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**HOMOPUS TREVORHAWKESWOODI KNYSAENSIS
SUBSP. NOV.**

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:24B61D90-56AA-4ACA-9DEC-ED0D1AEB5D71

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, specimen number MCZ Herp R-20967 collected from Knysa, South Africa, Latitude -34.033 S., Longitude 23.033 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved juvenile specimen at the (British) Museum of Natural History, London, UK, specimen number BMNH 1907.4.9.1 collected from Knysa, South Africa, Latitude -34.033 S., Longitude 23.033 E. 2/ Two preserved specimens at Naturalis Biodiversity Center, The Netherlands, specimen number ZMA.RENA.19056 and ZMA.RENA.19054 collected from Knysa, South Africa, Latitude -34.033 S., Longitude 23.033 E.

Diagnosis: Until now *Homopus trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* has been regarded as the eastern population of *H. areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787).

H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov. is readily separated from *H. areolatus* as follows:

In all but very aged specimens of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* the outer edges of the dorsal scutes are bounded by thick, well-defined blackish brown lines, in turn with thick greenish-yellow outer areas occupying a sizeable part of each scute, being brown on the surface of the inner region of each scute.

In *H. areolatus* the blackish lines on the outer edges of the scutes are thin, ill defined or even absent. When viewed at a distance, the carapace of *H. areolatus* is yellowish brown or yellowish-orange, versus greenish brown in *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* In *H. areolatus* the outer area of each scute is yellowish, with orange or orange brown in the inner region of each scute.

The subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi knysaensis subsp. nov.* from Knysa, west along the coast and nearby areas to Struisbaai is separated from nominate subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.* by having expanded yellow-green outer areas of each scute and a reduced brown coloured inner scute area, typically being equal to, or less than the yellow-green outer areas in diameter, versus being greater in diameter in the nominate form *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.* (and *H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis subsp. nov.*). The inner area of each dorsal scute is dark brown in *H. trevorhawkeswoodi knysaensis subsp. nov.*, rather than medium to light brown in *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.*

H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis subsp. nov. from Bloemfontein and nearby parts of Free State is similar in most respects to *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.*, but is noticeably faded

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in colour in most respects and is generally separated on that basis. The limbs tend to be light grey on top, rather than whitish as seen in *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.*

The nominate subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.* is found in a region generally bound by Cape St. Francis, just west of Port Elizabeth (now known as officially renamed Gqeberha), in a generally triangular region to the east of there and bound approximately by Fort Beaufort and Port Albert.

The northern limit of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.* and southern limit of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis subsp. nov.* is uncertain, but *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* is known from locations within the intervening region.

The image depicted with Thunberg's, 1787 description of *H. areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787) is clearly of a specimen with a provenance of Cape Town, South Africa, as evidenced by the colouration of the carapace (yellow outers of each scute and light reddish-range inner scutes and no trace of green), meaning the eastern form was until now the unnamed species.

Hofmeyr *et al.* (2020), found that the taxa herein described as *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* and *H. areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787) diverged more than 2.5 MYA in the Pliocene. The same authors found the subspecies of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* as identified herein diverged from one another more than 1.5 MYA. Hofmeyr *et al.* (2016) found a 6.43 MYA divergence between *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* and *H. areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787) and over 3 MYA for the subspecies of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.*

Colour images of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* (of the nominate subspecies) in life can be found online at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/41104576>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/80391390>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/37215272>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/16520155>

Colour images of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi knysaensis subsp. nov.* in life can be found online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/82145048>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/11214561>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/57302877>

Colour images of the nominate form of *Homopus areolatus* depicted in life can be found in Rhodin *et al.* (2017) at page 140 and online at:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Homopus_areolatus_-_Common_Padloper_-_Cape_Town.jpg
and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/71497635>
and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/24354766>

The species *H. trevorhawkeswoodi* sp. nov. and *H. areolatus* constituting the entirety of the genus *Homopus* Duméril and Bibron, 1834 are separated from other similar species and genera by the following unique suite of characters: The slightly domed carapace (females to 30 cm) is dorsally flattened, scarcely indented in the cervical region, has the anterior marginals only slightly expanded and the unexpanded posterior marginals not or only slightly serrated. A small but broad cervical scute is present; the first and fourth vertebrals are longer than broad, and the others are broader than long. A slight medial keel may be present, especially in younger specimens. Vertebrals and pleurals have broad areolae surrounded by raised growth annuli. There are usually 11, but occasionally 10 to 13, marginals on each side, and the supracaudal is undivided. Areolae of the carapacial scutes are reddish brown with yellow, olive, dark-brown, or black borders. A dark bar of some form usually lies along the anterior seam of each marginal. The yellowish or yellowish-brown plastron usually has some dark pigment toward the center. Its forelobe is anteriorly truncated, the hindlobe notched posteriorly. The plastral formula is: $abd > hum > an > fem << pect << gul$. Each bridge has one or two (sometimes to five) axillary scutes and three or four inguinals, the innermost touching the femoral scute. The head is moderate in size with a nonprojecting snout and a strongly hooked, tricuspid upper jaw. Usually, no small scales lie above the nostrils, and the large prefrontal scale may be divided or partially (posteriorly) divided longitudinally. The frontal scale may be subdivided. Other dorsal head scales are small. The head varies from yellow to tan or reddish brown, the jaws are tan. The neck varies from yellowish brown to reddish brown, as do the limbs and tail. Each forelimb is covered anteriorly with large, overlapping scales in three or four longitudinal rows. There are four claws on each forefoot.

Males are usually smaller than females and have a posteriorly concave, usually uniformly colored plastron and longer, thicker tails than females. Females have flat, usually medially dark plastron and a short tail. During the breeding season, the prefrontal scales of the males tend to show an orange-red coloration for several weeks. To a lesser extent, this coloration is sometimes present in females as well.

Both genera *Homopus* Duméril and Bibron, 1834 and *Funkichelys* gen. nov. as defined within this paper, are readily separated from all other similar African genera by the following suite of characters: They are small African tortoises with the triturating surfaces of maxilla and premaxilla without ridges; maxillary not entering roof of palate; prootic narrowly exposed dorsally; quadrate enclosing stapes; centrum of third cervical biconvex; carapace without hinge; no submarginal scutes; gulars

divided; gular region only slightly thickened; four toes on the feet.

Funkichelys gen. nov. including the species *Funkichelys funki* sp. nov. and *F. femoralis* (Boulenger, 1888) are separated from *Homopus* type species *Homopus areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787) and all other similar species by the following suite of characters: 17 cm in maximum carapace length. Its carapace is flattened dorsally, scarcely indented in the cervical region and has the anterior and posterior marginals expanded, reverted, and serrated. A small, broad cervical scute is present, and the first vertebral is longer than broad, or at least as long as broad, while the others are broader than long. Eleven marginals lie on each side and the supracaudal is undivided. The carapace is yellowish brown to dark brown or olive with the scutes dark bordered in younger individuals. The scutes of some are orange or red tinged. The plastron is yellow to olive, with dark pigment on the anterior of each scute in the young, but immaculate in older tortoises. Its forelobe is anteriorly truncated and scarcely notched; the hindlobe has an anal notch. The plastral formula is: $abd > hum > an << fem > gul > pect$. Each bridge has a single axillary and two or three inguinal scutes, the innermost touching the femoral scute. The head is moderate in size, with at best a weakly hooked, tricuspid upper jaw (versus strongly beaked in *Homopus*) and a nonprojecting snout. Several small scales lie above the nostrils. The prefrontal scale is large and divided longitudinally; the frontal is also large or is subdivided; other head scales are small. Head and neck are yellow to tan with some pink or orange pigment; the jaws are brown. The forelimbs are anteriorly covered with large imbricate scales in three or four longitudinal rows and a large conical tubercle is present on the thigh. The heels have large spurlike tubercles. Four claws occur on each forefoot. Limbs and tail are yellow to tan with tinges of pink or orange. The usually smaller males have a posteriorly concave plastron with deeper anal notches and possess longer, thicker tails than females.

Hofmeyr *et al.* (2016) found a 26.14 MYA divergence between the putative species *Homopus areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787) and *Homopus femoralis* Boulenger, 1888, further supporting the contention that transferring the latter species to another genus is the correct taxonomic action.

The same authors also found species-level divergences between *Funkichelys funki* sp. nov. and *F. femoralis* as defined herein, (see Fig. 2), which is reflected in the taxonomic position of this paper.

Distribution: The subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi knysaensis* subsp. nov. occurs from Knysa, west along the (South African) coast and nearby areas to Struisbaai.

H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis subsp. nov. is known from Bloemfontein and nearby parts of Free State.

The nominate subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi* subsp. nov. is found in a region generally bound by Cape St. Francis, just west of Port Elizabeth (now known as officially renamed Gqeberha),

in a generally triangular region to the east of there and bound approximately by Fort Beaufort and Port Albert. The northern limit of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.* and southern limit of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis subsp. nov.* is uncertain, but *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* is known from locations within the intervening region.

Etymology: *H. trevorhawkeswoodi knysaensis subsp. nov.* is named in reflection of the type locality for this subspecies and the general area it is known to occur.

HOMOPUS TREVORHAWKESWOODI BLOEMFONTAINENSIS SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:3F224D1C-9DEC-47D0-8771-6BDF3B24503B

Holotype: A preserved specimen (skeletal remains) at the University of Michigan, Arbor, Michigan, USA. Specimen number UMMZ Herps 61572, collected at Free State, South Africa. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, The Netherlands, (single) specimen number ZMA.RENA.13237, collected from Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Diagnosis: Until now *Homopus trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* has been regarded as the eastern population of *H. areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787).

H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov. is readily separated from *H. areolatus* as follows:

In all but very aged specimens of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* the outer edges of the dorsal scutes are bounded by thick, well-defined blackish brown lines, in turn with thick greenish-yellow outer areas occupying a sizeable part of each scute, being brown on the surface of the inner region of each scute.

In *H. areolatus* the blackish lines on the outer edges of the scutes are thin, ill defined or even absent. When viewed at a distance, the carapace of *H. areolatus* is yellowish brown or yellowish-orange, versus greenish brown in *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* In *H. areolatus* the outer area of each scute is yellowish, with orange or orange brown in the inner region of each scute.

The subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi knysaensis subsp. nov.* from Knysa, west along the coast and nearby areas to Struisbaai is separated from nominate subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.* by having expanded yellow-green outer areas of each scute and a reduced brown coloured inner scute area, typically being equal to, or less than the yellow-green outer areas in diameter, versus being greater in diameter in the nominate form *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.* (and *H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis subsp. nov.*). The inner area of each dorsal scute is dark brown in *H. trevorhawkeswoodi knysaensis subsp. nov.*, rather than medium to light brown in *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.*

H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis subsp. nov. from Bloemfontein and nearby parts of Free State is similar in most respects to *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.*, but is noticeably faded

in colour in most respects and is generally separated on that basis. The limbs tend to be light grey on top, rather than whitish as seen in *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.*

The nominate subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.* is found in a region generally bound by Cape St. Francis, just west of Port Elizabeth (now known as officially renamed Gqeberha), in a generally triangular region to the east of there and bound approximately by Fort Beaufort and Port Albert.

The northern limit of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi subsp. nov.* and southern limit of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis subsp. nov.* is uncertain, but *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* is known from locations within the intervening region.

The image depicted with Thunberg's, 1787 description of *H. areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787) is clearly of a specimen with a provenance of Cape Town, South Africa, as evidenced by the colouration of the carapace (yellow outers of each scute and light reddish-range inner scutes and no trace of green), meaning the eastern form was until now the unnamed species.

