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Robust taxonomy and nomenclature based on good science escapes harsh fact-based criticism, but remains unable to escape an attack of lies and deception.

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ABSTRACT

As anticipated, the taxonomic papers proposing new genera of advanced snakes in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* issues 9-12 received the usual howls of protest from the so-called truth-haters (as they call themselves) identified in Issue 9 (Hoser 2012a).

However in spite of open public invitations to provide evidence in rebuttal of the taxonomic conclusions in more than a dozen papers, not one shred of contrary evidence has been forthcoming.

Herein is a summary of the methodology of attack by Wolfgang Wüster, Mark O'Shea and the other serial critics of all things "Hoser" in the period April to June 2012.

This includes their most recent tactics to force others not to use valid names in accordance with the ICZN's Zoological Code.

Also detailed is a fraudulent attempt to effectively steal naming rights for species, not just from Raymond Hoser, but potentially dozens of other professional herpetologists in what may well go down as the biggest attempt of intellectual property theft in the history of modern Zoology.

Furthermore a clandestine attempt by the truth-haters to dismantle the Zoological Code is publicly exposed for the first time.

Keywords: Taxonomy; evidence; fraud, ICZN; Zoological nomenclature.

INTRODUCTION

In April 2012, I published more than a dozen taxonomic papers in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*, issues 9-12.

These papers provided evidence that served three basic functions.

1 - To rebut with relevant documentation, the false claims made by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009) and repeated later by themselves and others under their control, that the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* had not been published according to the Zoological Code (Ride et. al. 1999), meaning that the many species and genera formally defined and named within were not validly named (Hoser 2012a).

2 - To publish new descriptions of the relevant taxa in the new issues (10-12) to stabilize the nomenclature of the various previously described taxa (Hoser 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2009d, 2009e, 2009f, 2009h) by renaming them all in "as new" descriptions, at the same time as providing documentary proof within each hard copy journal of compliance with the Zoological Code (issues 10-12, cited herein simply as Hoser 2012b). This act was to in effect make prior false statements of non-compliance with the code effectively redundant as the new descriptions also effectively usurped the claim.

3 - To publish descriptions of new taxa (mainly at the genus level) of new snake groups as part of a global audit of the serpents to identify all obvious groups of snakes in need of being reclassified at the genus level and for whom there were no available names. The divisions relied mainly on previously published studies, both morphological and molecular and only involved groups for which evidence in favour of division was overwhelming.

In the case of each of the above, the evidence was laid out clearly.

To rebut the false claims that *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* issues 1-7 were not published as hard copy, receipts for these were published in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* issue 9.

So far, the authors of Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009) have not publicly conceded they were wrong in their paper, even though the evidence of this is obvious.

They have also failed to apologise for their obviously fraudulent and unethical actions in terms of their 2009 publication, which also happened to be in violation of the Zoological Code.

However they have actively removed as best they can, all posts and links on the internet pointing to the journal and paper that exposes their original fraud.

In terms of the act of stabilizing the nomenclature of the earlier described taxa, Wallach, Wüster and Broadley have again adopted the same procedure just outlined.

That is they have actively tried to remove all online and other references to these papers.

In terms of the new descriptions of newly named taxa (for the

first time), which forms the bulk of issues 10-12 of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (AJH), I posted on several major internet chat forums and the like details of the publication in hard copy upon release of each issue.

A month following these posts, links to the online versions of the papers were posted on the web, meaning that most people only gained access to these papers in the month of May 2012, even though all relevant papers had been published a month prior.

On all relevant forums, people were invited to offer any criticisms of the papers and threads ran many pages on many forums.

Some people reposted details of the same publications on other chat forums including non-English speaking reptile forums.

Hence in accordance with the Zoological Code, details of the publications were widely disseminated.

Noting that in terms of the global audit of the world's snakes, I had only taken taxonomic actions on groups of snakes for which the evidence was overwhelming (usually involving both molecular and morphological studies), all of which were properly cited in each paper, I did not expect any contrary evidence to emerge.

However all scientists, myself included, will only support an idea or position while the evidence does, meaning that if and when contrary information were to emerge, I may revise my position.

Criticism of these papers by the truth-haters took the usual form they have employed in the past (see Hoser 2012a). That is name-calling, false claims of "evidence free" descriptions and the like.

The "evidence free" claim is of course a total lie as seen from the evidence within the sources cited at the end of each paper!

EVIDENCE FREE CRITICISMS

It has emerged that the criticisms of the papers has been "evidence free" and "fraudulent".

Of course, the anonymity of internet chat forums and the ability of people like Wüster to post under multiple names allows hate and bullying to go unchecked and without addressing the issues on hand. The issue of course being, were the splits of existing genera actually justified?

In summary, if they were, then the new names should be used.

If the changes were not justified, then obviously the newly proposed names would simply disappear into oblivion as unused synonyms and there would be no need to get too worked up over anything.

In terms of justification of the splits of genera I dissected, my papers were supported by some very robust studies, including that of Pyron et. al. 2011 who wrote: "

"Our phylogeny also suggests paraphyly of many genera (e.g., *Crotalus*, *Enhydris*, *Nerodia*, *Rhadinophis*, *Stenophis*, *Thamnophis*, *Vipera*, *Zamenis*, etc.)"

Within that list, I had in fact split *Crotalus*, *Nerodia*, *Rhadinophis*, *Thamnophis*, *Vipera*, *Zamenis* as well as other groups identified as paraphyletic in their published phylogeny.

There were other similarly robust phylogenies published that supported my taxonomic acts, so I never expected any strong arguments against my position.

However as mentioned in Hoser (2012a), the truth-haters have never been concerned about things like evidence and would argue against anything I say, no matter how ridiculous their position would be.

In May 2012, the inevitable claims surfaced on the internet of "evidence free" descriptions, which while easily refuted by reference to my original papers, are only actually refuted (in the context of the discussion) if the person seeing the false claims actually goes to the papers themselves.

Noting that on internet chat forums, facebook and other online places where these comments were being made, the readers may not see the original papers, I decided to cut and paste relevant sections of phylogenies produced by Pyron, et. al. (2011), Castoe et. al. (2003), Guo et. al. (2011) and others to corroborate my taxonomic judgements.

I even made things easy by marking on these phylogenies where the new generic splits were made.

It is the response to this hard evidence by the truth-haters that effectively showed how devoid they were in terms of sensible arguments against the taxonomy and nomenclature within my relevant papers.

Not once did anyone offer a shred of evidence contrary to the judgements made in more than a dozen papers.

Contrary to the Zoological Code (Appendix A, Section 5), Mark O'Shea and Al Coritz (posting on facebook as "Viperkeeper") posted various bits of hate including some images on their facebook pages effectively lampooning some very good phylogenetic studies.

Those images copied here show the despicable behaviour of these people claiming to be herpetologists.

These images and their posting are of course totally contrary to the ethics recommendations of the ICZN Rules, but as shown in Hoser (2012a) these people have never had any respect for the rules!

Hence by end June 2012, it had emerged that there was no credible evidence contrary to the position taken in any of the taxonomic papers in *AJH* Issues 9-12.

In other words, the general adoption of most if not all the taxonomy and nomenclature within those papers would seem to be inevitable, although as seen for names of genera like *Broghammerus*, Hoser 2004, there would be little doubt that the truth-haters would do all they could to stop people using any "Hoser" names.

To facilitate this, Wüster in particular has used aids such as "Google alerts" enabling him to be made aware of the use of any given keywords anywhere on the internet as soon as they are posted.

Using this sort of facility he was able to harass and stop webmasters from having the word "Broghammerus" on websites for four years to 2008 and has also successfully stopped the use of the various genus names for Rattlesnakes first proposed by myself in early 2009 (Hoser, 2009f).

However the three acts detailed at the beginning of this paper clearly caused alarm to the truth-haters, most probably due to the large number of new names proposed and the fact that the earlier nomenclature had also been effectively stabilized under the code.

Therefore this time they decided to deal with their "problem" of Hoser names in another way.

Before going further, the issue is not the taxonomy behind the nomenclature that is a problem, as it has been shown to be robustly supported by numerous other professional herpetologists.

Instead it is an obsessive hatred of all things "Hoser" by Wolfgang Wüster, Mark O'Shea and the other truth-haters, as well as a secondary desire to steal my research findings to effectively rename the same taxa as they see fit, in exactly the same way Wüster and two others have tried to do with the genus *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009, (Hoser 2009h) (which they tried to rename "*Afronaja*" later in 2009).

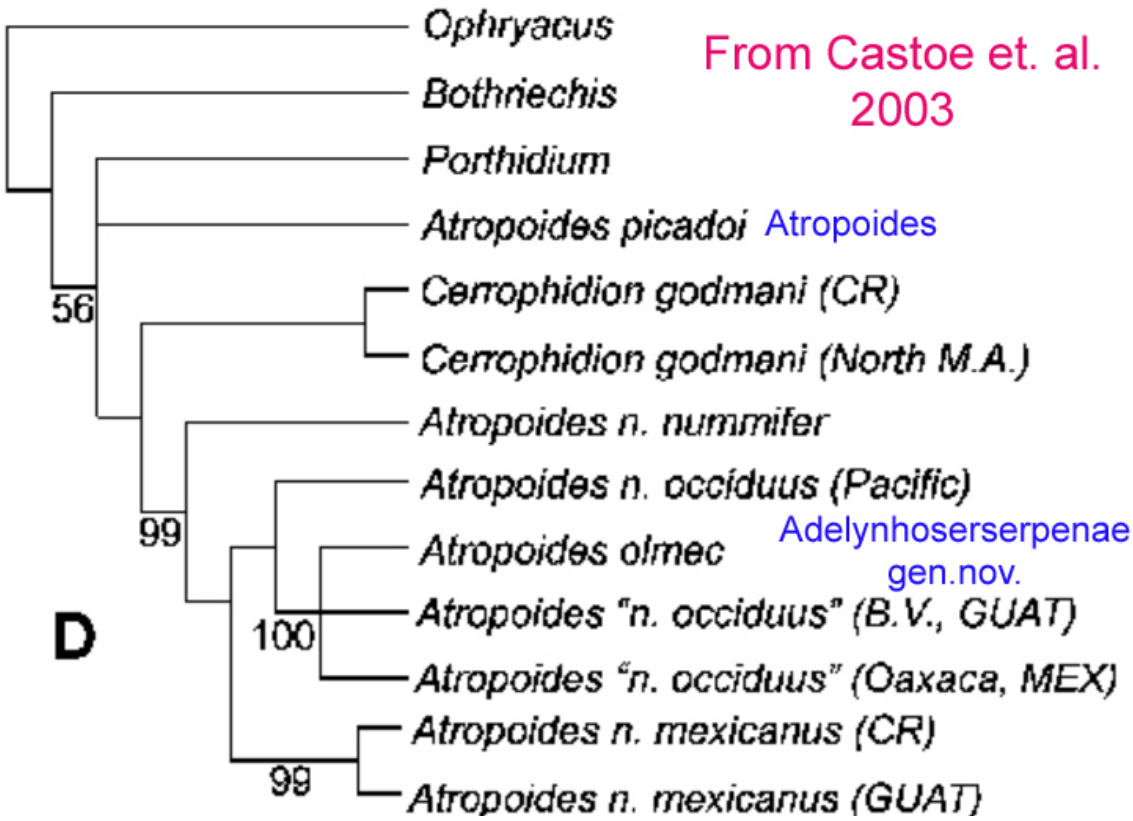
THEFT OF NAMING RIGHTS IN VIOLATION OF THE ZOOLOGICAL CODE

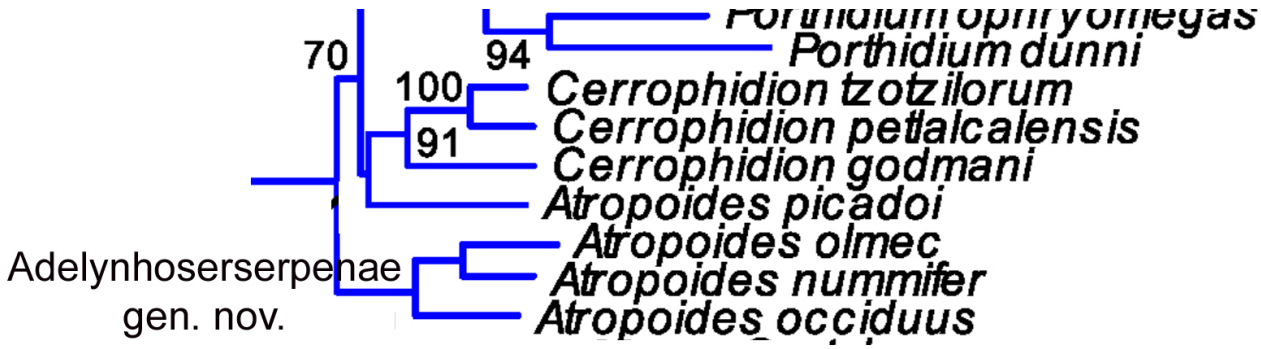
The paper Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009) was widely posted by the authors on the web, so I need not reproduce it here.

That's the fraudulent work they created to try to steal naming rights for the African Spitting Cobras *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009.

However another more recent effort to subvert the Zoological Code by what appears to be the same group of truth-haters is worth copying here as it is not yet publicly available.

Two published phylogenies that support the taxonomic actions of Hoser 2012 in terms of the pre-existing genus *Atropoides*.





