

Small and overlooked. New species and subspecies within the Australian skink genera *Morethia* Gray, 1845 and the closely associated *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984.

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ABSTRACT

As part of an audit of the Australian herpetofauna, a number of previously unnamed species and subspecies within the genera *Morethia* Gray, 1845 and *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984 were identified.

These are formally named in this paper in accordance with the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) as amended (ICZN 2012).

The newly identified taxa are as follows:

Morethia woolfi sp. nov. a taxon previously identified as a divergent northern population of *M. lineocellata* (Duméril and Bibron, 1839);

M. boulengeri bulliardi subsp. nov. from the Warburton Range, Western Australia;

M. boulengeri ralphabeti subsp. nov. from Central Australia;

M. boulengeri robrobertsi subsp. nov. from north-east Queensland;

M. butleri scottgranti subsp. nov. from South Australia;

M. obscura wiradjuri subsp. nov. from western New South Wales;

Solvonemesis taeniopleura timhudsoni subsp. nov. from southern Queensland;

Solvonemesis taeniopleura anthonyjacksoni subsp. nov. from far north Queensland.

It is noted that the published phylogeny of Pyron *et al.* (2013) confirmed the sensibility of the erection of the genus *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984 to accommodate the Australian Fire-tailed Skinks, a group divergent from all the other *Morethia* species.

Keywords: Taxonomy; nomenclature; lizard; skink; *Morethia*; *Solvonemesis*; Australia; *lineocellata*; *boulengeri*; *adelaidensis*; *butleri*; *obscura*; *exquisitus*; *taeniopleura*; *petros*; *eyremaeus*; *ruficauda*; *storri*; new species; *woolfi*; new subspecies; *bulliardi*; *ralphabeti*; *robrobertsi*; *scottgranti*; *wiradjuri*; *anthonyjacksoni*; *timhudsoni*.

INTRODUCTION

As part of an audit of the Australian herpetofauna, the skink genus *Morethia* Gray, 1845 *sensu* Cogger (2014) and all component species were scrutinized to see if there were any unnamed forms.

This audit included a comprehensive review of the relevant literature and examination of large numbers of specimens of all putative species from across the country.

The most relevant texts to the taxonomy of the genus are probably those of Duméril and Bibron (1839), Peters (1874), Ogilby (1890), Lucas and Frost (1895), Storr (1963), Storr

(1972), Greer (1980), Cogger *et al.* (1983), Wells and Wellington (1984) and Wells and Wellington (1985) which, listed herein in date order, do in combination encompass all forms formally named as species as well as the relevant generic arrangements proposed.

Other particularly relevant papers included those of Boulenger (1887), Edwards *et al.* (2012), Rawlinson (1976), Smyth (1972) and Smyth and Smith (1974).

With the exception of Wells and Wellington (1984 and 1985) all relevant publishing authors post-dating Cogger *et al.* (1983) have placed all the species subject of this paper into the all-encompassing genus *Morethia*, with a type species of *Morethia*

anomalus Gray, 1845, being a junior synonym of *Ablepharus lineoocellatus* Duméril and Bibron, 1839.

Counter to this, in 1984 and 1985, Wells and Wellington split off the northern Fire-tailed skinks from the rest and placed them into a new genus *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984, with a type species of *Ablepharus (Morethia) taeniopleura* Peters, 1874.

There was in 1987 an ultimately unsuccessful attempt by Richard Shine and the Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves to have the *International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN) to formally erase the Wells and Wellington publications from the scientific record (ICZN 1991).

The plan was to erase the names of Wells and Wellington, known to be generally correctly assigned to previously unnamed species and genera so that the Wüster gang could then rename all the same species and genera and make the false claim of "discovery".

Following the defeat of the gang in their application in 1991, the same gang had another attempt at suppressing the Wells and Wellington names and failed again (ICZN 2001).

In 2021, the ICZN lost a third application along similar lines (ICZN 2021), this time trying to erase my own publications which had quite appropriately adopted and used the Wells and Wellington taxonomy and nomenclature when seen as the correct concepts.

In the case of the genus *Morethia sensu lato*, the works of Storr (1963 and 1972) and later Greer (1980), provided a sound evidentiary basis for the taxonomy and nomenclature of the recognized species to that date.

Cogger *et al.* (1983) published their catalogue of Australia's herpetology, including known species, genera and synonymies.

In general, when in doubt, Cogger *et al.* (1983), would synonymise entities. This was done to appease associates he worked with and at times in defiance of biogeographic realities.

Notwithstanding this, the near comprehensive bibliography published by Cogger *et al.* (1983) was and remains one of the most valuable bits of published infrastructure for ongoing work on the taxonomy of Australia's reptiles and frogs.

Much to the chagrin of Cogger and others in the Australian herpetological community, Wells and Wellington published two major papers (Wells and Wellington, 1984, 1985) which forensically went through the Cogger *et al.* (1983) document and combined it with their own extensive knowledge of Australia's herpetology and biogeography to effectively rewrite the taxonomy and nomenclature of Australia's herpetology.

They named hundreds of new genera and species, almost all being done on the basis of splitting larger entities.

That the pair were generally correct in their assessment was well known at the time and because the two men, Wells and Wellington, had, or so it seemed, named pretty much everything previously unnamed in Australian herpetology, other Australians aspiring to be recognized taxonomists saw their future dreams shattered by the actions of Wells and Wellington.

The work of Cogger *et al.* (1983) was also made effectively redundant within 24 months of publication in that anyone working on the taxonomy of Australian reptiles and frogs would be forced to consult both Cogger *et al.* (1983) and Wells and Wellington (1984 and 1985) for synonymies and available names for taxa before daring to attempt to name anything new in Australian herpetology.

