

From a history of genus mergers to an overdue break-up: A new and sensible taxonomy for the Asiatic Wolf Snakes *Lycodon* Boie, 1826 (Serpentes: Colubridae).

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ABSTRACT.

The Asiatic Wolf Snakes genus *Lycodon* Boie, 1826 as currently recognized, consists of about 48 species of which 15 have been formally described in the last 15 years (Neang *et al.* 2014).

These snakes have for most of the last 188 years been treated as being within a single genus, namely *Lycodon* Boie, 1826.

Other authors have proposed generic names for given species or species groups, with most if not all invariably being synonymised with *Lycodon*.

By way of example, the most recent phylogenetic revisions by Siler *et al.* (2013) and Guo *et al.* (2013) merged the long recognized and used genus *Dinodon* Duméril, 1853 within a greater *Lycodon*.

This is a position maintained by most other authors including for example Neang *et al.* (2014).

However a comparison of where the line of divergence is drawn to define a genus between snakes within *Lycodon sensu lato* and other snake genera as currently recognized shows that by any reasonable interpretation *Lycodon* should be split to be consistent with the majority of other genera.

This view is supported by molecular studies of Siler *et al.* (2013), Guo *et al.* (2013) and Grismer *et al.* (2014) if lined up against the comparative order-wide supermatrix constructed by Pyron *et al.* (2013), which clearly shows *Lycodon* as paraphyletic.

As a result of the evidence within these and other studies, including numerous taxonomic ones based on morphology, *Lycodon* as currently recognized is split into seven genera, for which names are available for five. The other two genus groups, *Snakebustersus gen. nov.* and *Apollopierson gen. nov.* are formally named and defined according to the rules of the Zoological Code (Ride *et al.* 1999).

Within various genera five new subgenera are also formally named for the first time and another genus *Cercaspis* Wagler, 1830 is resurrected and treated as being a monotypic subgenus within *Lycodon*.

Also recognized are the following associated genera: *Lepturophis* Boulenger, 1900, *Dryocalamus* Günther, 1858 and *Hydrophobus* Günther, 1862, making a grand total of 10 genera within *Lycodon sensu lato*.

In order to best identify the relationships between all the associated genera a new tribe Snakebustersini *tribe nov.* is erected to accommodate the genera.

Keywords: Taxonomy; Nomenclature; *Lycodon*; *Dinodon*; *Tyleria*; *Ophites*; *Cercaspis*; *Tetragonosoma*; *Leptorhytaon*; *Dryocalamus*; *Hydrophobus*; *Sphecodes*; *Dannyelfakharikukri*; new tribe; *Snakebustersusini*; new genera; *Snakebustersus*; *Apollopierson*; new subgenera; *Mindanaosnakebustersus*; *Myanmarelfakhari*; *Sinoelfakhari*; *Paralycodon*; *Kotabilycodon*.

INTRODUCTION.

Asiatic Wolf Snakes genus *Lycodon* Boie, 1826 as currently recognized consists of 48 species of which 15 have been formally described in the last 15 years (Neang *et al.* 2014).

These snakes have for most of the last 188 years been treated as being within a single genus, namely *Lycodon* Boie, 1826.

The Latin name *Lycodon* is derived from the Greek words *ἐγχείον* (*lykos*) meaning wolf and *ἄϊον* (*don*) meaning tooth, and refers to

the fang-like anterior maxillary and mandibular teeth (Boulenger, 1893). The genus as currently recognized inhabits most parts of south-east Asia and nearby coastal regions in southern and eastern Asia as well as offshore islands and Indonesia.

Later authors have proposed generic names for given species or species groups, usually without any scientific basis given. As a result, most if not all have invariably been synonymised with *Lycodon*.

By way of example, the most recent phylogenetic revisions by Siler *et al.* (2013) and Guo *et al.* (2013) merged another long recognized and used genus *Dinodon* Duméril, 1853 within a greater *Lycodon*.

This is a position maintained by most other authors including for example Neang *et al.* (2014).

However a comparison of where the line of divergence is drawn to define a genus between snakes within *Lycodon sensu lato* and other snake genera as currently recognized shows that by any reasonable interpretation *Lycodon* should be split to be consistent with the majority of other genera.

This view is supported by molecular studies of Siler *et al.* (2013), Guo *et al.* (2013) and Grismer *et al.* (2014), when cross-referenced with the comparative order-wide supermatrix constructed by Pyron *et al.* (2013), which clearly shows *Lycodon* as paraphyletic.

A global audit of the world's snakes largely completed in 2012, identified *Lycodon* as a genus in need of formal division, but this was not undertaken at the time pending the expected publications of Siler *et al.* (2013) and Guo *et al.* (2013), whom I had expected to make logical taxonomic judgments with regards to the genera within the group.

However these authors, while recognizing the paraphyly of *Lycodon sensu lato*, chose to merge genera rather than maintain divisions and/or add further genera by way of resurrection of old names or by formal description of one or more new genera.

As a result of the evidence within these most recent and other earlier and invariably less complete studies, including numerous taxonomic ones based on morphology, *Lycodon* as currently recognized is split here into seven genera.

There are available names for five of these groups, so in strict compliance with the rules of the Zoological Code, these are used.

The other two genus groups, *Snakebustersus gen. nov.* and *Apollopierson gen. nov.* are formally named and defined according to the rules of the Zoological Code (Ride *et al.* 1999).

Within various genera five new subgenera are also formally named for the first time. *Cercaspis* Wagler, 1830 is also resurrected from synonymy with *Lycodon* and treated as a subgenus within it.

Three other associated genera, commonly lumped within *Lycodon* are also recognized, for which names are available and used herein.

These are *Lepturophis* Boulenger, 1900, *Dryocalamus* Günther, 1858 and *Hydrophobus* Günther, 1862, making a grand total of 10 genera within *Lycodon sensu lato*.

In order to best identify the relationships between the associated genera a new tribe Snakebustersini *tribe nov.* effectively equivalent to *Lycodon sensu lato* is erected to accommodate the genera.

MATERIALS, METHODS AND RESULTS.

The basis of this taxonomy is the audit of all known extant species within the genus *Lycodon* and also genera known to be associated with it, such as *Dryocalamus* Günther, 1858, and *Lepturophis* Boulenger, 1900 which at times have been treated as synonymous with *Lycodon*.

This was done by viewing numerous live specimens, dead specimens and photographs, as well as all major relevant and available publications relevant to the taxa identified as belonging in the genera *Lycodon* and those others at times treated as associated with it or synonymous to it.

