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.

Boa constrictor constrictor.

Four adult boa's are kept in a terrarium of 200x100x200 cm (lxwxh). The terrarium can be divided in two by a shutter, so the animals can be separated when needed.
The temperature at day is 27-30°C, at night 22-24°C. In winter the temperature is about 3°C lower but never below 19°C. The day- and night cyclus is imitated by a L.D.R. (lightsensitive resistence) on the window, which makes the hours of light in the terrarium in summer and winter the same as the Dutch day- and night rythm.
On 30 November 1982 the female (6 years old) was put with the 9 years old male. Almost immediately the male made advances, but the female didn't like it. On 15 December 1982 she showed interest and the same day they copulated for many hours. On 16 December the female ate a rabbit, but after that she refused all food. She was not upset by the other snakes, so was not separated during her pregnancy. For the first two months she regularly laid on the shelf below the lamp, but this ended suddenly. She paid attention to the others again an because she didn't really get thicker (in other breeding results the female keeps on swelling till the end of the pregnancy) you would have thought she wasn't pregnant.

On 21 August she gave birth to 21 young with a length of about 35 cm, a weight of about 45 g. There was also 11 unfertilized eggs. Three babies were dead, and one had a backbone deformation. Except this last one, they all shed their skins on 25 August. A mouse was eaten freely for the first time on 26 August. The mother sloughed on 26 August. Between 9 and 30 August she ate 6 rabbits. Before the birth of the babies her weight was 11.5 kg, after it was 7.5 kg.

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Chondropython viridis.

Copulations took place in the terrarium of S. Albers. Seasons were imitated by a light sensitive resistance on the window of the terrarium.
On 26 March 1983 19 eggs were laid. Two of them were rejected on the first day, two others dried out in the cluster. Incubation took 50 days. The female incubated the eggs herself and strongly defended them (in contrast with *Python molurus*).
The eggs hatched on 15 May 1983. One of the babies was too weak to leave the egg, and died after making a slit in the shell.
The other 14 babies seemed to be healthy, 7 of them were canary yellow, the other 7 reddish brown.
The first shedding took place after about 10 days.
On 16 June 1983 the first baby ate a mouse unaided.

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Python molurus bivittatus (2x).

Seasons were imitated by a light sensitive resistance on the window.
The females incubated the eggs themselves. On 9

June 1983 two eggs of female 1 hatched. The female had bred for the third time (every time with a pause of two years).

On 19 June 1983 38 young snakes of female 2 hatched from their eggs. The mother was bred by me on 4 June 1977.
This was her second pregnancy. The first time (1981) pregnancy was adjourned, when a defective heating wire broke down and filled the terrarium with an asphyxiating smog.
This year 42 eggs were laid. When the heating apparatus broke down, 5 eggs were rejected, three of these hatching in the breeding machine.
All the other eggs hatched normally, except one egg that contained a full grown, dead baby.

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Python molurus bivittatus.

A female (5 years old) and a male (4 years old) are kept in a terrarium of 250x210x150 cm (lxwxh). The terrarium has a day temperature of 24°C, a night temperature of 22°C and the light falls from outside in. No artificial stimulus is used to encourage copulation.
Copulations were seen on 9 January, 11 January, 26 February and 7 March 1983.
After 22 February 1983 the female refused to eat.
On 22 May 1983 she laid 30 eggs, which were brooded at a moderate temperature of 30°C.
The female with her eggs were separated, because at a previous attempt of breeding (same male, other female) the female was disturbed so much by the male all 50 eggs dried out.
Also this time things went wrong. Probably it had been too hot, by means of a lamp burning under the terrarium, the eggs started to go bad. The female was separated from the eggs as her skin started to

inflame. Only 5 eggs (that seemed to be good) remained in the terrarium, but now the temparature had been too low on several occasions. When the date of hatching had passed 3 eggs proved to be bad, one egg contained a full grown, dead young. When the last egg was opened a living young snake was in it. Next day it peeped out of the egg. It had a weight of 125 g and a length of 40 cm. The baby suffers from uncontroled movements of the muscles. The first sloughing was at 25 July 1983. Force feeding might be needed, but this has not yet been done due to a shortage of mice.

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Thamnophis radix butleri x *Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis*.

For some time I have had two male *Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis* in my possession. In January 1983 they were so sexually active, that one of them copulated with a female *Natrix tigrinum lateralis*. A female *Thamnophis radix butleri* was purchased, which was kept cool for two weeks, with short day rhythm. On January 31st she was put with the males. Copulation took place almost immediately, with the youngest (most beautiful) male. No further copulations have been seen.
The female did not refuse to eat and was not obviously thick. That was why the birth was not noticed immediately. The young snakes were probably born on April 21st. On April 23rd I discovered two unfertilized eggs of 6x12 mm (wxl), which were very dry and fell to bits when touched. Also three young snakes were found, 17 cm long, very active and not at all shy.
They loved to eat earth worms and also very young dead frogs. They don't accept fishes, seeming to have the same feeding habits as *butleri*.

Back and belly colours are the same as the mother, with lines on the sides at the same hight as at the *parietalis*.The side are also red coloured.

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Thamnophis sirtalis similis.

A pair was kept in a terrarium, 50x50x90 cm (lxwxh). The temperature varied between 26 and 33°C at day, and between 15 and 22°C at night. The age of the animals is unknown.
In early February the first attempts for copulation were seen, but the first real copulation was seen middle of February. As they repeated this behaviour frequently, it can not be said what the real date of fertilization was. At the end of April the male became very aggressive to the female, so I decided to separate them. She didn't refuse to eat. On July 29th 35 snakes were born, between 11 and 14 cm long, weight unknown. Almost all the babies were in good health. One specimen had an elongated underjaw and missed the tongue. This one died after a week. Later another young died.
A week after their birth, almost all the babies ate freely, after two weeks all were doing so. They prefer earth-worms to slices of fish. They have not shed their skins yet (4 September 1983). Immediately after the birth the mother ate 3 large fishes. When she was placed back with the male (a few days later), they both showed the mating behaviour, though copulation has not been seen.

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Vipera ammodytes.

The snakes were kept in two terraria of 80x40x40 cm (lxwxh), with a temperature at day 27-30°C and at night 18-22°C.
In the first terrarium were kept 3 females and 1 male, in the second 2 females and 1 male.
In February the male in the second terrarium attempted copulation, but the females showed no interest. The males were changed. Although no further copulations were seen, on May 24th 8 fertilized eggs and one young male were found.
The female ate again three days later.
No special stimulus was used, to make the animals copulate. Probably the male was activated by the warm winter weather, which made the room warmer than previous years. The high percentage of fertilized eggs could be a result of the early time of copulation.

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