

Evolution of life-bearing have fascinated biologists for over a long time. Viviparity has evolved many times within separate vertebrate lineages and it is a geographically widespread phenomenon. The majority of these independent origins have occurred within lizards and snakes. Several hypotheses have been suggested to explain the selective pressures leading to viviparity in reptiles. One of the most frequently supported hypotheses views viviparity as an adaptation to a cold climate, i.e. viviparous mothers ensure favorable thermoregulation to developing embryos. It is generally supposed that egg retention is an intermediate stage in the evolution of live-bearing. Inclination to egg retention seems to be one of the most important preadaptations of viviparity in vertebrates. Additional limiting factors are probably for instance type of eggshell, mode of sex determination or egg guarding as an alternative mode of parental care.