

**Ooh, Aah, Faaaaaark ... Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver have engaged in egregious taxonomic vandalism in 2024 by coining junior synonyms for *Diplodactylus ooh* Hoser, 2023 and *Diplodactylus aah* Hoser, 2023.**

LSIDURN:LSID:ZOOBANK.ORG:PUB:97F33B30-F0D6-4669-8EB1-8FC3B6DECC58

RAYMOND T. HOSER

LSIDURN:LSID:ZOOBANK.ORG:AUTHOR:F9D74EB5-CFB5-49A0-8C7C-9F993B8504AE

488 Park Road, Park Orchards, Victoria, 3134, Australia.

Phone: +61 3 9812 3322 Fax: 9812 3355 E-mail: snakeman (at) snakeman.com.au

Received 28 December 2024, Accepted 30 December 2025, Published 7 January 2025.

### ABSTRACT

In October 2024 a cohort of pseudoscientists, Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver were busy fooling global media outlets about their alleged discovery of two new species of spectacular gecko lizard from the ranges of Central Australia. Their faked narrative was that after spending time trekking through the remote wildernesses of the southern Northern Territory and nearby South Australia, they managed to discover two amazing species of gecko wholly new to science. They even assigned scientific names to them in the form of *Diplodactylus tjoritjarinya* and *Diplodactylus fyfei* in a so-called paper they published in an online journal.

Problem was that their story was one well-choreographed pile of lies.

In actual fact the person who spent years trekking through outback Australia in search of these previously unnamed lizards on other similarly unnamed species was Snakeman Raymond Hoser and he had published the book-sized monograph on these very lizards 15 months earlier.

Hoser in 2023 also named them!

Now this is not a simple case of later authors accidentally overlooking an earlier discovery of the same thing and inadvertently renaming them.

When that happens, the newer names are simply junked as junior synonyms.

In this instance, Peter McDonald, Aaron Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul Oliver knew all along that Raymond Hoser had discovered and named the exact same species 15 months prior, but rather than accept the status quo and the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999), they engaged in what is known as taxonomic vandalism to rename the exact same animals and then to unlawfully peddle their synonym name as the correct one.

Besides being illegal under the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) run by the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) who govern all scientists globally (under the IUBS), the claimed discovery of the exact same species is in breach of the Moral Rights sections of the Australian Copyright Act 1968 and international equivalents.

To justify their egregious act of taxonomic vandalism, the later authors wrote:

*“Following Kaiser et al. (2013), position statements from the Australian Society of Herpetologists (ASH 2016), and in accordance with a large number of active herpetofaunal taxonomists (Wüster et al., 2021) (all being of the same gang of thieves) we do not consider selected nomenclatural acts in self-published works after 1 January 2000, even if these may have priority under the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.”*

In 2021, the ICZN formally ruled against the anti-science blog rant of Kaiser *et al.* (2013) and all later incarnations of that document (including ASH 2016 and Wüster *et al.* 2021), so there is absolutely no question in terms of the facts that:

*Diplodactylus (Yankunytjatjaragecko) aah* Hoser, 2023 has been unlawfully renamed as *Diplodactylus tjoritjarinya* McDonald, Fenner, Torkkola and Oliver 2024 and is therefore a junior synonym of it.

and

*Diplodactylus (Yankunytjatjaragecko) ooh* Hoser, 2023 has been unlawfully renamed as *Diplodactylus fyfei* McDonald, Fenner, Torkkola and Oliver 2024 and is therefore a junior synonym of it.

However, the most important part of this paper is not the preceding facts, as the ICZN in 2021 already published the fact that the priority of the Hoser names over Wolfgang Wüster gang names *“is obvious”* and one of the mandatory ICZN rules.

This is a position it has re-iterated several times since (e.g. Ceriaco *et al.* 2023 and Jiménez-Mejías 2024).

Rather, this paper also formally names another species from the subgenus *Yankunytjatjaragecko* hitherto not named by scientists, also from central Australia and in accordance with the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) as amended (ICZN 2012).

**Keywords:** Gecko; Australia; science; taxonomy; nomenclature; Northern Territory; *Diplodactylus*; *Yankunytjatjaragecko*; *aah*; *ooh*; *Liopholis*; *faaaaaark*; *aputja*; Hoser; 2023; 2024; taxonomic vandalism; law breakers; Peter McDonald; Aaron Fenner; Janne Torkkola; Paul Oliver; *tjoritjarinya*; *fyfei*; new species; *watdaabsolutefuk*.

## INTRODUCTION

In 2023, as part of a major revision of the Australian herpetofauna, Hoser (2023) was published on 1 August.

That paper was a book-sized monograph on the gecko genus *Diplodactylus* (Gray, 1827).

The scale of the work is summed up in the paper's title: Hoser, R. T. 2023. Species diversity seriously underestimated! 23 new species and 4 new subspecies within the Australian Gecko genus *Diplodactylus* Gray, 1827. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 64:1-64

Relevant to this paper was the breakup of the putative species *Diplodactylus galeatus* Kluge, 1963 three ways.

Due to genus level divergence of the *D. galeatus* cohort a new genus name *Yankunytjatjaragecko* was erected by Hoser (2023) for the group. It was conservatively placed as a subgenus to minimize disruption to the most widely used taxonomy for the *Diplodactylus* Gray, 1827 assemblage.

The two newly named species were *Diplodactylus* (*Yankunytjatjaragecko*) *aah* Hoser (2023) from the Macdonnell Ranges of central Australia and *D. (Yankunytjatjaragecko)* *ooh* Hoser (2023) from the Bagot and Beddoma Ranges in northern South Australia, with *D. galeatus* Kluge, 1963 having a type locality of Stuart Range, South Australia (adjacent to Coober Pedy) being the most southern of the three species.

A cited molecular phylogeny of Oliver *et al.* (2007) indicated three main population groups within the subgenus, all diverging from one another somewhere between 5 and 10 MYA (see Fig. 3 in that paper), all populations of which also appeared to be allopatric, being separated by zones of unsuitable habitat in the form of either (watercourse) channel country (flood plains that are essentially rock free) (between the southern two populations), or sand dunes, also rock free (between the two more northern populations).

This prohibited gene flow between any of the three and explained the measured divergence dates.

Nothing in terms of the preceding Hoser (2023) paper was particularly unusual or controversial.

The status of the three different named species was obvious and the published diagnoses of Hoser (2023) were detailed and accurately spelt out the diagnostic differences between the forms.

Notwithstanding the preceding, about 15 months later, October 2024 to be exact, a cohort of pseudoscientists, namely Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver, all members of the notorious Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves, decided to engage in an egregious act of taxonomic vandalism to rename the very same species.

October 2024 saw all of them active on Facebook, Twitter and anywhere they could make "noise" and they set out to fool global media outlets about their alleged discovery of the same two new species of spectacular gecko lizard from the ranges of Central Australia.

Their faked narrative was that after spending time trekking through the remote wildernesses of the southern Northern Territory and nearby South Australia, they managed to discover two spectacular species of gecko wholly new to science and so were naming them.

They told the global media of their alleged collaboration with indigenous Australians in discovering the species and their effort in coining culturally appropriate scientific names.

This was of course tokenism, as the real issue is that the four thieves wanted themselves and their names only listed as "name authorities" or those who discovered the species.

There were no "coons" (the word they use by choice) to be listed as those who had actually discovered the species, as in authors of the paper.

The four thieves even assigned scientific names to themselves in the form of *Diplodactylus tjoritjarinya* and *Diplodactylus fyfei* in a so-called paper they published in an online journal.

Problem was that their story was one well-choreographed pile of lies.

As already mentioned, the person who actually spent years trekking through outback Australia in search of these previously unnamed lizards was Snakeman Raymond Hoser (myself) and he/I had published the book-sized monograph on these very lizards 15 months earlier.

Hoser (2023) also named them!

(Cited at the end of this paper as Hoser 2023b).

Now to make this abundantly clear this is not a simple case of later authors accidentally overlooking an earlier discovery of the same thing and inadvertently renaming them.

When that happens, and it is not a rare occurrence at all, the newer names are simply junked as junior synonyms as soon as the later authors and others are made aware of the error.

