HEALTH & DISEASES



This column is taken care of by the "Studygroup for Diseases and the Optimum Keeping and Breeding of Terrarium Animals" of the Belgian Society "Terra". If there is a question concerning health or diseases, feel free to contact the president of the Studygroup: Mr. Hugo Claessen, Arthur Sterckstraat 18, B-2600 Berchem, Belgium. He will try to answer your question in this column to the benefit of all members.

THE TREATMENT OF SCALE ROT USING HYDROGEN PEROXIDE AND GENTIAN VIOLET.

By: K. Hingley, 22 Bushey Fields Road, Russells Hall, Dudley, West Midlands, D41 2LS, Great Britain.

Part of my collection of reptiles consisted of five Eastern garter snakes, *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*. A small male in the group was noticed to have ventral scale rot in a rather advanced form. As the group of snakes remained relatively undisturbed in the hope breeding would occur the snake's condition had probably worsened over several days.

I called upon my local vet who suggested that I cleanse the affected areas with hydrogen peroxide (3% solution) followed by a liberal application of Gentian Violet. In England this is available as a paint or in a spray form.

The hydrogen peroxide very effectively cleaned all the pus from in between the ventral scales and the Gentian Violet, which according to the vet called upon is an anti-fungicide/anti-bacterial agent, prevented the condition from getting any worse. The treatment lasted for ten days when the snake commenced sloughing. After sloughing the snake was inspected and no sign of scale rot was visible although the edges of the ventral scales were a little frayed.

The snake was isolated from its cage-mates at the start of the treatment and its terrarium disinfected daily. The other terrarium was disinfected once a week.