Key publications relevant to the taxonomy of *Lycodon* and associated genera include the following: Adler and Zhao (1995), Balete *et al.* (2011), Bickford *et al.* (2007), Boie (1827), Boulenger (1893, 1896, 1899), Bourret (1934, 1935a, 1935b, 1936, 1937, 1939a, 1939b, 1939c, 1939d), Brown and Diesmos (2002, 2009), Brown and Guttman (2002), Brown and Stuart

(2012), Brown *et al.* (2012a, 2012b), Burbrink and Pyron (2008), Burbrink *et al.* (2008), Cadle (1988), Daltry and Wüster (2002), Das (1994, 2003, 2010), David and Vogel (1996), David *et al.* (2008a, 2008b), de Queiroz and Gatesy (2007), Deuve (1970), Diamond and Gilpin (1983), Driskell *et al.* (2004), Dowling (1951), Drummond and Rambaut (2007), Drummond *et al.* (2006), Duméril, (1853), Edgar (2004), Esselstyn and Oliveros (2010), Esselstyn *et al.* (2009, 2010), Evans *et al.* (2003), Ferner *et al.* (2000), Fritz (1993), Gamble *et al.* (2012), Gaulke (2002), Goris and Maeda (2004), Gravlund (2001), Greene (1997), Grismer *et al.* (2007, 2008, 2011, 2014), Grossmann and Tillack (2001a, 2001b), Günther (1858, 1868), Guo *et al.* (2013), Heaney (1985, 1986), Heaney *et al.* (1998, 2005), Heise *et al.* (1995), Hikida *et al.* (1989), Hoser (2000, 2012), IUCN (2014), Jackson and Fritts (2004), Jansa *et al.* (2006), Jones and Kennedy (2008), Kelly *et al.* (2003, 2009), Kraus and Brown (1998), Kuntz (1963), Lanza (1999), Lawson *et al.* (2005), Lee (2005), Lee and Scanlon (2002), Lei *et al.* (2014), Leviton (1955, 1965), Linnaeus (1758), Lue *et al.* (1999), Maki (1931, 1933), Malhorta *et al.* (2011), Marshall (2010), McLeod *et al.* (2011), Mell (1922), Mori (1984), Mukherjee and Bhupathy (2007), Murphy *et al.* (2012), Neang *et al.* (2012, 2014), Nutphand (1986), Orlov *et al.* (2000, 2003), Ota (1998, 1991, 2000), Ota and Ross (1994), Pauwels and Sumontha (2007), Pauwels *et al.* (2000a, 2000b, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006), Pfenninger and Schwenk (2007), Philippe *et al.* (2004), Pope (1928, 1929, 1935), Posada (2008), Pyron and Burbrink (2009), Pyron *et al.* (2011, 2013), Rambaut and Drummond (2007), Reza (2010), Rieppel (1988), Ronquist and Huelsenbeck (2003), Saint Girons (1972), Sanderson *et al.* (2003), Siler *et al.* (2010, 2011, 2012a, 2012b, 2012c, 2013), Slowinski and Lawson (2005), Slowinski *et al.* (2001), Smith (1943), Stamatakis (2006), Stamatakis *et al.* (2008), Stejneger (1907), Stuart *et al.* (2006), Stuart and Chuaynkern (2007), Stuebing and Inger (1999), Swofford (1999), Szyndlar and Nguyen (1996), Taylor (1965), Thomson and Shaffer (2010), Toda (1987), Toriba (1982), Toriba and Hikida (1999), Toyama (1985), Tu (2004), Uchiyama *et al.* (2002), Vandeweghe *et al.* (2012), Vidal *et al.* (2007, 2009), Vogel and Brachtel (2008), Vogel and David (2010), Vogel and Luo (2011), Vogel *et al.* (2009, 2012), Wall (1921), Wallach *et al.* (2014), Welton *et al.* (2010), Whitaker and Captain (2004), Wiens *et al.* (2005, 2008), Wilcox *et al.* (2002), Wilgenbusch *et al.* (2004), Zaher (1999), Zaher *et al.* (2009), Zhang *et al.* (2011), Zhao (2002, 2006), Zhao and Adler (1993), Zhao and Jiang (1981), Zhao and Yang (1997), Zhao *et al.* (1998), Ziegler (2002), Ziegler *et al.* (2004, 2007) and sources cited therein.

The results are summarized immediately below.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES.

As a result of this review, I have determined that while *Lycodon sensu lato* is a single monophyletic group, the divisions within the group are of sufficient depth and antiquity to warrant a breakup of the genus as currently understood by most herpetologists at the present time.

Hence many of the past synonymizations of genera by others is in fact reversed here.

To maintain the monophyly of the group, all are herein placed into a single tribe formally named and defined for the first time according to the Zoological Code (Ride *et al.* 1999).

This paper therefore makes the following broad changes are made in terms of the genus *Lycodon sensu lato*.

The genus *Dryocalamus* Günther, 1858 (type species: *D. tristriatus* Günther, 1858) has been shown to be embedded within the group generally regarded as *Lycodon sensu lato*. Notwithstanding this, the divergences between the lineages are sufficient to warrant the genus being recognized. In fact *Dryocalamus* itself consists of two distinct morphological groups and these are herein both recognized at the generic level. Names are available for both, the other group being *Hydrophobus* Günther, 1862 (type species: *Coluber nympha* Daudin, 1803). The Zoological Code does not permit me to

overwrite these little-used names with my own coined names as recently done by others in herpetology.

Dinodon Duméril, 1853 (type species: *Lycodon rufozonatus* Cantor, 1842) has most recently been synonymized with *Lycodon* by Siler *et al.* 2013 and Guo *et al.* 2013. The data relied upon by those authors is not disputed in any way. I note however that Siler *et al.* (2013), Fig. 3, page 268, shows *Dinodon* embedded within a greater *Lycodon sensu lato*, but on its own divergent stem (also seen in Pyron *et al.* 2013). This alone forms a sufficient basis to form the view that *Dinodon* should be recognized at the genus level.

Siler *et al.* (2013), Fig. 3, page 268 also shows *Lycodon sensu lato* forming seven distinct clades (including *Dinodon*) and it is these clades that correspond with the seven genera recognized herein.

Lepturophis Boulenger, 1900 type species, *Sphecodes albofuscus* Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854 often placed in the genus *Lycodon* is herein recognized as generically distinct based on the molecular results of Grismer *et al.* (2014).

If one were to add *Lepturophis*, *Dryocalamus* and *Hydrophobus* to the total, this would mean *Lycodon sensu lato* is herein divided ten ways.

Excluding the genera *Lepturophis*, *Dryocalamus* and *Hydrophobus* these other seven changes at the genus level are as follows:

1/ *Lycodon* (type species: *Coluber aulicus* Linnaeus, 1758) for the so-called *aulicus* group is recognized. Included herein is the taxon *Coluber jara* Shaw, 1802 the type species for the genus *Leptorhytaon* Günther, 1858, which therefore is synonymised at the genus level. *Tytleria* Theobald, 1868 is also formally synonymised within this genus.

Within *Lycodon* the divergent taxon *Lycodon laoensis* Günther, 1864 is herein placed in the newly named subgenus *Paralycodon subgen. nov.*

The divergent taxon, *Lycodon kundui* Smith, 1943 is herein placed in the monotypic subgenus *Kotabilycodon subgen. nov.*

Cercaspis Wagler, 1830 (type species: *Lycodon carinatus*), is also treated as being a monotypic subgenus within *Lycodon*.

2/ The polytypic species *Tetragonosoma effrene* (Cantor, 1847), long treated as being within *Lycodon* is hereby treated as being in a separate genus, as originally described (*Tetragonosoma*).

3/ Following on from the results of Lei *et al.* (2014), the associated so-called *ruhstrati* and *fasciatus* groups are both placed into the genus *Dannyelfakhariukri* Hoser, 2012, in turn divided into three obvious subgenera, the newly named groups being *Myanmarelfakhari subgen. nov.* and *Sinoelfakhari subgen. nov.*

4/ The polytypic species *Lycodon subcinctus* Boie, 1827 is the type species for the genus *Ophites* Wagler, 1830.

5/ *Dinodon* Duméril, 1853 is resurrected to accommodate several species.