In this instance, Peter McDonald, Aaron Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul Oliver knew all along that Raymond Hoser (myself) had discovered and named the exact same species 15 months prior, but rather than accept the status quo and the valid ICZN names attached to each species, they engaged in what is known as taxonomic vandalism to rename the exact same animals and then to unlawfully peddle their synonym name/s as the correct one, knowing they are lying.

It is the second part of the preceding to "*unlawfully peddle their synonym name/s as the correct one, knowing they are lying.*" that makes their action taxonomic vandalism.

Besides being illegal under the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) run by the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) who govern all scientists globally (under the International Union of Biological Sciences, or IUBS), the claimed discovery of the exact same species is in breach of the Moral Rights sections of the Australian Copyright Act 1968 and international equivalents.

Under the Copyright Act 1968 of Australia, "moral right" means: (a) in relation to an author:

- (i) a right of attribution of authorship; or
- (ii) a right not to have authorship falsely attributed; or
- (iii) a right of integrity of authorship;"

They also breached other parts of the Copyright Act 1968 as well.

To justify their egregious act of taxonomic vandalism in breach of the Australian Copyright Act 1968, the later authors wrote in their PRINO (peer reviewed in name only) online only paper (AKA PRINOOO) the following:

"Following Kaiser *et al.* (2013), position statements from the Australian Society of Herpetologists (ASH 2016), and in accordance with a large number of active herpetofaunal taxonomists (Wüster *et al.*, 2021) (all being of the same gang of thieves) we do not consider selected nomenclatural acts in self-published works after 1 January 2000, even if these may have priority under the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature."

Problem for this gang of thieves is that in 2021, the ICZN formally ruled against Kaiser *et al.* (2013) as cited by them, as well as all later incarnations of that document (including ASH 2016 and Wüster *et al.* 2021) in the judgement cited here as ICZN (2021), so there is absolutely no question in terms of the facts that:

*Diplodactylus (Yankunytjatjaragecko) aah* Hoser, 2023 has been unlawfully renamed as *Diplodactylus tjoritjarinya* McDonald, Fenner, Torkkola and Oliver 2024, is therefore a junior synonym of it and should never be used as correct;

and

*Diplodactylus (Yankunytjatjaragecko) ooh* Hoser, 2023 has been unlawfully renamed as *Diplodactylus fyfei* McDonald, Fenner, Torkkola and Oliver 2024, is therefore a junior synonym of it and should never be used as correct.

In terms of the correct scientific nomenclature for the species that can only be legally known as *Diplodactylus (Yankunytjatjaragecko) aah* Hoser, 2023 and *Diplodactylus (Yankunytjatjaragecko) ooh* Hoser, 2023 nothing more really needs to be said, but there are a few other details about this gang of thieves that is worth mentioning.

Among the listed authors of Wüster *et al.* (2021), as in their gang, there are a number of eco-terrorists and criminals including the notorious Peter McDonald and also Adam Britton.

Adam Britton when not attacking the ICZN and engaging in acts of theft and taxonomic vandalism, has spent considerable time anally raping people's pet dogs in acts of bestiality, dealing in child pronography and posting videos of this stuff online.

Britton was recently jailed in the Northern Territory for some of his bestiality crimes.

More details of that can be found here:

<https://www.smuggled.com/Adam-Britton-Bestiality-Wolfgang-Wuster-Gang.htm>.

However, the most important part of this paper is not the preceding facts, as the ICZN in 2021 already published the fact that the priority of the Hoser names "is obvious", being a position it has re-iterated several times since (e.g. Ceriaco *et al.* 2023 and via Jiménez-Mejías 2024).

Rather, this paper also formally names another species from the subgenus *Yankunytjatjaragecko* hitherto not named by scientists, also from central Australia in accordance with the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) as amended (ICZN 2012).

### THE WÜSTER GANG OF THIEVES – A FEW OTHER DETAILS

Peter McDonald, Aaron Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul Oliver are part of a cohort known as the Wüster/Britton gang, including notorious figures like Wolfgang Wüster, Adam Britton and others, who when not dealing in child porn, raping people's pet dogs (for which Britton has now been jailed for) and other serious crimes, they are in a state of war against the ICZN and seek to illegally rename animals in breach of the ICZN code.

But of course the relevant scandal here is that Peter McDonald, Aaron Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul Oliver are all serial liars who knew all along that their claim to have discovered two species of gecko in central Australia was in fact one massive lie.

More worrying is that media outlets from around the world like the *Miami Herald* and *Sacramento Bee* took the bait and republished the false claims of discovery of two new species without bothering to check their facts.

Worse still is that they have not retracted their stories or published corrections after being made aware of the falsity of their stories.

Last year, Snakeman Raymond Hoser (myself) successfully took legal action against the ABC under the Copyright Act 1968 when they published a similar fake news story in which another reptile hobbyist known as Conman Conrad Hoskin claimed to have discovered a new species of gecko that he called *Oedura elegans*, Hoskin, 2019, when at all relevant times both Hoskin and the ABC writer knew that the lizard's correct name was *Oedura shireenhoserae* Hoser, 2017 or alternatively *Marlenegecko shireenhoserae* Hoser, 2017.

In terms of the current situation, the following facts reflect the true scientific reality.

*Diplodactylus* (*Yankunytjatjaragecko*) *aah* Hoser, 2023 has been unlawfully renamed as *Diplodactylus tjoritjarinya* McDonald, Fenner, Torkkola and Oliver 2024 with the latter name not valid or usable and

*Diplodactylus* (*Yankunytjatjaragecko*) *ooh* Hoser, 2023 has been unlawfully renamed as *Diplodactylus fyfei* McDonald, Fenner, Torkkola and Oliver 2024 with the latter name not valid or usable.

The original paper that actually made the scientific discoveries is: Hoser, R. T. 2023 Species diversity seriously under-estimated! 23 new species and 4 new subspecies within the Australian Gecko genus *Diplodactylus* Gray, 1827. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 64: 1-64.

The taxonomic vandalism paper is:

McDonald, P. J., Fenner, A. L., Torkkola, J. and Oliver, P. M. 2024. Vicars in the desert: Substrate specialisation and paleo-erosion underpin cryptic speciation in an Australian arid-zone lizard lineage (Diplodactylidae: *Diplodactylus*). *Vertebrate Zoology* (PRINOOO = peer reviewed in name only online only) 74:577-594.

To justify their egregious act of taxonomic vandalism, the later authors wrote:

"Following Kaiser *et al.* (2013), position statements from the Australian Society of Herpetologists (ASH 2016), and in accordance with a large number of active herpetofaunal taxonomists (Wüster *et al.* 2021) - ... all the same gang ... -, we do not consider selected nomenclatural acts in self-published works after 1 January 2000, even if these may have priority under the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature."

Among the listed authors of Wüster *et al.* (2021) are a number of eco-terrorists and criminals including the notorious Peter McDonald and also Adam Britton, the latter of whom when not attacking the ICZN and engaging in acts of theft and taxonomic vandalism, has spent considerable time anally raping people's pet dogs in acts of bestiality and posting videos of these acts online.

Adam Robert Corden Britton (born in or about 1971) is a British-born low-life scumbag within the Wolfgang Wüster gang who after being corruptly protected by police for his crimes for more than 2 decades, gained worldwide scrutiny when he was convicted on multiple criminal offenses including, animal abuse, zoophilia, zoosadism, bestiality and possession of child exploitation material.

In September 2023, after a very public falling out with fellow Wolfgang Wüster gang member Graeme Webb, Britton was formally charged with 56 counts related to the sexual abuse, torture, and killing of dogs, along with possession of the worst category of child exploitation material. Britton pleaded guilty to all charges in August 2024 with a sentence of 10 years and 5 months in prison imposed in the Northern Territory Supreme Court.

The investigation into Adam Britton's crimes also facilitated the prosecution and conviction of other animal sadists within the Wolfgang

Wüster gang network as identified by the cohort themselves in the paper Wüster *et al.* (2021) which astoundingly remains posted online even after Britton pled guilty to his heinous crimes.

Through the Adam Britton case, authorities were able to uncover a broader network of individuals in the Wolfgang Wüster gang involved in similar offenses, leading to further arrests and convictions in Australia and in other countries.