Mention of all this is to draw attention to the fact that in the tiny two paragraphs that deal with the taxonomy and nomenclature of *Morethia sensu lato* in Wells and Wellington (1985), these authors were alone in presenting an accurate and proper taxonomy and nomenclature for both species and genera.

That paper also named two new species.

The 1984 paper of Wells and Wellington in one short paragraph split the genus *Morethia* into two, creating the genus

Solvonemesis Wells and Wellington, 1984 as mentioned above, and also correctly resurrected from synonymy names and taxa that had been foolishly synonymised by Cogger *et al.* (1983).

In my own audit of the relevant lizards some 39 years later and with the added benefits of molecular studies not available to Wells and Wellington more than 39 years back, I found that alone among Australian herpetologists, Wells and Wellington (1984 and 1985) had got the genus and species level taxonomy of the group wholly correct.

My adoption of the Wells and Wellington taxonomy is not a favour to them or done because of any personal attachment.

Quite the opposite in fact.

In the early stages, it was apparent and self-evident that the so-called fire-tailed skinks were sufficiently divergent from the other species within *Morethia* to warrant being placed in a new genus.

Had Wells and Wellington not reassigned them to their genus *Solvonemesis*, this paper would not hesitate to have erected a new genus and named it.

I note also that the phylogeny of Pyron *et al.* (2013) showed genus-level divergence between the fire-tailed skinks and the other *Morethia* species, meaning that from this time on, there should have been no resistance from Australia's publishing herpetologists to adopting and using the genus name *Solvonemesis*.

The accuracy of the Wells and Wellington (1985) taxonomy is seen in that they recognized a total of

11 species in the group, being six in *Morethia* and another five species in *Solvonemesis*.

39 years later I am only able to identify just one overlooked species from a small area in a relatively remote part of Western Australia.

That taxon, being previously treated as a variant of *Morethia lineoocellata* (Duméril and Bibron, 1839) was flagged as a potentially undescribed species in a molecular study of several species by Edwards *et al.* (2012), which I note did not inspect any actual specimens with a view to ascertaining whether or not there were two species involved.

It would therefore be improper for me to whinge about Wells and Wellington overlooking that taxon 39 years earlier.

By stark contrast, noting that in 1985 Wells and Wellington had recognized 11 species in the complex, Peter Uetz in his non-ICZN compliant "The reptile database" only recognizes 8 species, the two Wells and Wellington ones omitted along with a third species that Wells and Wellington resurrected from the synonymy of Cogger *et al.* (1983).

The allegedly complete herpetology database also has no mention of *Solvonemesis*, even by way of as a synonym. Uetz and others in the Wolfgang Wüster gang aggressively market "The reptile database" as the complete list of names and synonymies in herpetology (Wüster *et al.* 2021).

The disgusting act by Uetz of deliberately omitting *Solvonemesis* from his database either as a correct name or even as a synonym of *Morethia* is to recklessly attempt to entice another innocent third party to rename the genus in line with Wüster *et al.* (2021) in complete ignorance of the fact that they would be defying the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) and creating an illegal junior synonym in breach of the Australian Copyright Act and reciprocal laws in all other Berne Convention Nations.

Uetz regularly erases scientific names and authors from his "the reptile database" and recently removed over 1000 Russian names and papers from his database in protest at the Russian/Ukrainian war.

He called the taxonomic and nomenclatural chaos he created "collateral damage" (Uetz 2022a-b).

More recently it was suggested Uetz was intending to remove

all names and publications of, or honouring Jewish scientists on his database, being a few thousand more entries, this time in protest of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) bombing murderers and kidnappers hiding in hospitals, schools and Mosques in the Gaza Strip.

To get a general idea of the kind of people in the Wolfgang Wüster gang see Mackay (2024) who details the unlawful actions of gang member Adam Britton.

To remove any element of doubt as to what species of *Morethia sensu lato* exist and are recognized herein (as in predating this paper and in this paper), the eleven taxa are listed below:

Genus *Morethia* Gray, 1845.

Morethia lineoocellata (Duméril and Bibron, 1839) (type species)

Morethia adelaidensis Peters, 1874

Morethia boulengeri (Ogilby, 1890)

Morethia butleri Storr, 1963

Morethia obscura Storr, 1972

Morethia petros Wells and Wellington, 1984.

Genus *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984.

Solvonemesis taenioleura (Peters, 1874) (type species)

Solvonemesis exquisitus (Storr, 1972)

Solvonemesis eyremaeus Wells and Wellington, 1985

Solvonemesis ruficauda (Lucas and Frost, 1895)

Solvonemesis storri Greer, 1981

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preceding this paper and as a methodology, all the relevant published literature was reviewed to 1/ Confirm that the above-named taxa were valid species and correctly assigned at the genus level and,

2/ Flag any potentially unnamed forms at genus or species levels, including subgenera or subspecies.

This was backed up by way of inspection of specimens, alive, dead, in photos and preserved in museums.

As already mentioned the results of this study were confirmation of the 11 above-listed species in the two above-named genera.

In addition to all the papers cited above and including those in which the relevant taxa were named, Boulenger (1887) and Rawlinson (1976) with his lectotype designation, of MNHP 3092 (Old number 3101) confirmed that the provenance of the type material for both *Ablepharus lineoocellata* (Duméril and Bibron, 1839) and the synonymous *Morethia anomalas* Gray, 1845 were from the environs of Perth, Western Australia based on the number of mid-body rows of the relevant type specimens, thereby excluding northern specimens of the same putative species as laid out by Storr (1972).

The paper of Edwards *et al.* (2012) showed a molecular basis for splitting the putative species two ways (north and south) but did not consult the relevant earlier literature or inspect specimens, thereby in effect leaving the question of one or two species unanswered.

Inspection of specimens from the relevant areas was done to confirm what was mooted by way of literature review.

RESULTS

Following both literature review and inspection of specimens, other divergent populations of *Morethia* and *Solvonemesis* species were identified as worthy of taxonomic recognition.

