
THE KEEPING AND BREEDING OF *AGKISTRODON BILINEATUS BILINEATUS*

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I first obtained two juvenile animals (about 35 cm) in 1985 which appeared to be females. They ate well and grew fast. At the beginning they lived together in a terrarium of 35x35x40 cm (lxwxh). After one year I was able to obtain a male of about the same length as the two females (then already about 75 to 80 cm).

As I knew the male was captive-bred and in perfect good health I put them, at random, together in one terrarium, 75x50x50 cm (lxwxh). This terrarium was fitted with floor heating and a lamp of 75 Watt which gave intended warmth on a group of stones on which the animals often sunbathed. On the stones the temperature was 35°C. The air temperature was, from April until September, during the day 27-28°C and during the night 20°C. From September to April, during the day 20°C and during the night 15°C so they only had a moderate cooling period and no actual winter rest.

I observed the first copulation on 22 October 1987 that, in contradiction to the other copulations, lasted long (about 2.5 hours), and the male was pulled around the terrarium by the female until he bled.

The animals then ate adult rats and were about 120 cm; the male was a bit smaller. Precise measurements were not possible due to their aggressive behaviour. Both females kept eating until the day before the young were born. Six juveniles were born to female A on 25 April 1988. Female B gave birth to eight on 29 April 1988.

Two specimens were a one-egg-twin that I later had

to free from their membrane. All juveniles had a length of about 20 cm and ate after their first sloughing, fastly one day old mice.