See also:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd109z73ek3o>

and

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-06/zoologist-adam-britton-bestiality-child-abuse-sentencing-delayed/103431386>

and

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-08-08/adam-britton-sentenced-bestiality-animal-cruelty/104194702>

Don (Donald) Broadley (Zimbabwe) and Bill (William) Branch (South Africa) both earlier evaded charges of bestiality and kidnapping young black boys for anal sex by dying (Hoser 2023a).

Similarly, Caleb Ott (Queensland, Australia) committed suicide in December 2024 to evade a battery of likely charges including stalking, harassment, wildlife trafficking, animal abuse and cruelty, child sex offences, drug trafficking and other serious crimes.

See:

<https://www.facebook.com/thesnakevault/posts/pfbid0MqMCDuqSVZ4azQsDidmmRef6mqBzMaRHd9NrJEhsDWASfJ2dK3Fqoc64LPeFPrXI>

Another member of the cohort in Australia was in 2018 found to have raped and assaulted multiple women and children over 1,000 times in civil court proceedings, bragged publicly of the judge's findings against him, filed an appeal and lost that in 2020.

Following this loss 2020 court loss, the same man has more recently got a suppression order on the publication of his name, including removal of details of his crimes and identification of himself from the world wide web and this is exactly why he is not identified here in years 2024/2025.

Wüster gang member David John Williams was convicted and fined \$7500 in Cairns Magistrates Court (Australia) for wildlife trafficking and animal cruelty offences. There is no suppression order on that case and as in the original 2018 matter referred to above, the entire transcript of the case was made public by the relevant court at the relevant time.

David John Williams now masquerades as a snake expert at the "World Health Organization", AKA WHO.

Another gang member, Seth Pywell (of Western Australia), an egregious trademark infringer, con man and scammer, also engaged in serial animal abuse and cruelty was convicted in criminal court of shooting two Australian Aboriginals.

This sums up this gang's real attitude to "coons", "coons" being their word of choice (and an accepted derogatory term), which puts perspective on the false claims of collaboration with Aboriginals in discovering new species as made by Peter McDonald, Aaron Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul Oliver to garner favourable media publicity for their faked discoveries.

See THOMAS -v- MALLARD [2009] WASC 95 (17 April 2009) online at: [https://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/wa/WASC/2009/95.html?context=1;query=seth%20pywell;mask\\_path=](https://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/wa/WASC/2009/95.html?context=1;query=seth%20pywell;mask_path=)

Now for the benefit of readers who may not be aware of the relevant facts, I am in a position to point out the preceding, as I have given more newly named species indigenous Australian Aboriginal names than all other herpetologists on the planet combined!

See the appendix with this paper for some, but not all of them, which in number is enough to prove my point.

Wüster gang member Matthew Gatt a close friend of criminal Caleb Ott, was convicted and fined \$8K in Melbourne Magistrates Court in 2019 after stealing a valuable snake and engaging in egregious animal abuse and cruelty.

See:

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/snake-snatcher-cops-hefty-fine-for-taking-the-python-20190321-p51696.html>

and

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/news-melbourne-court-snake-thief-court-fined/334919a1-bb55-41dc-a883-1ddd4157c6fd> for details.

Wüster gang member Jamie Benbow of Victoria, Australia is one of the most notorious drug traffickers in Australia.

He has spent time in jail for some of his crimes, the various crimes he has committed which includes threats to kill, stalking, harassment,



running over people and of course drug trafficking on a commercial scale.

He has also committed wildlife offences and all the preceding is public record.

Significantly, he quite obviously operates with full corrupt police protection most of the time, so his so-called rap sheet only represents a fraction of what he has done!

See for example

<https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/720360/fined-for-facebook-threat/>

The cohort's members run numerous fake scams and charities raising millions of dollars by conning well-meaning donors. This they have done systematically over the past decade, including running government and research grants frauds, illegal Gofundme campaigns without fundraising permits as required by law in most relevant jurisdictions, rigging business competitions and tax evasion on a massive scale.

Scott Thomson, is notorious for running off from his wife and abandoning her, after she gave birth to a disabled child.

He ended up in South America to avoid paying his now ex-wife any support money for the child and then quite publicly shacked up with a young South American girl whom he allegedly boasted gave "the best head".

Wolfgang Wüster and Mark O'Shea regularly post images of themselves engaging in unlawful and egregious acts of animal abuse and cruelty online in similar manner to that of Adam Britton (now in jail for doing this) and yet seem to be of the view that this is perfectly ok.

Neither Wüster and O'Shea have been charged with any such offences yet as befits a gang of police-protected criminals.

The other crimes of Wüster gang members Mark O'Shea, Hinrich Kaiser, Scott Thomson and others are too extensive to detail here but similar in vein to those above.

While it could be argued that the nonstop criminal actions of Wolfgang Wüster and his gang of thieves has no relevance to their unscientific acts of taxonomic vandalism, I contend that they are incontrovertibly interconnected and their lack of morals in the real world reflect their absence of morals in science as well.

This close and immutable connection between serious and immoral crimes outside of the science of taxonomy and nomenclature and within the science of taxonomy and nomenclature can be seen for example in their repeated tampering with holotype material in museums to facilitate the renaming of previously validly named species as detailed in Hoser (2021, 2023c and 2024d).

None of those papers even get to mention the egregious switching of the holotype of "*Delma wollemi* Wells and Wellington, 1985" for a specimen of another species at the Australian Museum in Sydney! This dishonest act was the precursor to Jodi Rowley, Stephen Mahony and Tim Cutajar, then redescribing "*Delma wollemi*" as "*Delma vescolineata*" in Mahony *et al.* 2022.

It is therefore an inescapable fact that someone with access to the reptile collection at the Australian Museum in Sydney, Australia has engaged in the criminal act of tampering with significant biological and indigenous heritage in breach of Section 86 of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 as well as other State and Federal laws in Australia.

They have also breached Australia's international obligations.

There is perhaps no crime greater in zoology than the egregious tampering with type material that has been lodged in museums for decades, as this action alone can literally annihilate the entire type system of the ICZN and the universal system of scientific nomenclature attached to it.

Without the ICZN nomenclature backbone system functioning properly, the entire discipline of zoology is under threat and likely to fall into chaos.

Mass extinctions of vertebrate taxa is likely to be just one of the outcomes.

Hoser (2024c) details over 100 cases of egregious taxonomic vandalism by the Wolfgang Wüster gang, including over 100 illegally coined synonym names and that list predates the taxonomic vandalism of the two species subject of this paper and other such instances.

That is, this mob of liars and thieves have chosen to fake discoveries of over 100 species, genera and family that other proper scientists have put a huge amount of time and effort into discovering and publishing.

To say Zoology and the ICZN has a serious problem on their hands with the Wolfgang Wüster gang and their unlawful actions is no

understatement

Rather than further detailing egregious actions of the gang, I simply refer readers to Hoser (2021, 2023c and 2024a) and the relevant earlier sources cited therein.

Combined these papers detail dozens of egregious acts of taxonomic vandalism by members of the Wolfgang Wüster gang, with key players in terms of stealing work of others to fraudulently try to rename species and faking scientific discoveries of others as their own include Jodi Rowley, Larry Lee Grismer, Paul Oliver, Con Man Conrad Hoskin, Fred Kraus, Graham Reynolds, Wulf Schleip, Jane Melville, Brad Maryan, Stephen Blair Hedges, Glenn Shea, Aaron Bauer, Travis Thomas, Scott Keogh, Carlos Pavón-Vázquez, Grant Webster, Damien Esquerré and of course Wolfgang Wüster himself.

#### **A NEW SPECIES IN THE SUBGENUS *YANKUNYJTATJARAGECKO* HOSER, 2023**

It is significant and evident from what was written in the paper of Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver in 2024, that the most important part of that paper was simply a rehash of what they had read, cut and pasted from Hoser (2023b).

The species delineations, identification of the relevant biogeographical barriers, estimations of divergences and even the diagnostic characters of the three relevant species were all effectively lifted from Hoser (2023b).

Quite scandalously, the authors even scammed government hand-outs to effectively rehash a perfectly reasonable earlier work and claim credit for it!

As for the claim that they spoke to local Aboriginals about (re) naming the northern species (*D. aah*) as "*tjoritjarinya*", that too is probably false as the Aboriginal name for the relevant ranges was also given in the Hoser (2023b) paper.