Pyron et. al. 2011

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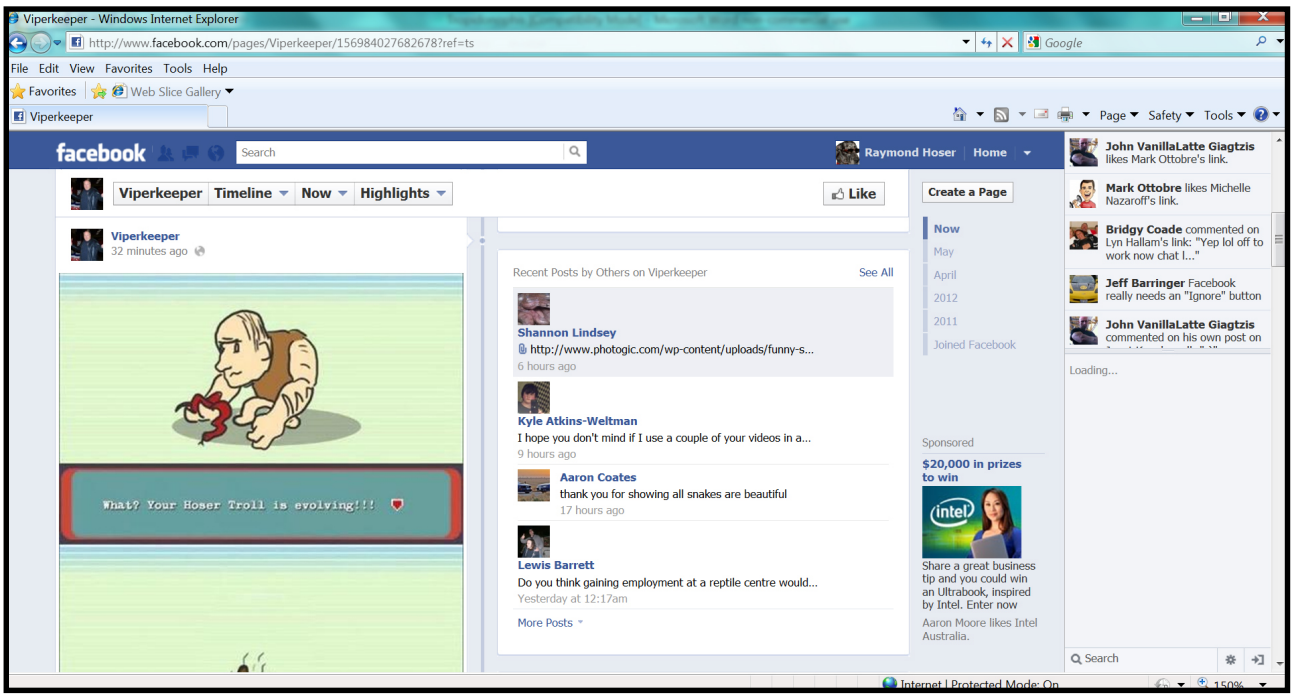
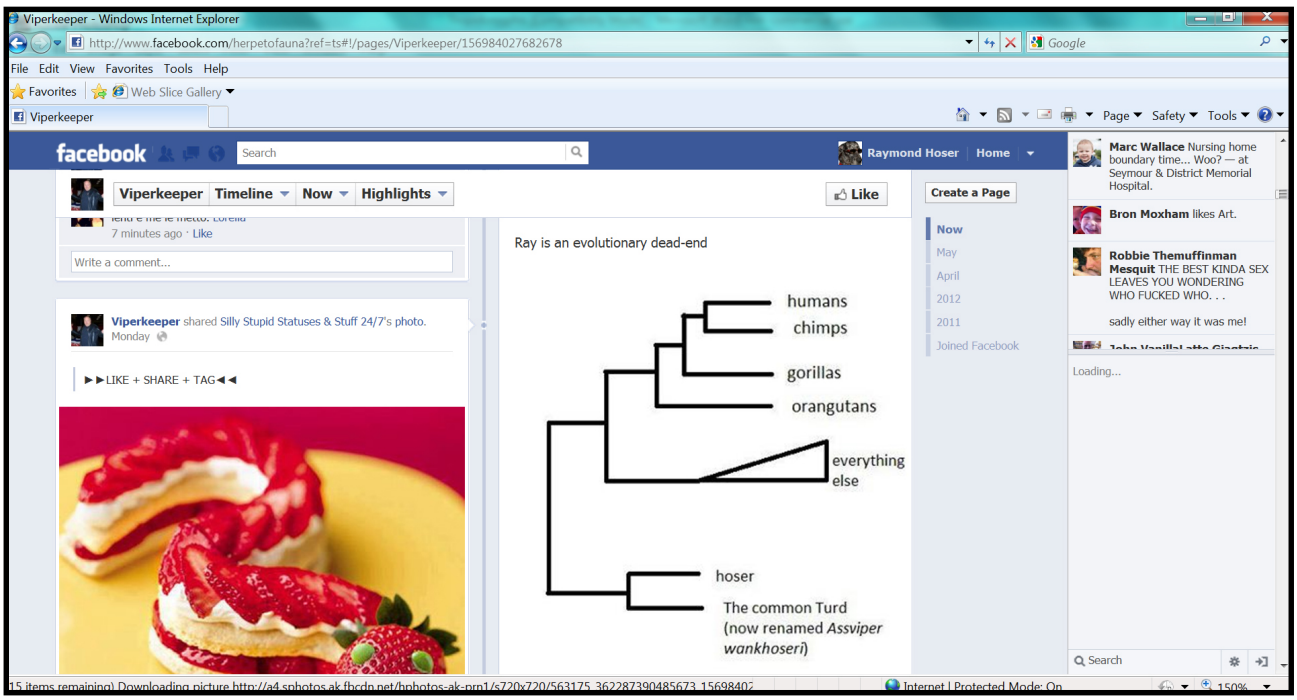
When truth haters have nothing sensible to say in terms of taxonomy, they resort to breaching the Zoological code and posting "hate".





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At the time of writing this paper, the authors of this 2012 piece (cited herein as Kaiser 2012) have not publicly revealed themselves, save for the man e-mailing the material elsewhere (Hinrich Kaiser).

However the forensic trail clearly shows O'Shea and Wüster as being the principal movers and probably authors.

E-mails seeking to answer this question to Kaiser, O'Shea and Wüster have been unanswered.

However as the wording within the new document and claims within match exactly those made against me previously by both men, there is no harm done to either by treating this new document as being authored by them, as the only notable added variable is the widening of their anti-Hoser claims to include the later papers by myself which would be totally expected based on their prior form (the papers cited herein as Hoser 2012b).

In May 2012, posts on facebook in particular contained a number of statements attributed to the two men, which were critical of my papers in *AJH* (issues 9-12).

On 5 June 2012, an obese and little-known academic named Hinrich Kaiser (of e-mail address chalcopis@yahoo.com) sent a SPAM e-mail to an unknown but sizeable number of herpetologists globally, seeking support for a petition effectively calling for a dismantling of the Zoological Code.

That e-mail contained an effective petition by an allegedly anonymous author or authors attacking the allegedly "fraudulent" and "evidence free" papers published by myself in all my publications in the period 2000-2012, including *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* issues 1-12.

The poorly written and highly defamatory rant went on to seek support for a formal ban on the use of all names proposed by myself and others (e.g. Richard Wells, Cris Hagen and Bill McCord) since 2000, as well as at least one name proposed by Laurenti in 1768 and including well over 200 "in use" names in total as part of what appeared to be some kind of "ambit claim" to rename taxa.

This included well-accepted names in common usage such as *Broghammerus* Hoser 2004, *Leiopython hoserae* Hoser 2000 and *Morelia harrisoni* Hoser 2000, (Hoser, 2000) the latter of which according to Google on 22 June 2012, has been used at least 814,000 times on the web alone!

That result would of course be relevant to the ICZN's common-usage arguments.

However it is clear the authors of the petition were seeking a long-term aim to subvert all "Hoser names" and others, by planning to use lack of common usage as an argument against them at a later stage, including perhaps ultimately via a petition to the ICZN, which is outlined in their "call to action".

The article e-mailed, that I call here a petition, was according to Hinrich Kaiser "put together by an international group of seven respected herpetological taxonomists", but whom these persons were he has steadfastly refused to identify, and this is in spite of several requests.

As recently as 24 June 2012, in reply e-mails to Bill McCord, Kaiser refused to identify the authors of the scandalous document.

However a brief forensic analysis of the electronic trail, including Hinrich Kaiser's own facebook page showed the source of the drafting of the (at this stage ostensibly anonymous) petition to include Mark O'Shea and Wolfgang Wüster, both of whom were also listed among Hinrich Kaiser's very small number of facebook "friends".

In the case of O'Shea, a similar "complaint" was posted by him on the facebook page at:

http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Daily-Reptile-News/123173187727554 on 17 May 2012, (O'Shea 2012) still online as of 25 June 2012, indicating his authorship involvement of the document posted widely by Kaiser.

O'Shea made the complaint on facebook that I, Raymond Hoser had named too many species, thereby allegedly depriving others of naming rights. Noting my current total stands at dozens as opposed to the thousands of taxa named by the likes of George Boulenger, John Gray and others the complaint lacks both a valid target or merit.

O'Shea also whinged that some 13 species or genera had the word "Hoser" in their names somewhere, claiming it was some sort of crime. Again, this number pales into insignificance against taxa with for example the "Boulenger" name, showing the grievances aired by O'Shea are fuelled by hatred and mailice as opposed to any sensible scientific or procedural arguments.

Reversing earlier false complaints of Wüster, including of course Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009), this most recent petition complained that all my papers complied with the Zoological Code (Ride et. al. 2009) which they had this time claimed was itself now the problem.

Because they complained I had named too many taxa, they wanted a formal, legally binding ban on the use of any names I had proposed since 2000 so that they could then rename the same organisms as they saw fit and after their own friends and the like.

Such overt scientific censorship would be against the rules of the ICZN, which Wüster in particular has held in contempt for many years.

However it is appropriate that in the light of this recent action to attack my papers and those of other reputable herpetologists that I should make these actions known.

In terms of this most recent attack, the 22 page (as sent), 6,398 word attack (or the second document, a lengthy appendix of over 200 taxa that they seek to rename as they see fit) does not mention in any way the fraudulent actions of the same authors or associates (Wallach, Wüster and Broadley; David John Williams; Bryan Fry; Wulf Schleip) to date as detailed in Hoser (2012).

The complaints against my papers are generally false and baseless and are perhaps encapsulated in the heading of the attack, which reads:

"Taxonomic Decisions in Herpetology are Acceptable Only When Produced Ethically and Supported by a Body of Evidence Accumulated via the Scientific Method."

The inference of the heading and the rest of the rant, are that my own papers are "lacking evidence" or somehow lack ethics.

The claim is false, but if it were true, wouldn't be worthy of comment on their own because it would simply mean that the taxonomic conclusions within the papers would in effect be ignored by others and no one else would attempt to split the reptile groups in the way I have.

Of course the reality is quite different. As already mentioned, all the taxonomic and nomenclatural actions in my papers were made on the basis of robust and tested phylogenies published by eminent herpetologists such as Sam McDowell, Alexander Pyron and others, as well as further phylogenies produced post publication of my papers, including those of Rawlings, Rabosky, Donnellan, and Hutchinson, (2008) which confirmed my generic naming and placements of four years prior (Hoser, 2004).

In the case of the latter authors and others since, none of them would have used the name *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004 had there been no evidence to support the idea or that my papers had been either fraudulent or lacked evidence.

Science is obviously evidence-based and so it should be and it is only on that basis that all my descriptions have been published.

Then of course, four independent peer reviewers of every paper seen in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* also agreed that the taxonomic conclusions within them stood up to the most robust of scrutiny.

The number, (4), is notable in itself as this is double the number

of reviewers used by most other "peer reviewed" journals.

By obvious extrapolation and noting that the papers published in the June/July 2012 issues of *AJH* are the last of the global audit of snakes conducted to see if any obvious new genera needed to be erected to accommodate divergent species, it can be reasonably concluded that a lack of evidence in terms of the other groups not broken up by myself or pre-existing available names was why they were not split.

If and when compelling evidence emerges in terms of the groups I have not divided, they may also be broken up, but I would assume until then, their taxonomy and nomenclature will remain stable.

Facing up to this reality, the authors Mark O'Shea and Wolfgang Wüster and the (alleged) others, have sought to have a ruling made by a band of rogue herpetologists formally stopping anyone from using the "Hoser" names and thereby allowing them the right to rename them all.

As I said before, they seek to do this in much the same manner that they have attempted with the Cobra genus *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009.

However this time they go further, by outlandishly demanding criminal sanctions against myself and the other authors they attack, as well as a formal overriding of the Zoological Code (page 9 of their original MS Word document, last five lines).

The actions by these men is scandalous in the extreme and they should be publicly exposed for them.

By way of example, could anyone seriously consider some sort of attempt to suppress all Boulenger's 500+ reptile species descriptions just so that some disgruntled person who "missed out" could place their names on the same taxa?

More significantly and in a clear revelation of the contempt for the Zoological Code by Mark O'Shea, Wolfgang Wüster, Hinrich Kaiser and the others associated with this "petition" the false accusations within this article include fabrication of evidence, fraud and more and go further than just these sorts of false claims on myself.

In the list of taxa they seek to rename, Mark O'Shea and Wolfgang Wüster and the (alleged) others have added the works of three other herpetologists, most notably, Richard Wells and Bill McCord. Again a scandalous attempt is made to steal "naming rights" over well established taxa with names now commonly in usage.

In the case of Bill McCord, a respected veterinary surgeon based in New York, these authors have now made the false claim to a global audience that he is a high-level international wildlife trafficker putting the world's biodiversity at risk, as well as the general ambit claims of fraud, fabrication and evidence free descriptions.

While Bill McCord has denied the smuggling allegations and I accept this denial in the absence of evidence to the contrary by the "evidence free" rant, I can with greater authority refer to his allegedly "evidence free" papers that Kaiser's anonymous authors seek to suppress.

One of these McCord et. al. (2007), is republished on the internet at: http://www.iucn-tftsg.org/

wp-content/uploads/file/Articles/McCord_etal_2007a.pdf

and by any objective analysis has plenty of evidence to support the taxonomic position arrived at by the authors.

In this case it was a description of a new "Snakeneck Turtle" from Timor.

Furthermore, Gerald Kuchling and three other "experts" on the same subject published another paper effectively confirming McCord's taxonomic findings the same year (Kuchling, et. al. 2007).

Even if a reader fails to agree with the author's taxonomic position, such disagreement hardly requires formal banning of the work and threatening criminal sanctions against either the author or anyone else who chooses to use his names.