Hofmeyr *et al.* (2020), found that the taxa herein described as *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* and *H. areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787) diverged more than 2.5 MYA in the Pliocene. The same authors found the subspecies of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* as identified herein diverged from one another more than 1.5 MYA. Hofmeyr *et al.* (2016) found a 6.43 MYA divergence between *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* and *H. areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787) and over 3 MYA for the subspecies of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.*

Colour images of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi sp. nov.* (of the nominate subspecies) in life can be found online at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/41104576>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/80391390>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/37215272>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/16520155>

Colour images of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi knysaensis subsp. nov.* in life can be found online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/82145048>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/11214561>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/57302877>

Colour images of the nominate form of *Homopus areolatus* depicted in life can be found in Rhodin *et al.* (2017) at page 140 and online at:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Homopus_areolatus_-_Common_Padloper_-_Cape_Town.jpg)

[File:Homopus_areolatus_-_Common_Padloper_-_Cape_Town.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Homopus_areolatus_-_Common_Padloper_-_Cape_Town.jpg)

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/71497635>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/24354766>

The species *H. trevorhawkeswoodi* sp. nov. and *H. areolatus* constituting the entirety of the genus *Homopus* Duméril and Bibron, 1834 are separated from other similar species and genera by the following unique suite of characters: The slightly domed carapace (females to 30 cm) is dorsally flattened, scarcely indented in the cervical region, has the anterior marginals only slightly expanded and the unexpanded posterior marginals not or only slightly serrated. A small but broad cervical scute is present; the first and fourth vertebrae are longer than broad, and the others are broader than long. A slight medial keel may be present, especially in younger specimens. Vertebrae and pleurals have broad areolae surrounded by raised growth annuli. There are usually 11, but occasionally 10 to 13, marginals on each side, and the supracaudal is undivided. Areolae of the carapacial scutes are reddish brown with yellow, olive, dark-brown, or black borders. A dark bar of some form usually lies along the anterior seam of each marginal. The yellowish or yellowish-brown plastron usually has some dark pigment toward the center. Its forelobe is anteriorly truncated, the hindlobe notched posteriorly. The plastral formula is: $abd > hum > an > fem << pect << gul$. Each bridge has one or two (sometimes to five) axillary scutes and three or four inguinals, the innermost touching the femoral scute. The head is moderate in size with a nonprojecting snout and a strongly hooked, tricuspid upper jaw. Usually, no small scales lie above the nostrils, and the large prefrontal scale may be divided or partially (posteriorly) divided longitudinally. The frontal scale may be subdivided. Other dorsal head scales are small. The head varies from yellow to tan or reddish brown, the jaws are tan. The neck varies from yellowish brown to reddish brown, as do the limbs and tail. Each forelimb is covered anteriorly with large, overlapping scales in three or four longitudinal rows. There are four claws on each forefoot.

Males are usually smaller than females and have a posteriorly concave, usually uniformly colored plastron and longer, thicker tails than females. Females have flat, usually medially dark plastron and a short tail. During the breeding season, the prefrontal scales of the males tend to show an orange-red coloration for several weeks. To a lesser extent, this coloration is sometimes present in females as well.

Both genera *Homopus* Duméril and Bibron, 1834 and *Funkichelys* gen. nov. as defined within this paper, are readily separated from all other similar African genera by the following suite of characters: They are small African tortoises with the triturating surfaces of maxilla and premaxilla without ridges; maxillary not entering roof of palate; prootic narrowly exposed dorsally; quadrate enclosing stapes; centrum of third cervical biconvex; carapace without hinge; no submarginal scutes; gulars divided; gular region only slightly thickened; four toes on the feet.

Funkichelys gen. nov. including the species *Funkichelys funki* sp. nov. and *F. femoralis* (Boulenger, 1888) are separated from *Homopus* type species *Homopus areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787) and all other similar species by the following suite of characters: 17 cm in maximum

carapace length. Its carapace is flattened dorsally, scarcely indented in the cervical region and has the anterior and posterior marginals expanded, reverted, and serrated. A small, broad cervical scute is present, and the first vertebral is longer than broad, or at least as long as broad, while the others are broader than long. Eleven marginals lie on each side and the supracaudal is undivided. The carapace is yellowish brown to dark brown or olive with the scutes dark bordered in younger individuals. The scutes of some are orange or red tinged. The plastron is yellow to olive, with dark pigment on the anterior of each scute in the young, but immaculate in older tortoises. Its forelobe is anteriorly truncated and scarcely notched; the hindlobe has an anal notch. The plastral formula is: $abd > hum > an << fem > gul > pect$. Each bridge has a single axillary and two or three inguinal scutes, the innermost touching the femoral scute. The head is moderate in size, with at best a weakly hooked, tricuspid upper jaw (versus strongly beaked in *Homopus*) and a nonprojecting snout. Several small scales lie above the nostrils. The prefrontal scale is large and divided longitudinally; the frontal is also large or is subdivided; other head scales are small. Head and neck are yellow to tan with some pink or orange pigment; the jaws are brown. The forelimbs are anteriorly covered with large imbricate scales in three or four longitudinal rows and a large conical tubercle is present on the thigh. The heels have large spurlike tubercles. Four claws occur on each forefoot. Limbs and tail are yellow to tan with tinges of pink or orange.

The generally smaller males have a posteriorly concave plastron with deeper anal notches and possess longer, thicker tails than females.

Hofmeyr *et al.* (2016) found a 26.14 MYA divergence between the putative species *Homopus areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787) and *Homopus femoralis* Boulenger, 1888, further supporting the contention that transferring the latter species to another genus is the correct taxonomic action.

The same authors also found species-level divergences between the relevant preceding putative species as identified in this paper, (see Fig. 2), which is reflected in the taxonomic position of this paper.

Distribution: The subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis* subsp. nov. is known from Bloemfontein and nearby parts of Free State.

The subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi knysaensis* subsp. nov. occurs from Knysa, west along the (South African) coast and nearby areas to Struisbaai.

The nominate subspecies *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi* subsp. nov. is found in a region generally bound by Cape St. Francis, just west of Port Elizabeth (now known as officially renamed Gqeberha), in a generally triangular region to the east of there and bound approximately by Fort Beaufort and Port Albert.

The northern limit of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi trevorhawkeswoodi* subsp. nov. and southern limit of *H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis* subsp. nov. is uncertain, but *H. trevorhawkeswoodi* sp. nov. is known from locations within the intervening region.

Etymology: *H. trevorhawkeswoodi bloemfonteinensis* subsp. nov. is named in reflection of the type locality for this subspecies and the general area it is known to occur.

CYCLANORBIS SENEGALENSIS NILEENSIS SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:73A09E44-8A4C-4FB8-9D61-E57208541436

Holotype: A preserved juvenile specimen at the Museum of Zoology, Senckenberg, Dresden, Germany, specimen number MTD D 49181 collected near Ugudi village at the Alwero River, Gambela Region, Ethiopia, Latitude 7.585583 N., Longitude 34.160612 E., 439 meters above sea level. This facility allows access to its holdings. The holotype and first paratype are depicted in Fig. 1. of Mazuch *et al.* (2016).

Paratypes : 1/ A preserved juvenile specimen at the Museum of Zoology, Senckenberg, Dresden, Germany, specimen number MTD D 49182 collected near Ugudi village at the Alwero River, Gambela Region, Ethiopia, Latitude 7.585583 N., Longitude 34.160612 E., 439 meters above sea level. 2/ A preserved (dry) specimen at the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, The Netherlands, specimen number RMNH.RENA.17968, collected from «Sudan, Meer 40 km N van Bor, rand Sud Moerassen». 3/ A preserved specimen at the Reptiles and Amphibians collection (RA) of the Muséum national d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France, specimen number MNHN RA 0.9391 collected from Egypt.

Diagnosis: *Cyclanorbis senegalensis nileensis* subsp. nov. is similar in most respects to *Cyclanorbis senegalensis* (Duméril and Bibron, 1835), but is readily separated from that taxon by having some dark patches on the plastron, versus immaculate in *C. senegalensis*, contrasting yellow spots on a dark brown to grey background on the head, versus yellow spots not strongly contrasting on medium brown to lighter grey on the head.

The subspecies *Cyclanorbis senegalensis occultatum* subsp. nov. from central African drainages running into Lake Chad is separated from the preceding subspecies by a combination of immaculate plastron in adults and contrasting yellow spots on a dark brown to grey background on the head.

C. senegalensis is separated from the morphologically similar and larger *Baikiea elegans* Gray, 1869 by having two, or occasionally four plastral callosities, while the smaller *C. senegalensis* has up to nine callosities (Branch 2008, Baker *et al.* 2015).

Cyclanorbis Gray, 1854 and *Baikiea* Gray, 1869 are both monotypic genera.

The genera *Cyclanorbis* and *Baikiea* are separated from all other living turtles by the following unique suite of characters: Nuchal not notched at the outer ends, which extends slightly below the first costal plate; a praenuchal bone (absent in the young); neural plates forming an incomplete series, some or all of the costals meeting on the median line and separating the neurals from each other; eighth pair of costals large. Plastron with a cutaneous femoral valve, under which the hind limb may

be concealed; hyoplastron coossified with hypoplastron; nine or more plastral callosities in the adult, a pair being present in front of and ossifying independently from, the epiplastrals. Bony choanae

between the orbits; jaws strong; postorbital arch moderate, narrower than the diameter of the orbit; posterior border of pterygoids with a median ascending process forming a suture with the opisthotic (derived from Boulenger 1889).

Cyclanorbis senegalensis nileensis subsp. nov. in life is depicted online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/893970>

The nominate subspecies *C. senegalensis senegalensis* in life is depicted online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/5466683>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/54053487>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/3776623>

Distribution: *C. senegalensis nileensis* subsp. nov. is restricted to the Nile River system.

Etymology: The subspecies *C. senegalensis nileensis* subsp. nov. is named in reflection of where it occurs.

CYCLANORBIS SENEGALENSIS OCCULTATUM SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:6C1EE0CD-354D-4B5D-A4BD-F1830E21615C

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France, specimen number, Reptiles and Amphibians collection (RA) MNHN RA 1995.5651, collected from Sangba in the Central African Republic, Africa. This facility allows access to its specimens.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the (British) Museum of Natural History, London, UK, specimen number BMNH 1928.7.18.2, collected from Lake Chad, Chad, Africa.

Diagnosis: The subspecies *Cyclanorbis senegalensis occultatum* subsp. nov. from central African drainages running into Lake Chad is separated from other subspecies of *Cyclanorbis senegalensis* (Duméril and Bibron, 1835) by a combination of immaculate plastron in adults and contrasting yellow spots on a dark brown to grey background on the head.

Cyclanorbis senegalensis nileensis subsp. nov. is similar in most respects to *Cyclanorbis senegalensis* (Duméril and Bibron, 1835), but is readily separated from that taxon by having some dark patches on the plastron, versus immaculate in *C. senegalensis*, contrasting yellow spots on a dark brown to grey background on the head, versus yellow spots not strongly contrasting on medium brown to lighter grey on the head.

C. senegalensis is separated from the morphologically similar and larger *Baikiea elegans* Gray, 1869 by having two, or occasionally four plastral callosities, while the smaller *C. senegalensis* has up to nine callosities (Branch 2008, Baker *et al.* 2015).

Cyclanorbis Gray, 1854 and *Baikiea* Gray, 1869 are both monotypic genus.

The genera *Cyclanorbis* and *Baikiea* are separated from all other living turtles by the following unique suite of characters: Nuchal not notched at the outer ends, which extend slightly below the first costal plate; a praenuchal bone (absent in the young); neural plates forming an incomplete series, some or all of the costals meeting on the median line and separating the neurals from each other; eighth pair of costals large. Plastron with a cutaneous femoral valve, under which the hind limb may be concealed; hyoplastron coossified with hypoplastron; nine or more plastral callosities in the adult, a pair being present in front of and ossifying independently from, the epiplastrals. Bony choanae

between the orbits; jaws strong; postorbital arch moderate, narrower than the diameter of the orbit; posterior border of pterygoids with a median ascending process forming a suture with the opisthotic (derived from Boulenger 1889).

Cyclanorbis senegalensis nileensis subsp. nov. in life is depicted online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/893970>

The nominate subspecies *C. senegalensis senegalensis* in life is depicted online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/5466683>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/54053487>

and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/3776623>

Distribution: *C. senegalensis occultatum* subsp. nov. is restricted to the drainages of Lake Chad and also immediately adjacent drainages to the south.

Etymology: The subspecies *C. senegalensis occultatum* subsp. nov. is named in reflection of the fact it has been loargely hidden from science until now.