However, in the absence of good molecular data for any species save for putative *Morethia lineoocellata* I formed the view that it was most prudent for me to formally name each of these taxa as new subspecies.

These are formally named in this paper in accordance with the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) as amended (ICZN 2012).

The newly identified taxa are as follows:

Morethia wolffi sp. nov. a taxon previously identified as the divergent northern population of *M. lineoocellata* (Duméril and Bibron, 1839);

M. boulengeri bulliardii subsp. nov. from the Warburton Range, Western Australia;

M. boulengeri ralphabeti subsp. nov. from Central Australia;

M. boulengeri robrobertsi subsp. nov. from north-east Queensland;

M. butleri scottgranti subsp. nov. from South Australia;

M. obscura wiradjuri subsp. nov. from western New South Wales;

Solvonemesis taenioleura timhudsoni subsp. nov. from southern Queensland;

Solvonemesis taenioleura anthonyjacksoni subsp. nov. from far north Queensland.

It is noted that the published phylogeny of Pyron *et al.* (2013) confirmed the sensibility of the erection of the genus *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984 to accommodate the Australian Fire-tailed Skinks, a group divergent from all the other *Morethia* species.

Recognition of *Morethia petros* Wells and Wellington, 1984 in this paper is tentative and pending a proper molecular study to confirm or refute the concept.

Recognition of the species is done so on the basis of consistent morphological divergence between New England Tableland specimens of putative *M. boulengeri* and putative *M. petros* as outlined in Wells and Wellington, 1984.

The species-level split of *Morethia lineoocellata* in this paper is not without precedent.

Hoser (2023) did the same with respect of a putative gecko species (*Diplodactylus ornatus* Gray, 1845) found across the same biogeographical barriers and with a similar extant distribution.

That putative species was also split two ways with the second formally named for the first time as *D. swedoshorum* Hoser, 2023.

INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE FORMAL DESCRIPTIONS THAT FOLLOW

There is no conflict of interest in terms of this paper or the conclusions arrived at herein.

Several people including anonymous peer reviewers who revised the manuscript prior to publication are also thanked as are relevant staff at museums who made specimens and records available in line with international obligations.

In terms of the following formal descriptions, spelling of names should not be altered in any way for any purpose unless expressly and exclusively called for by the rules governing Zoological Nomenclature as administered by the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (Ride *et al.* 1999 and ICZN 2012) including the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) and amendments as of 2012 (ICZN 2012).

Material downloaded from the internet and cited anywhere in this paper was downloaded and checked most recently as of 18 April 2023, unless otherwise stated and were accurate in terms of the context cited herein as of that date.

Unless otherwise stated explicitly, colour descriptions apply to living adult male specimens of generally good health and not under any form of stress by means such as excessive cool, heat, dehydration or abnormal skin reaction to chemical or other input.

While numerous texts and references were consulted prior to publication of this paper, the criteria used to separate the relevant species has already been spelt out and/or is done so within each formal description and does not rely on material within publications not explicitly cited herein.

CONSERVATION

Delays in recognition of these species and subspecies could jeopardise the long-term survival of the taxa as outlined by Hoser (2019a, 2019b) and sources cited therein.

Therefore attempts by taxonomic vandals like the Wolfgang Wüster gang via Kaiser (2012a, 2012b, 2013, 2014a, 2014b) and Kaiser *et al.* (2013) (as frequently amended and embellished, e.g. Rhodin *et al.* 2015, Thiele *et al.* 2020, Hammer and Thiele 2021, Wüster *et al.* 2021) to unlawfully suppress the recognition of these taxa on the basis they have a personal dislike for the person who formally named it should be resisted (e.g. Dubois *et al.* 2019 and Ceriaco *et al.* 2023).

Claims by the Wüster gang against this paper and the descriptions herein will no doubt be no different to those the gang have made previously, all of which were discredited long ago as outlined by Ceriaco *et al.* (2023), Cogger (2014), Cotton (2014), Dubois *et al.* (2019), Hawkeswood (2021), Hoser, (2007a-b, 2009, 2012a, 2012b, 2013, 2015a-f, 2019a, 2019b), ICZN (1991, 2001, 2012, 2021), Mosyakin (2022), Wellington (2015) and sources cited therein.

Some material within descriptions is repeated to ensure each fully complies with the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999).

Fortunately, none of the relevant named taxa appear to be under any immediate threat and in the scheme of things their conservation status should be presently treated as being of "least concern".

However, it is trite to mention the many previously "common" species of vertebrate that have disappeared rapidly over a short period of time.

MORETHIA WOOLFI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:99A8C397-963F-4651-95FA-2547B8E7D0E6

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R117112, collected 30 km south of Canarvon, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -25.066667 S., Longitude 113.683333 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R117026, collected from Bush Bay, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -25.15 S., Longitude 113.783333 E.

2/ A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R119203 collected from 9 km north of Carey Downs Homestead, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -25.533333 S., Longitude 115.466667 E.

Diagnosis: Until now the West Australian species *Morethia woolfi sp. nov.* found from Geraldton north along the coast and environs to Cape Range and Islands to the north-east in has been treated as a northern population of the Western Australian *M. lineoocellata* (Duméril and Bibron, 1839), with a type locality believed to be the environs of Perth, Western Australia, being a taxon found along the coast and environs south from Jurian Bay, through Perth and south to about Pemberton.

M. woolfi sp. nov. is readily separated from *M. lineoocellata* by having 28 or more midbody rows, versus 26 or less in *M. lineoocellata*. *M. woolfi sp. nov.* has well developed white spotting running in rows down the back, versus poorly developed white spotting that is usually semi-distinct and reduced in size and intensity, or in the case of Rottneest Island specimens, large jagged edged white rectangles running in rows down the back.