I should also add, that there is no question whatsoever that the original publication complies with the Zoological Code (Ride et. al. 1999), although Wallach, Wüster (in particular) and Broadley may again try to make the totally false claim the hard copy doesn't exist and that as an "online publication" it isn't validly published as they did with all publications in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* Issues 1-7; see Wüster and Bernils (2011) for one of countless such examples.

As to why the Bill McCord papers drew the ire of O'Shea and Kaiser, one doesn't need to look too far. O'Shea and Kaiser conned the new East Timor Government to use their reptile photos for a series of postage stamps, including one of McCord's newly named tortoise, a species Kaiser himself would no doubt seek to rename, perhaps even after his mate Mark O'Shea.

The evidence for all this is on Mark O'Shea's website at:

http://www.markoshea.info/gifts_raotl.php

where O'Shea also poses with the "killer snake tongs" he actively promotes (O'Shea 2010).

Notably Kaiser conceded to McCord at end June 2012, that he knew at all materially relevant times that the adverse claims against McCord were totally false and fabricated.

But this fact didn't stop Kaiser from sending it via SPAM email to a global audience of peers.

The call to action in this recent petition seeks additions of taxa to be renamed by this band of misfits and based on its original and unedited contents includes the Laurenti named genus *Caudisona* (see page 8, paragraph "1"), thereby in effect putting any of the many thousands of already recognized reptile taxa names at risk of being re-named by these misfits, which would effectively trash a sizeable portion of the global herpetological nomenclature!

In his covering e-mail dated 5 June 2012 for what was in effect a globally disseminated call to arms against the established rules of zoological nomenclature, Hinrich Kaiser wrote:

"send us your comments, and let us know whether we may include your name as a supporter (in Appendix 2) or even as a co-author",

stating he would be sending the article to *Herpetological Review* for publication.

However an email sent to myself on 20 June 2012 and another to Richard Wells the following day by the editor of *Herpetological Review* stated that this article would not be published by them (Hansen 2012a, 2012b).

The so-called petition by Mark O'Shea and Wolfgang Wüster and their band of misfits is in effect a piece of online hate and in itself a direct violation of the Zoological Code of Ethics (Appendix A, Section 5), but noting that these men have effectively now waged a war on this code and all the stability and common-sense it stands for, their actions are not surprising.

Even more disturbing is that the document sent by Hinrich Kaiser of e-mail address chalcopis@yahoo.com is a draft copy I was not supposed to see.

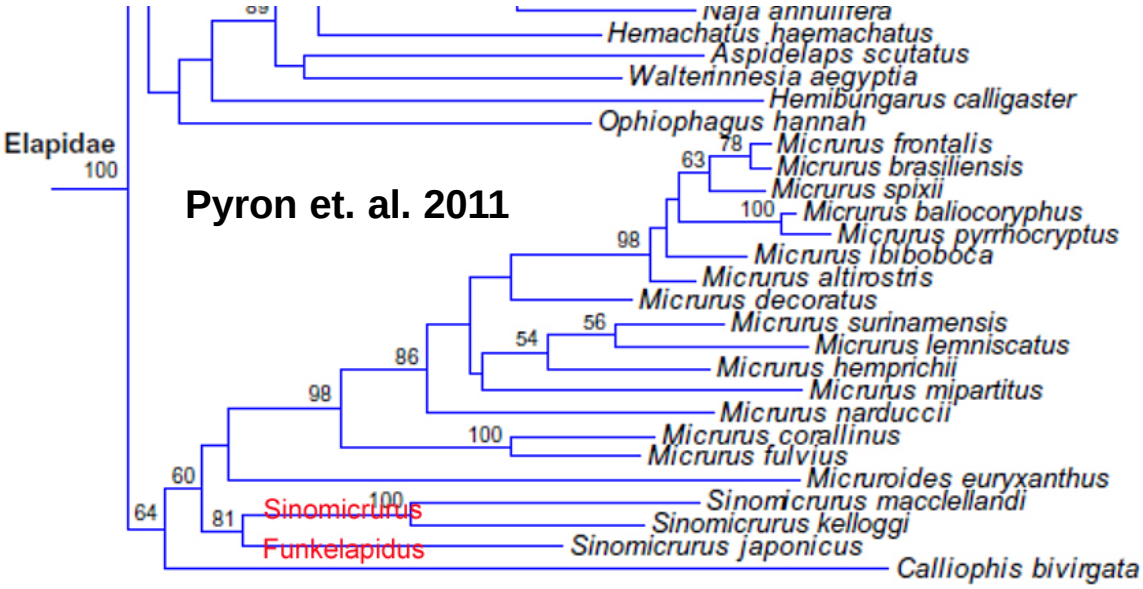
Noting that I am the prime subject of the raft of false claims being made, one would have thought that as matter of scientific rigor and procedural fairness, I'd have been the first to be contacted in terms of the claims so as to allow me the right to either confirm or rebut the contents.

The failure of Hinrich Kaiser and his band of misfits to follow this most basic of procedure reflects adversely on any scientific or moral credibility they may have previously had.

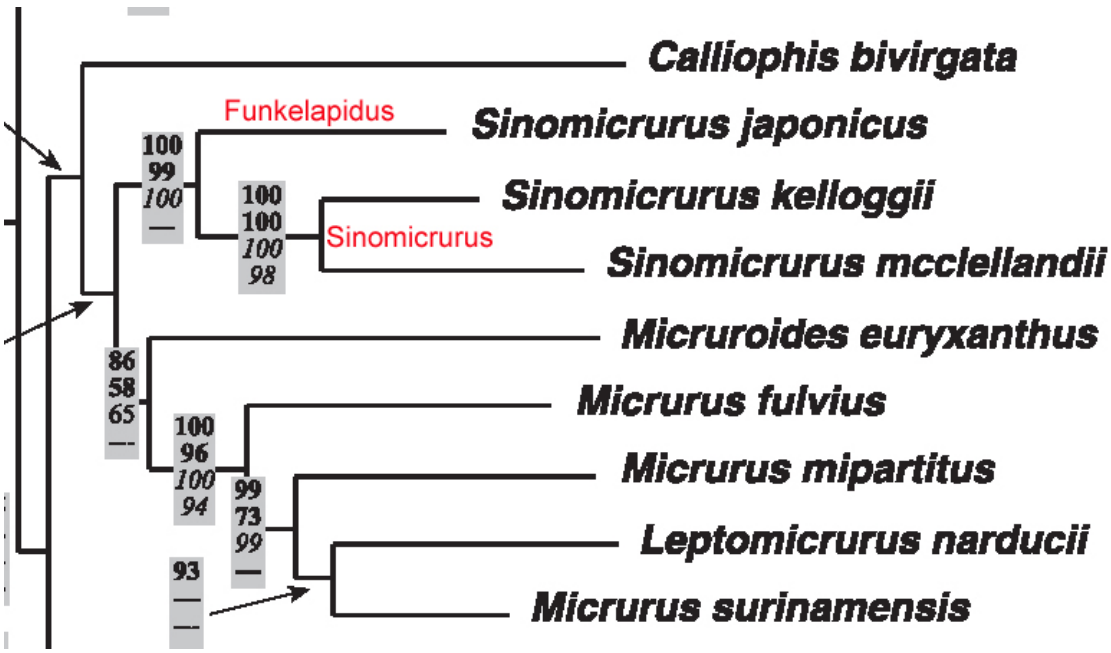
Hinrich Kaiser's own lack of ethics is further shown in the sequence of events following my own obtaining of this hateful rant.

Both myself and Richard Wells e-mailed Kaiser on 20 June, as did McCord. Kaiser chose to reply to McCord but not answering

Two published phylogenies that support the taxonomic actions of Hoser 2012 in terms of the pre-existing genus *Sinomicrurus*.



Pyron et. al. 2011



A second phylogeny, similar to Slowinski et. al. 2011, from a third paper.

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the questions McCord had put.

He chose not to respond to the e-mails from myself or Wells.

I merely asked Kaiser for an original of the documents, as well as for the names of the seven alleged herpetologists. That was the totality of my request.

Wells asked similar questions.

That Kaiser is willing to circulate such unmitigated rubbish in such a clandestine way and by deliberate avoidance of basic fact checking and the like, shows his own complete contempt for the scientific method of establishing truth.

THE SPECIFIC CLAIMS

In terms of the hateful document by the truth-haters my first instinct was to ignore it in total.

The document simply had no merit whatsoever!

These people hate the truth, so shoving it in their face publicly to correct their lies actually achieves very little.

They don't come out and say "sorry for defaming you".

In the period 1998 to present, the behavior of Wüster in particular has become well-known and apologies for getting things wrong don't ever come from him!

However, failure by myself to rebut in print the false claims by the truth-haters has in the past been treated by them as "proof" their claims against me are true.

The best example of this was when I delayed rebutting the false claims by Wallach, Wüster and Broadly (2009) due to the fact that I was a long way from home doing educational snake shows and this was treated by them as proof their false claims had merit.

Hence I have chosen to publish a response herein to these latest false allegations, lest I be accused of endorsing their warped ideas.

The claims made against me are made within a great deal of diatribe and "padding" repeating the general unsubstantiated claims all my papers are fraudulent, contain fabricated evidence or are "evidence free" intersperced with other claims against me that effectively contradict the main ones, including that my papers have evidence "lifted" from other people's papers and this is somehow a problem.

The claims made are herein summarized and my appropriate responses given below:

"Australian reptile keeper Raymond Hoser".

The inference is that a person who keeps live reptiles is unsuitable to publish taxonomic papers. This is rejected in the first instance. Would the truth-haters prefer someone with no experience with reptiles to publish papers on reptile taxonomy?

Secondly and the authors are well aware of this, my involvement and expertise with reptiles goes way beyond being a mere "keeper" or some other person's who's expertise is no more than cleaning feces from a cage.

"the deliberate scooping of other authors known to be working on the same taxon (discussed by Aplin 1999 and Wüster et al. 2001),"

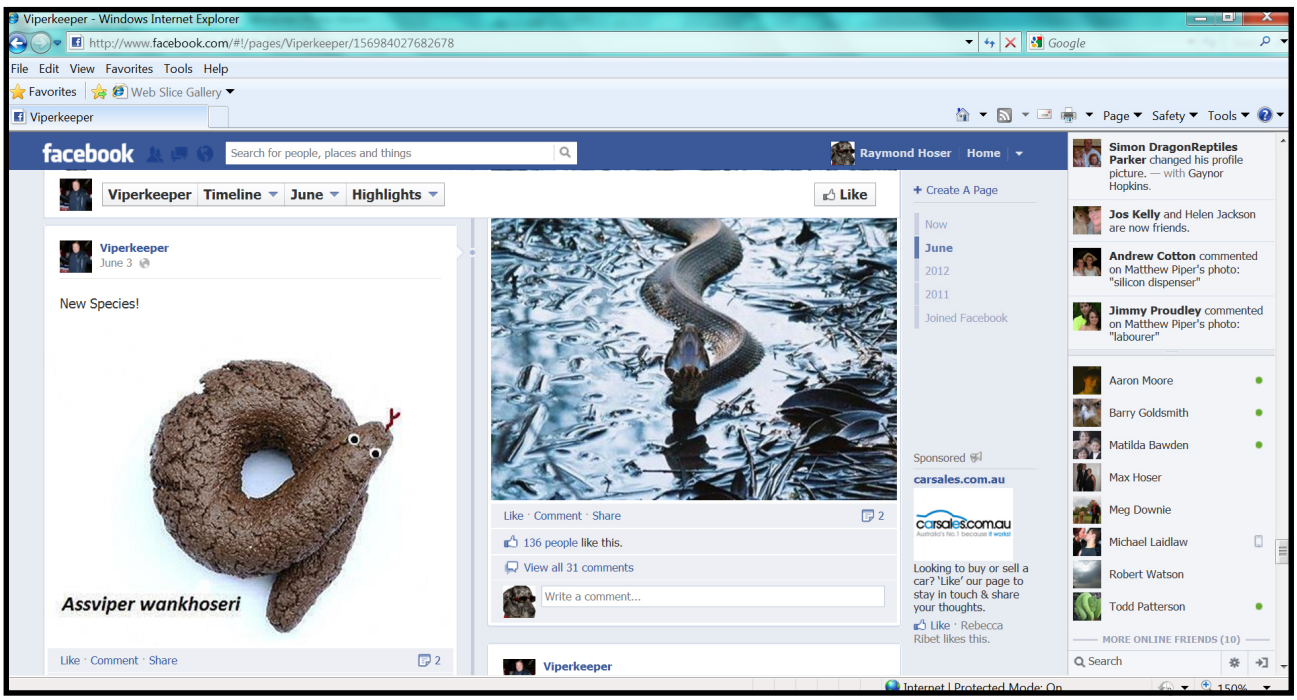
The claims are false.

Aplin (2009) (as cited) never claimed I knowingly stole other people's work. Wüster (2001) made this false claim and it has been shown to be false several times since including by Hoser (2012a).

"the invention of evidence, such as claimed mitochondrial DNA data when no laboratory work had been carried out (Williams et al. 2006)"

Another false claim. The citation to a fraudulent paper by convicted serial wildlife smuggler David John Williams of 2006 does not make the lie true. If the claim of fabrication of mitochondrial evidence is to be peddled, it should be against those who published the papers I have cited, such as Pyron et. al., Guo, et. al., Castoe et. al. and others.

In relation to false claims of mitochondrial evidence, I should



Because serial trolls have no common sense arguments, they resort to abuse, in yet more violations of the Zoological Code.

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also mention that truth-hater Wulf Schleip made a false claim of possessing mitochondrial evidence to justify his erection of three new species of *Leiopython* in New Guinea in the abstract for the relevant paper, but a reading of the full paper showed he had no such mitochondrial evidence and none even existed! (see Schleip 2008).

In summary truth-hater Wulf Schleip created taxonomic confusion by erecting three species for which he did not have a shred of evidence!

Hoser has named taxa without evidence

This has been rebutted earlier.

Hoser has engaged in "the mass-harvesting of clades with potential for naming as genera from published phylogenetic studies"

To the extent that all snakes were subjected to audit, the claim has a factual basis and is true and correct! I also note my "mass-harvesting of clades with potential for naming as genera from published phylogenetic studies" implies there was in fact evidence to support my taxonomic actions.

