

CAPTIVE BREEDING OF LIASIS MACKLOTI.

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From the accurately kept notes of the late John van der Pols I have composed the following breeding-report about his specimens of *Liasis mackloti*.

Both animals are from the wild. The female was procured on 23 August 1982 and originates from New-Guinea. The male was procured on 2 October 1982 and was from the island of Timor. The female, with a weight of 9.0 kg and a length of 285 cm is significantly larger than the male, which has a length of 180 cm, and a weight of 3.2 kg. The animals were kept in a terrarium of 115 cm length, 45 cm height and 63 cm depth. Some basking platforms and a few branches took care of the climbing- and resting possibilities. The day temperature varied from 25-35°C and the night temperature from 20-24°C. These animals bred in 1986 as well as in 1987. The most detailed data was kept for the 1986 breeding and is therefore described here.

The male was separated from the female from mid-October 1985 till the beginning of January 1986. In January 1986 the male was brought together with the female several times but he showed no interest in mating. On 2 February 1986 it was decided to place a male from elsewhere with the original pair to stimulate copulation. On 20 February 1986, around 8.00 a.m. there was a copulation observed between the original animals. On 28 February 1986, around 8.00 a.m. a second copulation was observed, again between the owner's male and the female. The female refused food for the first time on 19 March 1986 and became visibly thicker from mid-April. At the end of April the female started to show pregnancy-behaviour, for example partly lying on



Foto 1. *Liasis mackloti mackloti*. Foto: John van der Pols.



Foto 2. *Liasis mackloti mackloti*. Foto: John van der Pols.

her back. On 7 June 1986 the eggs were laid during the day. As an egg laying site a round flowerpot containing a small layer of vermiculite was used. This was covered with a second flowerpot which had a round hole sawn in it. The temperature measured between the coils was 32°C. The humidity during the day was about 70%; at night rising to 80%. When the surrounding temperature fell below 29°C, the female left the eggs for about 20 minutes to warm herself on top of the pot, where the temperature was higher. The maximum temperature in the terrarium during incubation was 34°C and the minimum temperature was 28°C. On 7 August 1986 small snake heads were poking out of the first four eggs. The last young left the egg on 17 August 1986. In all there were 26 eggs laid, of which 7 were infertile and one contained a partly developed snake. Out of the remaining eggs came 18 healthy young (7 males and 11 females). From the breeding in 1987, 28 young were born. In this instance there was no second male used as a stimulus. On 26 January 1987 copulation was observed. From 20 February the female refused food and on 21 May 1987, 27 eggs were laid. The vermiculite as a substrate in the incubationpot was not used in this instance. The impression was that the eggs from the breeding in 1986 were de-hydrated periodically due to water absorption by the vermiculite. Between 21 and 24 July there were 23 healthy young born and one with a mis-shapen lower jaw. In all there were 10 males and 14 females. Two embryos had died at an early stage and one egg appeared to be infertile.