The dark post-ocular band is brown in *M. woolfi sp. nov.* versus blackish in *M. lineoocellata*.

The two preceding species are separated from all other Australian skinks in the genera *Morethia* Gray, 1845 and *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984 by the following

combination of characters:

Having the back and sides olive grey, olive brown or rufous brown, with or without black and white stripes, ocelli and spots. The subdigital lamellae are obtusely keeled or smooth. The fourth supraciliary is not smaller than the third. The fifth supraciliary (like third and fourth) penetrates deeply between the supraoculars. The supranasal is often fused to the nasal; dorsal ocelli and midlateral white stripe are usually well developed.

Further diagnostic information for the two species as *M. lineoocellata* can be found in Storr (1972) on page 77.

M. lineoocellata in life is depicted in Cogger (2014) on page 661 at bottom right, Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 413 at second from top on left and online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/179133733>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/153628493>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/186683407>

M. woolfi sp. nov. is depicted online at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/julesfarquhar/52682384173/>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/199351619>

and

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/julesfarquhar/52681877181/>

and

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/gondwanareptileproducts/23192687323/>

Distribution: *Morethia woolfi sp. nov.* is found from Geraldton,

then north along the coast and environs to Cape Range and

Islands to the north-east in Western Australia, Australia.

The related taxon *M. lineoocellata* (Duméril and Bibron, 1839),

with a type locality believed to be the environs of Perth, Western

Australia, is a taxon found along the coast and environs south

from Jurian Bay, through Perth and south to about Pemberton,

also all in Western Australia.

Etymology: *M. woolfi sp. nov.* is named in honour of Paul Woolf of Walloon, west of Brisbane in Queensland, Australia,

the foundation president of the Herpetological Society of

Queensland, in recognition of more than four decades of services

to herpetology in Australia and globally.

MORETHIA BOULENGERI BULLIARDI SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:ADFC1DB5-F32B-45CA-A671-446D9E85A9E2

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian

Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number

R22016 collected from Warburton Mission, Western Australia,

Australia, Latitude -26.133333 S., Longitude 126.583333 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 3 preserved specimens at the Western Australian

Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen numbers

R22110 and 22111 both collected from Warburton Mission,

Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -26.133333 S., Longitude

126.583333 E., and specimen number R18296 collected from

Ainslie Gorge Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -26.25 S.,

Longitude 126.65 E.

Diagnosis: *Morethia boulengeri bulliardi subsp. nov.* a taxon

confined to the Warburton Ranges of the far central eastern

interior of Western Australia is separated from the nominate form

of *M. boulengeri* (Ogilby, 1890) with a type locality of Brawlin,

New South Wales, Australia and all other subspecies of *M.*

boulengeri as well as the related taxon *M. petros* Wells and

Wellington, 1985 from the New England region of northern New

South Wales and whom as a group of taxa occupy most of the

drier eastern two thirds of Australia south of the tropics as well

as not occurring in the very most arid regions by having 20-23

subdigital lamellae, versus 18-20 in all the other subspecies

and *M. petros* and subdigital calli reduced and narrowed to form obtuse keels, versus broadly callose in all other subspecies and *M. petros*.

M. boulengeri ralphabetti sp. nov. from central Australia (the Macdonell Ranges region and elevated regions to the northeast, as well as west of the main Simpson Desert are separated from all other subspecies of *M. boulengeri* as well as the related taxon *M. petros* by having a first parietal that is not straight edged and very diamond shaped with edges of even length, but rather the points extend out and the edges are concave inwards giving it a very different shape.

M. boulengeri ralphabetti sp. nov. is a chocolate-brown to light brown lizard and with significantly heavier spotting on the head and neck than the body in a configuration not seen in the other related subspecies or *M. petros*.

M. boulengeri robrobertsi subsp. nov. from north-east Queensland is unique among *M. boulengeri* subspecies and the related taxon *M. petros* by having a distinctively beige coloured anterior dorsum which half-way down the back rapidly becomes orange-brown further down the body.

M. boulengeri have a grey anterior and more brownish posterior, but this is not like what is seen in *M. boulengeri robrobertsi* subsp. nov..

I note that there is a distinct possibility that *M. petros* is merely a subspecies of *M. boulengeri* and not withstanding morphological divergence. This question will be best answered with a proper molecular study.

M. petros is separated from all other forms of *M. boulengeri* (all subspecies of that taxon), by having the unique combination of being a distinctive light brown on top and with a dark brownish rather than blackish dorso-lateral stripe.

M. boulengeri of all subspecies and *M. petros* are separated from all other species of *Morethia* Gray, 1845 by the following combination of characters:

Back and sides olive grey, olive brown or rufous brown, with or without black and white stripes, ocelli and spots; subdigital lamellae broadly callose or forming obtuse keels; fourth supraciliary much smaller than the third (modified from Storr 1972).

Type *M. boulengeri* in life are depicted in Hoser (1989) on page 105 top and middle and online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/74831466>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/186372978>

M. boulengeri ralphabetti sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/132254593>

M. petros is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/184612964>

M. boulengeri robrobertsi subsp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/86348052>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/109733666>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/109626244>

Distribution: *Morethia boulengeri bulliardi* subsp. nov. is believed to be a taxon confined to the Warburton Ranges of the far central eastern interior of Western Australia, having evolved in reproductive separation from the other subspecies for a considerable period.

Etymology: *M. boulengeri bulliardi* subsp. nov. is named in honour of Kaj-Erik Bulliard of Esperance, Western Australia, formerly of Sydney, New South Wales (NSW), Australia in recognition of his contributions to herpetology in Australia. He was forced to leave New South Wales as a fugitive of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

MORETHIA BOULENGERI RALPHABETTI SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:966A5F3D-B5A4-43F7-9E6F-E1E1C3E7990F

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.52049 collected from Ellery Creek, near Hermannsburg, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -23.916 S., Longitude 132.916 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ Two preserved specimens at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R15516 and R15523 both collected from Inturtupa Waterhole, Ellery Creek, Central Australia, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -23.817 S., Longitude 133.067 E. 2/ A preserved specimen at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, specimen number R18714, collected from a ridge on the south side of Illara Rock Hole, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -24.325 S., Longitude 132.35 E., 3/ A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R33688 collected from the Palm Valley Reserve, Central Australia, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -24.133 S., Longitude 132.083 E.