This makes the other "evidence free" claims against my descriptions false.

Furthermore all taxonomic reviews do as matter of course look for obviously unnamed species or groups and names them if and when found. Mine was not the first such audit and will not be the last, whether in terms of snakes or any other higher vertebrates.

"all names are patronyms"

This is broadly correct and no apology is required.

A patronym is a scientific name after a person or thing (like a pet dog), as opposed to one describing the animal in some way, usually using the dead language Latin.

There are several sensible reasons for this. Firstly and most importantly the Zoological Code allows this. Secondly the practice is widespread, acceptable and effectively a standard in modern zoology. It is not as if I am somehow a renegade in using patronyms. Thirdly, the alternative is naming via a Latinized description of the taxon. The only benefit of this course of action is on the presumption that the reader knows and understands the dead language Latin. Outside of the taxonomist community, most people on the planet have no understanding of Latin. More significant is the rule of homonymity; that is no two organisms can have the same scientific name. When the Linnean system of nomenclature was devised there was little conflict in terms of names as the total number of described species taxa was only numbered in the few thousand. Now with an estimated million or more metazoan organisms formally named it has become nearly impossible to coin a descriptive Latin name for a taxon without finding it already occupied by another organism.

In fact I even found difficulty assigning some patronyms on the basis of prior occupation by another organism or group, meaning some were simply not used.

I also note that running an argument against a person's taxonomy or nomenclature on the alleged basis of use of patronyms shows how devoid of merit their case really is!

PS The complaint about naming more than one species after a given person also lacks merit.

Here's a few examples from the many thousands of patronyms in use: *Boiga wallachi* Das, 1998, *Leptotyphlops broadleyi* Wallach and Hahn, 1997, *Nothophryne broadleyi* Poynton, 1963, *Elapsoidea broadleyi* Jakobsen, 1997, *Leptopelis broadleyi* Poynton, 1985, *Dipsadoboa broadleyi* Rasmussen, 1989, *Atheris Broadleyi* Lawson, 1999, *Platysaurus broadleyi* Branch and Whiting, 1997, *Pelusios broadleyi* Bour, 1986, *Lygodactylus broadleyi* Pasteur, 1995, *Ptychadena broadleyi* Stevens, 1972 (has anyone yet suggested banning naming things after Donald Broadley?) or *Oedura coggeri* Bustard, 1966; *Oxydactyla coggeri* Richards and Menzies, 2004; *Ctenotus coggeri* Sadlier, 2005; *Hydrophis coggeri* Kharin, 1984; *Emoia coggeri* Brown, 1991; *Lampropholis coggeri* Ingram, 1991; *Geomyersia coggeri* Greer, 1992; *Mixophyes coggeri* McDonald, Richards and Alfred, 2008 (has anyone yet suggested banning naming things after Hal Cogger?) or *Rhynchophis boulengeri* Mocquard, 1897; *Neolamprologus boulengeri* (Steindachner, 1909); *Cylindrophis boulengeri* Roux, 1911; *Mantidactylus boulengeri* (Methuen, 1920); *Hynobius boulengeri* (Thompson, 1912); *Atelopus boulengeri* Peracca, 1904; *Cryptobatrachus boulengeri* Ruthven, 1916; *Scinax boulengeri* (Cope, 1887); *Morethia boulengeri* (Ogilby, 1890); *Scutiger boulengeri* (Bedriaga, 1898); *Pseudepidalea boulengeri* (Lataste, 1879); *Gephyromantis boulengeri* Methuen, 1919; *Cornufer boulengeri* Boettger, 1892; *Epipedobates boulengeri* (Barbour, 1909); *Amblycephalus boulengeri* Angel, 1920; *Liolaemus boulengeri* Koslowsky, 1896; *Lepidiolamprologus boulengeri* (Steindachner, 1909); *Bryconaethiops boulengeri* Pellegrin, 1900; *Trachyboa boulengeri* Peracca, 1910; *Lamprologus boulengeri* (Steindachner, 1909); *Boulengerinia* Dollo, 1886 and many other *boulengeri* species noting that no one ever suggested too many were named after Mr. George Boulenger!

Or if scraping the bottom of the barrel, *Elseya irwini* Cann, 1997 and *Crikey steveirwini* Stanisic, 2009, both named in honour of Steve Irwin, who ripped off the original Crocodile Hunter Mick Pitman's trademark name "The Crocodile Hunter" and then made a fortune in unspeakable acts of animal cruelty that was broadcast on international TV.

"Without exception, Hoser's taxonomic decisions were published in outlets whose evaluation processes, if they exist, are not designed to safeguard scientific rigor."

The claim is rejected. All *AJH* papers were reviewed by at least four qualified persons.

Other papers I have published that are subject to the same ambit claim by the truth-haters are in peer reviewed journals over which I had no editorial control or influence.

Secondly, if the papers and the actions within fail scientific rigor (as falsely alleged), then the taxonomic conclusions and nomenclature will never be used. That would be the end of the matter and is how the content of the many thousands of papers lacking merit published over the past 200 years in the peer reviewed literature have ended up.

There has never been the need for a campaign to invoke criminal sanctions on people who choose to use valid scientific names!

However, assuming the recent "Hoser" papers have scientific rigor, then the taxonomy used within will come into general usage. This is what the truth-haters know and fear!

"the stated goal (e.g., Hoser 2012f:3, 2012i:45) to fulfill the minimal requirements of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature"

This quote is taken out of context. The quote is made in the context of advising truth-haters not to make false claims that the journals don't comply with the code so that they can destabilize the nomenclature in violation of the Zoological Code, exactly as Wallach, Wüster and Broadly (2009) did!

"In the case of each taxonomic decision a trail of evidence is either lacking, fabricated, or lifted from others,"

The first two claims are rejected. The third is entirely true when relevant! Reliance on other people's data when making taxonomic decisions is entirely appropriate in many cases and I make no apologies for this. Failure to rely on important relevant studies when making taxonomic judgements would be negligent and reckless and that is not how I operate.

I note that in the ambit claim in the passage above, there is no evidence to support the first two false allegations.

I also note that the claim I have "lifted from others" implicitly states that there must have been evidence to lift, thereby refuting a central claim against my papers!

"Hoser has also shown his unwillingness and inability to engage in a mature scientific discourse"

The claim is totally false, but does accurately reflect the position of the truth-haters Wüster, O'Shea and most notably Kaiser himself, who has refused to answer e-mails from two of three targets of his rant that contacted him.

Hoser (2012) constitutes a proper response to a decades worth of lies and abuse from truth-haters Wüster, O'Shea, Williams and Schleip.

In terms of mature scientific discourse, I note the widely posted images I lifted from the facebook page of Wüster's close friend Al Coritz (republished here), in breach of the Zoological Code.

"he has repeatedly failed to take up offers to respond to criticism of his publications in the same journals that published this criticism (Hoser 2012a; van Aken and van der Voort 2001)."

The claim is false. The references cited contradict the claim attributed to them!

"scientists know to exercise care and caution in order to properly judge the merits of the material they choose to incorporate into a study."

Agreed!

That's why as a scientist I incorporated the various studies cited in each paper. If I had made an error of scientific judgement in terms of reliance on studies cited, the truth-haters should have addressed this instead of raising unspecified and false claims against me.

In tacit agreement with my actual methodology (as opposed to false claims) the truth-haters wrote: "These two lines of evidence are required for taxonomic investigations. They act as a base for further research, so later work does not have to begin the evidence-collection process *de novo*." and then "The third line of evidence is the existing scientific literature", which I have apparently committed the "crime" of relying on to support my own conclusions.

"For instance, Hoser's (2009c) reclassification of the rattlesnakes, widely ignored everywhere else, led to the Sociedade Brasileira de Herpetologia changing the name of the neotropical rattlesnake in the *Lista Brasileira de Répteis* from the universally accepted *Crotalus durissus* to *Caudisona durissa* as part of its efforts to maintain a neutral stance, with the result that both names are now circulating in parallel in the Brazilian literature (Wüster and Bérnils 2011)."

The above claims failed to mention that the Hoser rattlesnake reclassification was not "ignored" after publication. In fact the contrary was true, the names appearing widely in third party publications as well as on the CNAH website, with site owner Joseph Collins being a vocal supporter of my rattlesnake taxonomy (Hoser 2009g, Hoser 2012a, p. 53 for the facsimile of an incoming e-mail by Joseph Collins).

However after Wallach, Wüster and Broadly (2009) falsely alleged that the names were not validly published under the Zoological Code, widespread usage of the names was effectively stopped due to the deliberate confusion they created in violation of the Zoological Code.

By the way, *Caudisona* is not a "Hoser name". It is in fact a Laurenti name from 1768, so it is even more disturbing that the truth-haters seek to stop use of a valid scientific name with a pedigree in excess of 240 years!

The fact the truth-haters seek to stop use of a 240 year-old name is mentioned in the context of the final demand of the truth-haters in their document (see below), where they seek to assert re-naming rights on all reptile species.

"Taxonomists are relegated to "redescribing" taxa whose validity they established, but that were named pre-emptively in acts of mass-naming or in deliberate acts of intellectual kleptoparasitism (e.g., Aplin and Donnellan 1999; Rawlings et al. 2008)."

The above is copied herein as part of the truth-haters rant and not because it applies in my case. I note however that the claim is made against me and then ostensibly supported by two cited references. However neither of the references contain anything remotely resembling the claim attributed to them. In other words the claim fails as fraudulent on the basis that the cited references don't support it. This means the document by the truth-haters is produced with a veneer of truthfulness and verification when in fact there is none!

There are numerous similar cases in the same rant, which I have not detailed herein on the grounds of tedium.

"Applications of herpetological taxonomy. Confusion about names may cause genuine harm in endeavors relying upon accurate taxonomy and the correct identification of organisms."

This is true, but applies against the truth-haters and not for them.

By way of example, in the Australian context failure to correctly identify regional variants of Brown Snakes (*Pseudonaja* spp.) and their different bite pathologies has caused deaths otherwise avoidable. My accurate diagnosis of the regional subspecies of *P. textilis* in *AJH* Issue 11 is an important step in reducing this mortality.

I raise this to show how the truth-haters twist things around to make them appear the opposite of the reality.

"Science and the public. The public trust in science is eroded when information lacking evidence is presented as fact and permeates what is assumed to be a scientific discourse. The often-strident tone of exchanges surrounding unethical and unscientific taxonomic acts (Borrell 2007) further diminishes the entire discipline in the eyes of the public."

Agreed, this argument goes to the core of the danger of the truth-haters rants. Evidence free criticism of scientific papers brings so-called scientists into disrepute.

I note also the evidence free claims of these same truth-haters (in particular Wüster) that the Hoser venomoids have regenerated venom and their placement of such false and ostensibly scientific claims on the popular website Wikipedia, (see the Wikipedia page Wüster has created for "Raymond Hoser" and all the obvious false statements he has posted there, via the publicly available "edit history").

"Following the *intent* of the Code and its stated mission of promoting "standards, sense, and stability for animal names in science" may require overriding the *letter* of the Code".

This is a call by the truth-haters to scrap the Zoological Code. It is ironic that after years of falsely claiming my papers were a problem because I (allegedly) failed to comply with the Zoological Code, they now complain they are a problem because they DO comply with the code!

They are also attacking the code directly.

"we propose that a 9-member herpetological consortium with rotating, global representation is formed to establish a *List of Available Names in Herpetology*."

This is simply a grab for power by the truth-haters and their self-appointed "consortium".

They seek to usurp the ICZN, to assert naming rights on all previously named reptiles, to rename all species as they see fit, shamelessly ripping off the work of other zoologists and in violation of a Zoological Code that's operated for more than 200 years!

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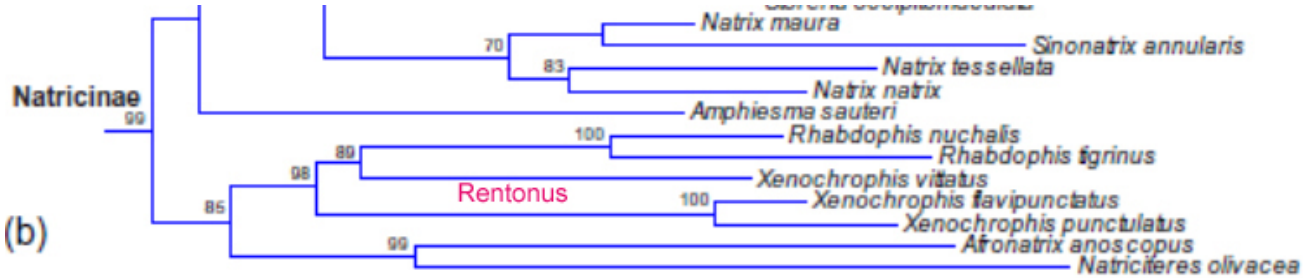
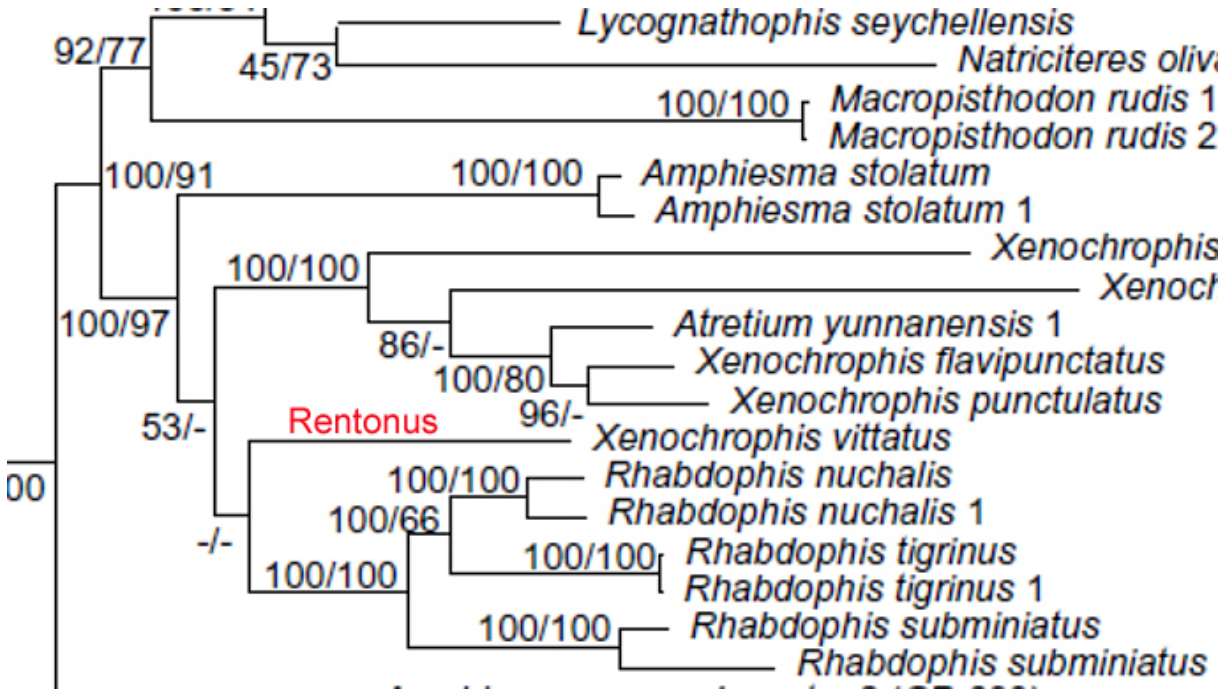


Pyron et. al. 2011



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Note 1: This citation list excludes those not referred to directly and specifically within this response paper, noting those others are cited in the Kaiser petition published herein.