CYCLODERMA TISMORUM SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:186FFCBA-12D7-4209-AA11-D0209E009FB0

Holotype: A preserved specimen (whole in ethanol) at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, specimen number MCZ Herp R-48028, collected from Ruvuma River, Kitaya, Mtwara, Tanzania, Africa, Latitude -10.65 S., Longitude 40.166667 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Eight preserved specimens at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, specimen numbers (MCZ Herp-R) 48026, 48027, 48029, (all whole animals), 48030, 48031, 48032, 48033 (all dry skeletons), 48034 (eggs), all collected from Ruvuma River, Kitaya, Mtwara, Tanzania, Africa, Latitude -10.65 S., Longitude 40.166667 E.

Diagnosis: *Cycloderma tismorum* sp. nov. from the Ruvuma River system bordering Tanzania and Mozambique is separated from *Cycloderma frenatum* Peters, 1854 of the Zambezi River system further south and west by its generally yellowish to yellowish brown

dorsal colouration versus dark olive to olive grey colour in *C. frenatum*; *C. tismorum* sp. nov. has relatively indistinct head stripes when young that are indistinct or absent with age, versus very distinct head stripes, often bounded by white in younger specimens, which as a rule remain visible throughout life, even in aged specimens; there are about 40 closely placed, prominent low tubercular ridges on the upper surface of the carapace in young *C. tismorum* sp. nov.. These same ridges are barely discernable in *C. frenatum*.

The two species *Cycloderma tismorum* sp. nov. and *C. frenatum* are separated from the morphologically similar *Heptathyra aubryi* (Duméril, 1856) and *Heptathyra marcdorsei* sp. nov., the latter species until now treated as a population of of *Heptathyra aubryi* (Duméril, 1856) in that the epipterygoid, when present, never contacts the palatine and fuses to the pterygoid in large adults and in which the vomer is absent. It further differs from the two species herein placed in the genus *Heptathyra* Cope, 1960 by the total absence of midline suturing or fusion of the xiphiplastra and in always retaining the premaxillae.

A photo of *Cycloderma tismorum* sp. nov. in life can be found online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/19695883>

A photo of *C. frenatum* in life can be found online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/9957404>

Photos of live specimens of both species are also depicted in Broadley and Sachse (2011).

Distribution: *Cycloderma tismorum* sp. nov. is only known from the Ruvuma River system bordering Tanzania and Mozambique. *Cycloderma frenatum* Peters, 1854 occurs in the much larger Zambezi River system further south and west and including lake Nyasa, where it is common.

Etymology: *Cycloderma tismorum* sp. nov. is named in honour of the Australian Alternative Rock Band, TISM.

TISM (an acronym of This Is Serious Mum) were a seven-piece anonymous alternative rock band from Melbourne, Australia. The group was formed on 30 December 1982 by vocalist/drummer Humphrey B. Flaubert, bassist/vocalist Jock Cheese and keyboardist/vocalist Eugene de la Hot Croix Bun, and enjoyed a large underground/independent following. Also playing in the band was Jock Paull, now deceased. Their third album, Machiavelli and the Four Seasons, reached the Australian national top 10 in 1995.

In Africa it is commonly said that those Africans who live south of the Zambezi River (e.g. South Africa) do not have the same sense of rhythm and music making of those further north and so it is appropriate that a species from north of the Zambezi River be named in honour of a group of people with rhythm.

HEPTATHYRA MARCDORSEI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:15279CE2-7F5D-4B5B-AD08-93C198A1A081

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA, specimen number AMNH Herpetology R-45859 collected at Lukolela, DR Congo, Africa, Latitude -1.05 S., Longitude

17.2 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA, specimen number AMNH Herpetology R-45860 collected at Lukolela, DR Congo, Africa, Latitude -1.05 S., Longitude 17.2 E.

Diagnosis: Until now *Heptathyra marcdorsei* sp. nov. from the Congo River system in central Africa has been treated as a population of *H. aubryi* (Duméril, 1856), better known until now as *Cycloderma aubryi* (Duméril, 1856), herein confined to the Ogooue River system in Gabon, to the north and east of the Congo River system.

H. marcdorsei sp. nov. is separated from *H. aubryi* by having a yellow iris, as opposed to orange or red in *H. aubryi*.

H. marcdorsei sp. nov. is further separated from *H. aubryi* by having indistinct head patterns in adults (whether spots, stripes or combinations of these), versus reasonably distinct in *H. aubryi*.

H. marcdorsei sp. nov. in life is depicted online at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/64098778>

A colour photo of *H. aubryi* can be found in Rhodin *et al.* (2017) on page 160 at top left and online at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildaboutlife/17315984505/>

The two species *Cycloderma tismorum* sp. nov. and *C. frenatum* are separated from the morphologically similar *Heptathyra aubryi* (Duméril, 1856) and *Heptathyra marcdorsei* sp. nov., the latter species until now treated as a population of *Heptathyra aubryi* (Duméril, 1856) in that the epipterygoid, when present, never contacts the palatine and fuses to the pterygoid in large adults and in which the vomer is absent. It further differs from the two species herein placed in the genus *Heptathyra* Cope, 1960 by the total absence of midline suturing or fusion of the xiphiplastra and in always retaining the premaxillae.

Distribution: *Heptathyra marcdorsei* sp. nov. appears to be restricted to the Congo River system in central Africa. *H. aubryi* (Duméril, 1856), better known until now as *Cycloderma aubryi* (Duméril, 1856), appears to be confined to the much smaller Ogooue River system in Gabon, to the north and east of the Congo River system.

Etymology: Named in honour of Marc Dorse of Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia, previously of Mount Tamborine, Queensland, Australia, a wildlife demonstrator of some decades (Business name "Deadly Australians", Australian Registered Trademark number 797420, registered in 1999), in recognition of his services to education and wildlife conservation in Australia.

Dorse was the first person in the world to breed in captivity the little known freshwater turtle species *Wollumbinia purvisi* (Wells and Wellington, 1985), which he did in 2014-2015. The more recent and widely posted claim in 2019-2020 by John Weigel and his privately owned zoo business, trading as the "Australian Reptile Park" to be the first in the world to breed this species

(*Wollumbinia purvisi*) (e.g. as posted at: <https://reptilepark.com.au/animals/reptiles/turtles-tortoises/manning-river-turtle/> is

nothing more than a scam to entice well-meaning gullible people to donate money to his privately owned business masquerading as a charity.

Trading on the plight of endangered wildlife by making false claims for personal profit, in order to scam cash from well-meaning but otherwise ill informed people is ethically and morally repugnant!

PIERSONCHELYS GEN. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:BA36C4F1-27F8-4B80-9423-4F918D39C8A4

Type species: *Emyda scutata* Peters, 1868.

Diagnosis: *Piersonchelys* gen. nov. is readily separated from the morphologically similar genus *Lissemys* Smith, 1931, type species: *Emyda punctata* (= *Testudo punctata* Lacepède, 1788) (= *Testudo punctata* Bonnaterre, 1789), by original monotypy by the following unique combination of characters: Anterior marginals not greatly enlarged, not very unequal in size, the first not larger than

the second. Entoplastral callosity large or moderate. Brown above, carapace spotted or reticulated with darker markings. Head lacks yellow spots.

Species within *Lissemys* are also separated from *Piersonchelys* gen. nov. by one or other of the following suites of characters:

1/ Head without yellow spots; first marginal plate much larger than second,

or;

2/ Head with yellow spots; entoplastral callosity small.

Both *Piersonchelys* gen. nov. and *Lissemys* Smith, 1931 are separated from all other species of Trionychidae by the following unique suite of characters:

Nuchal notched at each outer end, which underlies the first costal plate; dorsal shield large, with a series of bony plates in the posterior cutaneous border and a praenuchal marginal bony plate; neural plates well developed, seven or eight in number, forming a continuous series; eighth pair of costals large in the adult and like the penultimate, forming a median suture. Plastron with a cutaneous femoral valve, under which the hind limb may be concealed; hyoplastron co-ossified with hypoplastron; seven plastral callosities (in the adult). Bony choanae between the orbits; jaws strong; postorbital arch moderate, much narrower than the diameter of the orbit; posterior border of pterygoids with a median ascending process forming a suture with the opisthotic (derived from Boulenger 1889).

Pereira *et al.* (2017) found that the genus *Lissemys* Smith, 1931, type species: *Emyda punctata* (= *Testudo punctata* Lacepède, 1788) (= *Testudo punctata* Bonnaterre, 1789), by original monotypy has significant divergence between component species as currently recognized.

Praschag *et al.* (2011) found likewise. It appears that the morphologically distinctive species *Lissemys scutata* (Peters, 1868), originally described as *Emyda scutata*

Peters, 1868 diverged from the other species in the genus 30 MYA based on the results of Pereira *et al.* (2017).

Hence, in the absence of an available name, the genus *Piersonchelys* *gen. nov.* has been erected to accommodate this taxon.

Distribution: Myanmar (Burma).

Etymology: Named in honour of Charles Pierson of Moss Vale, New South Wales, in recognition of his contributions to wildlife conservation in Australia and globally, including through his publication of the books, *Australian Reptiles and Frogs* (Hoser, 1989), *Endangered Animals of Australia* (Hoser, 1991) and *Smuggled: The Underground Trade in Australia's Wildlife* (Hoser, 1993), the last of which forced a change of draconian and anti-conservation wildlife laws in all states of Australia, the USA and elsewhere. Further details in Hoser (1996).

Content: *Piersonchelys scutata* (Peters, 1868).

PARAPELODSICUS SUBGEN. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:40BCF483-CCA1-4254-9457-659A7F41942D

Type species: *Trionyx axenaria* Zhou, Zhang and Fang, 1991.

Diagnosis: *Parapelodiscus subgen. nov.* is readily separated from all species within the nominate subgenus *Pelodiscus* Fitzinger, 1835 (being the rest of the genus), by the following unique suite of characters: Maximum carapace length of 20 cm, mainly yellowish brown in colour, with blurred dark mottling including indistinct stellate spots and ill-defined half oval blotches around the perimeter of the leathery margin. Plastron is yellowish white, with a pattern of a single dark gray central figure enclosed by hypoand xiphiplastra; underside of leathery margin of carapace is unmarked. Head and neck has a pattern of numerous fine dark brown to black markings, pre and postocular stripes are thin and discontinuous. Throat has miniscule, indistinct yellowish-white spots. There is a high median keel on the carapace. Dorsal tubercles are in a longitudinal series more or less discrete, central tubercle in front of the marginal ridge of the carapace is small.

Tortoises in the genus *Pelodiscus* Fitzinger, 1835 are separated from all other morphologically similar species and genera by the following suite of characters:

Costal plates normally in eight pairs, the last well developed and in contact throughout on the median line; a single neural between the first pair of costals; dorsal plates finely pitted and vermiculate.

Dorsal skin of young with longitudinal ridges of small tubercles. Epiplastra separated from each other; entoplastron broad at each end, forming an obtuse angle; plastral callosities well developed in the adult, hyo-hypoplastral, xiphiplastral, and sometimes also entoplastral, finely sculptured like the carapace. Head moderate; snout (on the skull) longer than the diameter of the orbit; interorbital space usually narrower than the nasal fossa; postorbital arch at least half the diameter of the orbit in the adult; mandible without symphyseal ridge, its width at the symphysis exceeding the diameter of the

orbit. Olive above, uniform or light-dotted, dorsal disk frequently with a few scattered blackish spots; head above with small spots or dots; frequently a few black streaks radiating from the orbit, a rostral, a temporal and an interorbital being usually distinct; chin and throat spotted or marbled with white on a dark background; plastron whitish, in the young usually with symmetrical black spots or bands; young usually with a pair of black spots in front of the tail and a black band on the under side of the thighs (modified from Boulenger 1898).

Distribution: China (Guangxi, Hunan).

Etymology: The name *Parapelodiscus subgen. nov.* has the prefix "Para" meaning alongside of, beside, near, resembling, beyond, apart from, or abnormal, all of which reflects the relationship of the component species in this subgenus with those of the nominate subgenus.

Content: *Pelodiscus (Parapelodiscus) axenaria* (Zhou, Zhang, and Fang, 1991).