Diagnosis: *M. boulengeri ralphabetti* sp. nov. from central Australia, being the Macdonell Ranges region and elevated regions to the northeast, west of the main Simpson Desert are separated from all other subspecies of *M. boulengeri* (Ogilby, 1890) as well as the related taxon *M. petros* Wells and Wellington, 1985 by having a first parietal that is not straight edged and very diamond shaped with edges of even length, but rather the points extend out and the edges are concave inwards giving it a very different shape.

M. boulengeri ralphabetti sp. nov. is a chocolate-brown to light brown lizard and with significantly heavier spotting on the head and neck than the body in a configuration not seen in the other related subspecies or *M. petros*.

Morethia boulengeri bulliardi subsp. nov. a taxon confined to the Warburton Ranges of the far central eastern interior of Western Australia is separated from the nominate form of *M. boulengeri* with a type locality of Brawlin, New South Wales, Australia and all other subspecies of *M. boulengeri* as well as the related taxon *M. petros* from the New England region of northern New South Wales and whom as a group of taxa occupy most of the drier eastern two thirds of Australia south of the tropics as well as not occurring in the very most arid regions by having 20-23 subdigital lamellae, versus 18-20 in all the other subspecies and *M. petros* and subdigital calli reduced and narrowed to form obtuse keels, versus broadly callose in all other subspecies and *M. petros*.

M. boulengeri robrobertsi subsp. nov. from north-east Queensland is unique among *M. boulengeri* subspecies and the related taxon *M. petros* by having a distinctively beige coloured anterior dorsum which half-way down the back rapidly becomes orange-brown further down the body.

M. boulengeri have a grey anterior and more brownish posterior, but this is not like what is seen in *M. boulengeri robrobertsi* subsp. nov..

I note that there is a distinct possibility that *M. petros* is merely a subspecies of *M. boulengeri* and not withstanding morphological divergence. This question will be best answered with a proper molecular study.

M. petros is separated from all other forms of *M. boulengeri* (all subspecies of that taxon), by having the unique combination of being a distinctive light brown on top and with a dark brownish rather than blackish dorso-lateral stripe.

M. boulengeri of all subspecies and *M. petros* are separated from all other species of *Morethia* Gray, 1845 by the following combination of characters:

Back and sides olive grey, olive brown or rufous brown, with or without black and white stripes, ocelli and spots; subdigital

lamellae broadly callose or forming obtuse keels; fourth supraciliary much smaller than the third (modified from Storr 1972).

Type *M. bouleengeri* in life are depicted in Hoser (1989) on page 105 top and middle and online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/74831466>
and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/186372978>

M. bouleengeri ralphababeti sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/132254593>

M. petros is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/184612964>

M. bouleengeri robrobertsi subsp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/86348052>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/109733666>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/109626244>

Distribution: *M. bouleengeri ralphababeti* sp. nov. is a taxon apparently confined to central Australia, being the Macdonell Ranges region and elevated regions to the northeast, and generally west of the main Simpson Desert.

Etymology: *M. bouleengeri ralphababeti* sp. nov. is named in honour of Ralph Emmanuel Didier "Deej" Babet, a Palmer United Party Senator who bravely went against the corrupt fascist Australian government narrative and spoke out publicly in favour of Elon Musk, multi billionaire owner of "X" (formerly twitter) supporting his courageous stand in calling out the fascism of the Australian government in 2024. That was when they tried to censor the internet globally and allow only their own false narrative to be peddled online in the wake of a police protected thug attacking a priest in Sydney's west and the video footage of the assault being posted on various "social media" platforms.

MORETHIA BOULEENGERI ROBROBERTSI SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:2CCFF654-900F-444F-8A6B-3934CB1910DE

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.63088 collected from about 48 km northwest of Clermont, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -22.416 S., Longitude 147.383 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its specimens.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.63089 collected from about 48 km northwest of Clermont, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -22.416 S., Longitude 147.383 E., 2/ A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.63093 collected from a petrol station at the Belyando River near the Mount Douglas Station, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -21.533 S., Longitude 146.85 E., 3/ A preserved specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J72982 collected from the Epping Forest National Park, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -22.3152439 S., Longitude 146.7175178 E.

Diagnosis: *Morethis bouleengeri robrobertsi* subsp. nov. from north-east Queensland is unique among *M. bouleengeri* (Ogilby, 1890) subspecies and the related taxon *M. petros* Wells and Wellington, 1985 by having a distinctively beige coloured anterior dorsum which half-way down the back rapidly becomes orange-brown further down the body.

M. bouleengeri have a grey anterior and more brownish posterior, but this is not like what is seen in *M. bouleengeri robrobertsi* subsp. nov..

M. bouleengeri ralphababeti sp. nov. from central Australia, being the Macdonell Ranges region and elevated regions to

the northeast, generally west of the main Simpson Desert are separated from all other subspecies of *M. bouleengeri* as well as the related taxon *M. petros* by having a first parietal that is not straight edged and very diamond shaped with edges of even length, but rather the points extend out and the edges are concave inwards giving it a very different shape.

M. bouleengeri ralphababeti sp. nov. is a chocolate-brown to light brown lizard and with significantly heavier spotting on the head and neck than the body in a configuration not seen in the other related subspecies or *M. petros*.