6/ The divergent species *Lycodon stormi* Boettger, 1892 from Sulawesi, is herein placed in a newly named genus *Apollopierson gen. nov.*

7/ The Philippine clade including *Lycodon muelleri* Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854 as the type species is herein placed in a new genus *Snakebustersus gen. nov.* which is in turn divided into two subgenera, the second being *Mindanaosnakebustersus subgen. nov.*

In terms of any other names previously applied to *Lycodon* the following is noted:

Sphecodes Duméril and Bibron, 1853 is a preoccupied bee genus and so is not relevant herein.

NOTES ON TAXA NAMED HEREIN.

In the event a later author seeks to merge one or more taxon groups (taxa) described within this paper, the order of priority should be by page priority in terms of this paper; that is the first

name listed is the first to be used. Gender, spellings and the like of names or other perceived errors should not be altered in any way unless mandated by the Zoological Code, even if apparently wrong in the original descriptions herein, including by derivation or gender.

The same (above) directive/s applies to all other taxa described by myself, at all levels, to date (2014) in the period 1998-2014 inclusive.

GENUS LYCODON BOIE, 1826.

Type species: *Coluber aulicus* Linnaeus, 1758.

Diagnosis: The genus *Lycodon* is defined and diagnosed by the following unique suite of characters:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Within this diagnosis (now applicable for the tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) several genera until now mainly treated as being within *Lycodon* would also be defined.

In order to separate the relevant genera, including *Lycodon* (by way of a process of elimination of other genera), the relevant genera are herein defined:

Apollopierson gen. nov. are readily separated from all other species of *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters: 19 dorsal mid body scale rows; all single subcaudals; no loreal; praefrontal in contact with the labials; ventrals laterally angulate; a praecocular separating the eye from the praefrontal; smooth dorsal scales.

The genus is further diagnosed by the following characters: Head strongly depressed; eye small, rostral not much broader than deep, being just visible from above; internasals much shorter than the praefrontals; the latter longer than broad; frontal as long as the internasals and praefrontals together, much shorter than the parietals; loreal large, nearly as deep as long, not entering the eye; one praecocular, not reaching the frontal; two postoculars; temporals 1+3; eight upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields,

which are longer than the posterior. Scales smooth, in 19 dorsal mid body scale rows, about 217 ventrals 217, angulate laterally; anal entire; subcaudals about 75, all single. Slate-colour, with whitish annuli, which are most marked on the lower surface (adapted from Boulenger, 1893).

The genus *Snakebustersus gen. nov.* are readily separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following suite of characters: 17 dorsal mid-body scale rows; all the dorsals are smooth or with more or less developed keels only in the posterior part of the body; subcaudals number more than 100.

Dinodon Duméril, 1853 is diagnosed and separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following suite of characters:

Maxillary teeth 6+2 or 3+2 or 3, the anterior gradually increasing in size, the middle ones small, the last large, the three groups separated by distinct interspaces; anterior mandibular teeth enlarged. Head slightly distinct from neck; eye rather small, with vertically elliptic pupil. Body more or less elongate; scales

smooth or feebly keeled, with apical pits, in 17 (or 21) rows; ventrals angulate laterally. Tail moderate; subcaudals divided. The snakes in the genus *Ophites* Wagler, 1830 are separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following suite of characters:

Mid-body scales in 17 rows; at least some dorsal scale rows are keeled along the whole body (keels sometimes scarcely visible or invisible on the scales which have lost their outermost layer); dorsal scales except for those forming outermost rows more or less weakly keeled, each keel without serrations; preocular absent; prefrontal entering eye; loreal entering eye; 8 upper labials; anal usually divided, but rarely entire; 192-230 ventrals (males 192-212, females 213-230; angulate laterally); 60-90 paired subcaudals (males 60-78, females 78-90); cross-bands at least in the juveniles, the adults tend to lose them.

The genus *Dannyelfakharikukri* Hoser, 2012 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

17 mid-body scale rows; at least some dorsal scale rows are keeled along the whole body (keels sometimes scarcely visible or invisible on the scales which have lost their outermost layer); dorsal scales except for those forming outermost rows are more or less weakly keeled, each keel without serrations; preocular present, prefrontal not entering the eye.

The genus *Tetragonosoma* Günther, 1858 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

17 mid-body scale rows; all the dorsals are smooth or with more or less developed keels only in the posterior part of the body; less than 100 subcaudals; no loreal; praefrontal in contact with the labials; three labials enter the eye; 215-228 ventrals.

The genus *Dryocalamus* Günther, 1858 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

Maxillary teeth 8 to 10, rather short but stout, increasing in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth a little longer than the posterior; one or two more or less distinct tooth-like knobs on the basisphenoid; head distinct from neck, much depressed; eye moderate or rather large, with vertically elliptic pupil; body slender, slightly compressed; scales smooth, in 13 or 15 rows, with apical pits: ventrals strongly keeled on each side. Tail moderate; subcaudals in two rows. No praeocular.

The genus *Hydrophobus* Günther, 1862, is essentially physically identical in most respects to the genus *Dryocalamus* (as just described) but specimens are readily separated from that genus by the presence of one or two praeoculars.

The genus *Lepturophis* Boulenger, 1900 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

Scales strongly keeled; 17 mid-body scale rows; 155-208 all divided subcaudals; a praeocular, separating the eye from the praefrontal.

The genus is further diagnosed as follows:

Snout moderately depressed, not spatulate; eye moderate. Rostral broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals half as long as the praefrontals; frontal as long as broad, as long as the praefrontals or a little longer, much shorter than the parietals; loreal a little longer than deep, not entering the eye; one prae and two postoculars; temporals 2+2; eight upper labials, third, fourth, and fifth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are a little shorter than the posterior. Body very slender. Scales in 17 rows, all strongly keeled. Ventrals 238-256, strongly angulate laterally; anal

divided; subcaudals 155-208 all paired. Blackish brown above, young with yellow cross bands; yellowish beneath.

Distribution: South and south-east Asia.

Content: *Lycodon aulicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (type species); *L. capucinus* (Boie, 1827); *L. carinatus* (Kuhl, 1820); *L. flavicollis*

Mukerjee and Bhupathy, 2007; *L. flavomaculatus* Wall, 1907; *L. hypsirhinoides* (Theobald, 1868); *L. jara* (Shaw, 1802); *L. kundui* Smith, 1943; *L. laoensis* (Günther, 1864); *L. mackinnoni* Wall, 1906; *L. osmanhilli* Taylor, 1950; *L. striatus* (Shaw, 1802); *L. tessellatus* Jan, 1863; *L. travancoricus* (Beddome, 1870); *L. tiwarii* Biswas and Sanyal, 1965; *L. zawi* Slowinski, Pawar, Win, Thin, Gyi, Oo and Tun, 2001.

SUBGENUS PARALYCODON SUBGEN. NOV.

Type species: *Lycodon laoensis* Günther, 1864.

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Paralycodon subgen. nov.* is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) including other *Lycodon* species by the following unique suite of characters:

All the dorsal scales are smooth or with more or less developed keels only in the posterior part of the body; dorsal pattern is banded with light cross-bands which may be pure white at least anteriorly;

nasal usually divided; anal usually divided, rarely entire; ventrals more or less angulate laterally; nasal usually divided with the anterior portion larger than or subequal to the posterior one; anterior chin shields 2 to 3 times longer than the posterior ones; loreal present and not in, or in short (rarely strong) contact with internasal; usually 9, sometimes 10 upper labials; 163-192 ventrals; 60-76 paired subcaudals, 17 mid-body scale rows.

Species within this subgenus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: Mainly Indo-China including India, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, China (Yunnan) and West Malaysia.