At the time Hoser (2023b) was published, I was aware of significant morphological differences between specimens of putative *Diplodactylus aah* from near Alice Springs and those from further west.

However, in the absence of numbers of specimens of each form, these were all treated as *D. aah*, which not surprisingly is what Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver in copying me 2024 also did.

Significantly, since end 2023 and into 2024, I have been able to sight specimens of the more western population (south-west of the main McDonnell Ranges, being south-west of the main Mereene Valley) and am convinced it warrants being formally named as a separate and new species.

This is even though the biogeographic barrier itself is of a relatively small distance.

My reasoning is that specimens on either side of the Mereene Valley are consistently morphologically divergent, implying long separation between the populations.

So I am not accused of doing what Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver (2024) did with respect of myself and Hoser (2023b), I shall note they estimated in their paper of 2024 that the south-west McDonnell Ranges district population diverged from the main McDonnell Ranges district population about 4 MYA.

My estimate, based on the likely geology of the barrier zone, is about half that, but at 2 MYA and with no likely evidence of cross mixing within this period, I have no hesitation in formally naming this taxon as a new species.

#### **MATERIALS, METHODS AND RESULTS**

As for Hoser (2023) within the context of the species formally named herein.

#### **NOTES ABOUT THE FORMAL DESCRIPTION BELOW**

As for Hoser (2023).

Online references cited anywhere in this paper, were checked as valid most recently as of 23 December 2024.

#### ***DIPLODACTYLUS (YANKUNYJTATJARAGECKO) WATDAABSOLUTE FUK SP. NOV.***

**LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:413F2106-346F-4B79-8872-3627BA5076AD**

**Holotype:** A preserved adult male specimen at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, specimen number R40591 collected from the head of Stokes Creek, Wataurka National Park, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -24.28 S., Longitude 131.68 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

**Diagnosis:** *D. watdaabsolutefuk sp. nov.* is similar in most respects to

*D. aah* Hoser, 2023 as described in Hoser (2023), but separated from that species by having spots on the flanks that are tiny and slightly faded as opposed to tiny and not faded. Blotches on the original tail of *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov. tend to join irregularly and more-or-less along the medial line, meaning that the relevant parts are somewhat elongate on the dorsal surface, often obliquely or partially joined, rather than regularly joined symmetrically, making the blotches wide rather than long as seen in *D. aah*.

The four species, *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov., *D. aah*, *D. ooh* Hoser, 2023 and *D. galeatus* Kluge, 1963 are separated from one another as follows: On the flank of the body, *D. galeatus* has obvious large yellow to yellow-white blotches on the upper flank and in some specimens a limited number of faded and scattered yellow spots below, but not extending to the upper flank. By contrast *D. ooh* Hoser, 2023 has medium-sized faded yellow spots on the upper flank with moderately well-defined tiny yellow to yellow white spots below on the lower flank, not extending to the upper flank. *D. aah* Hoser, 2023 and *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov. are readily separated from the other two species by the absence of any large or medium blotches or spots on the upper flank, but instead has numerous well defined tiny yellow or yellow white spots on the flanks (upper and lower), the number of such spots being obvious and far exceeding that seen in the other two species. In terms of *D. aah* and *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov. they are most easily separated from the other two species by the significantly reduced size and width of the four mid dorsal blotches between the fore and hind legs. While they are irregularly shaped and vary between specimens, these blotches are smaller in *D. aah* and *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov. and the distance between the third and fourth blotches is much greater than that of the width of the blotches (measured down the longitudinal line), versus only slightly more in *D. galeatus* or roughly equal in *D. ooh* which invariably has wide (measured longitudinally) dorsal blotches. Both *D. ooh* and *D. galeatus*, which as a pair are more similar to one another than the more divergent *D. aah* and *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov. as a second species pair, are further separated from *D. aah* and *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov. by generally broken black encircling the outer edges of the pale beige coloured body blotches (which in turn sit against the uniform orange background colour). In *D. aah* and *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov. the black is somewhat thickened to more completely encircle the blotches. The four divergent *Diplodactylus* Gray, 1842 species within the subgenus *Yankunyjtjaragecko* Hoser, 2024, being *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov., *D. aah*, *D. ooh* and *D. galeatus*, are separated from all other species within *Diplodactylus sensu lato*, sensu Hoser (2023) (= sensu Cogger 2014), by the following suite of characters:

Average adult size is about 50 mm snout-vent. Length of tail is usually a fraction less than half the snout-vent length or in the alternative, no more than 50% of it (measured on underside from vent in a straight line); there is a dark postocular band that is continuous behind the occipital region; the dorsum has an obvious colour pattern, including four to six largish pale diamond or circular like irregular shapes across the midline of the dorsum against a relatively uniform background colour

ranging from orange to red; white venter; dorsal eyelid is well differentiated; snout rounded; 23 or more interorbitals; mental scale is lanceolate in shape, equal to or only slightly larger than the first infralabial in size; nasal contacts rostral; anterior nasal absent; the 8-10 upper labials are noticeably larger than the adjacent loreals; moderately built body; original tail is more or less round in cross-section, but very slightly flattened anteriorly. Dorsal and flank scales are relatively large, low,

juxtaposed or separated by tiny granules; no preanal pores; 5-8 post-anal tubercles in males (only). Digits are long, narrow and depressed below with a large pair of apical lamellae followed by moderately enlarged lamellae in two groups (modified from Cogger 2014 with additions).

Photos of the relevant species can be found by consulting Hoser (2023) on page 45.

**Distribution:** The species *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov. is found only south-west of the main McDonnell Ranges in central Australia, generally south of the Mereene Valley, being a biogeographical barrier that has increased in sandiness since Australia aridified in the cooling period of the past 4 MYA and presumably becoming an effective barrier to movement of populations of the subgenus of about 2 MYA.

*D. aah* Hoser, 2023 occupies the main central part of the McDonnell Ranges District in central Australia.

*D. ooh* occupies ranges on the South Australian, NT border in the

north-west of South Australia, just entering the very far south of the NT. *D. galeatus* is found further south in central South Australia.

**Etymology:** In October 2024, when speaking on the phone to eminent Australian herpetologist Richard Walter Wells about this taxon and mentioning to him that members of the Wolfgang Wüster gang had unlawfully attempted to rename congeners *D. aah* Hoser, 2023 and *D. ooh* Hoser, 2023 in an act of egregious taxonomic vandalism, he exclaimed “*what the absolute fuck*”.

In line with most herpetologists Wells was completely outraged at what Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver (2024) had done.

To give a congener the scientific name “*what the absolute fuck*” will potentially offend some soft-skinned zoologists and potentially breach the non-mandatory parts of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride et al. 1999).

However, it is appropriate that the egregious conduct of Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver (2024) be held up as an example of bad behaviour of so-called scientists for future generations to learn about and to learn what not to do.

Hence the etymology for this species is a bastardized version of the phrase in the form of *D. watdaabsolutefuk* sp. nov..

This means that while none of the taxonomic vandals are honoured with a scientific name, their despicable actions will in the form of the scientific name herein remain part of the scientific history of Australian herpetofauna and give the relevant authors the notoriety they so desperately sought.

Future scientists will be able to see and recall the actions of the lawbreakers and liars, Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver (2024) with absolute disgust.

PS - If anyone needs proof of the facts that Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver and their cohort are compulsive liars, but that they do also have a sense of humour, then one should take a quick look a few key parts of the group's PRINOOO paper, in which a month later (in November 2024) they knowingly produced a collection of lies to try to rename *Liopholis faaaaaark* Hoser, 2024, named in February 2024 as *Liopholis aputja* Farquhar et al., 2024 in November 2024.

This was done in a PRINOOO paper known as Farquhar et al. (2024). Recall how in their online paper published in October 2024, Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver (2024) said:

“*Following Kaiser et al. (2013), position statements from the Australian Society of Herpetologists (ASH 2016), and in accordance with a large number of active herpetofaunal taxonomists (Wüster et al. 2021), we do not consider selected nomenclatural acts in self-published works after 1 January 2000, even if these may have priority under the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.*”

Of course the notorious creationist Hinrich Kaiser also told everyone that Adam Britton anally raping people's pet dogs was also OK, so there is the logic in quoting “Kaiser et al.” as justification for committing crimes like taxonomic vandalism, which is probably not quite as bad as stealing people's pet dogs to rape them!