Morethis bouleengeri bulliardii subsp. nov. a taxon confined to the Warburton Ranges of the far central eastern interior of Western Australia is separated from the nominate form of *M. bouleengeri* with a type locality of Brawlin, New South Wales, Australia and all other subspecies of *M. bouleengeri* as well as the related taxon *M. petros* from the New England region of northern New South Wales and whom as a group of taxa occupy most of the drier eastern two thirds of Australia south of the tropics as well as not occurring in the very most arid regions by having 20-23 subdigital lamellae, versus 18-20 in all the other subspecies and *M. petros* and subdigital calli reduced and narrowed to form obtuse keels, versus broadly callose in all other subspecies and *M. petros*.

I note that there is a distinct possibility that *M. petros* is merely a subspecies of *M. bouleengeri* and not withstanding morphological divergence. This question will be best answered with a proper molecular study.

M. petros is separated from all other forms of *M. bouleengeri* (all subspecies of that taxon), by having the unique combination of being a distinctive light brown on top and with a dark brownish rather than blackish dorso-lateral stripe.

M. bouleengeri of all subspecies and *M. petros* are separated from all other species of *Morethis* Gray, 1845 by the following combination of characters: Back and sides olive grey, olive brown or rufous brown, with or without black and white stripes, ocelli and spots; subdigital lamellae broadly callose or forming obtuse keels; fourth supraciliary much smaller than the third (modified from Storr 1972).

Type *M. bouleengeri* in life are depicted in Hoser (1989) on page 105 top and middle and online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/74831466>
and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/186372978>

M. bouleengeri ralphababeti sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/132254593>

M. petros is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/184612964>

M. bouleengeri robrobertsi subsp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/86348052>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/109733666>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/109626244>

Distribution: *M. bouleengeri robrobertsi* subsp. nov. is a form from north-east Queensland whose exact distributional limits are uncertain, but believed to be within the general region of south of Townsville, north of Maryborough and east of the Black Soils of the central Queensland/Carpentaria fold.

Etymology: *M. bouleengeri robrobertsi* subsp. nov. is named in honour of the One Nation MLC in New South Wales, Australia, Rod Roberts who also happened to be a former police officer.

In 2021 under parliamentary privilege, he exposed NSW Cop Constable Daniel Keneally then aged 24 and the son of former NSW premier and then federal senator Kristina Keneally as corrupt and for fabricating evidence against a corruption whistleblower.

As a result of the ensuing media publicity, Daniel Keneally was formally charged with fabricating evidence. Keneally had charged Luke Moore with threatening to kill him in a phone call and had him imprisoned. Bail was refused at the time by a corrupt magistrate in a New South Wales criminal court.

Fortunately for Moore he had recorded the call and was later able to prove his innocence, but only after a long, life destroying stint in jail.

While the audio file of the phone call confirmed the fact that Keneally was a pathological serial liar and therefore he was proven guilty in the court, on 1 Feb 2024 the notoriously corrupt NSW magistrate Rodney Brender, refused to imprison Keneally and effectively gave him a rap across the knuckles (being a token fine and order).

Kristina Keneally, a career politician served as Premier of NSW from 2009 to 2011.

For further details see Ferri (2024) and Lewis (2024).

In a parallel case some decades earlier, Alan Anthony Brygel had his life destroyed when a corrupt Victorian cop did exactly the same thing.

John Cullen fabricated a threat to kill charge against Brygel.

Cullen alleged Brygel had threatened to kill him over the telephone.

The reverse was the case and we know this because Brygel also recorded the conversation.

This inconvenient fact did not stop Cullen getting a corrupt Victorian judge to have Brygel jailed for seven months, after which Brygel successfully appealed the criminal conviction.

However, while Brygel was cleared by the government's courts, the same government refuses to amend their official records to reflect the historical fact.

Cullen successfully claimed "crimes compensation" alleging stress and suffering from the threat that was never made and did not have to refund the cash after he was proven to have lied to get the money.

Cullen the crooked cop was later forced to leave the Victorian Police after the media got a tip off and reported on another case he was involved in.

This time he was busted by a female store security officer at K-mart East Burwood for stealing a \$40 hair dryer. This is significant as at the time Cullen had a bald head!

Cullen produced his police badge and asked to be let off, but because the security officer had been previously sexually abused by another Victorian Police officer she pressed charges.

Cullen was given a token fine by a friendly police-protecting magistrate, but because he was reported in the media as a thief, he was forced from the force.

However, like most ex-cops in Australia he was obscenely flush with cash and then purchased a number of businesses (for details see Hoser 1994, 1999a-b).

MORETHIA BUTLERI SCOTTGRANTI SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:CCC5546E-FF1A-467B-8EE6-5D5997437ECB

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, specimen number R682 collected from Ooldea, South Australia, Australia, Latitude -30.45 S., Longitude 131.83 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved specimen at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, specimen number R68077 collected 49.43 km south-west of Ooldea, South Australia, Australia, Latitude 132.2453 S., Longitude 132.2453 E., 2/ A preserved specimen at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, specimen number R32060 collected 5.5 km south of Immarna Spring, South Australia,

Australia, Latitude 30.5519 S., Longitude 132.145 E., 3/ A preserved specimen at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, specimen number R61173 collected from 14.9 km east of Pidinga Tank, South Australia, Australia, Latitude -30.8714 S., Longitude 132.2631 E.

Diagnosis: *Morethia butleri scottgranti* subsp. nov. a taxon from South Australia, generally occurring east of the Nullarbor to the northern part of the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia is separated from the southern Western Australian type subspecies of *Morethia butleri* Storr, 1963 by being a generally greyish-brown and somewhat sandy in appearance dorsally, versus plain brown above in the nominate form of *M. butleri*. Additionally in *M. butleri scottgranti* subsp. nov. the supraciliary-supraocular junction is not linear in that the fourth supraciliary tends to protrude.