Etymology: Named in reflection of the fact that this subgenus does "not quite" fit within the typical species group for the genus, that being species associated with the type species *Lycodon aulicus* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Content: *Lycodon (Paralycodon) laoensis* Günther, 1864 (monotypic).

SUBGENUS KOTABILYCODON SUBGEN. NOV.

Type species: *Lycodon kundui* Smith, 1943.

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Kotabilycodon subgen. nov.* is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) including other *Lycodon* species by the following unique suite of characters: 15 mid-body scale rows; ventrals strongly angulate laterally; 7 upper labials; loreal not entering the eye; dorsals smooth; anal entire; 186 ventrals; 70 paired subcaudals; cross-bars present.

Species within this subgenus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed;

scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: Only known from Myanmar (= Burma) (Pegu Division).

Etymology: Named in honour of Kotabi Publishing, publishers of the book *Smuggled-2: Wildlife Trafficking, Crime and Corruption in Australia*, (Hoser 1996), which led to the rewriting of ridiculously draconian and anti-conservation wildlife laws in all parts of Australia. This included for the first time in decades allowing private individuals in Australia the legal right to keep live reptiles and other animals as pets without inherent fear of armed police raids and long-term imprisonment.

Content: *Lycodon (Kotabilycodon) kundui* Smith, 1943 (monotypic).

SUBGENUS *CERCASPIS* WAGLER, 1830.

Type species: *Hurria carinata* Kuhl, 1820.

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Cercaspis* Wagler, 1830 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) including other *Lycodon* species by the following unique suite of characters:

19 mid-body rows; scales strongly keeled; subcaudals single; a praeocular, separating the eye from the praefrontal.

Species within this subgenus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large.

Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: Sri Lanka.

Content: *Lycodon (Cercaspis) carinatus* (Kuhl, 1820) (monotypic).

SUBGENUS *LYCODON* BOIE, 1826.

Type species: *Coluber alicus* Linnaeus, 1758.

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Lycodon* Boie, 1826 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) including other *Lycodon* species by the elimination of the three other subgenera.

The subgenus *Paralycodon subgen. nov.* is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) including other *Lycodon* species by the following unique suite of characters:

All the dorsal scales are smooth or with more or less developed keels only in the posterior part of the body; dorsal pattern is banded with light cross-bands which may be pure white at least anteriorly;

nasal usually divided; anal usually divided, rarely entire; ventrals more or less angulate laterally; nasal usually divided, anterior portion larger than or subequal to the posterior one; anterior chin shields 2 to 3 times longer than the posterior ones; loreal present and not in, or in short (rarely strong) contact with internasal; usually 9, sometimes 10 upper labials; 163-192

ventrals; 60-76 paired subcaudals, 17 mid-body scale rows.

The subgenus *Kotabilycodon subgen. nov.* is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) including other *Lycodon* species by the following unique suite of characters: 15 mid-body scale rows; ventrals strongly angulate laterally; 7 upper labials; loreal not entering the eye; dorsals smooth; anal entire; 186 ventrals; 70 paired subcaudals; cross-bars present.

The subgenus *Cercaspis* Wagler, 1830 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) including other *Lycodon* species by the following unique suite of characters:

19 mid-body rows; scales strongly keeled; subcaudals single; a praeocular, separating the eye from the praefrontal.

Distribution: South and south-east Asia.

Content: *Lycodon (Lycodon) alicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (type species); *L. (Lycodon) capucinus* (Boie, 1827); *L. (Lycodon) flavicollis* Mukerjee and Bhupathy, 2007; *L. (Lycodon) flavomaculatus* Wall, 1907; *L. (Lycodon) hypsirrhinoides* (Theobald, 1868); *L. (Lycodon) jara* (Shaw, 1802); *L. (Lycodon) mackinnoni* Wall, 1906; *L. (Lycodon) osmanhilli* Taylor, 1950; *L. (Lycodon) striatus* (Shaw, 1802); *L. (Lycodon) tessellatus* Jan, 1863; *L. (Lycodon) travancoricus* (Beddome, 1870); *L. (Lycodon) tiwarii* Biswas and Sanyal, 1965; *L. (Lycodon) zawi* Slowinski, Pawar, Win, Thin, Gyi, Oo and Tun, 2001.

GENUS *DINODON* DUMÉRIL, 1853.

Type species: *Lycodon rufozonatus* Cantor, 1842.

Diagnosis: *Dinodon* Duméril, 1853 is diagnosed and separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following suite of characters:

Maxillary teeth 6+2 or 3+2 or 3, the anterior gradually increasing in size, the middle ones small, the last large, the three groups separated by distinct interspaces; anterior mandibular teeth enlarged. Head slightly distinct from neck; eye rather small, with vertically elliptic pupil. Body more or less elongate; scales smooth or feebly keeled, with apical pits, in 17 (or 21) rows; ventrals angulate laterally. Tail moderate; subcaudals divided.

Species within this genus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: East Asia.

Content: *Dinodon rufozonatus* (Cantor, 1842) (type species); *D. flavozonatum* Pope, 1928; *D. formosana* (Boettger, 1885); *D. futsingensis* Pope, 1928; *D. meridionale* (Bourett, 1935); *D. orientalis* (Hilgendorf, 1880); *D. semicarinatus* (Cope, 1860); *D. septentrionalis* (Günther, 1875).

GENUS *OPHITES* WAGLER, 1830.

Type species: *Lycodon subcinctus* Boie, 1827.

Diagnosis: The snakes in the genus *Ophites* Wagler, 1830 are separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following suite of characters:

Mid-body scales in 17 rows; at least some dorsal scale rows are keeled along the whole body (keels sometimes scarcely visible

or invisible on the scales which have lost their outermost layer); dorsal scales except for those forming outermost rows more or less weakly keeled, each keel without serrations; preocular absent; prefrontal entering eye; loreal entering eye; 8 upper labials; anal usually divided, but rarely entire; 192-230 ventrals (males 192-212, females 213-230; angulate laterally); 60-90 paired subcaudals (males 60-78, females 78-90); cross-bands at least in the juveniles, the adults tend to lose them.

Species within this genus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: Widespread in East Asia, including parts of Indo-China, Indonesia, the Philippines.

Content: *Ophites subcinctus* (Boie, 1827) (type species); *O. cardamomensis* (Daltry and Wüster, 2002).

GENUS DANNYELFAKHARIKUKRI HOSER, 2012.

Type species: *Oligodon multizonatus* Zhao and Jiang, 1981.

Diagnosis: Separation of this genus from all other genera in the tribe Oligodonini Hoser, 2012 is defined by Hoser (2012).

At the time the genus was defined by Hoser (2012), it was thought to be monotypic for the type species originally described as "*Oligodon multizonatus* Zhao and Jiang, 1981".

Lei *et al.* (2014) showed this species to be a part of the *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) and closely related to other relatively well-known species.

As there is no earlier available name for that clade, the name *Dannyelfakhariukri* Hoser, 2012 is to be used for that group.

The genus *Dannyelfakhariukri* Hoser, 2012 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

17 mid-body scale rows; at least some dorsal scale rows are keeled along the whole body (keels sometimes scarcely visible or invisible on the scales which have lost their outermost layer); dorsal scales except for those forming outermost rows are more or less weakly keeled, each keel without serrations; preocular present, prefrontal not entering the eye.

Species within this genus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: East and southern Asia.