Note 2: As per what's written at the top of the appendix list of target taxa and the document itself, I took the liberty of bolding taxa that should be excluded from the "hit list" (as requested implicitly) and indicated why. I also added four clearly invalid taxa omitted from the list as described by Wallach et. al. (2009) and Schleip (2008) giving reasons.

In order to show the content of the list as sent out by Kaiser, my corrected and added list is printed herein!

http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=123173187727554&story_fbid=397980823580121
Daily reptile news
May 17 at 9:18pm
In my opinion this new list makes a mochary of people who spent their lives working with these animals. It has been done for recognition only and in no way to benefit the hobby, community or Herpetology as a science and I only hope no one looks at it with any seriousness. The post below is Via Mark O'Shea

Chris' post below caused me to look at hoser's page and low, he had conveniently posted a list of the new genera and subgenera (genera, not mere species!) he had named in the 12 issues of his own AJH journal. I counted them and there were 61! That may be more than the great herpetologists of the 19th-20th century managed in an entire career, luminaries like Fitzinger or Boulenger or inveterate namers like Gray, and Hoser adds a note that this does not include genera he named prior to the inception of AJH.

The full list of AJH genera is below and if I am not mistaken most of them are patronyms, named in honour of some person rather than the geographic origin or some distinguishing characteristic of the taxa, and guess what, no less than 13 are named for his family, including his dog, the name hoser appearing 12 times in the list, how pompously egotistical is that!

All his friends (yes he does have some), former Snakebusters employees and a few people who ought to know better (Rob Sprackland, Dr Funk, Tom Crutchfield, Allen Greer) are 'honoured' too. I just think it is a good job Mrs Hoser is not a fan of ancient crooner Engelbert Humperdinck, else who knows what we would get.

When we talk about leaving pollution for future generations that might not just mean nuclear waste, weapons stockpiles, lakes of poisonous chemicals or massive piles of non-biodegradable car tyres, it may just well mean dozens and dozens of pointless hoser names.

Below is the list - why don't you play find the hoser, if you get all 13 you get a prize, something named after you!

Laugh, I almost did!
I would have if I didn't know he is serious, he believes the rest of the herpetological community in every country on this planet should be force-fed his names like a paté foie gras goose!

Subject: Fwd: Point of View needs your help
From: scott_eipper@hotmail.com
Date: Mon, 18 Jun 2012 17:12:41 +1000
To: envirodata@hotmail.com

Nature 4 You
0419 328 251
Scott_eipper@hotmail.com <mailto:Scott_eipper@hotmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:
From: Hal Cogger <h.cogger@bigpond.com <mailto:h.cogger@bigpond.com>>
Date: 15 June 2012 8:03:59 PM AEST
To: Scott Eipper <scott_eipper@hotmail.com <mailto:scott_eipper@hotmail.com>>
Subject: Fwd: Point of View needs your help
Hi Scott - this is the email I told you about - Hal

———— Original Message ————
Subject: Point of View needs your help**Date:** Tue, 5 Jun 2012 19:03:34 -0700 (PDT)**From:** Hinrich Kaiser <chalcopis@yahoo.com> <mailto:chalcopis@yahoo.com>**Reply-To:** Hinrich Kaiser <chalcopis@yahoo.com> <mailto:chalcopis@yahoo.com>**To:** Hinrich Kaiser <chalcopis@yahoo.com> <mailto:chalcopis@yahoo.com>
Dear Friends,

I am acting as secretary for the purpose of neutral dissemination of the attached Point of View manuscript, put together by an international group of seven respected herpetological taxonomists. We send this message and its attachments to you with some urgency, and we request your participation.

As you may know, some authors circumvent conventional scientific processes in herpetology and publicize names not for the purposes of science but for their own aggrandizement. Please view examples of this by downloading Issue 12 of the "Australasian Journal of Herpetology" at <http://www.smuggled.com/AJHIP1.htm>. We consider this practice unscientific, unethical, and a form of scientific fraud. If we, as professionals, stand idly by while this fraud is perpetrated, then we ourselves become complicit.

We therefore plan to submit the attached manuscript as a Point of View to *Herpetological Review*, and we wish to do so with the broadest possible support from the herpetological community. To achieve this end, we hope you will take the time to read our manuscript, send us your comments, and let us know whether we may include your name as a **supporter** (in Appendix 2) or even as a **co-author**, should the journal feel that broader authorship can lend our article greater weight with the scientific community.

We also hope that this issue, and maybe our ideas for a solution, will be discussed in the Annual Meetings of ASIH, HL, and SSAR at the upcoming World Congress of Herpetology, where we will gladly make ourselves available to answer questions. Please feel free to contact me should you wish to learn the identities of the contributors.

Thank you for your time and support,

Hinrich

Hinrich Kaiser PhD FLS
Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Victor Valley College
Research Collaborator, National Museum of Natural History
Member, International Advisory Board, Foundation for Post-Conflict Development

From: envirodata@hotmail.com
To: chelodina@aol.com; austwildlife@telstra.com; ap_dudley@yahoo.com.au; stefano.alcini@libero.it; chris@harrispartners.com.au; h.cogger@bigpond.com; j.cann@optusnet.com.au; patrickc@qm.qld.gov.au; contactus@gondwanareptileproductions.com; m+80cu7cd4000000sp1whg003o0auhspnq232@reply.facebook.com; drtjhawkeswood@calodema.com; scott_eipper@hotmail.com; glenn.shea@sydney.edu.au; viper007@live.com.au; vkharin@imb.dvo.ru; m+83rjvng000000sp1whg002iwmb52ovh21w@reply.facebook.com; mikeswan@bigpond.com.au; steve@biolink.com.au; rwrossco@gmail.com; uetz@vcu.edu
Subject: A Paper to Nail to the Dunny Door
Date: Mon, 18 Jun 2012 18:53:08 +1000
Hi Bill,

Have a look at what I just received- which I have named *"A Pathetic Justification of Intellectual Theft by Professional Herpetologists - An Introduction to Hypocritical Self-Serving Bullshit By an Anonymous Pack of Morons"*

Outside of the fact that you have been more or less accused of wildlife smuggling (!), and that both you and I have been wrongly accused of what is implied criminal fraud, I find the most disturbing aspect of the **retrospective** suppression of lawfully (and I might add, ETHICALLY) published names particularly abhorrent. They may believe that accusing Hoser of fraud or whatever automatically justifies them doing the same to me, but I can assure you or anyone else that they are making a grave mistake in doing so. I don't know who is really behind this document, but rest assured my lawyers will find out.

As for what has been said of Hoser well, I'll leave it to Hoser to explain his own actions - although I strongly suspect that he is their main target.

You may note that they have dared not to accuse me directly with any specific discussions of my contributions because they know full well that all my articles are validly published and Available under the Code, and that none are derived from any fraudulent, unethical or unscientific practices - which is something that CANNOT be said of certain so-called professional herpetologists that are likely involved in this smear. However, what I did do of course was publish on matters that the morons in herpetological taxonomy have no knowledge of at all, and the suppression of my efforts will of course make it possible for the real intellectual thieves to steal MY work.

Anyway Bill, I would be pleased to get your thoughts on this appalling document. I should point out that Cogger's involvement would appear merely as a recipient (like who knows how many others), so it should not be assumed that he is an author at this stage.

It will be most interesting to see the final list of signatories that it will attract - and to help them out to beef up their authorship targets, I might circulate their manuscript in the brothels of Kings Cross where quite a large number of appropriately qualified signatories may be found, considering the nature, intent and content of their snotty little piece of shit.

As always Bill, my best regards to you and yours

Richard

Notes: The following document (at this stage anonymously authored) but circulated on 5 June 2012 by Hinrich Kaiser, is published herein as received and not altered in any way.

The appendix sent with the document is also published elsewhere in this journal, including all originally listed taxa, but with comments added in the "comments" column as requested and with the addition of four taxa.

POINT OF VIEW

In the 21st Century, Taxonomic Decisions in Herpetology are Acceptable Only When Produced Ethically and Supported by a Body of Evidence Accumulated via the Scientific Method

Rapid publication and quick dissemination of scientific information has been a successful trend across all research fields, including herpetology, over the last decade. For taxonomists, this trend can be both curse and blessing: whereas many emerging electronic or rapid-print journals are reputable, rigorously scientific in their approach, thoroughly peer-reviewed, and edited well, nonprofessional herpetological sources of taxonomic decisions exist, whose unclear mission interferes with authoritative scientific structures. If the taxonomy presented in such sources is allowed to diffuse into scientific herpetology and the public realm unchecked, then the underpinnings of herpetological science are undermined by misinformation. While this can have profound effects on how professional herpetologists conduct their craft ("science for science's sake"), it also creates serious repercussions for applied science ("science for the greater good"). If we, as professional herpetologists, desire to maintain the scientific community's trust, and wish to attest to the institutions and the public we serve that we deserve their material support (see the discussion in Carraway 2009), can we stand idly by and permit taxonomic facts to be produced unethically (e.g., ASIH 2009, SSAR 2012, Steneck 2007) or without conforming to the standards of science? In our point of view, the answer is a clear "no." Herpetologists, and scientists in general, must be accountable when our activities have the broad practical applications they have today (see below). We believe this commitment includes taking an active role as a community in monitoring the ethics and the evidence displayed when taxonomic decisions are publicized.

In the corner of science occupied by taxonomic herpetologists, three main tasks define the workload: (1) Generate hypotheses of group membership (e.g., a genus, a species, a clade) or relationship (e.g., sister taxa) using legally available, willingly shared, primary sources (e.g., existing or new collections of specimens including whole animals, tissues, and DNA sequences) and the available literature; (2) test hypotheses via data analysis; (3) submit proposed taxonomic decisions (e.g., generic realignments, new species, elevation of subspecies to full species rank) to peer-reviewed journals in the form of a manuscript that displays the data and gives a full accounting of the rationale underlying proposed decisions. These three transparent steps assure that names and arrangements of taxa are properly grounded in evidence.

We have become concerned that, especially since the year 2000, unreliable taxonomic works from questionable sources have emerged with increasing frequency (see Appendix 1), short-cutting or circumventing these three steps. Names proposed therein have negative ramifications; they unnecessarily destabilize taxonomy, but also confound conservation efforts, medical herpetology, academic processes, grant administration, and how the public views science as a whole. As scientists, it is part of our mandate to safeguard the processes by which we develop the provisional truths in our area of expertise. It is therefore a scientist's duty to take a stand against unscientific and unethical taxonomic information, lest we allow disinformation to incorrectly falsify evidence-based hypotheses (Carraway 2009). We therefore propose to reject taxonomic decisions that can objectively be classed as unethical, fraudulent, or lacking evidence, beginning with publications dated 1 January 2000 (Appendix 1).

How bad can it be?-We have selected two specific examples to bolster our assertion that unscientific, unethical, or fraudulent taxonomy poses a serious threat to herpetological research and its applications. These cases are among the most notorious in the last decade for having violated the ethical and procedural considerations we outline above, and in each case their ramifications have been discussed in the professional literature. Moreover, in both cases the damage to taxonomy itself is dwarfed by the repercussions for conservation and species management, and how herpetological science is viewed in the public eye. Unfortunately, no broader conclusions of how to address these challenges have emerged from the discussions. Therefore, these cases serve as suitable anchor points for the discussion of acceptable scientific procedures leading to taxonomic decisions that follows below.

McCord et al. (2007b) published the description of a new species of snake-necked turtle (genus *Chelodina*). This paper was released in a British hobbyist journal and presented unsuitable evidence in a species description designed to beat a parallel effort (see Note in Proof in Kuchling et al. 2007). Other than the problems with the science and the ethics explained by Kuchling et al. (2007), it also seems that the specimens on which the species description was based (one preserved juvenile designated as the holotype and two living specimens designated as paratypes) were illegally exported from Timor-Leste (Manuel Mendes, Director of National Parks, Government of Timor-Leste, pers. comm.), were illegally imported into the United States (it is currently illegal to import CITES II-listed species into the United States from Timor-Leste, a non-CITES signatory nation; T. Van Norman, Chief, Branch of Permits, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in litt.), and were deposited in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) using documentation that gave the appearance of legitimacy (D. Kizirian, Curatorial Associate, AMNH, pers. comm.). The

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problems caused by the new name included whether and how to adjust species management decisions, with respect to CITES as well as in terms of local laws, and some confusion was caused among regional wildlife managers. The manner in which the specimens were procured and the work was produced exposed apparently illegal activities, which places herpetological taxonomy in a bad light. In summary, this paper violated most of the acceptable principles discussed below, and the proposed taxonomic decision was neither based on sufficient evidence nor on ethical principles.

