

KEEPING AND BREEDING THE PUEBLO MILK SNAKE, *LAMPROPELTIS TRIANGULUM CAMPBELLI.*

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PURCHASE

In August 1990 I bought a couple of *Lampropeltis triangulum campbelli*. Both snakes were born in captivity in the U.S.A., the male in 1988, the female in 1987. The male weighed 410 g, the female 270 g.

KEEPING

The snakes were housed in separate terrariums each 55x40x40 cm (lxdxh). The bottom was covered with gravel, as used in aquariums. Furthermore I put a small water bowl and a small stump of wood in each. A 25 Watt reflector lamp was used for light and heating. The temperature was usually somewhere between 25 and 30°C. If the temperature rose too much on warm days, the lamp was switched off. Both snakes fed very well on a diet of young nest rats and adult mice. The prey was offered dead.

HIBERNATION

At the end of October I stopped offering food. From November 1st till November 12th I reduced the time that the lamp was on from 15 hours a day to zero. The hibernation lasted from November 12th to January 12th 1991. The temperature during this period was between 14 and 18°C. The snakes had the opportunity to drink water. At the beginning of the hibernation the male still weighed 460 g, the female 380 g.

MATING

On January 12 the period the lamp was on was set to 15 hours a day. On January 13 the male accepted food, a hairy nestmouse. The female already ate her first mouse one hour after ending the hibernation. The female sloughed on February 4 at about 1800 hours, after which she was put in the male's terrarium. Mating occurred at 1900 hours and lasted until 1930 hours. After mating the male was removed. The next day the snakes were put together again. Hereafter the snakes were put together every day or every other day, and separated after mating.

The second mating was observed on February 14 from 1100 until 1130 hours, after the male had sloughed. Another mating was observed on March 5. This mating lasted ten minutes.

PREGNANCY

On March 12 the female ate two hairy nest mice. This was her last meal before laying eggs. On March 31 she sloughed. After sloughing a nest box was prepared: an ice box filled with lightly moisted wood shaving. From April 7 on the female was very restless. She often went into the nesting box, and then out again.

On April 11, between 1500 and 2130 hours she laid 10 eggs. After laying she weighed 230 g. On March 31 she weighed 410 g. After laying she drank a lot and on April 12 she ate her first mouse.

BREEDING

The eggs were incubated on moisted wood shaving at a temperature between 25 and 30°C. All eggs hatched between June 14th and 23rd. Both sexes were equally divided and the young snakes looked beautiful and healthy. From the very beginning they are very active and aggressive. The adults however were very quiet. One young ate before sloughing, the others ate dead pink mice, directly after sloughing.

LITERATURE

Markel, R.G. 1990. Kingsnakes and milksnakes. T.F.H. Public.

Osborne, S.T. 1985. The captive breeding of colubrid snakes. *Litteratura Serpantium*, Vol. 5(2): 42-58.

Williams, K.L. 1988. Systematics and natural history of the American milksnake *Lampropeltis triangulum*. Milwaukee Public Museum.



Foto 1: *Lampropeltis triangulum campbelli*, volwassen man, adult male.
Foto H.v.d. Eerden.



Foto 2: *Lampropeltis triangulum campbelli*, pas uit het ei, just hatched.
Foto H.v.d. Eerden.