Content: *Dannyelfakhariukri multizonatum* (Zhao and Jiang, 1981) (type species); *D. butleri* (Boulenger, 1900); *D. cavernicolus* Grismer, Quah, Muin, Wood and Aziza, 2014; *D. davidi* (David, Vogel, Nguyen, Kingsda and Ziegler, 2012); *D. fasciatus* (Anderson, 1879); *D. gammiei* (Blanford, 1878); *D. gongshan* Vogel and Luo, 2011; *D. liuchengchaoi* (Zhang, Jiang, Vogel and Rao, 2011); *D. multifasciatus* (Maki, 1931); *D. ophiophagus* (Vogel, David, Pauwels, Sumontha, Norval, Hendrix, Vu and Ziegler, 2009); *D. paucifasciatus* (Rendahl, 1943); *D. ruhstrati* (Fischer, 1886); *D. synaptor* (Vogel and David, 2010); *D. zoosvictoriae* (Neang, Hartmann, Hun, Souter and Furey, 2014).

SUBGENUS MYANMARELFAKHARI SUBGEN. NOV.

Type species: *Ophites fasciatus* Anderson, 1879.

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Myanmarelfakhari subgen. nov.* is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

17 mid-body scale rows; at least some dorsal scale rows keeled along the whole body (keels sometimes scarcely visible or invisible on the scales which have lost their outermost layer); dorsal scales except for those forming outermost rows more or less weakly keeled, each keel without serrations; preocular present, prefrontal not entering eye; loreal entering eye (rarely excluded from it in *Dannyelfakhariukri fasciatus*); posterior chin shields as long as or much longer than the anterior ones.

The subgenus *Dannyelfakhariukri subgen. nov.* would ordinarily key out as *Myanmarelfakhari subgen. nov.* but may be separated from that subgenus by having 7 (rarely 8 on one side only) supralabials, instead of 8 or 9 supralabials; the third and fourth or the third to fifth entering eye; 8 instead of nine infralabials; divided anal (instead of a single anal in *Myanmarelfakhari subgen. nov.*); more than 40 well-defined yellow rings or bars evenly spaced along the entire length of the black body, and more than 10 yellow rings or bars evenly spaced along the black tail; the hemipenis has no nick at the tip (versus a nick at the tip in *Myanmarelfakhari subgen. nov.*).

Species within this subgenus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: East and south Asia.

Etymology: Named in reflection of both the center of distribution of the snakes as well as a derivative of the original genus name.

Content: *Dannyelfakhariukri (Myanmarelfakhari) fasciatus* (Anderson, 1879) (type species); *D. (Myanmarelfakhari) butleri* (Boulenger, 1900); *D. (Myanmarelfakhari) cavernicolus* Grismer, Quah, Muin, Wood and Aziza, 2014; *D. (Myanmarelfakhari) gammiei* (Blanford, 1878); *D. (Myanmarelfakhari) gongshan* Vogel and Luo, 2011; *D. (Myanmarelfakhari) synaptor* (Vogel and David, 2010); *D. (Myanmarelfakhari) zoosvictoriae* (Neang, Hartmann, Hun, Souter and Furey, 2014).

SUBGENUS SINOELFAKHARI SUBGEN. NOV.

Type species: *Ophites ruhstrati* Fischer, 1886.

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Sinoelfakhari subgen. nov.* is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe

Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

17 mid-body scale rows; at least some dorsal scale rows keeled along the whole body (keels sometimes scarcely visible or invisible on the scales which have lost their outermost layer); dorsal scales except for those forming outermost rows more or less weakly keeled, each keel without serrations; preocular present, prefrontal not entering eye; loreal usually wedged between preocular and third upper labial, but rarely entering eye; posterior chin shields a little shorter than anterior ones.

Species within this subgenus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: East Asia.

Etymology: Named in reflection of both the center of distribution of the snakes as well as a derivative of the original genus name.

Content: *Dannyelfakharikukri* (*Sinoelfakhari*) *ruhstrati* (Fischer, 1886) (type species); *D. (Sinoelfakhari) davidi* (David, Vogel, Nguyen, Kingsda and Ziegler, 2012); *D. (Sinoelfakhari) multifasciatus* (Maki, 1931); *D. (Sinoelfakhari) ophiophagus* (Vogel, David, Pauwels, Sumontha, Norval, Hendrix, Vu and Ziegler, 2009); *D. (Sinoelfakhari) paucifasciatus* (Rendahl, 1943).

SUBGENUS DANNYELFAKHARIKUKRI SUBGEN. NOV.

Type species: *Oligodon multizonatus* Zhao and Jiang, 1981.

Diagnosis: This subgenus would ordinarily key out as *Myanmarelfakhari subgen. nov.* but may be separated from it by having 7 (rarely 8 on one side only) supralabials instead of 8 or 9 supralabials; the third and fourth or the third to fifth entering eye; 8 instead of nine infralabials; divided anal (instead of a single anal in *Myanmarelfakhari subgen. nov.*); more than 40 well-defined yellow rings or bars evenly spaced along the entire length of the black body, and more than 10 yellow rings or bars evenly spaced along the black tail; the hemipenis has no nick at the tip (versus a nick at the tip in *Myanmarelfakhari subgen. nov.*).

The subgenus *Myanmarelfakhari subgen. nov.* is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

17 mid-body scale rows; at least some dorsal scale rows keeled along the whole body (keels sometimes scarcely visible or invisible on the scales which have lost their outermost layer); dorsal scales except for those forming outermost rows more or less weakly keeled, each keel without serrations; preocular present, prefrontal not entering eye; loreal entering eye (rarely excluded from it in *Dannyelfakharikukri fasciatus*); posterior chin shields as long as or much longer than the anterior ones.

The subgenus *Sinoelfakhari subgen. nov.* is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

17 mid-body scale rows; at least some dorsal scale rows keeled along the whole body (keels sometimes scarcely visible or invisible on the scales which have lost their outermost layer); dorsal scales except for those forming outermost rows more or

less weakly keeled, each keel without serrations; preocular present, prefrontal not entering eye; loreal usually wedged between preocular and third upper labial, but rarely entering eye; posterior chin shields a little shorter than anterior ones.

Species within this subgenus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: China.

Content: *Dannyelfakharikukri* (*Dannyelfakharikukri*) *multizonatum* (Zhao and Jiang, 1981) (type species); *D. (Dannyelfakharikukri) liuchengchaoi* (Zhang, Jiang, Vogel and Rao, 2011).

GENUS APOLLOPIERSON GEN. NOV.

Type species: *Lycodon stormi* Boettger, 1892.

Diagnosis: Because the genus is monotypic for the species, the diagnosis for the genus is at the present time the same as for the species.

Apollopierson gen. nov. are readily separated from all other species of *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters: 19 dorsal mid body scale rows; all single subcaudals; no loreal; praefrontal in contact with the labials; ventrals laterally angulate; a praeocular separating the eye from the praefrontal; smooth dorsal scales.

The genus is further diagnosed by the following characters: Head strongly depressed; eye small, rostral not much broader than deep, being just visible from above; internasals much shorter than the praefrontals; the latter longer than broad; frontal as long as the internasals and praefrontals together, much shorter than the parietals; loreal large, nearly as deep as long, not entering the eye; one praeocular, not reaching the frontal; two postoculars; temporals 1+3; eight upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are longer than the posterior. Scales smooth, in 19 dorsal mid body scale rows, about 217 ventrals 217, angulate laterally; anal entire; subcaudals about 75, all single. Slate-colour, with whitish annuli, which are most marked on the lower surface (adapted from Boulenger, 1893).

