BREEDING RESULTS

Have you bred snakes? If so, please ask the Secretary or one of the English Editors to send you a form on which you can fill in the data of your breeding results. Unsuccessful attempts are also important.
The result of your efforts will be printed in one of the future publications, to help other members with their breeding attempts.

In this edition you will find a new questionnaire for your breeding results. Would you be so kind to fill in the form completely, as this will make it easier for me to write a short article for this column. You can use one form for every species. If needed, write to me for extra forms. It would be a great help if you would send me names and addresses of persons you know, who have bred snakes. If you have read an advertisement of young snakes for sale let me know and I can send a form to those breeders. As we all can learn by the mistakes of other people, I also ask you to write if something went wrong with a breeding attempt. I know that it is not easy to admit when something goes wrong, but it can be a great help for others and yourself, if someone can say what was wrong.
It is not intended to publish the breeding results of only a few species as comparisons of breeding conditions can be a great help for all breeders, even when they are keeping "easy" species.
I would greatly appreciate your help on the above matter.

Ken Welch, Editor.

Boa constrictor constrictor.

The size of the terrarium for my snakes is 200x90x150 cm (lxwxh). The day temperature in the terrarium is between 26 and 32°C, depending on the place in the terrarium. The night temperature is about 22°C. The temperatures are the same throughout the year. To stimulate copulation a variable light cycle is used, the same as for our own degree of latitude. An astronomic time clock increases the day time every day by a couple of minutes. I do not spray water in the terrarium to raise the relative humidity, except when the female was pregnant, as she did not come down to drink. The female was born in captivity 7 years ago, the male is wild caught and about 6 years old.

I observed only one copulation on August 15, 1982. On August 25 the female ate one rabbit and then refused all further food.

On April 25, 1983 26 young were born, and 2 unfertilized eggs. One young had a deformed vertebral column, which was so bad, that the animal had to be killed. The mother ate two adult rats the same evening. On May 19 she shed her skin. Most of the first sheddings of the young took place between May 9 and May 13, the last two young shedding on June 5 and June 7. The young started to eat half grown mice on May 11, the last one eating for the first time on May 23. At birth the average weight of the young was 61 g, the average length 48 cm.

R. Kivit, Jan Ligthartstraat 51, 1068 PB Amsterdam, The Netherlands.