But it is particularly relevant to note the “coded” admission in this paper that the authors had stolen the earlier work of Hoser (2024) and without citation or attribution in their paper (in breach of the Australian Copyright Act 1968, right to be cited).

We know this is a coded admission, as the methodology is spelt out explicitly in Kaiser et al. (2013), where he/they overtly tell others to destroy the ICZN and their code, to breach the Copyright laws and refuse to cite the authors that they steal work from.

In the later November 2024 paper, Farquhar et al. (2024) said: “*Following Kaiser et al. (2013), position statements from the Australian Society of herpetologists (ASH 2022) and taxonomy Australia (taxonomy Australia 2024), and in accordance with a large number of active herpetofaunal taxonomists (Wüster et al. 2021), we do not consider selected nomenclatural acts published after 1 January 2000, even if these may have priority under the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.*”

Both times these authors, the alleged (non-existent?) peer reviewers and PRINO “journal” editors conveniently overlooked the 2021 ICZN ruling against their gang (ICZN 2021) and recklessly did not cite this highly relevant ruling either.

The word “Hoser” or direct citation of Hoser (2024) was also not in either of these papers, as per the directive of Kaiser et al. (2013) making them both criminally and civilly liable.

Problem is that the authors, being in the Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves are a cohort of police-protected criminals and unlikely to ever be charged with anything, be it breach of copyright, drug trafficking, wildlife smuggling, animal abuse, grants frauds or posting videos of themselves having anal sex with dogs online.

In spite of these obvious facts, Farquhar *et al.* (2024) had the audacity to state at the end of their PRINO Online paper:

**“Conflict of Interest**

*The authors declare that they do not have any conflict of interest.”*

Really?

#### CONSERVATION

Delays in recognition of this species, *D. watdaabsoluteufuk sp. nov.* could jeopardise the long-term survival of the taxon as outlined by Hoser (2007, 2019a, 2019b) and sources cited therein.

Therefore attempts by taxonomic vandals, pedophiles, serial rapists, animal abusers and wildlife traffickers like the members of the Wolfgang Wüster gang via Kaiser (2012a, 2012b (AKA Wüster 2012), 2013, 2014a, 2014b) and Kaiser *et al.* (2013) (as frequently amended and embellished, e.g. Rhodin *et al.* 2015, Naish 2013, as regularly altered and amended, Thiele *et al.* 2020, Hammer and Thiele 2021, Wüster *et al.* 2021, Foley and Rutter 2020) to unlawfully suppress the recognition of this and other taxa on the basis they have a personal dislike for the person who formally named it/them should be resisted (e.g. Ceriaco *et al.* 2023, Cogger 2014, Dubois *et al.* 2019, Hoser 2001a, Mosyakin 2022 and Wellington 2015).

Claims by the Wüster gang against this paper and the scientific description herein will no doubt be similar in form to those the gang have made previously (see for example Shine 1987), all of which were discredited long ago as outlined by Ceriaco *et al.* (2023), Cogger (2014), Cotton (2014), Dubois *et al.* (2019), Hawkeswood (2021), Hołyński (2020), Hoser, (2001, 2007a-b, 2009, 2012a, 2012b, 2013, 2015a-f, 2019a, 2019b, 2021, 2023a-c, 2024a-d), ICZN (1991, 2001, 2021), Jiménez-Mejías *et al.* (2024), Kok (2023), Mosyakin (2022), Pethigayoda (2023), Wellington (2015), Winkler (2024), Zheng and Gold (2020) and sources cited therein.

In other papers (e.g. Hoser 2013b), but not this, some material within descriptions is repeated to ensure each fully complies with the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999).

If the Australian government persists with its “Big Australia Policy”, (see for example Saunders 2019 or Zaczek 2019), that being a long-term aim to increase the human population in

Australia to over 100 million people by year 2150 (from the 25 million as of 2019), all sorts of unforeseen threats to the survival of this newly named species and other taxa may emerge.

Attempts to engage in acts of scientific fraud to try to rename any of these newly named taxa should be exposed and dealt with appropriately, as was done with David Williams, when in 2001 he attempted to rename and/or claim name authority for the species *Pailsus rossignolii* Hoser, 2000.

He did this in the first instance in 2001, by altering versions of his online “paper” (as seen in Williams and Starkey 1999a, 1999b and 1999c), all of which were different and changed versions of a single paper originally published in the first form in 1999.

The basis of that online “paper” was to formally and without a shred of evidence, refute the existence of the species *Pailsus pailsei* Hoser, 1998 to fraudulently claim the holotype was an underfed King Brown Snake *Cannia australis* (Gray, 1842).

#### POSTSCRIPT – MORE TAXONOMIC VANDALISM BY THE WÜSTER/BRITTON GANG

On 9 November 2024, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, being the State Controlled Media published a news report online at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-11-09/monash-university-scientist-aboriginal-rangers-discover-lizard/104571674>

It was almost a carbon copy of the case of the attempted renaming of *Diplodactylus* (*Yankunytjatjaragecko*) *aah* Hoser, 2023 and *Diplodactylus* (*Yankunytjatjaragecko*) *ooh* Hoser, 2023.

This “news” report by so-called journalists Charmayne Allison and Lara Stimpson lead with the following headline:

**“Monash University scientists, Aboriginal rangers discover lizard species in Central Australian desert”**

Underneath this was an image of a lizard with the caption:

*“The Liopholis aputja is most closely related to the MacDonnell Ranges rock skink of southern Northern Territory. (Supplied: Jules Farquhar)”*

Beneath that in a bolded box was printed in large type:

**“In short:**

**A new species of lizard has been discovered in mountains and**

**ranges in the Central Australian desert.**

**The Liopholis aputja is deeply genetically divergent from its most closely related lizard relatives.**

**Research officer Jules Farquhar says aputja means “of the hills”.**

The story then read (in full):

*“Scientists have worked alongside Aboriginal traditional owners to discover an “exciting” new species of lizard in the Central Australian desert.*

*Monash University researchers recently uncovered the new skink, dubbed the Liopholis aputja.*

*Research officer Jules Farquhar said it was most closely related to the MacDonnell Ranges rock skink of the southern Northern Territory.*

*“But this new lizard is actually found in mountains and ranges much further south of there, in north-west South Australia,” he said.*

*The aputja has some subtle differences in appearance, including “more orange on the face” and a different arrangement of certain scales.*

*But Mr Farquhar said most importantly, the two species were “deeply genetically divergent”.*

*“They’re a different evolutionary lineage,” he said.*

*“So that’s why we consider it another species.”*

*Species discovered the “boring way”*

*Mr Farquhar said there were two ways scientists discovered new species — the “fun” way and the “boring” way.*

*A 2005 paper from fellow Monash researcher David Chapple had revealed a “deep divergence” between skinks in the mountain ranges of southern central NT and South Australia.*

*However, the paper only analysed one sample from each of the ranges.*

*“So we decided to get on a plane and fly up there ... and get more samples,” Mr Farquhar said.*

*The group travelled to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands — a vast, sparsely populated Indigenous region in remote north-west South Australia.*

*There, they worked with traditional owners and rangers to gather samples.*

*Scientists join forces with traditional owners*

*Mr Farquhar said aputja meant “of the hills”.*

*“There’s about 13 members currently in that genus, and there’s a few others in that area, but they all live in the sand plains surrounding the ranges,” he said.*

*“This is actually the only Liopholis that lives up in the hills.”*

*APY Lands traditional owner, Johnathan Lyons, worked closely with the research team, helping them search for the lizard and offering local knowledge, including access to sites.*

*“We travelled about 100 kilometres from Amata community [in the APY Lands] to the bush,” he said.*

*“We had a good time.”*

*He said he was “excited” by the discovery of the new species .*

*“It’s a good one, hey,” he said.”*

Problem was that the entire story was untrue!

Fact is, Raymond Hoser (myself) had been roaming this same area for decades.

Recall the gecko *Diplodactylus ooh* occurs on the exact same hill!

And of course the same species of skink Farquhar was trying to call *Liopholis aputja* had been formally described as *Liopholis faaaaaark* Hoser, 2024 (see Hoser 2024a) almost 12 months prior!

