hybrids.

We present these articles together with our wish that the last word on this matter has not been said. Not only from a theoretical point of view, but also from the ethical and more practical aspects of breeding hybrids.

Gijs van Aken
Marcel van der Voort





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