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.

Naja mossambica

The snakes (both more than five years old) are housed in a terrarium measuring 200x50x60 cm (lxwx h). Daytime temperature is 26-28°C and the night temperature 20-24°C.
No artificial stimulus for mating was used. No copulations were seen. The female did not refuse food, though she ate less than usual.
On 8 May 1984 13 unfertilized eggs were laid. Two years ago the same pair also had unfertilized eggs.

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Naja naja kaouthia

A pair of first generation snakes (both more than eight years old) is kept in a terrarium measuring 160x50x60 cm (lxwxh). Day temperature is 26-32°C falling at night to 20-25°C. Date of copulation is unknown but the female refused food from 20 Oktober 1983.
28 Eggs laid on 15 Februari 1984 were incubated at 29-29½°C, with four hatching between 19 and 24 April. Two hatchlings died within one week. The other two hatchlings shed their skin on 8 and 10 May respectively and soon started feeding on new

born mice.
The female laid 26 eggs with the last two being massaged out by ourselves. It should further be noted that all the egg-shells were slit by the young but only the four mentioned above emerged. The remaining 24 died in their eggs. Examination of these eggs showed that more than 30% of the yolk remained. This failure was due, we believe, to a too high incubation temperature. The two young that died within one week of hatching had enlarged umbilical cords.

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Trimeresurus albolabris

On the morning of 30 April 1984 17 young snakes were born, all still in their sac. After some hours only five snakes had left their sac so the other twelve were assisted by breaking the sac. Alas, most of them died within hours.
The five living young weighed 5 g and measured 12 cm. The parent snakes are 3½ years old. These captive bred snakes have been in my care since their second week of life, and are two brothers and one sister (parents are not related).
Mating was seen in August 1983. This was the first copulation for these individuals, as they had been kept apart for 1½ year. The female was about 70 cm in length and weighed 245 g. During pregnancy she did not refuse food. The males measured about 60 cm and weighed about 80 g.
The terrarium measures 50x40x100 cm (lxwxh) and is lighted from outside by means of daylight and big plantlights (Philips Plantlamps). In the terrarium is a small lamp to raise the air temperature. Temperature and humidity of the air are conditioned by those in the snake room i.e. temperature

27°C at day, 22°C at night with a humidity of 70-80%.
In winter there is a sort of winterrest with the temperature at 20°C. The length of night and day is the same as in the Netherlands during the year.

Still the question is: Why could not 12 of the young snakes get out of their sacs and why did they die? Maybe they were born too early, or their mother was too small for such a large brood, such that they did not have enough strength to survive. If anyone has an explanation, I would appreciate it.

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Trimeresurus popeorum

On Wednesday 27 June 1984 17 young snakes were born, each measuring 20 cm and weighing about 6 g. It was the first pregnancy for the female that had been in my possession 3½ years as a wildcaught animal aged about half a year.
The female measured about 80 cm and weighed 355 g before pregnancy and 190 g after. The male is 60 cm long and weighs 90 g. Copulation was observed in September 1983 and the female continued to eat during gestation.
Conditions in the terrarium are as for *Trimeresurus albolabris*.
Two weeks after their first shedding the babies ate freely.

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Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus

A pair of second generation snakes (both four

years old) are kept in a terrarium measuring 100x 50x100 cm (lxwxh). Temperature is kept at 27-30°C during the day, dropping to 20-23°C at night. No stimulus was used to induce copulation. No copulation was observed and the female continued to feed while pregnant.
On 25 May 1984 three young were born. The young sloughed for the first time between 9 and 11 June 1984. One of the three young started feeding on new born mice while the other two had to be force fed freshly killed new born mice.

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