AMYDA ASHPHILLIPSI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:93820BCE-E3B7-46AC-A1C6-F0B35D8D02CE

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria, specimen number NMW 30205:3, collected at Baram River, Sarawak, Borneo, Malaysia. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes : 1/ A preserved specimen at the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria, specimen number NMW 30205:4, collected at Baram River, Sarawak, Borneo, Malaysia. 2/ Seven preserved specimens at the Field Museum of Natural History., Chicago, Illinois, USA, in the Amphibian and Reptile Collection, specimen numbers FMNH 120375, 128221, 128254, 128255, 128440, 129554, 131574, all collected in the Fourth Division of Sarawak, Borneo, Malaysia.

Diagnosis : Until now, *Amyda ashphillipsi sp. nov.* has been treated as a population of *A. cartilaginea* (Boddaert, 1770) *sensu lato*. However this taxon is both morphologically and genetically divergent from all named species and subspecies in the complex (Fritz *et al.* 2014) and so is formally named as a new species herein.

Amyda ashphillipsi sp. nov. is morphologically most similar to the subspecies *Amyda cartilaginea maculosa* Fritz, Gemel, Kehlmaier, Vamberger and Praschag 2014, but is readily separated from that taxon by having mainly yellowish-orange marbling on the otherwise brownish-grey neck, versus numerous evenly spaced distinctive small yellow spots on the otherwise brownish-grey neck in *A. cartilaginea maculosa*.

Where there is spotting on the head and neck of *A. ashphillipsi sp. nov.* it is either blurred, indistinct or irregular, versus generally bold in *A. cartilaginea maculosa*.

A. cartilaginea maculosa differs from the nominotypical subspecies *A. cartilaginea cartilaginea* of Java by a more massive head with a relatively short and blunt proboscis, a lighter base colouration (olive to brown instead of dark brown to blackish) and less pronounced nuchal tubercles. Juveniles and young adults bear on

their back a characteristic saddle-shaped dark mark.

In *A. cartilaginea maculosa* the saddlemark is obviously infused with brown or brown spotting and marks, versus generally not so in *A. ashphillipsi sp. nov.*.

The species *A. ornata* (Gray, 1861) from mainland Indo-China, as far west as eastern India, is readily separated from all forms of *A. cartilaginea* as well as *A. ashphillipsi sp. nov.* by the following characters: *A. ornata* is the so-called arrow-headed form of the genus, because the animals always show three (or rarely two) converging black lines on the crown of the head. The dorsum is characterised by a very light yellowish base colour, diffuse yellow spotting on the head and neck, usually restricted to the cheeks; carapace lacks ocelli, but black dots may be present and the nuchal tubercles are always weakly developed.

All species in the genus *Amyda* Schweigger in Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1809 are readily separated from all morphologically similar species by the following suite of characters: Posterior nares not reduced in size by the inner extension of the maxillaries. Alveolar surface of lower jaw without a longitudinal symphyseal ridge; seven to eight pairs of pleuralia, all separated by neurals; a single neural between the first pair of pleurals.

Fritz *et al.* (2014) reviewed the *Amyda cartilaginea* (Boddaert, 1770) species complex, which at the time was being treated as the entirety of the monotypic genus *Amyda* Schweigger in Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1809. Fritz *et al.* (2014) split the putative species into two, resurrecting the name *Amyda ornata* (Gray, 1861) for the mainland south-east Asian taxa. *Amyda cartilaginea* was therein confined to the Sunda shelf region.

They formally named a subspecies *Amyda cartilaginea maculosa* Fritz, Gemel, Kehlmaier, Vamberger and Praschag 2014 for a divergent form from south-west Borneo, Java and Sulawesi.

The taxon *Trionyx phayrei* Theobald, 1868 was resurrected as a subspecies of *A. ornata*.

That taxonomy is agreed herein.

A. ashphillipsi sp. nov. as defined herein was found by Fritz *et al.* (2014) to have species-level divergence from all forms of *A. cartilaginea* and *A. ornata* as defined by them. Fritz *et al.* (2014) also published images of live *A. ashphillipsi sp. nov.*.

Distribution: *A. ashphillipsi sp. nov.* is known only from Division Four of Sarawak, Borneo, including the Baram River system. In the south-east of the island *A. cartilaginea maculosa* occurs. No known sympatry is known.

Etymology: Named in honour of Ash Phillips, of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia in recognition of his services helping people navigating Australia's incredibly corrupt legal system.

AMYDA ORNATA MAGNAPAPULAE SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:DB2F9E2A-8213-47FF-A07B-7F4D6A2C8F17

Holotype: A preserved specimen (carapace and plastron of an adult) at the Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay, India, specimen number BNHM 1446,

collected from Mizoram, North-east India. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Details of the holotype were published by Pawar and Choudhury (2000) including a photo on page 146.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, India, specimen numbers ZSI 2632 and ZSI 13207 collected from Mizoram, North-east India.

Diagnosis: *Amyda ornata magnapapulae subsp. nov.* is readily separated from other *Amyda ornata* subspecies including the nominate form of *Amyda ornata* (Gray 1861) with a type locality of Cambodia and *Amyda ornata phayrei* (Theobald, 1868) from Burma (type locality of Arakan Hills, Bassein, Myanmar), by the following suite of characters: greyish-brown versus yellow-brown iris, much thinner snout and proboscis, as compared to the other subspecies; distinctive light spotting on a purplish background on the side of the face, versus not so and with scattered raised yellow tubercles on the side of the face in the other subspecies. Carapace expands slightly at the rear in *A. ornata magnapapulae subsp. nov.*, versus more oval-shaped in the other subspecies.

Amyda ornata magnapapulae subsp. nov. has even more significantly enlarged tubercles on the shell, in particular at the rear of the top of the carapace than even *A. ornata phayrei* which has more well defined shell tubercles as compared to other the other subspecies.

The enlarged tubercles on the rear of *A. ornata phayrei* tend to be blunted, rather than somewhat more spiked in *Amyda ornata magnapapulae subsp. nov.*, although they do blunten in aged specimens.

Amyda magnapapulae subsp. nov. in life is depicted in Hmar *et al.* (2020) and Fritz *et al.* (2014) and is usually a dark brown colour, with little yellow on the carapace, versus generally lighter in the other subspecies of *A. ornata*.

The species *A. ornata* (Gray, 1861) from mainland Indo-China, as far west as eastern India, is readily separated from all forms of *A. cartilaginea* as well as *A. ashphillipsi sp. nov.* by the following characters: *A. ornata* is the so-called arrow-headed form of the genus, because the animals always show three (or rarely two) converging black lines on the crown of the head. The dorsum is characterised by a very light yellowish base colour, diffuse yellow spotting on the head and neck, usually restricted to the cheeks; carapace lacks ocelli, but black dots may be present and the nuchal tubercles are always weakly developed.

All species in the genus *Amyda* Schweigger in Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1809 are readily separated from all morphologically similar species by the following suite of characters: Posterior nares not reduced in size by the inner extension of the maxillaries. Alveolar surface of lower jaw without a longitudinal symphyseal ridge; seven to eight pairs of pleuralia, all separated by neurals; a single neural between the first pair of pleurals.

Fritz *et al.* (2014) reviewed the *Amyda cartilaginea*

(Boddaert, 1770) species complex, which at the time was being treated as the entirety of the monotypic genus *Amyda* Schweigger in Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1809. Fritz *et al.* (2014) split the putative species into two, resurrecting the name *Amyda ornata* (Gray, 1861) for the mainland south-east Asian taxa. *Amyda cartilaginea* was therein confined to the Sunda shelf region.

They formally named a subspecies *Amyda cartilaginea maculosa* Fritz, Gemel, Kehlmaier, Vamberger and Praschag 2014 for the divergent form from south-west Borneo, Java and Sulawesi.

The taxon *Trionyx phayrei* Theobald, 1868 was resurrected as a subspecies of *A. ornata*.

That taxonomy is agreed herein.

The newly named species *A. ashphillipsi* sp. nov. as described within this paper was found by Fritz *et al.* (2014) to have species-level divergence from all forms of *A. cartilaginea* and *A. ornata* as defined by them. Fritz *et al.* (2014) also published images of live *A. ashphillipsi* sp. nov..

Distribution: *Amyda ornata magnapapulae* subsp. nov. occurs in far north-east India and adjoining Bangladesh. Exact locations known for this subspecies include the Ngengpui River basin in the extreme southern part of north-eastern India (Pawar and Choudhury 2000), Tripura (North District), Narichera Stream (Das *et al.* 2016), the Assam-Mizoram border at Dhalchera River, Phaisen Hills, Cachar District, Assam (Nath *et al.* 2018) and Tuirial River drainage Lat. 23.5550 N., Longitude 92.7790 E., Aizawl District, Mizoram (Hmar *et al.* 2020).

Etymology: The subspecies name “*magnapapulae*” refers in Latin to the enlarged tubercles seen on the carapace of this subspecies.

KEILLERCHELYS SUBGEN. NOV.

LSIDURN:LSID:ZOOBANK.ORG:ACT:20FC86D5-C1EA-4F77-88DE-BD900E74737B

TYPE SPECIES: *Keillerchelys darrenkeilleri* sp. nov. (this paper).

Diagnosis: Turtles in the subgenus *Keillerchelys* subgen. nov. are readily separated from the nominate subgenus of *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 by having light or brown coloured dorsums versus black or dark grey in subgenus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830.

Keillerchelys subgen. nov. are further separated from the nominate subgenus in that the widely separated pectorals are usually not in contact in the plastral midline (except in some east African forms), versus pectorals usually in contact in the nominate subgenus. Turtles in the genus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 (both subgenera) are separated from all other species by the following unique suite of characters: Large-sized, often dark-coloured helmeted turtles with an exceptional maximum straight carapacial length of 32.5 cm (Hewitt 1935, discussed in Branch *et al.* 1990). However, the normal shell length of adults is around 26 cm. Shell covered with epidermal shields. Pectoral scutes may or may not be in contact at plastral midseam (depending on subgenus). In approximately 50 percent of all specimens there are two small temporal scales present on each side of the head, the others having one large

undivided temporal scale. There are two small barbels below the chin; alveolar surface of the upper jaw with a very indistinct median ridge; a pair of shields, separated by a longitudinal suture, between the eyes, followed by a large interparietal. Soft parts dorsally darker than ventrally. Carapace and plastron of adults often mainly or entirely dark but in western and northwestern populations (*Keillerchelys* subgen. nov.) the carapace of adults may be light-coloured with a mainly or entirely yellow plastron. Plastral bones eleven, mesoplastron being present, small and lateral, being wedged between the hyoand and the hypoplastra. No bony temporal roof; neck completely retractile within the shell; second cervical vertebra is convex. A bony temporal arch; no parieto-squamosal arch; palatine bones in contact; no nasals; praefrontals in contact; dentary single. Digits very short, mostly with only two phalanges; feet and toes with five claws.

The nominate subgenus from southern Africa includes the species *Pelomedusa galeata* (Schoepff, 1792) as the type species, *Pelomedusa nigra* Gray, 1863 and *P. subrufa* (Bonnaterre, 1789).

All other species in *Pelomedusa*, being from central sub-Saharan Africa are in the subgenus *Keillerchelys* subgen. nov..

Based on Cyt b distances published by Petzold *et al.* (2014) it is reasonable to infer divergence between the two subgenera of somewhere between 10 and 20 MYA.

Distribution: *Keillerchelys* subgen. nov. occur in most major drainages of sub-Saharan Africa excluding southern Africa and Madagascar, generally north of Latitude -10 S. South of here the subgenus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 occurs. The two subgenera are sympatric in a small area of east Africa north of Latitude -10 S.

Etymology: *Keillerchelys* subgen. nov. is named in honour of well known snake catcher, Darren Keiller from Geelong, Victoria, Australia in recognition of his services to herpetology, including through his diligent efforts in dealing with online fraud in the reptile relocation and dog training businesses conducted by scammers.

