

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN VAN DER POLS

25-5-1958 TO 27-2-1988

There are few people who can clearly explain how their interest in snakes came into being; why snakes rather than other animals? For some people it is the unusual way of life of these creatures that excites them, for others it is the elegant bodyshape and the colours, whereas again for others (may be unconsciously) it gives a feeling of superiority with respect to their friends, who are afraid of snakes.

The very reason for John keeping snakes is unknown but he was, in common with most snake keepers, fascinated by these animals. So much so, that it stimulated his whole life.

His biggest love was always boas and pythons. Like nobody else he knew about new species and sub-species and the most recent breeding results within The Netherlands and abroad. Also in the field of diseases and modes of treatment he was well up and had to speak to many people who came to him for advice. His great knowledge in the above mentioned fields resulted in a great circle of acquaintances all over the world. The amount of correspondence was amazing. But nevertheless he was not somebody who liked to be at the front and preferred to work in the background. To give a lecture or a slide presentation at a meeting or Snake Day nobody could persuade him. One could be happy if he was present at a meeting; usually the reason was to meet somebody he had an appointment with. However, because of his many breeding results and publications he helped the keeping of snakes in general to take a big step forward. Also for the cause of the Dutch Snake Society he contributed his part; on 12 april 1980 he was one



Foto 1. John van der Pols (1958 - 1988). Foto:  
25-5-1987.

of the founders and during the first volume of *Litteratura Serpentina* he was the Treasurer. In May 1985 he started the Newsletter, that existed for about one year and a half, in which Society News and Supply & Demand advertisements of the members were included. Shortly before his death he proposed to publish the well known supplement of snakes kept and bred by members of the Society every year; one of the many ideas he still had.

In point of fact it is unbelievable that somebody with so many friends and acquaintances appeared to have had nobody he trusted enough, to be able to discuss his problems with. But why John brought his life to a premature end is something we will wrestle with for the rest of our lives. I hope that he has found the peace he was looking for.

Anton van Woerkom.

APPENDIX I: BREEDING RESULTS OF JOHN VAN DER POLS.

<u>1980</u>	
<i>Corallus enydris enydris</i>	13 young
<u>1981</u>	
<i>Corallus enydris enydris</i>	19 young
<u>1982</u>	
<i>Corallus enydris enydris</i>	15 young
<u>1983</u>	
<i>Corallus enydris enydris</i>	20 young
<u>1984</u>	
<i>Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca</i>	4 young
<u>1985</u>	
<i>Boa constrictor ortonii</i>	10 young
<i>Corallus enydris enydris</i>	12 young
<i>Eryx colubrinus loveridgei</i>	12 young
<i>Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca</i>	5 young
<u>1986</u>	
<i>Corallus enydris enydris</i>	18 young
<i>Epicrates cenchria cenchria</i>	2 young
<i>Liasis mackloti mackloti</i>	18 young
<i>Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca</i>	7 + 5 young
<u>1987</u>	
<i>Charina bottae bottae</i>	7 young
<i>Corallus enydris enydris</i>	16 young
<i>Epicrates cenchria cenchria</i>	± 20 young
<i>Eryx colubrinus loveridgei</i>	10 + 11 young
<i>Eryx conicus</i>	9 young
<i>Liasis mackloti mackloti</i>	23 young

APPENDIX II: PUBLICATIONS OF JOHN VAN DER POLS.

1. Mouthrot (*Stomatitis ulcerosa*) in snakes. *Litteratura Serpentina* (1980), Vol. 1 (1): 9-13 (In Dutch, Engl. summ.).
2. Breeding results: *Corallus enydris enydris*. *Litteratura Serpentina* (1980), Vol. 1 (1): 28 (In Dutch).
3. Feeding habits of *Calabaria reinhardtii*. *Litteratura Serpentina* (1981), Vol. 1 (5): 183-185 (In Dutch, Engl. summ.).
4. Care and breeding of *Corallus enydris enydris*. *Litteratura Serpentina* (1981), Vol. 1 (6): 238-246 (In Dutch, Engl. summ.).
5. Breeding results: *Corallus enydris enydris*. *Litteratura Serpentina* (1982), Vol. 2 (6): 306. (In Dutch).
6. Eggs of the Calabar ground python *Calabaria reinhardtii*. *Litteratura Serpentina* (1983), Vol. 3 (5): 153-156 / Dutch Ed.: 170-173.
7. Breeding results: *Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca*. *Litteratura Serpentina* (1986), Vol. 6 (1): 43 / Dutch Ed.: 44.
8. The husbandry and breeding of the Rosy boa *Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca* (Cope, 1861). *Litteratura Serpentina* (1986), Vol. 6 (3): 98-106 / Dutch Ed.: 99-107.
9. *Candoia carinata carinata* (Schneider) in captivity. *Litteratura Serpentina* (1986), Vol. 6 (5): 162-166 / Dutch Ed.: 170-174.
10. The husbandry and breeding of the Kenyan sand boa *Eryx colubrinus loveridgei* (Stull, 1932). *Litteratura Serpentina* (1986), Vol. 6 (6): 206-212 / Dutch Ed.: 214-220.

11. Bookreview: Pythons & Boas. *Litteratura Serpentina* (1987), Vol. 7 (2): 93-94 / Dutch Ed.: 100-101.
12. Unexpected breeding of *Epicrates cenchria cenchria*. *Litteratura Serpentina* (1987), Vol. 7 (4): 168-174 / Dutch Ed.: 181-187.
13. Care, breeding and other things worth knowing about the Rubberboa, *Charina bottae bottae* (Blainville). *Litt. Serp.*, Vol. 8 (1988), 244-254 / Dutch Ed.: 262-271.
14. Aggressive behaviour of snakes of the genus *Boidae*. *Litt. Serp.* Vol. 8 (1988), 255-258 / Dutch Ed.: 272-275.