Species within this genus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: Known only from Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Etymology: Named in honour of the publishing company Apollo Publishing, and the owner Charles Pierson, of Moss Vale, NSW, Australia, who bravely published the books, *Australian Reptiles and Frogs* (Hoser 1989), *Endangered Animals of Australia* (Hoser 1991) and most notably *Smuggled: The Underground Trade in Australia's Wildlife* (Hoser 1993), which exposed serious corruption and misconduct involving government run-businesses and the circumstances underpinning the ban on private ownership of live reptiles in Australia.

As a direct result of Pierson's efforts as publisher of these books, the laws in Australia were re-written to allow private individuals the right to keep as pets and study live reptiles in Australia.

Content: *Apollopierson stormi* Boettger, 1892 (monotypic).

GENUS SNAKEBUSTERSUS GEN. NOV.

Type species: *Lycodon muelleri* Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854.

Diagnosis: The genus *Snakebustersus gen. nov.* are readily separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini tribe nov.) by the following suite of characters: 17 dorsal mid-body scale rows; all the dorsals are smooth or with more or less developed keels only in the posterior part of the body; subcaudals number more than 100.

Species within this genus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini tribe nov.) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: Restricted to the Philippines.

Etymology: The genus (and tribe with the name taken from this genus) are named in recognition of the many years of valuable conservation work undertaken by the dedicated team of zoologists at Snakebusters, Australia's best reptile displays.

The Snakebusters team includes the following individuals, Andrew Wilson, Michael Smyth, Christian Pillot, Tom Cotton, Louise McGoldrick, Simon McGoldrick, Dylan Mullins, Peter Whybrow, Judy Fergusson, Demi Perkins, Dara Nin, Shireen Hoser, Jarrad Bingham, Adelyn Hoser, Jacky Hoser, Christopher Trojano as well as the many others who have provided logistical support to Snakebusters over many years, of which there are far too many to list here.

The Snakebusters people have also had to operate in the face of illegal attacks from individuals working at the dysfunctional animal-hating government-owned business "Zoos Victoria". "Zoos Victoria" markets itself as a "not for profit" conservation organisation, but in practice is far from this. In reality this business is a dysfunctional bureaucratic monster that hoards animals in squalid conditions and inflicts unspeakable acts of cruelty on their stock for the purpose of cheap public entertainment and regular misinformation.

Through their private army, the corrupt government law enforcement arm, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI), they regularly effectively steal animals from private individuals (in the guise of law enforcement) to add to their own collection, a large part of which consists of animals at

varying states of decline or culpable neglect as demonstrated in Hoser (1989) and see also Hoser (1993).

Recently the "Zoos Victoria" business effectively paid to have a species of snake named in their "honour", in an act that makes a mockery of the Zoological Code and is a direct breach of the ethics of the rules of the Zoological Code (Ride *et al.* 1999).

The code states:

"Recommendation 25C. Responsibility of authors forming new names. Authors should exercise reasonable care and consideration in forming new names to ensure that they are chosen with their subsequent users in mind and that, as far as possible, they are appropriate, compact, euphonious, memorable, and do not cause offence."

Noting that "Zoos Victoria" and their associated business entities, including "Forests Victoria" and the "Department of Environment and Primary Industries" (DEPI) has caused untold damage to the wildlife conservation effort, caused wildlife extinctions and mass killings of people in bushfire disasters they have themselves created, it is self evident that the naming of a species "*Lycodon zoosvictoriae*" could only cause very serious offence to conservationists across Australia and elsewhere. The nefarious issue of people and their businesses paying cash to have species named in their honour was dealt with in detail by Hoser (2000) and quite properly condemned.

However at the present time (2014) the ICZN website says they have no policy on the matter.

Noting that the dysfunctional "Zoos Victoria" business has spent much of the past 30 years trying to destroy the important conservation work of the Snakebusters education business and similar conservation-minded people, it is fitting that at least the species originally named "*Lycodon zoosvictoriae*" in 2014 is now properly placed in a genus first named by the wildlife conservationist they sought to destroy illegally by (illegal) "legal actions" in the period 2006-2014, namely *Danniyelfaharikukri* Hoser, 2012, and in turn placed within the tribe Snakebustersusini tribe nov..

Content: *Snakebustersus muelleri* (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854) (type species); *S. alcalai* (Ota and Ross, 1994); *S. bibonius* (Ota and Ross, 1994); *S. chrysoprateros* (Ota and Ross, 1994); *S. dumérilii* (Boulenger, 1893); *S. fausti* (Gaulke, 2002); *S. ferroni* (Lanza, 1999); *S. solivagus* (Ota and Ross, 1994).

SUBGENUS MINDANAOSNAKEBUSTERSUS SUBGEN. NOV.

Type species: *Stegonotus Dumérilii* Boulenger, 1893.

Diagnosis: The snakes of the subgenus *Mindanaosnakebustersus subgen. nov.* are separated from the others within the same genus, those being in the nominate subgenus *Snakebustersus subgen. nov.*, by the following unique suite of characters: Dorsal light cross-bands evident on at least the anterior part of body; ventral surface of body with dark dots and/or spots or with dark transverse bands; lower preocular fused with loreal, or if not, smaller than upper preocular; dorsal light cross-bands evident throughout body and tail; Less than 20 light cross-bands on body, less than 15 on tail; tail length usually less than 38% (33.4-38.9%) of the snout-vent length.

Species within this subgenus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini tribe nov.) are also defined as follows: Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: Mindanao, Dinagat, Leyte, Basilan, Samar, Surigao, Daraga and Luzon Islands in the Philippines.

Etymology: The name is taken from the best-known location the species occur and the original genus.

Content: *Snakebustersus* (*Mindanaosnakebustersus*) *dumérilii* (Boulenger, 1893) (type species); *S.* (*Mindanaosnakebustersus*) *ferroni* (Lanza, 1999).

SUBGENUS SNAKEBUSTERSUS SUBGEN. NOV.

Type species: *Lycodon muelleri* Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854.

Diagnosis: The snakes of the subgenus *Snakebustersus subgen. nov.* are most readily separated from the other subgenus *Mindanaosnakebustersus subgen. nov.* by the absence of the following unique suite of characters: Dorsal light cross-bands evident on at least the anterior part of body; ventral surface of body with dark dots and/or spots or with dark transverse bands; lower preocular fused with loreal, or if not, smaller than upper preocular; dorsal light cross-bands evident throughout body and tail; Less than 20 light cross-bands on body, less than 15 on tail; tail length usually less than 38% (33.4-38.9%) of the snout-vent length.

Combinations not including the above suite would place the species within the subgenus *Snakebustersus subgen. nov.*

Species within this subgenus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: The Philippines.

Etymology: As for the genus.

Content: *Snakebustersus* (*Snakebustersus*) *muelleri* (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854) (type species); *S.* (*Snakebustersus*) *alcalai* (Ota and Ross, 1994); *S.* (*Snakebustersus*) *bibonius* (Ota and Ross, 1994); *S.* (*Snakebustersus*) *chrysoprateros* (Ota and Ross, 1994); *S.* (*Snakebustersus*) *fausti* (Gaulke, 2002); *S.* (*Snakebustersus*) *solivagus* (Ota and Ross, 1994).

GENUS TETRAGONOSOMA GÜNTHER, 1858.

Type species: *Lycodon effraenis* Cantor, 1847.

Diagnosis: The genus *Tetragonosoma* Günther, 1858 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

17 mid-body scale rows; all the dorsals are smooth or with more or less developed keels only in the posterior part of the body; less than 100 subcaudals; no loreal; praefrontal in contact with the labials; three labials enter the eye; 215-228 ventrals.