Content: *Pelomedusa* (*Keillerchelys*) *darrenkeilleri* sp. nov. (type species); *P. (Keillerchelys) alexstaszewskii* sp. nov.; *P. (Keillerchelys) barbata* Petzold, Vargas-Ramirez, Kehlmaier, Branch, Du Freez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Siroky and Fritz, 2014; *P. (Keillerchelys) dannygoodwini* sp. nov.; *P. (Keillerchelys) gehafie* (Rüppell, 1835); *P. (Keillerchelys) kobe* Petzold, Vargas-Ramirez, Kehlmaier, Branch, Du Freez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Siroky and Fritz, 2014; *P. (Keillerchelys) neumanni* Petzold, Vargas-Ramirez, Kehlmaier, Branch, Du Freez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Siroky and Fritz, 2014; *P. (Keillerchelys) olivacea* (Schweigger, 1812); *P. (Keillerchelys) schweinfurthi* Petzold, Vargas-Ramirez, Kehlmaier, Branch, Du Freez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Siroky and Fritz, 2014; *P. (Keillerchelys) shannonmcgrathi* sp. nov.; *P. (Keillerchelys) somalica* Petzold, Vargas-Ramirez, Kehlmaier, Branch, Du Freez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Siroky and Fritz, 2014; *P. (Keillerchelys) variabilis* Petzold, Vargas-Ramirez, Kehlmaier, Branch, Du Freez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Siroky and Fritz, 2014.

PELOMEDUSA (KEILLERCHELYS)**DARRENKEILLERI SP. NOV.**

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:81A502CF-4748-4F12-8DCE-501E65570872

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany, specimen number ZFMK 15171, collected from Mokolo, Margui-Wandala, Extreme North Province, Cameroon, Africa. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: *Pelomedusa (Keillerchelys) darrenkeilleri sp. nov.* is similar in most respects to *P. (Keillerchelys) schweinfurthi* Petzold, Vargas-Ramirez, Kehlmaier, Branch, Du Freez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Siroky and Fritz, 2014, as defined by them, but is readily separated from that taxon by having triangular pectoral scutes that don't reach the plastral midseam, versus relatively squarish ones that do partially contact the midseam in *P. schweinfurthi*.

P. darrenkeilleri sp. nov. is a moderately dark-coloured helmeted species with large, mainly undivided temporal head scales, two small barbells under the chin and a relatively short tail.

Turtles in the subgenus *Keillerchelys subgen. nov.* are readily separated from nominate subgenus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 by having light or brown coloured dorsums versus black or dark grey in subgenus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830.

Keillerchelys subgen. nov. are further separated from the nominate subgenus in that the widely separated pectorals are usually not in contact in the plastral midline (except in some east African forms), versus pectorals usually in contact in the nominate subgenus.

Turtles in the genus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 are separated from all other species by the following unique suite of characters: Large-sized, often dark-coloured helmeted turtles with an exceptional maximum straight carapacial length of 32.5 cm (Hewitt 1935, discussed in Branch *et al.* 1990). However, the normal shell length of adults is around 26 cm. Shell covered with epidermal shields. Pectoral scutes may or may not be in contact at plastral midseam (depending on subgenus). In approximately 50 percent of all specimens there are two small temporal scales present on each side of head, the others having one large undivided temporal scale. Two small barbells below the chin; alveolar surface of the upper jaw with a very indistinct median ridge; a pair of shields, separated by a longitudinal suture, between the eyes, followed by a large interparietal. Soft parts dorsally darker than ventrally. Carapace and plastron of adults often mainly or entirely dark but in western and northwestern populations the carapace of adults may be light-coloured with a mainly or entirely yellow plastron. Plastral bones eleven, mesoplastron being present, small and lateral, being wedged between the hyoand the hypoplastra. No bony temporal roof; neck completely retractile within the

shell; second cervical vertebra is convex. A bony temporal arch; no parieto-squamosal arch; palatine bones in contact; no nasals; praefrontals in contact; dentary single. Digits very short, mostly with only two

phalanges; feet and toes with five claws.

The nominate subgenus from southern Africa includes the species *Pelomedusa galeata* (Schoepff, 1792) as the type species, *Pelomedusa nigra* Gray, 1863 and *P. subrufa* (Bonnaterre, 1789).

All other species in *Pelomedusa*, being from central sub-Saharan Africa are in the subgenus *Keillerchelys subgen. nov.*

Based on Cyt b distances published by Petzold *et al.* (2014) it is reasonable to infer divergence between the two subgenera of somewhere between 10 and 20 MYA.

Distribution: *Pelomedusa (Keillerchelys) darrenkeilleri sp. nov.* is known only from the type region and is believed to be a species confined to this specific region.

Noting the rapid increase in human population and associated environmental destruction accompanying this within this part of Africa, *P. darrenkeilleri sp. nov.* should be treated as a seriously threatened or possibly endangered species.

Etymology: *Keillerchelys subgen. nov.* and the species *P. (Keillerchelys) darrenkeilleri sp. nov.* are both named in honour of well known snake catcher, Darren Keiller from Geelong, Victoria, Australia in recognition of his services to herpetology, including through his diligent efforts in dealing with online fraud in the reptile relocation and dog training businesses conducted by scammers.

PELOMEDUSA (KEILLERCHELYS)**ALEXSTASZEWSKII SP. NOV.**

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:9EF125E2-3B0E-4724-A35A-B32E4BC26CF3

Holotype: A preserved specimen at Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria, specimen number NMW 24451, collected at Al-Ubayyid (El Obeid), North Kurdufan, Sudan, Africa. This facility allows access to its holdings

Diagnosis: *P. (Keillerchelys) alexstaszewskii sp. nov.* is similar in most respects to *P. (Keillerchelys) schweinfurthi* Petzold, Vargas-Ramirez, Kehlmaier, Branch, Du Freez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Siroky and Fritz, 2014 as diagnosed by them..

In contrast to *P. schweinfurthi*, *P. alexstaszewskii sp. nov.* is a species with a light coloured carapace at large size, with an entirely yellow pastron, versus a darkish carapace and dark plastron in *P. schweinfurthi*. Pectoral scutes of *P. alexstaszewskii sp. nov.* are triangular but just reach the plastral midline, versus more rectangular with broad midline contact on the plastron in *P. schweinfurthi*.

P. alexstaszewskii sp. nov. has large, mostly undivided temporal scales, two small barbells under the chin and with soft body parts lighter below than above.

Turtles in the subgenus *Keillerchelys subgen. nov.* are readily separated from nominate subgenus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 by having light or brown coloured dorsums versus black or dark grey in subgenus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830.

Keillerchelys subgen. nov. are further separated from the nominate subgenus in that the widely separated

pectorals are usually not in contact in the plastral midline (except in some east African forms), versus pectorals usually in contact in the nominate subgenus. Turtles in the genus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 are separated from all other species by the following unique suite of characters: Large-sized, often dark-coloured helmeted turtles with an exceptional maximum straight carapacial length of 32.5 cm (Hewitt 1935, discussed in Branch *et al.* 1990). However, the normal shell length of adults is around 26 cm. Shell covered with epidermal shields. Pectoral scutes may or may not be in contact at plastral midseam (depending on subgenus). In approximately 50 percent of all specimens there are two small temporal scales present on each side of head, the others having one large undivided temporal scale. Two small barbels below the chin; alveolar surface of the upper jaw with a very indistinct median ridge; a pair of shields, separated by a longitudinal suture, between the eyes, followed by a large interparietal. Soft parts dorsally darker than ventrally. Carapace and plastron of adults often mainly or entirely dark but in western and northwestern populations the carapace of adults may be light-coloured with a mainly or entirely yellow plastron. Plastral bones eleven, mesoplastron being present, small and lateral, being wedged between the hyoand the hypoplastra. No bony temporal roof; neck completely retractile within the

shell; second cervical vertebra is convex. A bony temporal arch; no parieto-squamosal arch; palatine bones in contact; no nasals; praefrontals in contact; dentary single. Digits very short, mostly with only two phalanges; feet and toes with five claws.

The nominate subgenus from southern Africa includes the species *Pelomedusa galeata* (Schoepff, 1792) as the type species, *Pelomedusa nigra* Gray, 1863 and *P. subrufa* (Bonnaterre, 1789).

All other species in *Pelomedusa*, being from central sub-Saharan Africa are in the subgenus *Keillerchelys subgen. nov.*

Based on Cyt b distances published by Petzold *et al.* (2014) it is reasonable to infer divergence between the two subgenera of somewhere between 10 and 20 MYA.

Distribution: *P. (Keillerchelys) alexstaszewskii sp. nov.* is known only from the type locality in Sudan. It is almost certainly a threatened or vulnerable species and like many other species of turtle, probably declining in number.

Etymology: *P. alexstaszewskii sp. nov.* is named in honour of well known Sydney snake breeder Alex Staszewski of Blacktown, New South Wales, Australia in recognition of his many contributions to herpetology in Australia.

**PELOMEDUSA (KEILLERCHELYS)
DANNYGODWINI SP. NOV.**

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:65DFA33C-ECF2-4EFD-ACC2-9A19BF6CC16A

Holotype: A preserved female specimen at the Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria, specimen number NMW 24449, collected from Shebelle River, Oromia, Ethiopia. This facility allows access to its

holdings. Photos of the holotype are published in Fritz *et al.* (2015b) at Fig. 6.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, USA, Specimen number MVZ 241332 collected at Rugi, 30 km North east (by road), Borama, Awdal Region, Somalia, Africa, Latitude 9.9698 N., Longitude 43.4325E.

Diagnosis: *Pelomedusa (Keillerchelys) dannygoodwini sp. nov.* has until now been treated as a variant of *P. (Keillerchelys) somalica* Petzold, Vargas-Ramirez, Kehlmaier, Branch, Du Freez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Siroky and Fritz, 2014 as defined by those authors.

P. dannygoodwini sp. nov. is however separated from that species as follows: The three mid vertebrals on the carapace are expanded horizontally, versus not so in *P. somalica*; the paired front nuchals are squarish in shape, versus rectangular (laterally) in *P. somalica*; the more-or-less triangular humerals join the abdominals in *P. dannygoodwini sp. nov.* whereas the more-or-less rectangular (expanded laterally) humerals do not come close to touching the abdominals in *P. somalica*; central gular is narrow in *P. dannygoodwini sp.* versus wide in *P. somalica*; the femorals are not strongly elongated (vertically), versus elongated strongly in *P. somalica*.

Turtles in the subgenus *Keillerchelys subgen. nov.* are readily separated from nominate subgenus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 by having light or brown coloured dorsums versus black or dark grey in subgenus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830.

Keillerchelys subgen. nov. are further separated from the nominate subgenus in that the widely separated pectorals are usually not in contact in the plastral midline (except in some east African forms), versus pectorals usually in contact in the nominate subgenus. Turtles in the genus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 are separated from all other species by the following unique suite of characters: Large-sized, often dark-coloured helmeted turtles with an exceptional maximum straight carapacial length of 32.5 cm (Hewitt 1935, discussed in Branch *et al.* 1990). However, the normal shell length of adults is around 26 cm. Shell covered with epidermal shields. Pectoral scutes may or may not be in contact at plastral midseam (depending on subgenus). In approximately 50 percent of all specimens there are two small temporal scales present on each side of head, the others having one large undivided temporal scale. Two small barbels below the chin; alveolar surface of the upper jaw with a very indistinct median ridge; a pair of shields, separated by a longitudinal suture, between the eyes, followed by a large interparietal. Soft parts dorsally darker than ventrally. Carapace and plastron of adults often mainly or entirely dark but in western and northwestern populations the carapace of adults may be light-coloured with a mainly or entirely yellow plastron. Plastral bones eleven, mesoplastron being present, small and lateral, being wedged between the hyoand the hypoplastra. No bony temporal roof; neck completely retractile within the

shell; second cervical vertebra is convex. A bony

temporal arch; no parieto-squamosal arch; palatine bones in contact; no nasals; praefrontals in contact; dentary single. Digits very short, mostly with only two phalanges; feet and toes with five claws.

The nominate subgenus from southern Africa includes the species *Pelomedusa galeata* (Schoepff, 1792) as the type species, *Pelomedusa nigra* Gray, 1863 and *P. subrufa* (Bonnaterre, 1789).

All other species in *Pelomedusa*, being from central sub-Saharan Africa are in the subgenus *Keillerchelys* subgen. nov..

Based on Cyt b distances published by Petzold *et al.* (2014) it is reasonable to infer divergence between the two subgenera of somewhere between 10 and 20 MYA.