Since 1 January 2000, Australian reptile keeper Raymond Hoser has named one family, 34 tribes, 32 subtribes, 43 genera, 29 subgenera, 20 species, and 36 subspecies of reptiles, covering Old World and New World venomous snakes as well as pythons and skinks (Appendix 1). Startlingly, these names constitute 58% of all genus-group names and 13% of all species-group names for snakes in the period 2000-12. These invariably single-author works have included (1) the deliberate scooping of other authors known to be working on the same taxon (discussed by Aplin 1999 and Wüster et al. 2001), (2) the naming of allopatric populations without evidence, (3) the invention of evidence, such as claimed mitochondrial DNA data when no laboratory work had been carried out (Williams et al. 2006), (4) the repeated description of the same taxon as new (e.g., *Leiopython albertisi barkeri* was first described by Hoser [2000a], re-described as *L. albertisi barkerorum* by Hoser [2009a], and again by Hoser [2012b]), and, more recently and ongoing, (5) the mass-harvesting of clades with potential for naming as genera from published phylogenetic studies (e.g., the majority of papers produced by Hoser in 2012, cited below). In the last case, new genera were named by splitting established monophyletic groups, sometimes into monotypic genera, irrespective of levels of branch support for any given tree topology. Furthermore, it is becoming apparent that names are coined and issued not for the purpose of science but for their author's aggrandizement: all names are patronyms, and a majority includes the author's surname, or the names of his relatives, employees, or even pets.

Without exception, Hoser's taxonomic decisions were published in outlets whose evaluation processes, if they exist, are not designed to safeguard scientific rigor. Most recently (e.g., Hoser 2009a-e, 2012a-ac), Hoser has published in the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (*AJH*), a publication that features only taxonomic decisions and is edited, produced, and mailed by Hoser with the stated goal (e.g., Hoser 2012f:3, 2012i:45) to fulfill the minimal requirements of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (hereafter, the Code). In the case of each taxonomic decision a trail of evidence is either lacking, fabricated, or lifted from others, and the text usually includes information irrelevant to the taxonomy, such as polemics against taxonomic herpetologists (e.g., Hoser 2012a; see Aplin 1999; Borrell 2007; Schleip 2008; Schleip and O'Shea 2010; Wallach et al. 2009; Williams et al. 2006; Wüster et al. 2001), wildlife officials (e.g., Hoser 2012f:12), or even sitting judges in courts of law (e.g. Hoser 2012i:45). In attacks on the journal *Zootaxa* (e.g., Hoser 2012a) and correspondence peppered with invective (A. M. Bauer, pers. comm.), Hoser has also shown his unwillingness and inability to engage in a mature scientific discourse (*sensu* Stehr and Simmons 1979; Battalio 1998), such as through publication in *Zootaxa* or another scientific outlet, and he has repeatedly failed to take up offers to respond to criticism of his publications in the same journals that published this criticism (Hoser 2012a; van Aken and van der Voort 2001).

A Matter of Process.-Works violating scientific principles in herpetology most commonly involve taxonomy and nomenclature. Whereas taxonomy is considered to be a scientific endeavor, nomenclature is a tool to stabilize the use of names corresponding to particular taxonomic findings (*sensu* Mayr 1969, Simpson 1961; but see Crother 2009, who argued that names represent hypotheses of relationship). The Code and the rulings of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) traditionally safeguard the process of nomenclature, but unfortunately these safeguards do not extend to the taxonomic processes by which names are established in the first place. As ICZN commissioner Douglas Yanega expressed (Yanega 2009), "I think the present system by which we name species is not policed effectively and has loopholes and ambiguities. For example, scientific names can be published in journals without peer review. Although that freedom is fine, the reality effectively permits taxonomic vandals to plagiarize others or publish without scientific merit." This is the area of herpetology where problems have arisen: when the Code protects names produced via unethical or evidence-free processes. Taxonomy and nomenclature are interdependent and related as follows (Burbrink et al. 2007): "Taxonomy is informed by phylogenetics, and this information is used in the naming of biodiversity (nomenclature) and in the organization of named groups (classification). All systems of classification and nomenclature that are based on evolutionary hypotheses (phylogeny) provide ranks and names for only monophyletic groups." The interdependent relationship of phylogeny, taxonomy, nomenclature, and classification, means that when evidence is missing the taxonomy, nomenclature, and classification will be unethically rendered and may turn out to be based on fraud. The following paragraphs are intended to define the process by which legitimate taxonomic decisions are made and to propose a solution to this dilemma.

Evidence.-Gathering information in science must be a careful, deliberate, and comprehensive effort that produces a transparent chain of evidence. To infer taxonomic hypotheses, three lines of evidence are generally accepted. First, evidence is collected through field- and laboratory work, which begins with samples (e.g., whole specimens, animal parts, tissue samples) from known phenotypes collected in nature with precisely known provenance. These samples are deposited in institutions where their curation makes them accessible to other researchers for subsequent hypothesis testing.

Second, evidence is sourced from samples in museum collections or from published genetic information (e.g., GenBank), which were ultimately obtained in accordance with the manner described above. In the case of museum specimens whose provenance is not precisely known, or whose phenotypic characteristics were not detailed well in life, scientists know to exercise care and caution in order to properly judge the merits of the material they choose to incorporate into a study.

These two lines of evidence are required for taxonomic investigations. They act as a base for further research, so later work does not have to begin the evidence-collection process *de novo*. For example, storage of sequence data in GenBank makes these data readily available online. If no GenBank records are listed in support of a taxonomic decision derived from DNA sequence data, then the decision is unacceptable. In the case of morphological studies, a list of specimens of a proposed taxon and the comparative material examined is a standard requirement; therefore, without the use and listing of comparative material (Cifelli and Kielan-Jaworonowska 2005:651) the proposed taxonomic arrangement must be rejected. In each case, the mandated display of the evidence ensures reproducibility, *which is one of the hallmarks of science*.

The third line of evidence is the existing scientific literature, the body of knowledge produced prior to a new research effort. Investigation of the literature on the taxonomic group of interest can provide direction and perhaps impose constraints on the limits of proposed nomenclatural changes.

Deliberate and transparent use of these three lines of evidence allows taxonomic herpetologists to create and present a trail of evidence to infer taxonomic hypotheses. The description of a new taxon, for example, draws on all three lines of evidence by supporting the phenotypic or genotypic distinctiveness of the

putative taxon and by ascertaining through comparative specimen or literature work that no other taxa are identical to the one whose name is being proposed. Thus, a new name can only be coined when evidence, which unequivocally supports the proposed decision, is presented for the readership's assessment.

Science is an objective endeavor as long as scientific decisions are constrained by evidence. Evidence may lead to a conclusion that warrants nomenclatural intervention (e.g., a new taxon name). If evidence is absent, then there cannot be nomenclatural intervention. If there is nomenclatural intervention without evidence, then this can readily be identified as unacceptable and unscientific. Any taxonomic decisions shown to be unscientific must be considered invalid, and any names borne from such methodology must be considered unavailable in the accounts of nomenclature. *If names of questionable provenance are considered valid, then the scientific system is broken.*

Dissemination.-We believe that proposals for taxonomic decisions require an assessment by a team of qualified taxonomic herpetologists. This process includes the careful preparation of a manuscript on the part of the author(s) that outlines the evidence leading to a justified conclusion. This process includes the editorial process, during which competent scientists prepare reviews. While there is no need to strictly limit the vehicles for the dissemination of taxonomic decisions, it is in the best interest of authors and the science they serve to select journals that provide the important peer review and editorial feedback. Those avoiding this process can readily be identified as working outside acceptable rules of science and taxonomy (see below).

Taxonomic herpetology vis-à-vis the Code.-As in every scientific discipline, taxonomic herpetology is subject to testable hypotheses and reproducible methods, and researchers are trained to use generally accepted scientific and ethical fundamentals. However, the dual track of research task (identification, classification) and book-keeping (nomenclature) gives taxonomy a special identity among the sciences and makes scientific misconduct simpler to carry out, more visible, and more damaging. Whereas it has already been stated (e.g., Dayrat 2005; Dubois 2007, 2008) that taxonomy and nomenclature are separate disciplines and that the latter is not a science but a tool, neither discipline can exist without the other: activities in nomenclature are supposed to be rooted in evidence leading to the taxonomic decisions requiring nomenclatural changes (see Cifelli and Kielan-Jaworowska 2005; Hansell and Chant 1973; La Salle et al. 2009; M¹kol and Gabryœ 2005).

As for nomenclatural tasks, the set of rules for the creation and application of zoological names is laid down in the Code. The Code assists the taxonomic scientists at the back end of completed research to provide rules for how a name is properly administered. It is here that the Code, grown from a scientific need, fails to adhere to the science it supports. For example, according to Article 13.1.1 of the Code, a name to become available must be "accompanied by a description or definition which contains characters that are purported to differentiate the taxon," (ICZN 1999) regardless of their diagnostic usability (also see Dubois 2007) or even their existence (see Articles 18, 23.3.7; ICZN 1999). Therefore, the inclusion of taxonomic characters in support of a taxonomic decision may be viewed as only *pro forma*. Even as taxonomists endeavor to carefully follow the evidence (e.g., by listing the minutiae of species descriptions; M¹kol and Gabryœ 2005), such evidence is not required by the Code. Yet whereas the Code does not help in the production of sound taxonomic decisions, the Code's *Principle of Priority* (Article 23; ICZN 1999) is the dictum that governs the availability of taxonomic names, whether derived by proper scientific procedures or through fraud and unethical conduct. This is an instance of the proverbial tail wagging the dog. The process makes biological systematics prone to abuse by authors who publish taxonomic works for the "clear purpose of trying to 'immortalize'" themselves (Dubois 2008:859), such as in the examples above. Such actions are well known in the biological sciences (for a discussion, see Borrell 2007, Dubois 2008, Evenhuis 2008). The introduction of "phantom names" (Vences et al. 1999) seriously affects scientific work.

Does unethical, unscientific, or fraudulent taxonomy matter?-Flimsy or inconsistent taxonomic evidence in the description of new taxa often results in unwarranted descriptions, increases the synonymy load, and impedes information retrieval. Dubois (2008:859) calls them a "burden for biodiversity studies" as they not only cause "taxonomic noise" (Evenhuis 2008) but also have negative impacts on serious taxonomic research. Malicious taxonomy impedes the process and perception of taxonomy in a variety of ways:

(1) Information retrieval. For instance, Hoser's (2009c) reclassification of the rattlesnakes, widely ignored everywhere else, led to the Sociedade Brasileira de Herpetologia changing the name of the neotropical rattlesnake in the *Lista Brasileira de Répteis* from the universally accepted *Crotalus durissus* to *Caudisona durissa* as part of its efforts to maintain a neutral stance, with the result that both names are now circulating in parallel in the Brazilian literature (Wüster and Bérnils 2011).

(2) Communication. Fear of taxonomic piracy creates an atmosphere of mistrust, discouraging communication about unnamed taxa, thus delaying research and even conservation action (Oliver and Lee 2010).

(3) Bona fide taxonomic research. Unethical and unscientific taxonomic acts have several impacts on taxonomic research. For example, scientists are forced to include in their task load fictional taxonomic accounts in hard-to-locate publications during routine literature inquiries on synonyms, and they must find and examine type material in potentially difficult-to-access collections. This is not only unnecessarily time- and resource-consuming, it also dilutes scientific effort with unscientific materials. On account of unethical taxonomic acts, graduate students may have to reformulate thesis proposals or thesis conclusions, and their forthcoming publications may be scooped. Grant applicants' proposals may intersect with a nonsense taxonomic publication and result in needless delays to ascertain the veracity of the taxonomic information presented. Institutional managers may be unable to follow the mix of validly and fraudulently proposed names. Taxonomists are relegated to "redescribing" taxa whose validity they established, but that were named pre-emptively in acts of mass-naming or in deliberate acts of intellectual kleptoparasitism (e.g., Aplin and Donnellan 1999; Rawlings et al. 2008).

(4) Applications of herpetological taxonomy. Confusion about names may cause genuine harm in endeavors relying upon accurate taxonomy and the correct identification of organisms. Particular areas of concern include the production and use of antivenoms for venomous snakes (Fry et al. 2003; Williams et al. 2011; Wüster and McCarthy 1996), and the assessment and protection of threatened taxa and the direction of conservation efforts (Georges and Thomson 2010; Georges et al. 2007; Pillon and Chase 2007). This is a matter of life and death in the case of clinical toxinology, when name changes spread in media outlets by attention-seeking authors may cause uncertainty among medical personnel as to which antivenom to use given that the name has changed (Sutherland 1999). Wholesale nomenclatural changes at the genus-group level, especially among medically important snakes, must be carefully considered because of the confusion that can arise when the names of relevant species become inconsistent with those on antivenom products.

(5) Science and the public. The public trust in science is eroded when information lacking evidence is presented as fact and permeates what is assumed to be a scientific discourse. The often-strident tone of exchanges surrounding unethical and

unscientific taxonomic acts (Borrell 2007) further diminishes the entire discipline in the eyes of the public.

Although the ICZN has the plenary power (see Article 78ff; ICZN 1999) to rule upon such names and nomenclatural acts, the Commission has not done so because the *Code of Ethics* in the appendix of the Code is not a mandatory part of the Code (see seventh issue of the *Code of Ethics,* appendix of the Code) and, therefore, not applicable to pending rulings. Furthemore, the Commission sees the remits of nomenclature and taxonomy as entirely separate, despite the profound influence that nomenclature can have on the pursuit of taxonomic research. Following the *intent* of the Code and its stated mission of promoting "standards, sense, and stability for animal names in science" may require overriding the *letter* of the Code in certain instances. As outlined above, it is clear that rigorous application of the Principle of Priority has the consequence of rewarding authors of unscientific, unethical, and fraudulent publications, and forces others to adopt their names. We believe that herpetological systematists and editors should agree to reject the names listed in Appendix 1 for the purposes of the Principle of Priority and consider them unavailable. The same position should be adopted vis-à-vis future instances when names are being coined as part of unscientific, unethical, or fraudulent publications.

