

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.

Natrix fasciata.

The animals were kept in a terrarium of 120x90x60 cm. In summer the temperature by day is 23-28°C, in winter 18-25°C. At night the temperature in summer is 20-22°C and in winter 15-18°C. The age of the (wildcaught) animals is unknown. The female had a length of about 60 cm, both males measured about 85 cm.

Stimulus for copulations was shortening day length in winter 85/86. In March 1986 the day length was increased to fourteen hours. On 16 June 1986 the female copulated with both males. She did not refuse to feed, but she fed less than usual. On 22 and 23 October 1986 six young were born, with a length of 18 cm. They sloughed for the first time on 22 October 1986. Some of them fed on earthworms as well. I never bred with these snakes before, although in 1984 copulations with another female were observed. Alas, she died a little later. Remark: In my opinion there is no need for real hibernation. Shortening day length proved satisfactory.

Rien van de Zandschulp, de Hegge 43, 7314 JR
Apeldoorn, The Netherlands.

Natrix rhombifera (2x).

The age of the parent snakes is unknown. The female measured 140 cm, the male only 100 cm. In 1982 the snakes were kept in a terrarium of 80x40x60 cm (lxwxh) with one branch, a watertank and earth as the substrate. In 1983 a terrarium measuring 100x60x120 cm was provided, containing six branches, a permanent waterbasin and a cement floor. Temperatures in the terrarium were by day: in summer 25-30°C, in winter 15-18°C; at night: in summer 20-25°C, in winter 15-18°C. The animals were given a winter rest in the dark for four months at 15-18°C. During this period they did not eat and drank only occasionally. After this period (in March) copulations occurred. Up until three weeks before delivery the female continued to feed. In mid June the young snakes (F_1) were born. In 1982 twenty-seven babies were born, measuring about 20 cm, in 1983 there were 29 young snakes of about 14 cm in length. They sloughed on the first day and within a week of their birth they fed freely on ground fish. The same female was involved in 1982 and 1983, but the males involved were different snakes.

M. Termeer, Bellevooystraat 88, 3021 TL Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Vipera aspis francisciredi.

Three animals were kept in a terrarium measuring 80x40x40 cm, heated at one point by a 25 Watt bulb. Because sun and light are allowed to enter the room, there was a seasonal cycle with changing temperatures averaging by day 20-28°C, at night 15-22°C. Male 1 and the female were captive bred in 1982. I have not bred with them before. Male 2 is a wild caught animal. All three of them were hibernated in the fridge at 6°C for three months.

The males were brought into the terrarium three weeks earlier than the female. Two copulations were observed with male 2, one with male 1. The last copulation was on 6 March 1986. About two or three weeks later the animals started to feed again. The female was separated after the copulation. She fed normally and slowly became heavier (35 g). On 27 September 1986 the female delivered four dead, half decomposed babies, together with some faeces. Tests showed nothing peculiar in the faeces.

J. Gulden, Boekweithoeve 1, 5262 NZ Vught, The Netherlands.

Elaphe obsoleta rossalleni.

The age of the (wild caught) animals is unknown. They were kept in a terrarium measuring 100x40x140 cm (lxwxh) with a day temperature of 28°C and a night temperature of 15°C. An attempt to stimulate mating by varying day length and temperature gave negative results. In 1985 I sprayed water more frequently in the terrarium: during one month three times a week, instead of fortnightly as usual. Perhaps this was the stimulus for mating between 25 and 31 May 1985. From 7 June 1985 the female refused food. On 13 June 1985 thirteen eggs were laid, which were incubated at 29°C. On 11 and 12 September 1985 ten young snakes (F₁) hatched, measuring 30 cm. The first sloughing was eight days after birth. The hatchlings were force-fed on litter mice (from the deep freeze).

E. Arts, Westelijk halfrond 81, 1183 HR Amstelveen, The Netherlands.

Thamnophis floridana (F₂).

The parent snakes were one and a half to two

years old, captive bred by the author from a clutch of twenty-four. The female measured about 60 cm. The animals were kept in a terrarium measuring 100x110 cm (lxw), with a depth of 35-45 cm. The temperature by day was 26⁰C in summer and winter, dropping at night to 25⁰C in summer and 23-24⁰C in winter. No stimulus was used. Copulation was not observed and the female kept feeding during pregnancy. On 25 February 1985 she delivered forty-four young snakes. They had a length of 10-12 cm and sloughed for the first time on the second or third day after birth. Since the first day they fed freely on fish and earthworms. Remark about this species: This snake is easy-to-keep. It is quite alert and furthermore, often offered for sale.

J.B. Coenders, Pr. Bernhardplein 25, 3559 AK
Utrecht, The Netherlands.