Distribution: *P. dannygoodwini* sp. nov. is only known from the type localities in Ethiopia and Somalia, both being countries with rapidly expanding human populations.

Etymology: *P. dannygoodwini* sp. nov. is named in honour of well known snake catcher and herpetologist, Danny Goodwin from Inverloch, Victoria, Australia in recognition of a lifetime's contributions to herpetology and wildlife conservation.

**PELOMEDUSA (KEILLERCHELYS)
SHANNONMCGRATHI SP. NOV.**

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:5CC50F4A-2D86-4051-B223-3BDF0D0A29AB

Holotype: A preserved male specimen with carapace length of 152 mm at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium, specimen number RBINS:ZTN:UP497, collected from a shallow flooded roadside ditch, approximately 10 km north of Gombela on the road to Katwe in the Kundelungu National Park, Katanga, DR Congo, Africa, Latitude 10.688680 S., Longitude 27.830932 E. at 1,365 metres above sea level. This facility allows access to its holdings. Photos of the holotype in life are published in Nagy *et al.* (2015).

Diagnosis: *P. (Keillerchelys) shannonmcgrathi* sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *P. (Keillerchelys) neumanni* Petzold, Vargas-Ramirez, Kehlmaier, Branch, Du Freez, Hofmeyr, Meyer, Schleicher, Siroky and Fritz, 2014, with a type locality of the the Kakamega forest in Kenya as diagnosed by these authors.

However *P. shannonmcgrathi* sp. nov. is readily separated from *P. neumanni* by the following suite of characters: On the carapace, in *P. shannonmcgrathi* sp. nov. the anterior vertebrals and costals are significantly lighter away from the outer edges, versus not so in *P. neumanni*; the posterior edge of the anterior vertebral is relatively straight, versus a weakly inverted U-shape in *P. neumanni*; on the plastron, the lower edges of the femoral are strongly angled down at the outer edge, versus not so in *P. neumanni*.

Turtles in the subgenus *Keillerchelys* subgen. nov. are readily separated from nominate subgenus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 by having light or brown coloured dorsums versus black or dark grey in subgenus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830.

Keillerchelys subgen. nov. are further separated from the nominate subgenus in that the widely separated

pectorals are usually not in contact in the plastral midline (except in some east African forms), versus pectorals usually in contact in the nominate subgenus.

Turtles in the genus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830 are separated from all other species by the following unique suite of characters: Large-sized, often dark-coloured helmeted turtles with an exceptional maximum straight carapacial length of 32.5 cm (Hewitt 1935, discussed in Branch *et al.* 1990). However, the normal shell length of adults is around 26 cm. Shell covered with epidermal shields. Pectoral scutes may or may not be in contact at plastral midseam (depending on subgenus). In approximately 50 percent of all specimens there are two small temporal scales present on each side of head, the others having one large undivided temporal scale. Two small barbels below the chin; alveolar surface of the upper jaw with a very indistinct median ridge; a pair of shields, separated by a longitudinal suture, between the eyes, followed by a large interparietal. Soft parts dorsally darker than ventrally. Carapace and plastron of adults often mainly or entirely dark but in western and northwestern populations the carapace of adults may be light-coloured with a mainly or entirely yellow plastron. Plastral bones eleven, mesoplastron being present, small and lateral, being wedged between the hyoand the hypoplastra. No bony temporal roof; neck completely retractile within the

shell; second cervical vertebra is convex. A bony temporal arch; no parieto-squamosal arch; palatine bones in contact; no nasals; praefrontals in contact; dentary single. Digits very short, mostly with only two phalanges; feet and toes with five claws.

The nominate subgenus from southern Africa includes the species *Pelomedusa galeata* (Schoepff, 1792) as the type species, *Pelomedusa nigra* Gray, 1863 and *P. subrufa* (Bonnaterre, 1789).

All other species in *Pelomedusa*, being from central sub-Saharan Africa are in the subgenus *Keillerchelys* subgen. nov..

Based on Cyt b distances published by Petzold *et al.* (2014) it is reasonable to infer divergence between the two subgenera of somewhere between 10 and 20 MYA.

Distribution: *P. shannonmcgrathi* sp. nov. is only known from the type locality in DR Congo.

Etymology: Named in honour of well known snake catcher and herpetologist, Shannon McGrath from Bena and Korumburra, Victoria, Australia in recognition of a lifetime's contributions to herpetology and wildlife conservation.

PELUSIOS LYNNRAWI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:97F54D18-50E6-4331-AF58-A804B5A27C93

Holotype: A preserved (in alcohol) specimen at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA, CM Herps Collection, specimen number, CM Herps S5971, collected at Bié, Chitau, Angola, Africa. Latitude -11.41 S., Longitude 17.15 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three preserved (dry) specimens in the American Museum of Natural History. New York, USA,

AMNH Herpetology Collections Herpetology, specimen numbers R-50751, R-50752 and R-50753, all collected from Bié, Chitau, Angola, Africa. Latitude -11.41 S., Longitude 17.15 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, *Pelusios lynnravi* sp. nov. has been treated as a variant or population of the well-known species *Pelusios rhodesianus* Hewitt, 1927. This taxon was also described as “Clade B” by Kindler *et al.* 2015.

It is known only from Angola (mainly), the far south of the DR Congo as well as western Zambia.

P. lynnravi sp. nov. is readily separated from *P. rhodesianus* by having the eighth neural being not elongated and is separated from the suprapygal, versus elongate and contacts the suprapygal in *P. rhodesianus*. Within *P. rhodesianus*, the newly named subspecies *P. rhodesianus divergentans* subsp. nov., from the north-east of the species range in Tanzania, Burundi, eastern parts of DR Congo and far north-east parts of Zambia is readily separated from the nominate subspecies (type locality Mpika district, Zambia) found mainly south of there in parts of Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, as well as parts of DR Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uganda by having a brown head with yellow vermiculation, versus a head that is brown above and yellow laterally in the nominate subspecies.

P. lynnravi sp. nov. and both subspecies of *P. rhodesianus* are readily separated from all other species in the genus *Pelusios* Wagler, 1830 by the following unique suite of characters:

Sulcus between abdominals more than half length of anterior lobe of plastron; plastron hinge strongly developed; no discrete axillary shield present; posterior width of first pair of marginals usually less than 85 percent of anterior width of first vertebral; posterior margin of carapace smoothly rounded; head width usually less than half plastron width at abdominofemoral sulcus; tip of beak bicuspid; postocular and masseteric shield usually in contact; a series of transversely elongate falciform scales on forelimb; eight neurals, the first always in contact with nuchal; intergular rhomboidal, its border usually less than 15 percent of femoral border; carapace black; plastron black or yellow mesially, rarely uniform yellow and without a black angular peripheral pattern; head with yellow vermiculation or alternatively uniform brown above; skin on outer faces of limbs is grey-brown.

Distribution: *Pelusios lynnravi* sp. nov. is known only from Angola (mainly), the far south of the DR Congo as well as Zambia.

Etymology: Named in honour Lynn Raw, of Grenaa, Denmark in recognition of his work on the nominate species *Pelusios rhodesianus* Hewitt, 1927, other reptile species from Africa and further for services to the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) in his role of managing their list-server, known as “ICZN_List”.

***PELUSIOS RHODESIANUS DIVERGENTANS* SUBSP. NOV.**

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:9E5A0023-6EC4-412E-9589-C4BA9873B8E3

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, specimen number MCZ Herp R-30015, collected from Nyamkolo, (=Mpulungu), Lake Tanganyika, Zambia, Latitude 8.7725 S., Longitude 31.1166 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: Within *P. rhodesianus*, the newly named subspecies *P. rhodesianus divergentans* subsp. nov., from the north-east of the species range in Tanzania, Burundi, eastern parts of DR Congo and far north-east parts of Zambia is readily separated from the nominate subspecies (type locality Mpika district, Zambia) found mainly south of there in parts of Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, as well as parts of DR Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uganda by having a brown head with yellow vermiculation, versus a head that is brown above and yellow laterally in the nominate subspecies.

Until now, *Pelusios lynnravi* sp. nov. has been treated as a variant or population of the well-known species *Pelusios rhodesianus* Hewitt, 1927. This taxon was also described as “Clade B” by Kindler *et al.* 2015.

It is known only from Angola (mainly), the far south of the DR Congo as well as western Zambia.

P. lynnravi sp. nov. is readily separated from *P. rhodesianus* by having the eighth neural being not elongated and is separated from the suprapygal, versus elongate and contacts the suprapygal in *P. rhodesianus*. *P. lynnravi* sp. nov. and both subspecies of *P. rhodesianus* are readily separated from all other species in the genus *Pelusios* Wagler, 1830 by the following unique suite of characters:

Sulcus between abdominals more than half length of anterior lobe of plastron; plastron hinge strongly developed; no discrete axillary shield present; posterior width of first pair of marginals usually less than 85 percent of anterior width of first vertebral; posterior margin of carapace smoothly rounded; head width usually less than half plastron width at abdominofemoral sulcus; tip of beak bicuspid; postocular and masseteric shield usually in contact; a series of transversely elongate falciform scales on forelimb; eight neurals, the first always in contact with nuchal; intergular rhomboidal, its border usually less than 15 percent of femoral border; carapace black; plastron black, or yellow mesially, rarely uniform yellow; and without a black angular peripheral pattern; head with yellow vermiculation or alternatively uniform brown above; skin on outer faces of limbs is grey-brown.

Distribution: *P. rhodesianus divergentans* subsp. nov., occurs in the north-east of the species range in Tanzania, Burundi, eastern parts of DR Congo and far north-east parts of Zambia.

The nominate subspecies (type locality Mpika district, Zambia) is found mainly south of there in parts of Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, as well as parts of

DR Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uganda.

Etymology: The name “*divergentans*” refers to the fact that this subspecies is divergent from the nominate form from elsewhere in the species range.

ORLITIA BORNEENSIS PERAKENSIS SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:F0CA3BEE-137C-4F08-961B-F058121A608E

Holotype: A preserved female specimen at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA, specimen number FMNH Amphibians and Reptiles 224001 collected from Perak (Peninsula) Malaysia. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Six preserved specimens at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA, specimen numbers FMNH Amphibians and Reptiles 224000, 224003 (female skeleton), 224005 (male skeleton), 224007 (female skeleton), 224008 (dried shell), 224184 all collected from Perak (Peninsula) Malaysia.

Diagnosis: *O. borneensis perakensis subsp. nov.* is similar in most respects to the nominate form *O. borneensis borneensis* Gray, 1873, but is separated from that subspecies by a combination of a deepened carapace, slightly enlarged anterior marginals on the carapace and slightly more concave anterior marginals (as in with obvious concavity, versus not so). Upper jaw and lower snout is mainly yellow in *O. borneensis perakensis subsp. nov.* versus less so in *O. borneensis borneensis*.

O. borneensis of both subspecies are separated from all morphologically similar species by the following suite of characters:

Carapace very convex, tectiform, with a single obtuse keel, distinct only posteriorly; posterior border serrated, the posterior marginals very much smaller than the others; shields slightly rugose; nuchal rather large, a little broader than long; vertebrals broader than long, narrower than the costals, second and third hexagonal equilateral; fourth costal not half as large as third. Plastron light in colour, smaller than the opening of the shell, truncate anteriorly, angularly notched posteriorly, strongly angulated laterally; the width of the bridge much exceeds the length of the hind lobe; pectoral, abdominal and femoral shields equal in length; the shortest median sutures formed by the anal and humeral shields; axillary and inguinal shields present. Head rather large, snout very short, not prominent; upper jaw strongly curved on each side, not hooked; the width of the mandible at the symphysis is a little less than the diameter of the orbit. Iris dark brown. Digital webs very much developed. Dorsum is usually uniform brown to dark grey or black. Photos of *O. borneensis perakensis subsp. nov.* in life can be found online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/40735112>
and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/14772311>
and

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/65586506@N04/38399352084/>

Photos of *O. borneensis borneensis* from Borneo in life can be found in Rhodin *et al.* (2017) on page 110 at top right of page and online at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/limburan/6091262187/>

Distribution: *O. borneensis perakensis subsp. nov.* occurs on the west side of Peninsula Malaysia (mainly Perak), with the nominate subspecies found elsewhere in the species (extant) range of Borneo and Sumatra.