There was no collaboration with tribal aboriginals in terms of discovering the lizard and virtually the entire Farquhar story was false.

The Hoser paper was titled:

Hoser, R. T. 2024. Hiding in plain sight: Yet ten more new species and five new subspecies of skink lizard from mainly southern Australia Scincidae: *Liopholis* and *Flamoscincus*. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 67:44-64. Published 12 February 2024.

LSIDURN:LSID:ZOOBANK.ORG:PUB:37F01C42-C0A4-4CBF-9883-57E1ECDC22D8

Lead author, of the newer paper was a young lizard enthusiast named Jules Farquhar working under the notorious David Chapple at Monash University in Melbourne.

Farquhar was a newly signed up member of the Wüster gang, who published his paper in the despised online journal *Zootoxic* with the incentive from Wolfgang Wüster himself that he would peddle the newer name as correct on all the online reptile databases he controls, including that non ICZN one ostensibly run by Wüster’s good mate Peter Uetz called “The Reptile Database”.

Farquhar’s paper was titled:



Farquhar, J. E., Mulder, J. A., Russell, W., Haines, M. L., Arangu Rangers and Chapple, D. G.  
A new species of rock skink (Scincidae: *Liopholis*) from the central ranges bioregion of arid Australia.  
*Zootaxa* PRINOOO, 5536(1) 153-177.

Now, although we know the Wüster gang often add authors to their papers to "add weight" to their work (See Kaiser 2012b (AKA Wüster 2012), where he/they says exactly this and tells the cohort to do so) the identity of all the (alleged) authors in the online paper of Farquhar *et al.* (2014) is reasonably clear (as in we know who they are meant to be) except for the listed "Arangu Rangers".

Now who exactly is this?

Is this one person, two people, fifty or in fact anyone?

Names please?

How could a journal editor possibly allow such a stupid kind of alleged authorship into its pages?

*Zootaxa* of course and egregiously lacking any form of peer review, *Zootaxa* could have allowed Donald Duck, or ET as an author if it was submitted to them by Farquhar!

More importantly, the Farquhar paper was nothing more than an elaborate bootleg of the Hoser paper published nearly a year prior.

The same diagnostic characters for the exact same species and the same biogeographical and genetic evidence relied upon to split the relevant species from its two nearest relatives, both of which had been used and combined by Hoser (2024a) for the first time.

Now this was no mere coincidence.

It was not a case of Farquhar and his mates accidentally rediscovering something that they did not know Hoser had already discovered.

It was not a case of them inadvertently telling the media and the world that they had discovered a new species.

So, while they were SPAMMING the internet and the media with their amazing (alleged) discovery of a new species of lizard and their feel-good news puffery of collaborating with downtrodden aboriginals dying of radiation-related illnesses in the shadows of the Maralinga Atomic bomb tests and who are otherwise in hiding from brutal racist police bashings, the real story was quite different.

Farquhar, almost certainly writing the paper on his own had simply lifted all the relevant material straight from the paper of Hoser written ten months prior.

Put another way, the Hoser paper had been the template for the later one. There really wasn't any serious research required at all!

We know this, because like Peter J. McDonald, Aaron L. Fenner, Janne Torkkola and Paul M. Oliver wrote in their paper, Farquhar (and his alleged coauthors, including the unspecified "Arangu Rangers") wrote in his ("their") paper:

"Following Kaiser *et al.* (2013), position statements from the Australian Society of herpetologists (Ash 2022) and taxonomy Australia (taxonomy Australia 2024), and in accordance with a large number of active herpetofaunal taxonomists (Wüster *et al.* 2021), we do not consider selected nomenclatural acts published after 1 January 2000, even if these may have priority under the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature."

So while, Jules Farquhar was telling the world's media that he was a great hard working scientist collaborating with downtrodden Aboriginals to make amazing scientific discoveries, he never told them that in his published paper, he had admitted to stealing wholesale the work of Hoser!

So what is the takeaway of all this?

Jules Farquhar is nothing more than a liar and thief.

He is most definitely NOT any kind of scientist in the accepted sense of the term.

Now who got scammed in all this?

Raymond Hoser?

Probably not, as *Liopholis faaaaaark* remains the correct ICZN name for the species.

Monash University?

Definitely.

Their reputation has taken a hiding.

The university now is known for harbouring grants scamming fakers!

And who were the biggest losers?

Probably the mugs who gave Farquhar and his boss David Chapple the cash for a lavish holiday in central Australia.

We know who they are as they are revealed in the back of the paper, where Farquhar (the authors) wrote:

"the project was funded by a grant from the Australian research Council

(Ft200100108; to DgC) and an Australian Friends of tel Aviv university-Monash university (AftAM) research collaboration award (to DgC)"

How much cash did David Chapple get?

This is something that should be found out.

It should also be refunded to those who paid the money as there was no real original research in the PRINO online paper as alleged and it was alleged research that formed the basis of the cash handouts.

And just to make it clear, the correct name for the relevant lizard species is *Liopholis faaaaaark* Hoser, 2024.

Therefore, *Liopholis apujta* Farquhar *et al.* 2024 is merely a junior synonym of *Liopholis faaaaaark* Hoser, 2024 and their name should never be used as correct.

And also I again note the lie by Farquhar and his alleged co-authors in his (their?) end paper statement:

"Conflict of Interest

*The authors declare that they do not have any conflict of interest.*"

Seriously, would the grants providers really have handed over their cash just for a thief to rehash another scientist's work?

#### REFERENCES CITED

- Ceraico, L. M. P., Aescht, E., Ah Yong, S. T., Ballerio, A., Bouchard, P., Bourgoin, T., Dmitriev, D., Evenhius, N., Grygier, M. J., Harvey, M. S., Kottelat, M., Kluge, N., Krell, F. T., Kojima, J., Kullander, S. O., Lucinda, P., Lyal, C. H. C., Pyle, R. L., Rheindt, F. E., Scioscia, C. L., Welter-Schultes, F., Whitmore, D., Yanega, D., Zhang, Z. Q., Zhou, H. Z. and Pape, T. (being a unanimous voice of the ICZN) 2023. Renaming taxa on ethical grounds threatens nomenclatural stability and scientific communication. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 197:283-286.
- Cogger, H. G. 2014. *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*, 7th edition, CSIRO Publishing, Australia:xxx+1033 pp.
- Cotton, T. 2014. Comments on *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (Reptilia, Serpentes, Elapidae): request for confirmation of the availability of the generic name and for the nomenclatural validation of the journal in which it was published (Case 3601; see BZN 70: 234-237, 71: 30-38; 133-135). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 71(3):181-182.
- Dubois, A., Bauer, A. M., Ceriaco, L. M. P., Dusoulier, F., Fretey, T., Lobl, I., Lorvelec, O., Ohler, A., Stopiglia, R. and Aescht, E. 2019. The Linz Zoocode project: a set of new proposals regarding the terminology, the Principles and Rules of zoological nomenclature. First report of activities (2014-2019). *Bionomina* (online), 17:1-111.
- Farquhar, J. E., Mulder, J. A., Russell, W., Haines, M. L., Arangu Rangers and Chapple, D. G. A new species of rock skink (Scincidae: *Liopholis*) from the central ranges bioregion of arid Australia. *Zootaxia* (PRINOOO) 5536(1) 153-177.
- Foley, G. and Rutter, J. 2020. The stench of colonialism mars these bird names. They must be changed. *Washington Post*, 4 August 2020. [Original title: "What Confederate statues and some American bird names have in common."]. <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/08/04/american-bird-names-colonialism-audubon/>> [accessed on 23 July 2022].
- Gray, J. E. 1842. Description of some hitherto unrecorded species of Australian reptiles and batrachians. *Zoological Miscellany* 2:51-57 (Treuttel, Würtz and Co, London, UK).
- Hammer, T. A. and Thiele, K. R. 2021. Proposals to amend Articles 51 and 56 and Division III, to allow the rejection of culturally offensive and inappropriate names. *Taxon* 70(6):1392-1394.
- Hawkeswood, T. J. 2021. Time to end taxonomic vandalism by Wolfgang Wüster *et al.*: The Snakeman, Raymond Hoser's publications are validly published and his names available according to the ICZN: Objective investigation finds Hoser's taxonomic works as scientific best practice and in every relevant case identifies valid entities. *Calodema* 860:1-59.
- Holyński, R. B. 2020. Strict nomenclatural rules or subjective "best taxonomic practices": is the Code a confusing factor? *Procrustomachia: Occasional Papers of the Uncensored Scientists Group* 5(4):61-66.
- Hoser, R. T. 2001. A current assessment of the status of the snakes of the genera *Cannia* and *Pailsus*, including descriptions of three new subspecies from the Northern Territory and Western Australia, Australia. *Boydii: Journal of the Herpetological Association of Queensland* July 2001:26-60.
- Hoser, R. T. 2007a. Wells and Wellington - It's time to bury the hatchet. *Calodema* Supplementary Paper 1:1-9.
- Hoser, R. T. 2007b. Call to outlaw the use of Tongs for catching and handling deadly snakes. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 42(6):92-95.

