

THE BREEDING OF CORALLUS ENYDRIS ENYDRIS IN A  
TERRARIUM.

By: Hans van der Eerden, Kempkeshoeve 43, 5262 NV  
Vught, The Netherlands.

Contents: The snakes in the terrarium - Feeding -  
Copulations - Pregnancy - The birth -  
The young snakes - References.

THE SNAKES IN THE TERRARIUM

Both snakes are wild caught and their age is unknown. The length of the male is about 140 cm, the female about 150 cm. The snakes are, if approached calmly, easy to handle. During the day they hardly try to bite. *Corallus enydris enydris* move active at twilight, and especially so when it is dark. The terrarium measures 60x55x100 cm (lxwxh) and is lit and heated by a 60 Watt reflector lamp, which burns for 13 hours a day. In the terrarium there are some climbing branches and a water bowl. The bottom is covered with kitchen towels. During the day the temperature is 27-35<sup>0</sup>C in the summer, 24-29<sup>0</sup>C in the winter. At night the temperature in the summer is 18-24<sup>0</sup>C, in the winter 14-20<sup>0</sup>C. By day the snakes lay far most of the time at the top of a branch.

FEEDING

Because the snakes do not eat mice, they are fed with birds. The male feeds on canaries and smaller birds. Birds which outmatch the size of a canary (like love-birds and quails) are vomited after 3 or 4 days. The female does eat love-birds and quails.



Foto 1. *Corallus enydris enydris*, zwanger/pregnant.  
Foto: Hans van der Eerden.

#### COPULATION

During the month March and April the terrarium was frequently sprayed. In the water bowl there was an aquarium heater, so that the air humidity was 70 to 90%. The male often used his spurs to stimulate the female to mate. The copulations, as far as were observed, occurred on 22 and 23 March, 2, 5, 10, and 26 April, 10, 23, and 28 May and finally on 7 and 23 June 1986. The copulations, during which the snakes lay with their tails entangled at the top of a climbing branch, occurred late in the evening and at night, except for the copulations on 10 May and 23 June, which occurred early in the morning. The male continued eating throughout the mating period.

## PREGNANCY

The female accepted food for the last time on 15 August. During the pregnancy food was offered regularly, but always refused. The female moved from one place to another frequently. She also spent more time under the lamp. From 9 November onwards she laid regularly on her side under the lamp. During her pregnancy she weighed about 500 g. She was offered vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, multivitamin and calcium-borogluconate at regular intervals. From 5 February 1987 onwards the female was, late in the evening, rather active. She was, from that time on, often on the terrariumfloor.

## BIRTH

On 9 February at 10 o'clock in the evening, the female was very active at the terrariumfloor. Around midnight six young snakes crawled through the terrarium. One young laid dead. It was fully developed but still attached to a great yolk. After the delivery the female only weighed 290 g. She was very aggressive. No unfertilized eggs were found. On 11 February the female ate a small bird.

## THE YOUNG SNAKES

The young snakes weighed between 17 and 21 g. The dead young, complete with yolk, weighed 22 g. Five of the living and the dead snake were sharp and beautifully marked. One snake was orange and was hardly marked. The length was about 45 to 50 cm. Not one of the young behaved aggressively. The first slough occurred between 22 and 24 February, except for one, which sloughed on 28 February. One youngster voluntarily ate two naked nest mice (deep frozen). The others had to be force-fed with mice tails.

## REFERENCES

- Abuys, A., 1981. The systematics and characteristics of the snakes of the genus *Corallus*. *Litteratura Serpentina*, Vol. 1(6): 222-237 (In Dutch, English summary).
- Eerden, Hans van der, 1986. Striking behaviour of *Corallus enydris enydris* in the terrarium. *Litteratura Serpentina*, Vol. 6 (4): 126/Dutch edition:130.
- Pol, J.J. van der, 1981. Care and breeding of *Corallus enydris enydris*. *Litteratura Serpentina*, Vol. 1 (6): 238-245 (In Dutch, English summary).

---

Translation: Jan Cor Jacobs.