Etymology: The subspecies *O. borneensis perakensis subsp. nov.* is named in reflection of the type locality.

EMYDURA (TROPICOCHELYMYS) WELLINGTONI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:A660B6CD-3EFD-40D1-B8A6-4E078871CADB

Holotype: A preserved adult male specimen at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R164180, collected from Geikie Gorge, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -18.104167 S., Longitude 125.700833 E. This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R164177, and two preserved specimens at the Northern Territory Museum and Art Gallery, Darwin, NT, Australia, specimen numbers R34795 and R34793, all collected from Geikie Gorge, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -18.104167 S., Longitude 125.700833 E.

Diagnosis: *Emydura wellingtoni sp. nov.*, *E. wellsii sp. nov.* and *E. hawkeswoodi sp. nov.* all from the Kimberley District of Western Australia, are all formally named for the first time in this paper.

Emydura wellingtoni sp. nov. is the species found in the Fitzroy River system and drainages flowing into the Walcott Inlet.

E. wellsii sp. nov. is the species found in the Prince Regent and Roe River systems.

E. hawkeswoodi sp. nov. is the species found in the Mitchell and Lawley River systems.

They are all readily separated from other species in the subgenus *Tropicochelymys* Wells and Wellington, 1985, (being the north Australian and southern New Guinea *Emydura* clade), being *E. australis* Gray 1841, the morphologically similar *E. victoriae* Gray, 1842 (both from the Victoria River system in the NT and west to include the King Edward River system in the Kimberley district of Western Australia), *E. subglobosa* Krefft, 1876, with a type locality of Naiabui, on Amama River, South East Papua New Guinea and common throughout southern New Guinea, *E. worrelli* Wells and Wellington (1985), type locality of the Caranbirini Waterhole, about 21 km north of MacArthur River, Northern Territory, Australia, and *E. tanybaraga* Cann, 1997 from the Daly River system in the Northern Territory, by having a rounded versus high-peaked carapace, as well as one that is only moderately expanded at the rear, versus widely expanded at the rear in the other species.

The rear scutes in *Emydura wellingtoni sp. nov.*, *E. wellsii sp. nov.* and *E. hawkeswoodi sp. nov.* are not jagged edged as is seen in all but the oldest specimens

of the other species in the subgenus.

Emydura hawkeswoodi sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov., *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov., *E. victoriae* and *E. australis* are separated from the other species in the subgenus *Tropicochelymys* Wells and Wellington, 1985 by having an absence of a horizontal dark line, or broken darker line running through the iris and pupil.

Emydura wellingtoni sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. have the line on the head running into the ear versus mainly over the ear in other species in the subgenus.

Adult *Emydura wellingtoni* sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. are readily separated from the other species in the subgenus by a noticeably thickened lateral edge of the carapace, typically forming a thick unbroken yellow or beige line coupled with a blackish or dark brown carapace.

Emydura wellingtoni sp. nov., are separated from *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. by the following unique suite of characters: Except in very old specimens, adult males have a bright pinkish-grey plastron and pink lower parts of the limbs. The carapace is dark. The nose is also light pink and the bright red facial stripe extends from the eye, back to the top of the tympanum. A vivid red colour also extends from the angle of the mouth, along the neck to the body. Many small tubercles on the neck are also pink, orange or deep red in colour. Carapace shields have no indications of striations. The underside of the lower part of the tail is also pink. Upper surfaces of the limbs are greyish brown with orange blotches or flecks. Iris is yellow.

E. wellingtoni sp. nov. is readily separated from *E. wellsi* sp. nov. by the fact that adults have a pronounced raising or arch of the carapace above the neck, versus not so in *E. wellsi* sp. nov.. The brightly coloured tubercles seen on the neck of *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov. are relatively smaller and often indistinct in *E. wellsi* sp. nov., which also readily separates the two species.

The lower rear sides of the carapace is slightly upturned in *E. wellsi* sp. nov. versus either not so, or barely in *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov.. The plastron of *E. wellsi* sp. nov. is usually yellowish in colour, versus pinkish grey in *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov.. *E. wellsi* sp. nov. has a yellowish-blue iris.

E. hawkeswoodi sp. nov. is readily separated from both *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov. and *E. wellsi* sp. nov. by having a mainly grey iris, with yellow on the inner edge only, the line behind the eye is often semi-distinct and yellow in adults, tubercles on the neck are small on the upper surface and large on the upper sides (the contrast in size of the tubercles being noticeable in this species and far less so in the other two), nose is usually pink, plastron is yellowish-grey. There is no orange, pink or yellow markings on the upper surfaces of the limbs, which are generally brownish-grey. Adult *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. also have a pronounced raising or arch of the carapace above the neck, but somewhat less so than is seen in *E. wellsi* sp. nov..

Tropicochelymys Wells and Wellington, 1985, species

are separated from the other species within *Emydura* Bonaparte, 1863 by the fact that the length of the mandibular symphysis is about 1.5 times the horizontal diameter of the tympanum, versus more-or-less equal to the horizontal diameter of the tympanum in other *Emydura* species (being those of the nominate subgenus).

Distribution: The Fitzroy River system and drainages flowing into the Walcott Inlet, Kimberley District, Western Australia, Australia.

Etymology: *Emydura wellingtoni* sp. nov., is named in honour of esteemed Australian herpetologist, Cliff Ross Wellington, of Ramornie, New South Wales, Australia, in recognition for his services to herpetology and zoology globally, including his strong advocacy against taxonomic vandalism as practiced by Welsh criminal Wolfgang Wüster and his gang of thieves as detailed by Cogger (2014), Hoser (2007, 2009, 2012a, 2012c, 2013a, 2015a-f), Hawkeswood (2021), ICZN (2021) and sources cited therein.

EMYDURA (TROPICOCHELYMYS) WELLSI SP. NOV.
LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:87CD1F6A-F530-453C-8873-CD98E8DFB884

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R47022, collected from the Prince Regent River Reserve, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -15.816667 S., Longitude 125.633333 E. This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R47024 and R47049, collected from the Prince Regent River Reserve, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -15.816667 S., Longitude 125.633333 E.

Diagnosis: *Emydura wellsi* sp. nov., *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. all from the Kimberley District of Western Australia, are all formally named for the first time in this paper.

Emydura wellsi sp. nov. is the species found in the Prince Regent and Roe River systems.

E. wellingtoni sp. nov. is the species found in the Fitzroy River system and drainages flowing into the Walcott Inlet.

E. hawkeswoodi sp. nov. is the species found in the Mitchell and Lawley River systems.

They are all readily separated from other species in the subgenus *Tropicochelymys* Wells and Wellington, 1985, (being the north Australian and southern New Guinea *Emydura* clade), being *E. australis* Gray 1841, the morphologically similar *E. victoriae* Gray, 1842 (both from the Victoria River system in the NT and west to include the King Edward River system in the Kimberley district of Western Australia), *E. subglobosa* Krefft, 1876, with a type locality of Naiabui, on Amama River, South East Papua New Guinea and common throughout southern New Guinea, *E. worrelli* Wells and Wellington (1985), type locality of the Caranbirini Waterhole, about 21 km north of MacArthur River, Northern Territory, Australia, and *E. tanybaraga* Cann, 1997 from the Daly River system in the Northern Territory, by having a

rounded versus high-peaked carapace, as well as one that is only moderately expanded at the rear, versus widely expanded at the rear in the other species.

The rear scutes in *Emydura wellingtoni* sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. are not jagged edged as is seen in all but the oldest specimens of the other species in the subgenus.

Emydura hawkeswoodi sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov., *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov., *E. victoriae* and *E. australis* are separated from the other species in the subgenus *Tropicochelymys* Wells and Wellington, 1985 by having an absence of a horizontal dark line, or broken darker line running through the iris and pupil.

Emydura wellingtoni sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. have the line on the head running into the ear versus mainly over the ear in other species in the subgenus.

Adult *Emydura wellingtoni* sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. are readily separated from the other species in the subgenus by a noticeably thickened lateral edge of the carapace, typically forming a thick unbroken yellow or beige line coupled with a blackish or dark brown carapace.

Emydura wellingtoni sp. nov., are separated from *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. by the following unique suite of characters: Except in very old specimens, adult males have a bright pinkish-grey plastron and pink lower parts of the limbs. The carapace is dark. The nose is also light pink and the bright red facial stripe extends from the eye, back to the top of the tympanum. A vivid red colour also extends from the angle of the mouth, along the neck to the body. Many small tubercles on the neck are also pink, orange or deep red in colour. Carapace shields have no indications of striations. The underside of the lower part of the tail is also pink. Upper surfaces of the limbs are greyish brown with orange blotches or flecks. Iris is yellow.

E. wellingtoni sp. nov. is readily separated from *E. wellsi* sp. nov. by the fact that adults have a pronounced raising or arch of the carapace above the neck, versus not so in *E. wellsi* sp. nov.. The brightly coloured tubercles seen on the neck of *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov. are relatively smaller and often indistinct in *E. wellsi* sp. nov., which also readily separates the two species.

The lower rear sides of the carapace is slightly upturned in *E. wellsi* sp. nov. versus either not so, or barely in *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov.. The plastron of *E. wellsi* sp. nov. is usually yellowish in colour, versus pinkish grey in *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov.. *E. wellsi* sp. nov. has a yellowish-blue iris.

E. hawkeswoodi sp. nov. is readily separated from both *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov. and *E. wellsi* sp. nov. by having a mainly grey iris, with yellow on the inner edge only, the line behind the eye is often semi-distinct and yellow in adults, tubercles on the neck are small on the upper surface and large on the upper sides (the contrast in size of the tubercles being noticeable in this species and far less so in the other two), nose is usually pink, plastron is yellowish-grey. There is no orange, pink or

yellow markings on the upper surfaces of the limbs, which are generally brownish-grey. Adult *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. also have a pronounced raising or arch of the carapace above the neck, but somewhat less so than is seen in *E. wellsi* sp. nov..

Tropicochelymys Wells and Wellington, 1985, species are separated from the other species within *Emydura* Bonaparte, 1863 by the fact that the length of the mandibular symphysis is about 1.5 times the horizontal diameter of the tympanum, versus more-or-less equal to the horizontal diameter of the tympanum in other *Emydura* species (being those of the nominate subgenus).

Distribution: The Prince Regent and Roe River systems, Kimberley District, Western Australia, Australia.

Etymology: Named in honour of esteemed Australian herpetologist, Richard Wells of Lismore, New South Wales, Australia, in recognition for his services to herpetology and zoology globally, including his strong advocacy against taxonomic vandalism as practiced by Welsh criminal Wolfgang Wüster and his gang of thieves as detailed by Cogger (2014), Hoser (2007, 2009, 2012a, 2012c, 2013a, 2015a-f), Hawkeswood (2021), ICZN (2021) and sources cited therein.

EMYDURA (TROPICOCHELYMYS) HAWKESWOODI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:3DC59926-73CA-405E-91F4-4B9337F88B2D

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R78244, collected from the Crusher Plant at the Mitchell Plateau, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -14.733333 S., Longitude 125.733333 E. This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R77142 collected from a campsite at the Mitchell Plateau, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -14.820833 S., Longitude 125.841667 E.

Diagnosis: *Emydura hawkeswoodi* sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov. all from the Kimberley District of Western Australia, are all formally named for the first time in this paper.

E. hawkeswoodi sp. nov. is the species found in the Mitchell and Lawley River systems.

Emydura wellsi sp. nov. is the species found in the Prince Regent and Roe River systems.

E. wellingtoni sp. nov. is the species found in the Fitzroy River system and drainages flowing into the Walcott Inlet.

They are all readily separated from other species in the subgenus *Tropicochelymys* Wells and Wellington, 1985, (being the north Australian and southern New Guinea *Emydura* clade), being *E. australis* Gray 1841, the morphologically similar *E. victoriae* Gray, 1842 (both from the Victoria River system in the NT and west to include the King Edward River system in the Kimberley district of Western Australia), *E. subglobosa* Krefft,

1876, with a type locality of Naiabui, on Amama River, South East Papua New Guinea and common throughout southern New Guinea, *E. worrelli* Wells and Wellington (1985), type locality of the Caranbirini Waterhole, about 21 km north of MacArthur River, Northern Territory, Australia, and *E. tanybaraga* Cann, 1997 from the Daly River system in the Northern Territory, by having a rounded versus high-peaked carapace, as well as one that is only moderately expanded at the rear, versus widely expanded at the rear in the other species.