- Hoser, R. T. 2009. Creationism and contrived science: A review of recent python systematics papers and the resolution of issues of taxonomy and nomenclature. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 2:1-34. (3 February).
- Hoser, R. T. 2012a. Exposing a fraud! *Afronaja* Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009, is a junior synonym of *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009! *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 9 (3 April 2012):1-64.
- Hoser, R. T. 2012b. Robust taxonomy and nomenclature based on good science escapes harsh fact-based criticism but remains unable to escape an attack of lies and deception. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 14:37-64.
- Hoser, R. T. 2013. The science of herpetology is built on evidence, ethics, quality publications and strict compliance with the rules of nomenclature. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 18:2-79.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015a. Dealing with the "truth haters" ... a summary! Introduction to Issues 25 and 26 of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*. Including "A timeline of relevant key publishing and other events relevant to Wolfgang Wüster and his gang of thieves." and a "Synonyms list". *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 25:3-13.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015b. The Wüster gang and their proposed "Taxon Filter": How they are knowingly publishing false information, recklessly engaging in taxonomic vandalism and directly attacking the rules and stability of zoological nomenclature. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 25:14-38.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015c. Best Practices in herpetology: Hinrich Kaiser's claims are unsubstantiated. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 25:39-64.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015d. PRINO (Peer reviewed in name only) journals: When quality control in scientific publications fails. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 26:3-64.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015e. Rhodin *et al.* 2015, Yet more lies, misrepresentations and falsehoods by a band of thieves intent on stealing credit for the scientific works of others. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 27:3-36.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015f. Comments on *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (Reptilia, Serpentes, ELAPIDAE): request for confirmation of the availability of the generic name and for the nomenclatural validation of the journal in which it was published (Case 3601; see *BZN* 70: 234-237; comments *BZN* 71:30-38, 133-135). *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 27:37-54.
- Hoser, R. T. 2019a. 11 new species, 4 new subspecies and a subgenus of Australian Dragon Lizard in the genus *Tympanocryptis* Peters, 1863, with a warning on the conservation status and long-term survival prospects of some newly named taxa. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 39:23-52.
- Hoser, R. T. 2019b. Richard Shine *et al.* (1987), Hinrich Kaiser *et al.* (2013), Jane Melville *et al.* (2018 and 2019): Australian Agamids and how rule breakers, liars, thieves, taxonomic vandals and law-breaking copyright infringers are causing reptile species to become extinct. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 39:53-63.
- Hoser, R. T. 2020. From a putative new taxon to a mutt! Formal descriptions of three new genetically divergent Mountain Pygmy Possums from Victoria and New South Wales closely associated with *Burrumys parvus* Broom, 1896. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 42:3-10.
- Hoser, R. T. 2021. Clawing their way out of synonymy! *Cyrtodactylus* Gray, 1827 *sensu lato*: The overdue break up of a large assemblage of pan-Asian geckos. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 54:1-64.
- Hoser, R. T. 2023a. New taxa within the African snake genus *Dipsadoboa* Günther, 1858. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 62:23-35.
- Hoser, R. T. 2023b. Species diversity seriously under-estimated! 23 new species and 4 new subspecies within the Australian Gecko genus *Diplodactylus* Gray, 1827. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 64:1-64.
- Hoser, R. T. 2023c. A further dismemberment of the skink genus *Sphenomorphus* Fitzinger, 1843 (Squamata: Sauria: Scincomorpha) including the formal descriptions of 22 new genera, 5 new subgenera, 21 new species and 4 new subspecies. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 65:5-50.
- Hoser, R. T. 2024a. Hiding in plain sight: Yet ten more new species and five new subspecies of skink lizard from mainly southern Australia Scincidae: *Liopholis* and *Flamoscincus*. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 67:44-64. Published 12 February 2024.
- Hoser, R. T. 2024b. Dealing with a taxonomic disaster zone, 39 new species and 11 new subspecies within *Ctenotus* Storr, 1964 *sensu lato*. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 68-69:1-128.
- Hoser, R. T. 2024c. Sliding into scientific reality. Taxonomic changes to the Australian skink genus *Lerista* Bell, 1833 *sensu lato*, including the erection of 8 new genera, 19 new species and 5 new subspecies. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 70:1-64.
- Hoser, R. T. 2024d. Taxonomic vandalism by Wolfgang Wüster and his gang of thieves. Yet more illegally coined names by the rule breakers for species and genera previously named according to the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 72:47-63.
- International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) 1991. Decision of the commission. Three works by Richard W. Wells and C. Ross Wellington: proposed suppression for nomenclatural purposes. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 48(4):337-338.
- International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) 2001. Opinion 1970. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 58(1):74. (30 March 2001).
- International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) 2012. Amendment of Articles 8, 9, 10, 21 and 78 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* to expand and refine methods of publication. *Zootaxa* (PRINO) (Online) 3450:1-7.
- International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) 2021. Opinion 2468 (Case 3601) - *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (Reptilia, Serpentes, Elapidae) and *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* issues 1-24: confirmation of availability declined; Appendix A (Code of Ethics): not adopted as a formal criterion for ruling on Cases. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 78 (30 April 2021):42-45.
- Jiménez-Mejías, P. *et al.* 2024. Protecting stable biological nomenclatural systems enables universal communication: A collective international appeal. *BioScience* 2024(0);1-6 (over 1.5 K signed authors including Raymond Hoser and significantly several members of the Wüster gang, thereby abandoning their demands to destroy the ICZN Code and to unlawfully rename taxa).
- Kaiser, H. 2012a. SPAM email sent out to numerous recipients on 5 June 2012.
- Kaiser, H. 2012b. Point of view. Hate article sent as attachment with SPAM email sent out on 5 June 2012 (according to Kaiser in emails sent at the time, copies of which are publicly available, this article was authored by Wolfgang Wüster alone and is often referred to as Wüster 2012, this being essentially the same document as Kaiser *et al.* 2013 as cited herein).
- Kaiser, H. 2013. The Taxon Filter, a novel mechanism designed to facilitate the relationship between taxonomy and nomenclature, vis-à-vis the utility of the Code's Article 81 (the Commission's plenary power). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 70(4) December 2013:293-302.
- Kaiser, H. 2014a. Comments on *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (Reptilia, Serpentes, ELAPIDAE): request for confirmation of the availability of the generic name and for the nomenclatural validation of the journal in which it was published. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, 71(1):30-35.
- Kaiser H. 2014b. Best Practices in Herpetological Taxonomy: Errata and Addenda. *Herpetological Review*, 45(2):257-268.
- Kaiser, H., Crother, B. L., Kelly, C. M. R., Luiselli, L., O'Shea, M., Ota, H., Passos, P., Schleich, W. D. and Wüster, W. 2013. Best practices: In the 21st Century, Taxonomic Decisions in Herpetology are Acceptable Only When supported by a body of Evidence and Published via Peer-Review. *Herpetological Review* 44(1):8-23.
- Kluge, A. G. 1963. Three new species of the gekkonid lizard genus *Diplodactylus* Gray from Australia. *Records of the South Australian Museum* 14:545-553.
- Kok, P. J. R. 2023. Special Issue: a few steps back, several steps forward. *Journal of Vertebrate Biology*. 4 pp. Online at: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/379554802\\_Special\\_Issue\\_a\\_few\\_steps\\_back\\_several\\_steps\\_forward](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/379554802_Special_Issue_a_few_steps_back_several_steps_forward)
- Mahony, S. M., Cutajar, T. and Rowley, J. J. L. 2022. A new species of *Delma* Gray 1831 (Squamata: Pygopodidae) from the Hunter Valley and Liverpool Plains of New South Wales. *Zootaxa* (PRINOOO) 5162(5):541-546.
- McDonald, P. J., Fenner, A. L., Torkkola, J. and Oliver, P. M. 2024. Vicars in the desert: Substrate specialisation and paleo-erosion underpin cryptic speciation in an Australian arid-zone lizard lineage (Diplodactylidae: *Diplodactylus*). *Vertebrate Zoology* (PRINOOO) 74:577-594.
- Mosyakin, S. L. 2022. If "Rhodes-" must fall, who shall fall next? *Taxon* 71:49-255.
- Naish, D. 2013. Taxonomic vandalism and the Raymond Hoser



problem. Blog online at: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/tetrapod-zoology/taxonomic-vandalism-and-hoser/> dated 20 June 2013 downloaded 15 May 2015 (this document is regularly changed and embellished and cross-posted widely in different forms on multiple servers).