The type form of *M. butleri* has supraciliaries forming a straight-edged boundary with the supraocular. In the otherwise morphologically similar species, *M. boulengeri* (Ogilby, 1890) the supraciliary-supraocular junction is not linear in that the third (not fourth) supraciliary tends to protrude.

M. butleri of both subspecies are separated from all other species of *Morethia* Gray, 1845 and *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984 by the following unique combination of characters:

Back and sides olive grey, olive brown or rufous brown, with or without black and white stripes, ocelli and spots; subdigital lamellae sharply keeled; supraciliaries normally 6 and forming a straight-sided series (*M. butleri butleri*) or with the fourth supraciliary that tends to protrude (*M. butleri scottgranti* subsp. nov.).

M. butleri scottgranti subsp. nov. is depicted in life online at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/134719380>

M. butleri butleri of the type form is depicted in life online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/47947485667/

Distribution: *M. butleri scottgranti* subsp. nov. is a taxon from South Australia, generally occurring east of the Nullarbor to the northern part of the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia.

M. butleri butleri is found generally west of the Nullarbor across most of the southern half of Western Australia, except for the colder parts of the south-west.

Etymology: Named in honour of Scott Grant of Whyalla, South Australia, formerly of Colac, Victoria, Australia, the former owner of the Whyalla Fauna and Reptile Park, whose successful wildlife conservation enterprise commenced in 2018 was hastily shut down at gunpoint by the South Australian government on Monday 15 November 2021.

This outrageous government action was done solely to protect their own government business Zoos South Australia ("Zoos SA") and their monopoly of the wildlife space in that state (see media release posted online at: <https://www.whyalla.sa.gov.au/our-city/news-and-events/latest-news/2021/eyre-reptile-and-wildlife-park-closure>).

This government department, Zoos SA, are exempt from wildlife and animal cruelty laws and they run the dysfunctional Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park.

Scott Grant is among the many wildlife conservation icons whose conservation enterprises were wiped out by evil government agents in South Australia, an earlier casualty being Dr. John Wamsley, whose hugely successful Warramong Wildlife Sanctuary in the Adelaide Hills and his associated Earth Sanctuaries Limited business was similarly killed off to protect the income stream of Zoos South Australia (see <https://johnquiggin.com/2006/09/01/farewell-to-earth-sanctuaries/>).

MORETHIA OBSCURA WIRADJURI SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:E58989BE-4BB7-41D1-9A32-41707DA659BA

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.27838

collected from Round Hill Nature Reserve, New South Wales, Australia, Latitude -33.05 S., Longitude 146.2 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Four preserved specimens at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen numbers R.27883, R.40826, R.92296 and R.92297 all collected from Round Hill Nature Reserve, New South Wales, Australia, Latitude -33.05 S., Longitude 146.2 E.

Diagnosis: The subspecies *Morethia obscura wiradjuri subsp. nov.* is apparently confined to the interior of western New South Wales. The nominate form of *M. obscura* Storr, 1972 with a type locality of 6 miles east of Kalamunda, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude 31.58 S., Longitude 116.08 E., is found in the southern parts of Western Australia as well as southern South Australia and far western Victoria and south-west New South Wales.

M. obscura wiradjuri subsp. nov. is separated from the type form of *M. obscura* by having a body that is heavily flecked black above with no whitish flecks or only small ones versus lightly so with black and/or with prominent white flecks joined to the black in *M. obscura* of the type form.

M. obscura wiradjuri subsp. nov. is further separated from the type form of *M. obscura* by having a bold and well defined dark lateral band on the upper flank versus not well defined, especially on the lower edge in the type form of *M. obscura*.

Both forms of *M. obscura* are readily separated from all other species of *Morethia* Gray, 1845 and *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984 by the following unique combination of characters:

Back and sides olive grey, olive brown or rufous brown, with or without black and white stripes, ocelli and spots; subdigital lamellae obtusely keeled or smooth; Fourth supraciliary not smaller than the third; fifth supraciliary not penetrating deeply between supraoculars; supranasal always separate from nasal; dorsal ocelli attached to black spots if present and midlateral white stripe absent or weakly developed; fourth supraciliary not smaller than the third; fifth supraciliary not penetrating deeply between supraoculars; supranasal always separate from nasal; dorsal ocelli attached to black spots if present and midlateral white stripe absent or weakly developed.

Nominate *M. obscura* is depicted in life in Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 413, second from top and online at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/185358732>

and <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/203986544>

M. obscura wiradjuri subsp. nov. is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 662 at top left.

Distribution: The subspecies *M. obscura wiradjuri subsp. nov.* is apparently confined to the interior of western New South Wales, not including the far south-west. The nominate form of *M. obscura* Storr, 1972 with a type locality of 6 miles east of Kalamunda, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude 31.58 S., Longitude 116.08 E., is found in the southern parts of Western Australia as well as southern South Australia and far western Victoria and far south-west New South Wales.

Etymology: *M. obscura wiradjuri subsp. nov.* is named in honour of the Wiradjuri people being the original Aboriginal inhabitants of the region where this subspecies occurs in central New South Wales, Australia. Most of these people were exterminated in the late 1700's and early 1800's when the British invaders moved inland from the coast and stole the land to graze sheep on.

Those who survived were pushed further north-west to the most arid parts of New South Wales, being where the British invaders saw no commercial interest in the desert lands, where for generations the surviving Wiradjuri people have typically eked out a miserable existence living under sheets of tin and abandoned car wrecks.

SOLVONEMESIS TAENIOPLEURA ANTHONYJACKSONI SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:DEE77EBA-B44A-4A69-86C4-B43794EDB45D

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.97859 collected from the Wenlock River Crossing on the road to Portland Roads, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -13.116 S., Longitude 142.75 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen numbers R.94013 and R.94463 collected from mine workings 1 km west of the Wenlock River Crossing on the road to Iron Range, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -13.116 S., Longitude 142.75 E.

