

The Snake-of-the-Day headliner of this web site features photographs that we believe will interest our web site visitors. Each daily photograph will be posted at 11:00 am. central (GMT - 5) and replaced in 24 hours. Feel free to make **suggestions** regarding what snake photographs you would like to see in this daily feature. The animals pictured here are not for sale, unless otherwise noted, but you can find available surplus snakes for sale on the **Surplus Page** of this web site. We appreciate your patronage and welcome any **suggestions** you may have.



This unassuming adult female Tessera generally looks like most Tesseras toDAY, but she MAY become the second verified **homozygote** (aka: Super Form) of her **mutation**. I say "MAY" because the jury is still out. She laid 16 outwardly viable eggs this year, but only 13 of them hatched. Happily, those 13 are Tesseras and all het for Scaleless Anery. I stop short of getting too excited that she could be a homozygote because the three embryos that did not survive full-term incubation may not have been Tesseras. Hence, next year I will breed her again, and if 100% of her **progeny** are Tesseras, I'll be 98% certain that she is a Super Tessera. One more year of 100% visual Tesseras after that and I'll be 99.9% certain. If she is a homozygote, she presents a conundrum. Most homozygotes of mutations that are dominant to wild-type in our hobby have a noticeably different appearance from their heterozygotes. This Tessera exhibits no obvious **markers** that indicate she is not a typical Tessera, since she looks like most Tesseras in the hobby. We don't call Tesseras "Hets", but if not a Super Tessera, all Tesseras are actually the Het form of their mutation (*until proven otherwise via breeding trials*). Unlike the hets of Amel, Anery, Motley, and all the other recessively-inherited mutations whose hets look more like common corns, the hets of Tesseras visually demonstrate the mutation. No common-looking corn can be het for Tessera.

Note: So far, produced by Graham Criglow several years ago, the only known Tessera homozygote (aka: Super Tessera) belongs to Vin Russo at <https://cuttingedgeherp.com> (*if you know of another, please, let me know*). To date, every corn his Tessera has sired was a Tessera. It's somewhat unusual in our hobby for a Homo and Het with the same mutation to look alike, but not unprecedented. IF this female turns out to be a Super Tessera, she — and the one owned by Vin — will be inexplicably rare snakes. *Inexplicable* because from pairing two Tesseras, approximately 25% of their progeny *should be* Super Tesseras. Since several thousand Tessera corns have been produced in the past few years and some were the products of Tessera X Tessera pairings, *where are all the homozygotes Mendel predicted?*