A call to action.- In the USA and elsewhere, "fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results" (Steneck 2007) is defined as scientific misconduct, a serious offense in science that may lead to prosecution (for discussion see Benos et al. 2004; Stoneking 2011). We believe that the *laissez-faire* attitude espoused by some, namely that the "business of names" will sort itself out over time, is unhelpful at a time when scientific applications (points 1-5 above) depend on evidence-based names, solidly supported by taxonomic research, in the here and now. Dayrat (2005) legitimately asked whether other scientific disciplines would so readily cite works that contain inaccurate or false data. It is our point of view, shared by the individuals listed in Appendix 2, that given the clear mandate of scientists to follow a trail of evidence, the intent of the Code as a book-keeping tool, and the law's position regarding fraud, herpetologists must identify, publicize, and reject any names in taxonomic herpetology beginning on 1 January 2000 that were proposed in a manner that is fraudulent, unethical, or lacking evidence (Appendix 1). While this is an arbitrary date, we consider it a suitably clear point in time at which to begin the rigorous defense of taxonomic integrity in herpetology.

Furthermore, pursuant to Article 79 of the Code, we propose that a 9-member herpetological consortium with rotating, global representation is formed to establish a *List of Available Names in Herpetology*. This consortium, with the consultation of experts in specialty fields when necessary, will also assess all taxonomic decisions proposed outside the peer-reviewed literature, beginning with 1 January 2000. The consortium will operate transparently and with due speed to ascertain conformity with the criteria outlined above, and members' votes and rationales will be made public monthly, online, in a universally accessible manner (such as through the *Reptile Database* and *Amphibians of the World* websites). This mechanism will not only be suitable to address the topics detailed above, but it will also streamline taxonomic output and assist in the administration of the Code upon release of its 5th Edition, which will purportedly allow the entirely electronic dissemination of taxonomic decisions for the creation of names in taxonomy and could conceivably exacerbate the problems we describe herein.

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Editor's end note (Raymond Hoser):
No words have been altered in any way!
(Font and pagination have been).

Note: Below is the preliminary "hit list" of taxa Hinrich Kaiser and his not very anonymous friends seek to rename as they see fit, and in violation of the Zoological code. This list has been commented on in end column in bold in terms of those taxa validly named according to the Zoological Code and with appropriate evidence.

Appendix 1. List of taxa produced without a trail of evidence and thereby unacceptable in principle to the herpetological community. We recommend rejection of all listed taxa with the exception of those listed in bold print for the reason provided in the comment column.

Taxon	Taxon Level	Citation	Comment
Abilenea	gen. nov.	Wells 2007c	Validly named with evidence
Acanthophiina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Acanthophis antarcticus cliffrosswellingtoni	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2002b	Validly named with evidence
Acanthophis groenveldi	sp. nov.	Hoser 2002b	Validly named with evidence
Acanthophis macgregori	sp. nov.	Hoser 2002b	Validly named with evidence
Acanthophis wellsei donnellani	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2002b	Validly named with evidence
Acanthophis yuwoni	sp. nov.	Hoser 2002b	Validly named with evidence
Adelynhoserea	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012o	Validly named with evidence
Adelynhoserserpenae	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012c	Validly named with evidence
Adelynhoserserpenina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Adelynhoserserpinini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Adrasteia	gen. nov.	Wells 2002d	Validly named with evidence
Adrasteiascincus	nom nov.	Wells 2010	Validly named with evidence
Afronaja	gen. nov.	Wallach et. al.	Invalid junior synonym
Agkistrodonini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Agressiserpens	gen. nov.	Wells 2002b	Validly named with evidence
Aipysurini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Alcisius	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Allengreerus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2009e	Validly named with evidence
Allengreerus delicata jackyhoserae	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2012ab	Validly named with evidence
Allengreerus ronhoseri	sp. nov.	Hoser 2009e	Validly named with evidence
Antaresia maculosus brentonoloughlini	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Antaresia saxacola campbelli	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Antaresiina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012b	Validly named with evidence
Aphroditia	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Aspidites melanocephalus adelynensis	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Aspidites melanocephalus davieii	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Aspidites melanocephalus rickjonesii	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009a	Validly named with evidence
Aspidites ramsayi neildavieii	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009a	Validly named with evidence
Aspidites ramsayi panoptes	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Aspidites ramsayi richardjonesi	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Aspiditesina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012b	Validly named with evidence
Aspidomorphina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Atractaspini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012l	Validly named with evidence
Australiasis funki	sp. nov.	Hoser 2012b	Validly named with evidence
Binghamus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012f	Validly named with evidence
Bitisini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Bothriechisina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Bothrocophiina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Bothropina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Bothropoidina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Broghammerini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012b	Validly named with evidence
Broghammerus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Broghammerus reticulatus dalegibbonsi	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Broghammerus reticulatus euanedwardsi	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Broghammerus reticulatus haydenmacphiei	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Broghammerus reticulatus neilsonnemani	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Broghammerus reticulatus patrickcouperi	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Broghammerus reticulatus stuartbigmorei	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Brucerogersus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012y	Validly named with evidence
Calloselasma	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Cannia aplini	sp. nov.	Hoser 2001	Validly named with evidence
Cannia burgessi	sp. nov.	Hoser 2001	Validly named with evidence
Cannia newmani	sp. nov.	Hoser 2001	Validly named with evidence
Carettochelys insculpta canni	ssp. nov.	Wells 2002e	Validly named with evidence
Cerastini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Cerrophidionina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Charkespiersonserpens (Macmillanus) jackyhoserae	sp. nov.	Hoser 2012ac	Validly named with evidence
Charlespiersonserpens	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012ac	Validly named with evidence
Charlespiersonserpens (Downieea) papuensis lizelliottae	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2012ac	Validly named with evidence
Charlespiersonserpens gastrostictus tyeipperi	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2012ac	Validly named with evidence
Chelodina gunaleni	sp. nov.	McCord / Joseph-Ouni 2007	Validly named with evidence
Chelodina mccordi roteensis	ssp. nov.	McCord et al. 2007a	Validly named with evidence
Chelodina timorensis	sp. nov.	McCord et al. 2007b	Validly named with evidence
Chondropython viridis adelynhoserae	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009a	Validly named with evidence
Chondropython viridis shireenae	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Costinisauria couperi	gen. nov.	Wells	Validly named with evidence
Cottonus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Crossmanus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012x	Validly named with evidence
Crotalina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Crutchfieldus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Cummingea	gen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Cybelia	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Dannyleeus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012qn	Validly named with evidence
Daraninus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012g	Validly named with evidence
Demansiini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Dendroaspini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Denisonini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Dorisious	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012ac	Validly named with evidence
Downieea	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012ac	Validly named with evidence
Dugitophis	gen. nov.	Wells 2002c	Validly named with evidence
Echiini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Edwardsus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Eipperus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012u	Validly named with evidence
Eksteinus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012z	Validly named with evidence
Elapsoidini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Elliottus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012u	Validly named with evidence
Elseya dorriani	gen. nov.	Wells 2002a	Validly named with evidence
Elseya jukesi	sp. nov.	Wells 2002a	Validly named with evidence
Emydura macquarii emmotti	ssp. nov.	McCord et al. 2003	Validly named with evidence

Emydura macquarii nigra	ssp. nov.	McCord et al. 2003	Validly named with evidence
Ephalophina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Eristicophina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Euanedwardsserpens	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012p	Validly named with evidence
Funkelapidus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012n	Validly named with evidence
Funkus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012h	Validly named with evidence
Furinini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Gaia	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Ginafabaserpenae	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012x	Validly named with evidence
Goldneyia	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Gregshwedoshus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012y	Validly named with evidence
Guystebbinsus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012aa	Validly named with evidence
Helioscincus	gen. nov.	Wells 2002d	Validly named with evidence
Hemachatusina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Hemiaspini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Homoroselapidae	fam. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Homoroselapini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Hoplocephalina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Hoseraspea	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012l	Validly named with evidence
Hoseraspini	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012l	Validly named with evidence
Hoserea	gen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Hoserelapidea	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012f	Validly named with evidence
Hoserelapidea	subgen. nov.	Hoser2012f	Validly named with evidence
Hulimkai	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012i	Validly named with evidence
Hulimkini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Hydrelapini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Hydrophiina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Jackyhoserea	gen. nov.	Hoser2012g	Validly named with evidence
Jackyhoserina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Jackyhoserini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Jackyhosernatrix	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012aa	Validly named with evidence
Jackypython	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2009a	Validly named with evidence
Karma	gen. nov.	Wells 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Katrinahoserea	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012r	Validly named with evidence
Katrinahoserserpenea	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012q	Validly named with evidence
Katrinahoserserpenea	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012q	Validly named with evidence
Katrinina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012b	Validly named with evidence
Katrinus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Katrinus fuscus jackyae	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Krishna	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Laidlawus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012k	Validly named with evidence
Leiopython albertisi barkeri	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Leiopython albertisi bennetti	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Leiopython biakensis	sp. nov. Schleip 2008	No evidence	
Leiopython fredparkeri	sp. nov. Schleip 2008	No evidence	
Leiopython hoserae	sp. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Leiopython huonensis	sp. nov. Schelip 2008	No evidence	
Lenhoserus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Lokisaurus	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Loveridgelapina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Lukefabaserpens	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012x	Validly named with evidence
Macmillanus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012ac	Validly named with evidence
Maconchieus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012x	Validly named with evidence
Magmellia	gen. nov.	Wells 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Mariolisus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012h	Validly named with evidence
Marrunisauria	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Martinekea	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012m	Validly named with evidence
Maticorini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Matteoea	gen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Maxhoserboa	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012w	Validly named with evidence
Maxhoservipera	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012k	Validly named with evidence
Maxhoserviperina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Michaelnicholsus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012t	Validly named with evidence
Micropechiina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Micropechiini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Morelia harrisoni	sp. nov.	Hoser 2000a	Validly named with evidence
Morelia macburniei	sp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Morelia mippughae	sp. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Morelia wellsi	sp. nov.	Hoser 2012b	Validly named with evidence
Moreliina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012b	Validly named with evidence
Mullinsus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Mulvanyus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012ac	Validly named with evidence
Najina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Ndurascincus	gen. nov.	Wells 2002d	Validly named with evidence
Neilsimpsonus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012x	Validly named with evidence
Neilsonnemanus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012y	Validly named with evidence
Notechiina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Notopseudonaja	gen. nov.	Wells 2002c	Validly named with evidence
Notopseudonajini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Oceanius	gen. nov.	Wells 2007d	Validly named with evidence
Ophiophagini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Oxyuranini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Oxyuranus scutellatus adelynhoserae	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Oxyuranus scutellatus andrewwilsoni	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Oxyuranus scutellatus barringeri	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2002a	Validly named with evidence
Oxyus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012jm	Validly named with evidence
Pailsus rossignolii	sp. nov.	Hoser 2000b	Validly named with evidence
Panacedechis papuanus trevorhawkeswoodi	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Parahydrophina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Parapistocalamini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Pelamiina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Piersonina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Piersonus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Pillotus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Placidaserpens	gen. nov.	Wells 2002c	Validly named with evidence
Porthidiumina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Proatherini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Pseudechini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Pseudocerastina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Pseudocerastini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Pseudonaja affinis charlespiersoni	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Pseudonaja elliotti	sp. nov.	Hoser 2003c	Validly named with evidence
Pseudonaja gowi	sp. nov.	Wells 2002c	Validly named with evidence
Pseudonaja guttata whybrowi	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Pseudonaja textilis cliveevatti	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Pseudonaja textilis jackyhoserae	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Pseudonaja textilis leswilliamsi	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Pseudonaja textilis pughi	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2003a	Validly named with evidence
Pseudonaja textilis rollinsoni	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Pseudonajini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Pughus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012y	Validly named with evidence
Rattlewellsus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012f	Validly named with evidence
Rawlingspython	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2009a	Validly named with evidence
Rayhammondus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012u	Validly named with evidence

Hoser 2012 - Australasian Journal of Herpetology 14:37-64.

Rentonus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012ac	Validly named with evidence
Rhiannodon	gen. nov.	Wells 2009b	Validly named with evidence
Rhinocerophiina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Richardwellsus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012m	Validly named with evidence
Sayersus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Sharonhoserea	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012aa	Validly named with evidence
Shireenhoserus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2004	Validly named with evidence
Simoselapini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Slatteryus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012u	Validly named with evidence
Smythus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2009c	Validly named with evidence
Spectrascincus	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Spracklandus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2009d	Validly named with evidence
Stegonotus adelynhoserae	sp. nov.	Hoser 2012s	Validly named with evidence
Stegonotus lenhoseri	sp. nov.	Hoser 2012s	Validly named with evidence
Stegonotus sammacdowelli	sp. nov.	Hoser 2012s	Validly named with evidence
Strophurus intermedius burrelli	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2005	Validly named with evidence
Sutini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Swileserpens	gen. nov.	Hoser 2012t	Validly named with evidence
Toxicocalamina	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Trimeresurusini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Troianous	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012f	Validly named with evidence
Tropidechis sadlieri	sp. nov.	Hoser 2003b	Validly named with evidence
Tropidolaemusini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012d	Validly named with evidence
Tychisimia	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Vermicellini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2012e	Validly named with evidence
Wellsus	gen. nov.	Hoser 2009d	Validly named with evidence
Whybrowus	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012y	Validly named with evidence
Wollumbinia	gen. nov.	Wells 2007a	Validly named with evidence
Wollumbinia dorsii	sp. nov.	Wells 2009a	Validly named with evidence
Wondjinia	gen. nov.	Wells 2012	Validly named with evidence
Woolfvipera	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2012v	Validly named with evidence
Zeusius	gen. nov.	Wells 2007b	Validly named with evidence
Zeusius melanops gillami	ssp. nov.	Wells 2007b	Validly named with evidence
Zeusius melanops swani	ssp. nov.	Wells 2007b	Validly named with evidence
Zeusius sternfeldi	sp. nov.	Wells 2007b	Validly named with evidence

Date: Tue, 19 Jun 2012 22:23:05 -0700
Subject: Re: False and defamatory material about myself - potential submisison of paper to Herp Review - To the editor.
From: herpreview@gmail.com
To: viper007@live.com.au

Dear Mr. Hoser:

As a general statement, inasmuch as we do not presently have any paper such as you described scheduled for publication, any and all submissions to *HR* undergo external peer review before acceptance for publication. We do not publish personal attacks, as our track record over the last 40+ years should clearly demonstrate.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Hansen
On Tue, Jun 19, 2012 at 9:42 PM, Snake Man Snakebusters <viper007@live.com.au <mailto:viper007@live.com.au>> wrote:
To the editor - Herpetological Review,
Dear Sir,
It has been drawn to my attention that a person we believe to be Mr Wolfgang Wuster and some associates are circulating a false and defamatory article about myself and three other herpetologists with a view to publishing it in some form in Herpetological Review. The draft I have seen also effectively also calls for an abandonment of the Zoological Code as it now stands with the potential to abolish all scientific names proposed since 2000 allowing these men the right to rename the same taxa as they please (refer also to Australasian Journal of Herpetology - Issue 9 - **Exposing a fraud! Afronaja Wallach, Wuster and Broadley is a junior synonym of Spracklandus Hoser, 2009)** for an indication of what I mean.
Can you please confirm that you will not publish any false and defamatory material about myself and the others in Herp Review or other SSAR publications or any other material that may destabilize existing and established nomenclature.
Also can you please confirm that should you publish any material in any way critical of myself or my publications, by these or any other “authors” that I will be given right of reply in the same journal at the same time and of equal word count, and likewise for others named in the draft document in circulation, including Bill McCord and Richard Wells.
You should also be aware that myself and the others adversely named in the draft documents are considering taking legal action for libel against the said authors and a Mr. Hinrich Kaiser, the latter of whom has either directly or indirectly sent this “manuscript” to many hundreds of recipients.
Thanking you for your help in this matter.
Raymond Hoser - Australia.

