
LITERATURE

This column will give information about new literature, publications, books etc. Tips concerning new literature are welcome, and should be sent to Jan Cor Jacobs, Tessel-schadestraat 6, 3521 VX Utrecht, The Ne-therlands.

Brutverhalten und Messung des Temperaturs-verlaufs während des Brutvorganges bei *Python molurus bivittatus*; Jürgen Armand. Herpetofauna, 1987, Vol. 9 (47): 6-10.

The author describes how a female *Python molurus bivittatus* contracts her muscles 18-21 times/minute during brooding. Measurements show that the temperature within the egg cluster is higher than the surrounding temperature. If the temperature in the terrarium is dropped, the temperature of the egg cluster hardly changed. Between the 29th and 41st day of breeding the temperature within the cluster was at night some degrees higher than usual. The cause of this phenomenon is not quite clear, but the author gives two possible explanations. During this period the female snake may have to generate more energy and may not be able to control the higher temperature in her sleep. It is also possible that the developing young at this stage had a larger energy consumption which caused an increasing warmth. The author shows with graphics that the temperature changes during the breeding period.

Nachforschungen über *Vipera ursinii anatolica* (Eiselt & Baran, 1970) im westlichen Taurus; Harry Sigg. Herpetofauna 1987,

In the years 1983-1985 the author visited the forest reserve of Ciglikara Ormanlarında (20 km SSE Elmali, Turkey) several times during April to August. The faunal and botanical peculiarities, as well as the climatic conditions and four different habitats between 1550 and 2500 m altitude are described. One amphibian and ten reptiles are recorded. *Bufo viridis viridis*, *Lacerta oertzeni ssp.*, *Ablepharus kitaibelii kitaibelii*, *Coluber caspius*, *Vipera xanthina*, *Vipera ursinii anatolica*, *Agama stellio stellio*, *Natrix natrix persa*, *Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus*, *Testudo graeca iberica* and *Coluber najadum dahliei*. *Vipera ursinii anatolica* was not discovered in this area before 1969; the third specimen was found fifteen years later on. It is remarkable to find *Vipera ursinii anatolica* sharing its biotope with five other reptiles, as there are *Coluber caspius* and *Vipera xanthina*. Usually other subspecies of *Vipera ursinii* cannot stand such competition. The author warns not to keep subspecies of *Vipera ursinii* which live in higher areas because of their need for extreme fluctuations of temperature and the difficulty to provide the right food.

Epicrates fordii - eine Riesenschlange für kleine Terrarien; Joachim Bulian. Herpetofauna 1987, Vol. 9 (48): 14-17.

Epicrates fordii is a small boa of 80-90 cm, although larger specimen have been found. Because of their small size they are perfect for small terrariums. The author keeps his five snakes in a terrarium, 80x70x80 cm, but it is possible to breed this

snake in a terrarium of only 45x30x30 cm. Mating season is from January till June. In 1986 the author saw his animals mating; the mating usually took about four hours. After five months the two female snakes gave birth to six and seven babies. The young were about 28 cm long and weighed about 4.5 g. They had to be force-fed for two months with mice tails. The author does not like to use pink mice for force-feeding because they can easily lead to injuries.

Ein erster Fund von *Vipera raddei kurdistanica* in der Südosttürkei; Harry Sigg. Herpetofauna 1987, Vol. 9 (48): 24-26.

Vipera raddei kurdistanica was found only in Azerbeidjan in Iran, although Nilson & Andrén (1986) suspected that the distribution would also include northern Iraq and southeast Turkey. The author found two specimens in a rocky area of the Turkish province Hakkari.

Bemerkungen zur Haltung und nachzucht von Vertretern der *Elapiden*-Gattung *Aspidelaps* (Fitzinger, 1843); Hans Ulrich Böhm & Robin Oellers. Herpetofauna 1987, Vol. 9 (51): 15-18.

The public terrarium in Regensburg (Reptilienzoo Regensburg) keeps both *Aspidelaps scutatus* and *Aspidelaps lubricus*. The animals are easy to keep, although providing food can be difficult. In nature they feed on lizards and snakes. In captivity they can get used to mice. However, it is remarkable that female snakes of both species readily accept mice, males however had to be force-fed for a while. In the public

terrarium in Regensburg the food for the snakes is regularly sprinkled with liver oil, which has a positive effect on the physiology and stimulates the appetite. In July 1982 the female and two males of *Aspidelaps lubricus* were placed in an unilluminated terrarium with a constant temperature of 18°C. In September the animals were returned to their own terrarium. In the beginning of December the female refused to eat laid. The eggs were incubated at temperatures between 28-30°C. Between 25 and 27 February six healthy snakes hatched. In October 1984 the snakes mated again. This time twelve eggs were laid, and all hatched. The baby snakes sloughed after two weeks and were fed on dead mice, of which the head was cut open. Some youngsters however, had to be force-fed for a while.

Pflege und Zucht der grosster nordamerikanischen Schlange: *Drymarchon corais couperi* (Holbrook, 1842); E. Stirnberg & W. Broer. Salamandra (1984), Vol. 20 (4): 197-204.

The authors describe the hatching and rearing of the Indigo snake, *Drymarchon corais couperi*. The snakes are kept in a terrarium of 160x100x100 cm which gets light for thirteen and a half hours a day. The temperature is 30°C by day and 22°C at night. The snakes are fed on dead chickens, mice, rats and hamsters. Copulation occurred from October to December, five months before egg laying. The two clutches consisted of nine and ten eggs. One clutch was incubated at 27°C for forty-five days and then at 29°C for twenty-eight to twenty-nine days. In this case hatching occurred after seventy-three to seventy-four days; nine young

hatched; one egg contained a dead embryo. From the second clutch of nine eggs, only two snakes hatched after eighty-seven to eighty-eight days at 27°C. One of these young snakes was crippled and died after some days.