Treated herein as monotypic, the species *Tetragonosoma effraenis* Cantor, 1847, is clearly composite (Siler *et al.* 2013). Those authors provide Museum voucher specimen details of both the nominate species and an undescribed form. The previously named Borneo species "*Lycodon ophitoides* Bleeker,

1859" long synonymised with "*Tetragonosoma effraenis* Cantor, 1847" since the publication of Boulenger (1893), may in fact be a separate species-level taxon.

Species within this genus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: South-east Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

Content: *Tetragonosoma effraenis* (Cantor, 1847) (monotypic).

GENUS DRYOCALAMUS GÜNTHER, 1858.

Type species: *Dryocalamus tristrigatus* Günther, 1858.

Diagnosis: The genus *Dryocalamus* Günther, 1858 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

Maxillary teeth 8 to 10, rather short but stout, increasing in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth a little longer than the posterior; one or two more or less distinct tooth-like knobs on the basisphenoid; head distinct from neck, much depressed; eye moderate or rather large, with vertically elliptic pupil; body slender, slightly compressed; scales smooth, in 13 or 15 rows, with apical pits; ventrals strongly keeled on each side. Tail moderate; subcaudals in two rows. No praeocular.

The genus *Hydrophobus* Günther, 1862, is essentially physically identical in most respects to the genus *Dryocalamus* but specimens are readily separated from that genus by the presence of one or two praeoculars.

Species within this genus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: South-east Asia including Indo-China, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Content: *Dryocalamus tristrigatus* Günther, 1858 (type species); *D. davisoni* (Blanford, 1878); *D. philippinus* Griffin, 1909.

GENUS HYDROPHOBUS GÜNTHER, 1862.

Type species: *Coluber nympha* Daudin, 1803.

Diagnosis: The genus *Hydrophobus* Günther, 1862 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

Maxillary teeth 8 to 10, rather short but stout, increasing in size

posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth a little longer than the posterior; one or two more or less distinct tooth-like knobs on the basisphenoid; head distinct from neck, much depressed; eye moderate or rather large, with vertically elliptic pupil; body slender, slightly compressed; scales smooth, in 13 or 15 rows, with apical pits: ventrals strongly keeled on each side. Tail moderate; subcaudals in two rows. One or two praecoculars.

The genus *Dryocalamus* Günther, 1858, is essentially physically identical in most respects to the genus *Hydrophobus* but specimens are readily separated from that genus by the absence of a praecocular.

Species within this genus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: Southern Asia from the Philippines, through Indo-China to India and Sri Lanka.

Content: *Hydrophobus nympha* (Daudin, 1803) (type species); *H. gracilis* (Günther, 1864); *H. subannulatus* (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854).

GENUS LEPTUROPHIS BOULENGER, 1900.

Type species: *Sphecodes albo-fuscus* Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854.

Diagnosis: The genus *Lepturophis* Boulenger, 1900 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

Scales strongly keeled; 17 mid-body scale rows; 155-208 all divided subcaudals; a praecocular, separating the eye from the praefrontal.

The genus is further diagnosed as follows:

Snout moderately depressed, not spatulate; eye moderate. Rostral broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals half as long as the praefrontals; frontal as long as broad, as long as the praefrontals or a little longer, much shorter than the parietals; loreal a little longer than deep, not entering the eye; one prae and two postoculars; temporals 2+2; eight upper labials, third, fourth, and fifth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are a little shorter than the posterior. Body very slender. Scales in 17 rows, all strongly keeled. Ventrals 238-256, strongly angulate laterally; anal divided; subcaudals 155-208 all paired. Blackish brown above, young with yellow cross bands; yellowish beneath.

Species within this genus and all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) are also defined as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the three to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate

to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Distribution: Indo-China including Malaysia and Indonesia.

Content: *Lepturophis albofuscus* Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854 (type species); *L. borneensis* Boulenger, 1900.

TRIBE SNAKEBUSTERSUSINI TRIBE NOV.

(Terminal taxon: *Lycodon muelleri* Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854)

Diagnosis: The tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.* is diagnosed as follows:

Maxillary bent inwards anteriorly in the adult, the one to six anterior teeth increasing in size, fang-like, and separated by a toothless interspace from the rest, seven to fifteen in number, which increase in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth longest, fang-like. Head not or but slightly distinct from neck, more or less depressed; eye small or moderate in a rounded orbit, with vertically elliptic pupil; nostril large or rather large. Body more or less elongate, cylindrical or slightly compressed; scales smooth or keeled, in 15, 17, 19 or 21 mid-body rows, with apical pits; ventrals with or without a lateral keel. Tail moderate to long; subcaudals and anal plate may be single or divided.

Most species have a distinct or indistinct white or pale brown nuchal collar followed posteriorly by a black to blackish-brown ground color with various white, cream or yellow bands, blotches and speckles (some without pale coloration) on body and tail.

Within this diagnosis (now applicable for the tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) several genera until now mainly treated as being within *Lycodon* would also be defined.

In order to separate all the relevant genera within this tribe, including *Lycodon* (by way of a process of elimination of other genera), the relevant genera are herein defined:

Apollopierson gen. nov. are readily separated from all other species of *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters: 19 dorsal mid body scale rows; all single subcaudals; no loreal; praefrontal in contact with the labials; ventrals laterally angulate; a praecocular separating the eye from the praefrontal; smooth dorsal scales.

The genus is further diagnosed by the following characters: Head strongly depressed; eye small, rostral not much broader than deep, being just visible from above; internasals much shorter than the praefrontals; the latter longer than broad; frontal as long as the internasals and praefrontals together, much shorter than the parietals; loreal large, nearly as deep as long, not entering the eye; one praecocular, not reaching the frontal; two postoculars; temporals 1+3; eight upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are longer than the posterior. Scales smooth, in 19 dorsal mid body scale rows, about 217 ventrals 217, angulate laterally; anal entire; subcaudals about 75, all single. Slate-colour, with whitish annuli, which are most marked on the lower surface (adapted from Boulenger, 1893).

The genus *Snakebustersus gen. nov.* are readily separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following suite of characters:

17 dorsal mid-body scale rows; all the dorsals are smooth or with more or less developed keels only in the posterior part of the body; subcaudals number more than 100.

The genus *Dinodon* Duméril, 1853 is diagnosed and separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following suite of characters:

Maxillary teeth 6+2 or 3+2 or 3, the anterior gradually increasing in size, the middle ones small, the last large, the three groups separated by distinct interspaces; anterior mandibular teeth enlarged. Head slightly distinct from neck; eye rather small, with

vertically elliptic pupil. Body more or less elongate; scales smooth or feebly keeled, with apical pits, in 17 (or 21) rows; ventrals angulate laterally. Tail moderate; subcaudals divided.

The snakes in the genus *Ophites* Wagler, 1830 are separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following suite of characters:

Mid-body scales in 17 rows; at least some dorsal scale rows are keeled along the whole body (keels sometimes scarcely visible or invisible on the scales which have lost their outermost layer); dorsal scales except for those forming outermost rows more or less weakly keeled, each keel without serrations; preocular absent; prefrontal entering eye; loreal entering eye; 8 upper labials; anal usually divided, but rarely entire; 192-230 ventrals (males 192-212, females 213-230; angulate laterally); 60-90 paired subcaudals (males 60-78, females 78-90); cross-bands at least in the juveniles, the adults tend to lose them.

