

# 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.*

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## *Drymarchon corais couperi* (3x)

In a terrarium measuring 122x61x61 cm (lwxh) are housed 3 females and 2 male snakes. The males are both 4 years old and of second generation at least. Ages of the females are: I: 6 years old (wild caught), II: 4 years old (second generation), III: 3 years old (third generation).

The day temperature in the summer is 25-33°C, in winter 19-25°C. The night temperature in summer is 21-24°C, in winter 12-15°C.

Photoperiod, lower temperatures in winter (mating season) and separation and reintroduction of the sexes were the stimuli for several matings from mid November to beginning February 1983.

Both males and females go off their food during the mating season November - February, only eating occasionally. The females refused all food from mid February until the eggs were laid.

On 2 May 1983 I laid 11 eggs; on 26 April II laid 10 eggs and on 30 April III laid 5. The eggs were incubated at 27°C.

The young of I were all dead in their shells. The young of II hatched on 28 July, those of III on 31 July.

Altogether 8 living snakes hatched (with an average length of 44 cm) and there were 16 fully formed dead in their eggs.

The first sloughings were 10-14 days after birth. One day 4 weeks after sloughing the young started to feed freely: pink mice, gold fish, chick-legs, young frogs, pinks with chick scent, pinks with fish scent.

I have bred with I, II and both males on previous occasions. I have bred Indigoes for 4 years. Each year the older females produce more eggs but less young hatch. The young females (3 years old) usually have a 100% hatch. Other years I have incubated the eggs at higher temperatures (28-31°C) I found quite a few of the hatchlings were deformed. This year I kept them at 27°C and there were no kinked young, but they did take 30 days longer to hatch.

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Elaphe obsoleta spiloides.

One male (born 1981) and one female (age unknown) are kept in a terrarium measuring 100x50x50 cm (lxwxh). Day temperature is maintained between 24-28°C dropping to 15-20°C at night.

The snakes were hibernated for four months. On 17 July 1982 14 eggs were laid. The eggs were incubated at 25-27°C and between 16 and 18 September 1982 all 14 eggs hatched. Average length of the young was 35-40 cm. First slough of all young occurred on 24 or 25 September 1982. No force-feeding was needed as all fed readily on bloody mice.

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Elaphe guttata guttata (4x).

Four snakes (two males, two females) are kept in a terrarium measuring 60x70x100 cm (lxwxh). Day tem-

perature varies between 25-28<sup>0</sup>C and the night temperature 15-20<sup>0</sup>C.

As a stimulus to induce copulation a short daytime period and no heat were the rule for December and January. One male and female were born in 1978, the other male and female 1979. The following comments are on four clutches of eggs:

1. eggs laid 29 April 1981; incubated at 25-28<sup>0</sup>C; eggs hatched on 4 and 5 July 1981.
2. eggs laid 11 July 1981; incubated at 25-28<sup>0</sup>C; eggs hatched on 13 September 1981
3. eggs laid 24 April 1982; incubated at 25-28<sup>0</sup>C; eggs hatched 3 July 1982.
4. eight eggs laid 18 June 1983; this clutch was not incubated due to the young age of the female and the small size of the eggs.

The females refused food for the last five weeks before laying their eggs. A total of 53 eggs produced 32 young, four dead young and 17 infertile eggs. The young averaged 4-7 g in weight and 20-28 cm in length. The first slough occurred after 8-10 days. About 75% of the young fed freely on bloody mice with about 25% being force-fed (bloody mice).

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*Boiga dendrophila* (3x).

A pair of *Boiga dendrophila* were maintained in a terrarium measuring 60x70x100 cm (lxwxh).

Day temperature was 25-28<sup>0</sup>C dropping to 15-20<sup>0</sup>C at night. Age of the male is unknown, the female was born 10 May 1981. No stimulus was used to induce copulation which occurred on 30 April 1983. In May 1983 the male was removed. The female continued to feed during pregnancy and produced three clutches of eggs:

1. five eggs laid on 21 June 1983. They were incubated at 25-27<sup>0</sup>C and between 3 and 5 November 1983 four young hatched (the fifth egg contained a dead youngster). The young averaged 35 cm in length and sloughed for the first time after 4-6 weeks. Three young were force-fed bloody mice, with the fourth feeding freely (on bloody mice).
2. five eggs laid on 19 October 1983. They were incubated at 27-28<sup>0</sup>C and all the eggs hatched between 15 and 17 February 1984. The young averaged 35 cm in length and sloughed for the first time after 4-6 weeks. Two young were force-fed bloody mice while three fed freely on bloody mice.
3. four infertile eggs were laid March 1984.

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