Diagnosis: The three subspecies of *Solvonemesis taeniopleura* Peters, 1874, with a type locality of Bowen in north-east Queensland are separated from one another by the following unique combinations of characters:

S. taeniopleura anthonyjacksoni subsp. nov. from far north Queensland occurs in a region north of Townsville to the tip of Cape York and as a rule not extending to the far western parts of the Cape.

It is separated from the other two subspecies, namely *S. taeniopleura timhudsoni subsp. nov.* from wetter parts of south-east Queensland and the nominate form of *S. taeniopleura* which is found generally south of Ravenswood and Home Hill in the north, along the coastal and near coastal regions to the north of the Sunshine coast and hinterland, by the following unique suite of characters: The dorsum is a light brownish-grey and the line of the lateral band on the upper two thirds of the flank is very large.

S. taeniopleura is a brownish coloured lizard above and the black lateral stripe only extends about half-way down the flank, versus about 2/3 in *S. taeniopleura anthonyjacksoni subsp. nov.*

S. taeniopleura timhudsoni subsp. nov. is separated from the two preceding subspecies by having a back that is greyish anteriorly and then brownish posteriorly, the brown being well established on the body well before the pelvic girdle.

In all three subspecies the tail gets its characteristic red colour beyond the pelvic girdle.

All three subspecies of *S. taeniopleura* are separated from all other species of *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984 by having the pale dorso-lateral stripe on each side separated from the other by six rows of scales, versus five or less in all other species.

Species within *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984 are separated from all species within the closely related genus *Morethia* Gray, 1845 by having an ear opening generally without obvious anterior lobules; ground colour of back and sides brown to black, with two or more conspicuous stripes on either side; no palpebral slit (versus present in *Morethia*) (adapted mainly from Cogger 2014).

The nominate form of *S. taeniopleura* is depicted in life online at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/141844106>

and

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jono-dashper/52187810669/>

S. taeniopleura anthonyjacksoni subsp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/70873827>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/182606042>

and

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/moloch05/45286011085/>

and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimny_anders/9532614819/

S. taeniopleura timhudsoni subsp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/205211364>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/63445749>

Distribution: *S. taeniopleura anthonyjacksoni* subsp. nov. occurs in far north Queensland in a region north of Townsville to the tip of Cape York and as a rule not extending to the far western parts of the Cape.

Etymology: *S. taeniopleura anthonyjacksoni* subsp. nov. is named in honour of Gold Coast Queensland, Australia snake catcher Anthony Jackson who works with Tim Hudson at Hudson Snake Catching Gold Coast at Gilston, Queensland, Australia in recognition of his services to wildlife conservation and public safety.

SOLVONEMESIS TAENIOPLEURA TIMHUDSONI SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:DBD527FF-B366-457A-9BB8-EA489D58E21C

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J71464 collected from Crows Nest National Park, east of Crows Nest, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -27.25 S., Longitude 152.1 S. This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three preserved specimens at the at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen numbers J26304, J71466 and J72670 all collected from Crows Nest National Park, east of Crows Nest, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -27.25 S., Longitude 152.1 S.

Diagnosis: The three subspecies of *Solvonemesis taeniopleura* Peters, 1874, with a type locality of Bowen in north-east Queensland are separated from one another by the following unique combinations of characters:

S. taeniopleura anthonyjacksoni subsp. nov. from far north Queensland occurs in a region north of Townsville to the tip of Cape York and as a rule not extending to the far western parts of the Cape.

It is separated from the other two subspecies, namely *S. taeniopleura timhudsoni* subsp. nov. from wetter parts of south-east Queensland and the nominate form of *S. taeniopleura* which is found generally south of Ravenswood and Home Hill in the north, along the coastal and near coastal regions to the north of the Sunshine coast and hinterland, by the following unique suite of characters: The dorsum is a light brownish-grey and the line of the lateral band on the upper two thirds of the flank is very large.

S. taeniopleura is a brownish coloured lizard above and the black lateral stripe only extends about half-way down the flank, versus about 2/3 in *S. taeniopleura anthonyjacksoni* subsp. nov.

S. taeniopleura timhudsoni subsp. nov. is separated from the two preceding subspecies by having a back that is greyish anteriorly and then brownish posteriorly, the brown being well established on the body well before the pelvic girdle.

In all three subspecies the tail gets its characteristic red colour beyond the pelvic girdle.

All three subspecies of *S. taeniopleura* are separated from all other species of *Solvonemesis* Wells and Wellington, 1984 by having the pale dorso-lateral stripe on each side separated from the other by six rows of scales, versus five or less in all other species.

Species within *Solvonemesis* are separated from all species within the closely related genus *Morethia* Gray, 1845 by having an ear opening generally without obvious anterior lobules; ground colour of back and sides brown to black, with two or more conspicuous stripes on either side; no palpebral slit (versus present in *Morethia*) (adapted mainly from Cogger 2014).

The nominate form of *S. taeniopleura* is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/141844106>

and

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jono-dashper/52187810669/>

S. taeniopleura anthonyjacksoni subsp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/70873827>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/182606042>

and

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/moloch05/45286011085/>

and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimny_anders/9532614819/

S. taeniopleura timhudsoni subsp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/205211364>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/63445749>

Distribution: *S. taeniopleura timhudsoni* subsp. nov. occurs in the wetter parts of south-east Queensland including the coastal sand islands as well as drier nearby hinterland areas.

Etymology: *S. taeniopleura timhudsoni* subsp. nov. is named in honour of Gold Coast Queensland, Australia snake catcher Tim Hudson of Hudson Snake Catching Gold Coast at Gilston, Queensland, Australia, who works 24/7 as a snake catcher, in recognition of his services to wildlife conservation and public safety.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST - NONE.