The genus *Dannyelfakharikukri* Hoser, 2012 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

17 mid-body scale rows; at least some dorsal scale rows are keeled along the whole body (keels sometimes scarcely visible or invisible on the scales which have lost their outermost layer); dorsal scales except for those forming outermost rows are more or less weakly keeled, each keel without serrations; preocular present, prefrontal not entering the eye.

The genus *Tetragonosoma* Günther, 1858 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

17 mid-body scale rows; all the dorsals are smooth or with more or less developed keels only in the posterior part of the body; less than 100 subcaudals; no loreal; praefrontal in contact with the labials; three labials enter the eye; 215-228 ventrals.

The genus *Dryocalamus* Günther, 1858 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

Maxillary teeth 8 to 10, rather short but stout, increasing in size posteriorly; anterior mandibular teeth a little longer than the posterior; one or two more or less distinct tooth-like knobs on the basisphenoid; head distinct from neck, much depressed; eye moderate or rather large, with vertically elliptic pupil; body slender, slightly compressed; scales smooth, in 13 or 15 rows, with apical pits; ventrals strongly keeled on each side. tail moderate; subcaudals in two rows. No praecocular.

The genus *Hydrophobus* Günther, 1862, is essentially physically identical in most respects to the genus *Dryocalamus* but specimens are readily separated from that genus by the presence of one or two praecoculars.

The genus *Lepturophis* Boulenger, 1900 is separated from all other *Lycodon sensu lato* (tribe Snakebustersusini *tribe nov.*) by the following unique suite of characters:

Scales strongly keeled; 17 mid-body scale rows; 155-208 all divided subcaudals; a praecocular, separating the eye from the praefrontal.

The genus is further diagnosed as follows:

Snout moderately depressed, not spatulate; eye moderate. Rostral broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals half as long as the praefrontals; frontal as long as broad, as long as the praefrontals or a little longer, much shorter than the parietals; loreal a little longer than deep, not entering the eye; one prae and two postoculars; temporals 2 + 2; eight upper labials, third, fourth, and fifth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are a little shorter than the posterior. Body very slender. Scales in 17 rows, all strongly keeled. Ventrals 238-256, strongly angulate laterally; anal divided; subcaudals 155-208 all paired. Blackish brown above, young with yellow cross bands; yellowish beneath.

Distribution: Southern Asia including the regions between India, China, Japan, Indochina and Indonesia. Introduced by humans to other places.

Etymology: See for the genus *Snakebustersus gen. nov.*

Content: *Snakebustersus gen. nov.* (type genus); *Apollopierson gen. nov.*; *Dannyelfakharikukri* Hoser, 2012; *Dinodon* Duméril, 1853; *Dryocalamus* Günther, 1858; *Hydrophobus* Günther, 1862; *Lepturophis* Boulenger, 1900; *Lycodon* Boie, 1826; *Ophites* Wagler, 1830; *Tetragonosoma* Günther, 1858.

CURRENTLY RECOGNIZED SPECIES WITHIN SNAKEBUSTERSUSINI TRIBE NOV.

Snakebustersus gen. nov.

Snakebustersus (Snakebustersus) muelleri (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854) (type species);

S. (Snakebustersus) alcalai (Ota and Ross, 1994);

S. (Snakebustersus) bibonius (Ota and Ross, 1994);

S. (Snakebustersus) chrysoprateros (Ota and Ross, 1994);

S. (Snakebustersus) fausti (Gaulke, 2002);

S. (Snakebustersus) solivagus (Ota and Ross, 1994);

S. (Mindanaosnakebusterses) dumérilii (Boulenger, 1893);

S. (Mindanaosnakebusterses) ferroni (Lanza, 1999).

Apollopierson gen. nov.

Apollopierson stormi Boettger, 1892 (monotypic).

Dannyelfakharikukri Hoser, 2012.

Dannyelfakharikukri (Dannyelfakharikukri) multizonatum (Zhao and Jiang, 1981) (type species);

D. (Dannyelfakharikukri) liuchengchaoi (Zhang, Jiang, Vogel and Rao, 2011);

D. (Myanmarelfakhar) fasciatus (Anderson, 1879) (type for subgenus);

D. (Myanmarelfakhar) butleri (Boulenger, 1900);

D. (Myanmarelfakhar) cavernicolus Grismer, Quah, Muin, Wood and Aziza, 2014;

D. (Myanmarelfakhar) gammiei (Blanford, 1878);

D. (Myanmarelfakhar) gongshan Vogel and Luo, 2011;

D. (Myanmarelfakhar) synaptor (Vogel and David, 2010);

D. (Myanmarelfakhar) zoosvictoriae (Neang, Hartmann, Hun, Souter and Furey, 2014);

D. (Sinoelfakhar) ruhstrati (Fischer, 1886) (type for subgenus);

D. (Sinoelfakhar) davidi (David, Vogel, Nguyen, Kingsda and Ziegler, 2012);

D. (Sinoelfakhar) multifasciatus (Maki, 1931);

D. (Sinoelfakhar) ophiophagus (Vogel, David, Pauwels, Sumontha, Norval, Hendrix, Vu and Ziegler, 2009);

D. (Sinoelfakhar) paucifasciatus (Rendahl, 1943).

Dinodon Duméril, 1853.

Dinodon rufozonatus (Cantor, 1842) (type species);

D. flavozonatum Pope, 1928;

D. formosana (Boettger, 1885);

D. futsingensis Pope, 1928;

D. meridionale (Bourett, 1935);

D. orientalis (Hilgendorf, 1880);

D. semicarinatus (Cope, 1860);

D. septentrionalis (Günther, 1875).

Dryocalamus Günther, 1858.

Dryocalamus tristrigatus Günther, 1858 (type species);

D. davisoni (Blanford, 1878); *D. philippinus* Griffin, 1909.

Hydrophobus Günther, 1862.

Hydrophobus nympha (Daudin, 1803) (type species);

H. gracilis (Günther, 1864);

H. subannulatus (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854).

Lepturophis Boulenger, 1900.

Lepturophis albofuscus Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854 (type species);

L. borneensis Boulenger, 1900.

Lycodon Boie, 1826.

- Lycodon (Lycodon) aulicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (type species);
L. (Lycodon) capucinus (Boie, 1827);
L. (Lycodon) flavicollis Mukerjee and Bhupathy, 2007;
L. (Lycodon) flavomaculatus Wall, 1907;
L. (Lycodon) hypsirhinoides (Theobald, 1868);
L. (Lycodon) jara (Shaw, 1802);
L. (Lycodon) mackinnoni Wall, 1906;
L. (Lycodon) osmanhilli Taylor, 1950;
L. (Lycodon) striatus (Shaw, 1802);
L. (Lycodon) tessellatus Jan, 1863;
L. (Lycodon) travancoricus (Beddome, 1870);
L. (Lycodon) tiwarii Biswas and Sanyal, 1965;
L. (Lycodon) zawi Slowinski, Pawar, Win, Thin, Gyi, Oo and Tun, 2001.
L. (Cercaspis) carinatus (Kuhl, 1820) (type for subgenus);
L. (Kotabilycodon) kundui Smith, 1943 (type for subgenus);
L. (Paralycodon) laoensis Günther, 1864 (type for subgenus).

Ophites Wagler, 1830.

- Ophites subcinctus* (Boie, 1827) (type species);
O. cardamomensis (Daltry and Wüster, 2002).

Tetragonosoma Günther, 1858.

- Tetragonosoma effraenis* (Cantor, 1847) (monotypic).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This author reports no conflict of interest in terms of any material within this paper.

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