Pethigayoda, R. 2023. Policing the scientific lexicon: The new colonialism? *Megatataxa* 10(1):20-25 (PRINO) (Online only).

Rhodin, A. *et al.* (70 listed authors, with some later publishing that they had never read the document they allegedly co-authored) 2015. Comment on *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (Reptilia, Serpentes, Elapidae): request for confirmation of the availability of the generic name and for the nomenclatural validation of the journal in which it was published (Case 3601; see *BZN* 70: 234-237; 71: 30-38, 133-135, 181-182, 252-253). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 72(1):65-78.

Ride, W. D. L. (ed.) *et al.* (on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature) 1999. *International code of Zoological Nomenclature*. The Natural History Museum - Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK.

Saunders, S. 2019. Morrison and Shorten's Big Australia: The overpopulation problem. News article published 17 April 2019 and downloaded from

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/morrison-and-shortens-big-australia-the-overpopulation-problem,12584>

Shine, R. (Cited often as Anonymous) 1987. Case 2531. Three works by Richard W. Wells and C. Ross Wellington: proposed suppression for nomenclatural purposes. (allegedly written by the "President of the Australian Society of Herpetologists", who at the time was Richard Shine, then at University of Sydney, where he remained to about 2018), *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, 44(2):116-121.

Thiele, K. R., Oliver, P. M., Bauer, A. M., Doughty, P., Kraus, F., Rix, M. G. and Kaiser, H. 2020. Case 3824 - A special proposal to suppress certain names under the plenary powers of the Commission. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 77:78 (title only). The full submission to the ICZN was sent out as a SPAM email to thousands of recipients, is a rambling 71-page pdf and is widely available online.

Wellington, R. W. 2015. Comment on the proposed confirmation of the availability of the generic name *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (Reptilia, Serpentes, Elapidae) and for the nomenclatural validation of the journal in which it was published. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 72(3):222-226.

Wells, R. W. and Wellington, C. R. 1985. A classification of the Amphibia and Reptilia of Australia. *Australian Journal of Herpetology Supplementary Series* 1:1-61.

Williams, D. J. and Starkey, B. A. 1999a. 'Comments on the Genus *Pailsus* (Hoser, 1998)', Undated document from the internet site <http://www.uq.edu.au/~ddbfrj/index.html>: 5 pp (note the url) - "Version 1" dated 1 November 1998 (date only at foot of document).

Williams, D. J. and Starkey, B. A. 1999b. 'Comments on the Genus *Pailsus* (Hoser, 1998)', Undated document from the internet site "Kingsnake.com" at: <http://www.Kingsnake.com/toxinology/snakes/taxonomy.html> (note the url) and later "The Venomous Snake Forum" January 29, 2001 at 01:50:13: pp. "Version 2". (Actually published in this altered form in January 2001).

Williams, D. J. and Starkey, B. A. 1999c. 'Comments on the Genus *Pailsus* (Hoser, 1998)', Undated document from the internet site "Kingsnake.com" "The Venomous Snake Forum" January 30, 2001 at 02:12:58:5 at: <http://www.Kingsnake.com/forum/venom/messages/31762.html> (note the url) - Version 3. (Actually published in this altered form in January 2001).

Winkler, K. 2024. The inordinate unpopularity of changing all eponymous bird and other organismal names. *Bionomina* (PRINO) (Online)37:059-069.

Wüster, W., Thomson, S. A., O'Shea, M. and Kaiser, H. 2021. Confronting taxonomic vandalism in biology: conscientious community self-organization can preserve nomenclatural stability. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 133(3):645-670 (PRINO) (online).

Zaczek, Z. 2019. Former PM Kevin Rudd says Australia should drastically increase its population to 50 MILLION to make sure nation can defend itself in the face of threats from China. *Daily Mail* (Australia) (27 November), published online at: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7729689/Kevin-Rudd-says-Australia-increase-population-50-MILLION-defend-China.html>

Zheng, J. and Gold, C. A. 2020. Eponyms are here to stay. *Neurology* 94:257-264.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - NONE

## APPENDIX

For the record, among the dozens of Raymond Hoser named species of reptiles with indigenous Aboriginal names (as of 24 June 2024) are the following taxa:

*Aaah ngandatha* Hoser, 2024  
*Amphibolurus boandikorom* Hoser, 2024  
*Calotella wiradjuri* Hoser, 2023  
*Carlia adina* Hoser, 2024  
*Carlia caitlinmoranae* Hoser, 2024  
*Caudaclara tiwi* Hoser, 2024  
*Ctenotus arabanoo* Hoser, 2024  
*Ctenotus birriwirri* Hoser, 2024  
*Diplodactylus johnpati* Hoser, 2023  
*Diplodactylus wongiorum* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus gudjal* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus yolngu* Hoser, 2023  
*Flamoscincus arerrnteorum* Hoser, 2024  
*Flamoscincus kaprunorum* Hoser, 2024  
*Flamoscincus pitjantjatjaraorum* Hoser, 2024  
*Flamoscincus wiranguorum* Hoser, 2024  
*Flamoscincus yamatjiorum* Hoser, 2024  
*Gaia arerrnte* Hoser, 2024  
*Gaia asgicondi* Hoser, 2024  
*Gaia kunja* Hoser, 2024  
*Gaia pitjantjatjara* Hoser, 2024  
*Kommosagogus goreng* Hoser, 2024  
*Kommosagogus menang* Hoser, 2024  
*Kommosagogus whadjuk* Hoser, 2024  
*Marrunisauria gurindji* Hoser, 2024  
*Marrunisauria ngarinyin* Hoser, 2024  
*Menetia anindilyakwa* Hoser, 2024  
*Menetia bibbulmun* Hoser, 2024  
*Menetia dhuae* Hoser, 2024  
*Menetia dungayi* Hoser, 2024  
*Menetia kullilli* Hoser, 2024  
*Menetia langdoni* Hoser, 2024  
*Menetia tanyadayae* Hoser, 2024  
*Menetia yidinji* Hoser, 2024  
*Tantaloscincus martu* Hoser, 2024  
*Tantaloscincus yinggarda* Hoser, 2024  
 as well as the frog species:  
*Kumanjayiwalkerus kumanjayi* Hoser, 2020

And the following formally named subspecies

*Eremiascincus isolepis jinigudera* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus foresti martu* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus musivus oculorum* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus pallida flavescens* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus intermedius yungman* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus richardsonii djaru* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus richardsonii yindjibarndi* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus richardsonii nyiyarparli* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus richardsonii baiyungu* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus richardsonii ngaanyatjarra* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus richardsonii pindiini* Hoser, 2023  
*Eremiascincus richardsonii wiradjuri* Hoser, 2023  
*Flamoscincus striata yamajorum* Hoser, 2023  
*Morethia obscura wiradjuri* Hoser, 2024  
*Odatria tristis balanggaraorum* Hoser, 2024  
*Odatria tristis bidjaraorum* Hoser, 2024  
*Odatria tristis yankuntjatjaraorum* Hoser, 2024

Except for *Kumanjayiwalkerus kumanjayi* Hoser, 2020 all the other taxon names are various kinds of lizards.