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.

The 6 year old animals are kept in a terrarium 2x2x1 m (lxwxh), with a day temperature of 30°C and a night temperature of 20°C.
On 1 Januari 1983 copulation was observed and from 5 Januari the female refused to eat.
On 7 June 1983 50 young snakes were born with an average length of about 50 cm and an average weight of about 80 g. The first sloughing occurred on 17 June and since 16 June the babies have eaten mice freely.
In 1981 and 1982 the same pair bred under the same conditions: see Litteratura Serpentium, Vol. 1, No. 2, and Vol. 2, No. 1 respectively.

H. Tielemans, Stuivenbergvaart 99, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium.

Elaphe guttata guttata.

A pair of four year old snakes (F1-generation) are kept in a terrarium 120x60x80 cm (lxwxh). The temperature varies between 19 and 27°C (depending on hour and place in the terrarium during the day and between 14-20°C (depending on temperature outside) at night.
The snakes are stimulated to copulate by use of a

light cycle of two months with 10 hours light a day, followed by six weeks of 15 hours light a day. Copulation has not been seen, but at a point in time the female refused to eat.
On 22 and 23 May 1983 32 eggs were laid of which 10 appeared to be unfertilized. After incubation at 28°C 19 young snakes hatched between 19 and 24 July 1983 (3 babies were dead inside their eggs). About a week later the hatchlings shed their skin. Some of them had to be force-fed with litter-mice, while others started to eat gradually.
The same pair bred in 1981 and 1982 under the same conditions: see Litteratura Serpentium, Vol. 1, No. 5.

W. Rheinhard, Polderstraat 35, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium.

Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata (2x).

The snakes (both 3 years old) are kept in a terrarium 80x60x70 cm (lxwxh). The temperature depends on the outside temperature and varies between 19 and 27°C in the day, and between 15 and 21°C at night. A light cycle of two months with 10 hours light a day, followed by six weeks of 15 hours light a day, was the stimulus for the female to reproduce twice with a small interval between each.
The first copulation took place at the end of May 1983, since which the female refused food. On 1 to 3 July 1983 18 eggs were laid. These were incubated at 28°C and all hatched between 25 and 30 August 1983.
Copulation again took place in early July 1983. On 25 and 26 August 9 eggs were laid of which 7 hatched on 23-25 October (again incubation was at 28°C).
All the hatchlings shed their skin for the first time 10 days after hatching. Force-feeding was not

needed: two weeks after birth they all started to eat litter-mice freely.
All young are of second captive bred generation. The same pair bred in 1982 under the same conditions. These snakes can be bred "to order".

W. Rheinhard, Polderstraat 35, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium.

Elaphe obsoleta rossalleni (2x).

The animals (about 6 years old) are housed in a terrarium 100x50x70 cm (lxwxh). The temperature during the day is about 28°C, during the night about 19°C.
To stimulate the animals to copulate, the day temperature is lowered in winter and the length of the day decreased to 7 hours. In March the temperature is raised again, while the day length is increased to 14 hours.
Copulation was seen on 5 May 1983. There was no refusion of food during pregnancy. On 22 June 1983 21 eggs were laid, which were incubated at 27°C. On 23, 24 and 25 August 1983 15 young snakes (about 22 cm in length) emerged from their eggs. Three eggs proved to be unfertile, tree others contained young snakes which had died at different stages of development.
Force-feeding was not necessary, as the hatchlings started to eat after their first sloughing (about 9 days after hatching).
Although no further copulations were observed, on 16 August 1983 11 eggs were laid. These eggs were more round shaped and half as big as those of the first brood. They were also incubated at 27°C. On 7 November 1983 (a much longer incubation period than usual) 2 eggs hatched, the other 9 proving to be unfertile. The young were smaller than usual (only 17 cm) and had to be force-fed. The second brood of 1983 was unsuccessful. It is

probably better to separate the animals after the first copulation until the following year.
The same pair bred in 1981 and 1982 under the same conditions.

T.J.M. Faassen, Bogardeind 95-a, 5664 EC Geldrop, The Netherlands.

Heterodon platyrhinos.

I obtained eight eggs from a dealer, where they were laid on 11 August 1983, a short time after the mother was imported.
They were kept at 27°C and on 13 and 14 October 1983 7 young snakes of about 16 cm hatched. One egg was unfertile. After about 3 days sloughing took place. They still refuse to eat despite several tricks being tried. They are force-fed with naked mice.

T.J.M. Faassen, Bogardeind 95-a, 5664 EC Geldrop, The Netherlands.

Natrix maura.

The terrarium 100x50x50 cm (lxwxh), had a day temperature varying within the cage between 20 and 26°C. The night temperature was 17°C.
The female was estimated to be 4 years old, the male 3 years old.
The animals copulated several times without the use of a stimulus. Food was not refused during pregnancy. On 25 August 1983 four eggs were laid, of which two proved to be bad. The other two eggs were kept at 28°C and hatched on 3 October 1983. The hatchlings were 16 and 18 cm long. They shed their skin on 15 and 17 October.
The young snakes were force-fed regularly with guppies and since 27 October one of them has started to eat earthworms freely.

Rob Jansen, Zoetendaal 145, 6662 XK Elst, The Netherlands.

Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis.

Several Thamnophis-species are kept in a terrarium 160x50x30 (lxwxh). The temperature is dependant on the season and varies at day between 18 and 30°C and at night between 10 and 20°C.
The female is about 4 years old, the male about 2 years. No stimulus was used to encourage mating. During pregnancy the female behaved normal, not refusing to eat. Sometimes I do not feed the animals for three weeks, to ensure good digestion. During this period on 10 May 1983, 17 young snakes were born (F1). They weighed about 4 g and measured 15-20 cm. The little snakes sloughed for the first time on the day they were born and one day later they freely ate earthworms and guppies. One of them I have had to force-feed with an earthworm.

Maarten Smit, Wolterbeekweg 18, 6862 BE Oosterbeek, The Netherlands.

Echis carinatus pyramidum.

A pair of 4 year old snakes kept in a terrarium 80x40x30 cm (lxwxh) mated without the use of a stimulus.
The day temperature varied from 25 to 35°C, the night temperature from 18 to 22°C.
In Febrary 1983 the male made attempts to mate, but the female refused. In June 1983 copulation took place. The female refused food from the end of June until October 1st.
On 20 September 1983 9 young snakes were born. Six unfertilized eggs and one dead young were found. All the youngsters shed their skin between 24

September and 1 October. Two of the young freely ate a litter-mouse each on 28 September.
Some years ago I bred *Echis carinatus sochureki*.

Robert Jooris, Gemoedsveld 3, 1200 Wetteren, Belgium.