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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: 'Bettle-down' T-shirts and Merchandise

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Incubation temperature can fluctuate within the adult temperature tolerance range, although a constant temperature results in a more rapid hatching. Aim for a constant 28°C for most species - I would advise against temperatures over 30°C. Bear in mind that in some reptiles at least temperature dictates sex (particularly late in incubation period), therefore too high or too low a temperature may yield an imbalanced sex ratio in hatchlings.

After breaking the shell, the reptile remains in the egg whilst it absorbs the remains of the yolk sac. This period varies, but is normally longer in Chelonia than Squamata, and may be two or three days in the former.

Recommended reading

General works

- Mattison, C. THE CARE OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN CAPTIVITY. 1987 (1982). Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset.
- Riches, R J. BREEDING SNAKES IN CAPTIVITY. 1976. Pet Reference Series, Palmetto Publishing Co, Florida.
- Welch, K R G. HANDBOOK ON THE MAINTENANCE OF REPTILES IN CAPTIVITY. 1987. R E Kreiger Pub Co, Malabar, Florida
- Zimmerman, E. BREEDING TERRARIUM ANIMALS'. 1986 (1983). T F H Publications, Ascot, Berks.

Specific aspects

- Coote, J G and Riches, R J (1979). Captive Reproduction in North American Colubrids of the genera Lampropeltis and Elaphe. Proc. Cotswold Herpetological Symposium, 1978 pp6-15.
- Thatcher, T (1987). Lizards in Confinement and their husbandry, parts 1 and 2. Monographs A S R A, 2 No 1 pp36-53.
- Wright, A (1986) Notes on the captive breeding of the Florida Kingsnake, Lampropeltis getulus floridana, Blanchard, with observations on incubation of eggs and on the newly hatched young. J A S R A, 3 No 1 pp39-45
- Wright, A (1987) Sexing snakes. Monographs A S R A, 2 No 1 pp2-10

'Beetle-down' T-Shirts

Printed black and red on white with the car sticker design. Available in two sizes M and XL £3.75 each (including postage) payable to Biology Curators' Group. While stocks last. Order from:

Derek Whiteley
B C G Secretary
City Museum
Sheffield S10 2TP

Ideal for promoting your 'Beetle-down' activities!

'Beetle-down' merchandise

Is anyone interested in further 'Beetle-down' merchandise along the lines of good quality 'wear it with pride' fashion garments?

Shirts, blouses, sweatshirts (hooded if required), woollen sweaters, ties, bags, hats etc may all be available with the full 'Beetle-down' car sticker motif if enough interest is shown.

These are of excellent quality, embroidered and available in virtually any combination of colours and sizes, although it is anticipated that red (and/or black) on white and black on red will be most popular.

Prices will be around £8 - £15 depending on the item and quantity ordered.

The beauty of this range is that once the original motif has been processed, any quantity and combination of items can be ordered.

If you think you may be interested in even a small quantity or have any further enquiries, please contact me as soon as possible since this can only go ahead if enough support is shown.

Remember: Beetle down is a two year campaign and 'Beetle-down to your local museum' is not a slogan which will become redundant, as long as natural history is found in museums ...

Paul Richards
Sheffield City Museum
0742 768588

Subscription rates are £6.00 for individual membership and £10.00 for institutional membership. Contact Adam Wright, Herbert Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry, for application forms.

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