

# Delayed Snake Fertilization Process

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GAINSVILLE (Fla.).—How female snakes have been able to have young for several years after being separated from their mates has been discovered.

Biologists have long known the snake's ability to reproduce by a technique known as "de-

layed fertilization." Dr. Wade Fox, assistant professor of anatomy at the Louisiana State School for Medicine, outlined the process to the American Institute of Biological Sciences meeting here.

The female snake has special-

ized organs that act as storage spaces for the male sperm cells, at body temperature.

The storage receptacles are tiny, multiple lobed sacs, containing the sperm cells, which are lined up in an orderly fash-

ion, heads facing in the same direction.

"These sacs may in some way supply nourishment for the sperm and thus make possible extreme longevity," Doctor Fox said.