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## **Naturnahes Brüten – ein gelungenes Experiment**

### ***Semi-natural egg incubation – A successful experiment***

#### **Abstract**

The adaptive behaviour of a 50 year old female *Testudo hermanni boettgeri* to her environment within a new breeding group is described and discussed. Particular attention was given to nesting habits and to the different, artificial incubation methods of her clutches which resulted in some minor deformities of the carapacial scutes in the newly hatched offspring. Finally, the incubation method was completely shifted to a semi-natural condition by incubating the eggs outdoors in a greenhouse. This newly introduced incubation method increased hatching success and resulted in a prolongation of the total incubation time. Furthermore, the staining pattern of the semi-naturally bred hatchlings were much darker compared to those bred during the years before. The possible reasons for the observed changes are discussed.

#### **Key words**

Testudines: Testudinidae, *Testudo hermanni boettgeri*, semi-natural incubation method

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