

INTERSPECIES HYBRID

Gold Dust (aka: golddust)

Most Commonly Used Name: Gold Dust

Mode of Genetic Inheritance: Codominant (Ultramel) & Recessive (Caramel)

Morph Type: Mutation Compound – recessive & codominant

Eye Color: **Dark Red** pupil & body ground colored iris

*See **ULTRamel** for an explanation of the genetic mechanics of the **ULTRA** codominant mutation.*

Note: Ultramel is the heterozygote of the the mutation, Ultra.

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The founder (discoverer) of the Ultra mutation states that he originally paired a gray rat snake with a corn snake, in the discovery of this mutation. By the time most of us were made aware of the HYBRID origins of Ultra types (originally named *Ultra Hypos*), we had already bred it into many other corn snake mutations. It was therefore collectively decided that in so much as it would be virtually impossible to track down (and eliminate) each and every snake containing the Ultra gene (surely thousands of individuals in the collections of hundreds of breeders and keepers), the mutation would be treated like other pure corns. In so much as it generally did not alter the corn snake appearance, it was known that even if peoples' snakes had the Ultra gene mutation, they would either be unaware or could avoid mentioning it. Those of you out there that are boycotting HYBRID corns are advised to avoid acquisition of suspicious-looking corns with the word ULTRA in the morph description. Likewise, purists that admirably endeavor to promote only the genetically purest of corns are urged to question corns that have suspiciously abnormal features that have been historically identified as *hybrid markers*. *Not that all such markers are proof of alien origins*. Especially because of the difficulty and expense of formulating a DNA base line for all North American colubrid snake species, and in the absence of expensive DNA testing to identify authenticity of pure corns, without obvious visual and/or genetic distinctions, identification of legitimately pure (or impure) corns is difficult at this time, if not completely impossible.

Other than appearance, the primary (and inherent) value of Ultra Type Corns (Ultras and Ultramel and their color and pattern compounds) is their mode of genetic inheritance. Since they are co-dominant to Amelanistics, pairing any Ultra Type to ANY Amel corn (or Het thereof) will render Ultra types in the F¹ (first) generation of out-crossing to non-Ultra type corns. The results of pairing an Ultra-type with a non-Amel corn (or Het thereof) will render Mendelian results that parallel recessively-inherited mutations; no Ultra-types will result and all progeny will be Het for Ultra when bred to non-Amels.

What to expect:

The Striped Ultramel looks very much like some Striped Amels and some Striped Hypos, but the primary distinction is the wind-colored (dark red) eye pupil of the Striped Ultramel (red on the Striped Amels and black on the Striped Hypos). As with most striped corns, the degree and contiguity of striping is variable.



Eye comparison between
Hatchling and Adult Ultramels

Note:

While most of the snakes we produce will mature to resemble the featured adult image(s) on our web site, unlike manufactured products that are respectively identical to each other, the nature of polygenic variation results in no two specimens being exactly the same. The snake we select for you may not mature to be identical to the pictured examples, but will be chosen based on our experience of observing which neonates will mature to properly represent their respective morph. We take this responsibility very seriously, and therefore publish the guarantee that we will replace your SMR snake if it does not mature to be like our advertised examples.