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Phones: 9812 3322
0412 777 211

Subject: RE: Submission
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 12:49:57 +0100
From: s.nikolaeva@nhm.ac.uk
To: viper007@live.com.au
Yes, please, you can send everything to my address.

Dr Svetlana Nikolaeva

Scientific Editor
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s.nikolaeva@nhm.ac.uk <mailto:s.nikolaeva@nhm.ac.uk>
<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted-sites/iczn/code/index.jsp>

From: Snake Man Snakebusters [mailto:viper007@live.com.au]
Sent: 29 March 2012 12:34
To: Svetlana Nikolaeva
Subject: RE: Submission

Thanks for the e-mail.
Is it OK for us to send the relevant publications (not the submission) as copies to your address?
Thanks

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0412 777 211

Subject: RE: Submission
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 12:22:25 +0100
From: s.nikolaeva@nhm.ac.uk
To: viper007@live.com.au
Dear Dr Hoser,
Please send your submission as an attached MS Word file. Send copies of relevant publications as email attachments as well, but please note that our server cannot handle excessively large files, and if your attachments are over 10 mb in total, send them in separate emails or using FTPs. Please use iczn@nhm.ac.uk <mailto:iczn@nhm.ac.uk> address for your submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Best wishes

Svetlana

Dr Svetlana Nikolaeva

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From: Snake Man Snakebusters [mailto:viper007@live.com.au]
Sent: 29 March 2012 10:43
To: iczn
Subject: Submission

Dear Phil, or whom it may concern, I intend sending you a submission re the proposed suppression of a genus name.

Is this correct address to send it to and is it best to send,
1 - as an attached MS Word file,
and
2 - the relevant publications referred to in the submission in hard copy at the same time your address, at:
c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K.
PS I have read your submission guidelines on the web at:
<http://iczn.org/content/instructions-authors>
and am familiar with the Bull ZN.

All the best
Raymond Hoser

DRAFT SUBMISSION TO THE ICZN DATED 2012

Case.
Proposed conservation of *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009 and formal suppression of *Afronaja* Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009.
Raymond Hoser, Snakebusters - Australia's best reptiles, PO Box 599, Doncaster, Victoria, 3114, Australia.
Abstract.
The purpose of this application is to conserve usage of *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009 for the African Spitting Cobras in accordance with Article 23.1 of the code and for the ICZN to make a formal suppression of the junior synonym *Afronaja* Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009 under article 78.2.3 of the code. The commission is asked to formally suppress the junior synonym due to the conduct of the authors and associates, in particular Wüster, this conduct including their manner of widespread promotion of the junior synonym, which will cause instability in the future unless the commission rules on the matter expediently.
Keywords.
Nomenclature; reptilia, elapidae, spitting cobras, taxonomy, *Spracklandus*, *Afronaja*.

1. In the period January to March 2009, Raymond Hoser (this author) published seven issues of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (AJH), Hoser 2009a, Hoser 2009b, Hoser 2009c, Hoser 2009d, Hoser 2009e, Hoser 2009f, Hoser 2009g. Most contained articles of a taxonomic nature, proposing new names and combinations for reptilian taxa including, skinks, pythons, crotalids and elapids.
2. In accordance with Article 8 of the 2000 Rules of the ICZN (ICZN 1999), known herein as "the code", there were over 100 identical "hard copy" originals of each published in print form on double sided white gloss paper at time of publication and they were circulated widely.
3. In accordance with Recommendation 8A of the code, copies of each issue of AJH issues 1-7 were lodged with *Zoological Record* and also major public libraries in Australia, as well as obvious interested persons, including taxonomists and those who had taxa named in their honour. See for examples, Cumming (2009), Currie (2009), Henderson (2009), Hua (2009), *Zoological Record* (2009a, 2009b).
4. Copies of each issue of AJH 1-7 were also offered to anyone else interested, this being done by several means, including on the website linked from http://www.herp.net which offered original hard copies or copies online, identified as being a different publication via a different ISSN number. Advice of publications was also disseminated via various internet sites and forums (e.g. Hoser 2009h).
5. When demand for hard copy originals exceeded those in stock, as in supplies of originals were exhausted, photocopies were sent to persons requesting copies.
6. The same journal was published in identical format, fonts, pagination, etc, online an average of ten days post publication of the print copies in accordance with recommendation 8A of the code.
7. The publications were accessible via the website at: http://www.herp.net
8. This "online" publication post-dated receipt of hard copies by major libraries and others shown by return correspondence from these places to the publisher.
9. There has never been any genuine confusion in terms of the fact that the only relevant publication in terms of the code has been the hard copy one.
10. Issue 7 of AJH published in March 2009, formally placed the African Spitting Cobras into a newly erected genus, *Spracklandus*, with the type species being *Naja nigricollis* Reinhardt 1843. There is no earlier available genus name for these snakes, other than *Naja*, for which there is another type species, being an Asiatic cobra.
11. On 29 April 2009, Van Wallach requested via e-mail a hard copy of AJH issue 7 (Wallach 2009a). He was sent a photocopy in Accordance with Recommendation 8A of the code, which he received and acknowledged as a copy on 9 May 2009 (Wallach 2009b).
12. On about 27 September 2009, Wallach, Wüster and Broadley published a paper in *Zootaxa*, alleging that AJH issues 1-7 were not publications in accordance with the code. Their claims as published, was based on statements that they had done a search for original hard copies and in terms of AJH Issue 7, only found one in a Library in Australia. They then said they "concluded" that no other originals existed and that therefore AJH failed to comply with the code. They further said that any other hard copies in existence were printed after the publication date "on demand" and therefore not published according to the code. A secondary claim, interpolated with the first was that AJH Issues 1-7 were in fact only "online" publications and therefore not valid according to the code.
13. Wüster peddled the claims against AJH issue 7 widely, including on internet forums, including for example Wüster 2009a, 2009b.
14. Wüster was advised of the erroneous claim in the paper Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009) by Hoser on an online forum on 27 September (Hoser 2009i).
15. Wüster read and replied to Hoser 2009j on the forum on 28 September 2009 (Wüster 2009b), meaning that he was aware from that date on of the error of the claim that AJH Issue 7 was not published according to the code.
16. Hoser reaffirmed the position to Wüster on 3 October on the same forum (Hoser 2009j), posing relevant questions to Wüster, but as of March 2012, he has failed to provide relevant answers.
17. The same advice, that AJH Issue 7 was validly published according to the code was provided by a recipient of an original of that journal, namely Richard Wells on 7 December 2009 (Wells 2009).
18. Ignoring the advice of Hoser 2009i and Hoser 2009j that corrected the mistake published by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009), Wüster has continued to actively promulgate the view that AJH Issue 7 was not published according to the code and that therefore *Spracklandus* is not a valid or available name according to the code.
19. Wüster and Bérnils (2011) ignored the correcting statements of Hoser 2009i and Hoser 2000j and Wells 2009 and repeated the claims made in Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009, including that all issues of AJH Issues 1-7 were not validly published according to the code.
20. Hoser 2012a, provided documentary evidence to show that all relevant issues of AJH had been validly published under the code and that the conclusions of Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009) were in fact false. Hoser 2012a, further showed that

Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009, had either known their claims were false at the time of publication, or alternatively were reckless to have published them without having made obvious and appropriate inquiries.

21. To substantiate the claims in Hoser 2012a, the author provided copies of receipt documents from places including *Zoological Record*, for various issues of AJH, including issue 7.
22. The claims of Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009) have been reposted widely, including in published papers, including Schleip and O'Shea 2010 (both close friends of Wüster), creating further potential instability in terms of the nomenclature of the Spitting Cobras.
23. To stabilize the nomenclature of the other taxa described in AJH issues 1-7, Hoser published new papers in 2012, (Hoser 2012a, 2012b, 2012c, 2012d, 2012e) that named all relevant taxa identified in issues 1-7 of AJH, meaning the only issue remaining for those taxa is that of publication date as opposed to taxon names.
24. As a result, the only name now subject to the claims made by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009) in terms of potentially not being available under the code on the basis of the false claims by Wallach et. al. and in dispute by them is *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009.
25. Based on the material presented in Hoser 2012a, it is self-evident that AJH issue 7 was in fact validly published under the code.
26. It is also clear that Wallach, Wüster and Broadley were reckless in their publishing claims in relation to AJH not being validly published, based on their failure to ask relevant questions of the author or publisher of AJH Issue 7, or even to make simple checks of likely repositories of originals of AJH Issue 7, including *Zoological Record*.
27. Hoser 2012a, also provided evidence to show that Wüster and associates, including Schleip have a substantial prior history spanning over 10 years, of making false claims in relation to taxonomic and nomenclatural matters, specifically in relation to names proposed by Hoser.
28. Hoser 2012a recounted a historical case, where Wüster and others generated more than 4,000 "fake" votes online in order to enable a friend, the convicted wildlife smuggler, David John Williams to win a free holiday in a competition run by a major hotel chain (see Williams 2008). This recount was to show the power Wüster and associated people have in improperly manipulating the opinions of large numbers of people.
29. Hoser 2012a provided evidence to show that Schleip, a colleague of Wüster had lied in a preamble in a taxonomic paper naming allegedly new *Leiopython* taxa (see Schleip 2007a, 2007b, 2008a, 2008b, 2008c).
30. Hoser 2012a recounted another incident where Wüster and Williams were a party to the fraudulent alteration of an online paper in the period 1998-2000 to make false claims in relation to Hoser breaching the ICZN code in 2000 (see three versions of the same paper posted on the web, cited herein as Williams and Starkey 1999a, 1999b and 1999c).
31. Hoser 2012a provided evidence detailing continual editing and meddling by Wüster of internet information sites, including reptile databases and Wikipedia to present to others misleading, deceptive and totally false information.
32. More recently, in June 2012, associates of Wüster (as identified from their personal "facebook" pages screen dumped on 25 June 2012) have commenced a campaign to use a loophole in Article 79 of the Code to effectively over-ride the essential "Article 23" of the code ("Principle of priority") to set themselves up as small group of gate-keepers as to whom will get naming rights on reptile taxa, with a view to re-naming all taxa formally described by Hoser and any other person they take a dislike to, or for that matter, any other taxon they would like to see their own names attached to (Kaiser et. al. 2012).
33. Kaiser et. al. 2012, repeat and make numerous false and defamatory claims against Hoser, (easily shown as such) in their open letter and "a call to action", including that Hoser papers are "fraudulent, unethical, or lacking evidence". None of these claims have a shred of factual evidence to support them as best demonstrated by viewing the primary sources, that being the papers themselves, including for example Hoser 2012f.
34. Kaiser et. al. 2012, point to their success in stopping people using names proposed by Hoser to date, in particular those for Rattlesnakes, the basis of their success being Wüster's earlier false claims that the names were not validly published or available under the code.
35. Among the dozens of names Kaiser et. al. 2012 (appendix list) seek to suppress in favor of their own planned "renamings" is *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004, (and others) used by herpetologists to date many thousands of times, as easily shown by doing a "Google" search for the term. Wüster's similar actions over the past decade have held the code in contempt and the current course of action seeks to undermine the code and nomenclatural stability further.
36. The undeniable published record shows that without a ruling by the ICZN, Wüster will continue to engage in unethical conduct that will destabilize nomenclature and in violation of the central rules of the code.
37. In accordance with the code, *Spracklandus* has a clear date priority over *Afronaja* (Article 23 of the code). As both genera have the same type species, *Afronaja* must be a junior synonym for *Spracklandus*.
38. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked by Raymond Hoser to:

    (1) Affirm that *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* Issue 7, was in fact published in accordance with the code as were all other issues of the Journal as published before and since then up to and including end July 2012 (to Issue 15).

    (2) Therefore affirm that the genus name *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009, should be applied to the type species *Naja nigricollis* Reinhardt 1843.

    (3) Therefore affirm that all names published in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* are available under the code, assuming the taxa so named are deemed worthy of such recognition by others and no other available names have priority.

    (3) Use its plenary powers and publish a ruling to suppress for nomenclatural purposes the name "*Afronaja*" as applied in the paper by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009) for the type species *Naja nigricollis* Reinhardt 1843, in order to maintain nomenclatural stability.

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