Emydura hawkeswoodi sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov., *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov., *E. victoriae* and *E. australis* are separated from the other species in the subgenus *Tropicochelymys* Wells and Wellington, 1985 by having an absence of a horizontal dark line, or broken darker line running through the iris and pupil.

The rear scutes in *Emydura wellingtoni* sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. are not jagged edged as is seen in all but the oldest specimens of the other species in the subgenus.

Emydura wellingtoni sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. have the line on the head running into the ear versus mainly over the ear in other species in the subgenus.

Adult *Emydura wellingtoni* sp. nov., *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. are readily separated from the other species in the subgenus by a noticeably thickened lateral edge of the carapace, typically forming a thick unbroken yellow or beige line coupled with a blackish or dark brown carapace.

Emydura wellingtoni sp. nov., are separated from *E. wellsi* sp. nov. and *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. by the following unique suite of characters: Except in very old specimens, adult males have a bright pinkish-grey plastron and pink lower parts of the limbs. The carapace is dark. The nose is also light pink and the bright red facial stripe extends from the eye, back to the top of the tympanum. A vivid red colour also extends from the angle of the mouth, along the neck to the body. Many small tubercles on the neck are also pink, orange or deep red in colour. Carapace shields have no indications of striations. The underside of the lower part of the tail is also pink. Upper surfaces of the limbs are greyish brown with orange blotches or flecks. Iris is yellow.

E. wellingtoni sp. nov. is readily separated from *E. wellsi* sp. nov. by the fact that adults have a pronounced raising or arch of the carapace above the neck, versus not so in *E. wellsi* sp. nov.. The brightly coloured tubercles seen on the neck of *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov. are relatively smaller and often indistinct in *E. wellsi* sp. nov., which also readily separates the two species.

The lower rear sides of the carapace is slightly upturned in *E. wellsi* sp. nov. versus either not so, or barely in *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov.. The plastron of *E. wellsi* sp. nov. is usually yellowish in colour, versus pinkish grey in *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov.. *E. wellsi* sp. nov. has a yellowish-blue iris.

E. hawkeswoodi sp. nov. is readily separated from both *E. wellingtoni* sp. nov. and *E. wellsi* sp. nov. by having a

mainly grey iris, with yellow on the inner edge only, the line behind the eye is often semi-distinct and yellow in adults, tubercles on the neck are small on the upper surface and large on the upper sides (the contrast in size of the tubercles being noticeable in this species and far less so in the other two), nose is usually pink, plastron is yellowish-grey. There is no orange, pink or yellow markings on the upper surfaces of the limbs, which are generally brownish-grey. Adult *E. hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. also have a pronounced raising or arch of the carapace above the neck, but somewhat less so than is seen in *E. wellsi* sp. nov..

Tropicochelymys Wells and Wellington, 1985, species are separated from the other species within *Emydura* Bonaparte, 1863 by the fact that the length of the mandibular symphysis is about 1.5 times the horizontal diameter of the tympanum, versus more-or-less equal to the horizontal diameter of the tympanum in other *Emydura* species.

Distribution: *Emydura hawkeswoodi* sp. nov. occurs in the Mitchell and Lawley River systems, Kimberley District, Western Australia, Australia.

Etymology: Named in honour of esteemed Zoologist, Trevor Hawkeswood of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, in recognition of his many contributions to zoology over some decades, including his strong advocacy against taxonomic vandalism as practiced by Welsh criminal Wolfgang Wüster and his gang of thieves as detailed by Cogger (2014), Hoser (2007, 2009, 2012a-c, 2013a-b, 2015a-g), Hawkeswood (2021), ICZN (2021) and sources cited therein.

WOLLUMBINIA GEORGEFLOYDI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:6BDACAE2-4DE7-4855-9F04-4A2153217433

Holotype: A preserved female specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J17761 collected from the upper reaches of the Bloomfield River, 48 km south of Cooktown, Queensland, Latitude -15.933333 S., Longitude 145.35 E. This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved male specimens at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen numbers J17762 and J17680 collected from the upper reaches of the Bloomfield River, 48 km south of Cooktown, Queensland, Latitude -15.933333 S., Longitude 145.35 E.

Diagnosis: *Wollumbinia georgefloydi* sp. nov. is the member of the *W. latisternum* (Gray, 1867) species complex from the wet tropics region of north Queensland, bounded by the Burdekin Gap in the South and found as far north as about Cape Flattery.

W. latisternum from the top of Cape York, including the Jardine River system, other drainages flowing to the west of Cape York, the Gulf of Carpentaria and other systems flowing into the Arafura Sea are readily separated from *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov. by the presence of relatively small neck tubercles, versus large, pointed and of similar size in *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov..

In turn *W. darnellafrazierae* sp. nov. from the Eungella region of Queensland is separated from both preceding species by having a carapace lacking the distinct upward curling of the sides as well as a significantly flared rear carapace.

W. latisternum is characterised by a carapace that is either black in colour or nearly so.

By contrast both *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov. and *W. darnellafrazierae* sp. nov. have a carapace that is typically mid to dark brown and with only a hint of darker blotches.

W. latisternum is characterised by having distinctive dots on either side of the pupil, this not being seen in any of the four other species in the complex, except in some young specimens of *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov..

The two southern forms, *W. spinosa* (Gray, 1871), believed to be from the Burdekin River region in central Queensland and *W. dorsii* Wells, 2009 from the border ranges area of northern New South Wales and South-east Queensland are separated from the northern species by the relatively straight sutures on the plastron, versus wavy in the other species. The sutures in the southern species are also thickly etched with dark brown or black lines, versus thinly etched in the northern three species.

The two southern species are further separated from the northern forms by the following suite of characters:

There is no pale facial stripe on the side of the head, giving it a predominantly dark colour and the areas of segmented skin between the eye and tympanum are extremely cornified and raised.

W. dorsii Wells, 2009 is separated from *W. spinosa* by having spiny tubercles on the neck that are particularly long and pointed in comparison to both *W. spinosa* and all other species in the *W. latisternum* complex.

W. spinosa has a brown pupil, versus yellow heavily flecked with brown in *W. dorsii*.

The iris of *W. darnellafrazierae* sp. nov. is yellow, the iris of *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov. may be either yellow or brown, while the iris of *E. latisternum* is brown, except for a yellow ring around the pupil in younger specimens.

All species within the *W. latisternum* complex are separated from the other species in the genus by having at least some posterior expansion of the carapace (versus none in the others), except for the taxon *W. belli* (Gray, 1844) and the subspecies *W. belli doriani* Wells, 2002 (described as a full species), both of which are instead separated from the morphologically similar *W. latisternum* complex by the generally dark blackish plastron in all but the youngest specimens and the light yellow iris.

Species in the genus *Wollumbinia* are separated from the morphologically similar genus *Elseya* by having the intergular shield as wide as or wider than each gular shield (versus noticeably narrower than each gular shield in *Elseya*), neck with usually conspicuous sharp pointed tubercles on the upper surfaces (versus rounded tubercles in *Elseya*), no alveolar ridge on the maxilla (versus a distinct alveolar ridge on each maxilla in *Elseya*).

Both these genera are separated from all other Australian Chelidae by the following unique suite of characters: They are so-called short-necked species, with five claws on each forelimb, gular shields entirely separated by the intergular; intergular shield not contacting the pectorals; sutures between the second and third costals and third and fourth costals contacting the seventh and ninth marginals respectively; a usually jagged edged rear end of the carapace, skin of temporal region has prominent, low rounded scales or tubercles, which are distinctively raised above the surface of the head; nuchal shield usually absent.

The name *Myuchelys* Thomson and Georges, 2009 is an objective junior synonym of *Wollumbinia* Wells, 2007. The name *Myuchelys* was created in a deliberate act of taxonomic vandalism by the authors Scott Thomson and Arthur Georges, both being fully aware of the earlier available name erected by highly respected Australian herpetologist Richard Wells two years prior in his printed paper.

In breach of both the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) and more recently, a ruling by the ICZN in April 2021, both Thomson and Georges continue to peddle their illegally coined name online and elsewhere as the "correct" name for the relevant genus.

Rhodin *et al.* (2017), listing Arthur Georges as one of the authors lists *Wollumbinia* as an "unavailable name", without giving a reason for the ridiculous statement, clearly fully aware that their statement has absolutely no factual basis.

Rhodin *et al.* (2017) is a privately published online publication, not subject to any form of peer review.

Distribution: *Wollumbinia georgefloydi* sp. nov. occurs in the wet tropics region of north Queensland, Australia, bounded by the Burdekin Gap in the South and found as far north as about Cape Flattery.

Etymology: *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov. is named in honour of George Floyd.

On 25 May 2020, Minneapolis police officers arrested George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, after a convenience store employee called 911 and told the police that Mr. Floyd had bought cigarettes with a potentially counterfeit \$20 bill. Seventeen minutes after the first squad car arrived at the scene, Mr. Floyd was unconscious and pinned beneath three police officers, showing no signs of life.

Derek Chauvin, one of four police officers who arrived on the scene, knelt on Floyd's neck and back for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. The other three officers assisted Chauvin and kept members of the public away, preventing them from offering any assistance to the man they were killing.

Teenager, Darnella Frazier (17 YO at the time) at great personal risk, courageously recorded the murder of George Floyd on her mobile phone.

That video, posted to a global audience via social media, spurred protests against police brutality around the world, highlighting the crucial role of citizens can play in exposing police corruption to people who would

otherwise never see it or believe it even exists.

Ms Frazier was also among the witnesses who testified at the trial of (now) former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who was convicted in April of Mr Floyd's murder.

In the video taken by Ms Frazier, Chauvin is seen kneeling for more than nine minutes on the neck of Mr Floyd, as bystanders urge him repeatedly to get off and Mr Floyd says that he can't breathe, before losing consciousness and dying.

Chauvin was sentenced to 22 and a half years jail for the murder.

Had Darnella Frazier not taken the video of the killing, it is likely Chauvin would not have been charged and that as of 2021, he'd still be a police officer attacking vulnerable people.

George Floyd was a victim of police brutality and corruption and recognition of a species in his honour is an important step to continued recognition of and vigilance against endemic police and government corruption wherever it occurs.

Also see the etymology of Darnella Frazier in this paper.

WOLLUMBINIA DARNELLAFRAZIERAE SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B1B4945D-B25A-45B9-A1A3-34AD8262C493

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J25957 collected from Broken River, Eungella National Park, Queensland, Latitude -21.168056 S., Longitude 148.505556 E. This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J33333 collected from Hazelwood Creek Gorge, Eungella Pastoral Holding, Queensland, Latitude -21.05 S., Longitude 148.633333 E.

Diagnosis: *Wollumbinia darnellafrazierae* sp. nov. is the member of the *W. latisternum* (Gray, 1867) species complex from the Eungella region of Queensland, Australia.

Wollumbinia georgefloydi sp. nov. is the member of the *W. latisternum* (Gray, 1867) species complex from the wet tropics region of north Queensland, bounded by the Burdekin Gap in the South and found as far north as about Cape Flattery.

W. latisternum from the top of Cape York, including the Jardine River system, other drainages flowing to the west of Cape York, the Gulf of Carpentaria and other systems flowing into the Arafura Sea are readily separated from *Wollumbinia darnellafrazierae* sp. nov. and *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov. by the presence of relatively small neck tubercles, versus large, pointed and of similar size in *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov. and *W. darnellafrazierae* sp. nov..

In turn *W. darnellafrazierae* sp. nov. is separated from both preceding species by having a carapace lacking the distinct upward curling of the sides as well as a significantly flared rear carapace.

W. latisternum is characterised by a carapace that is

either black in colour or nearly so.

By contrast both *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov. and *W. darnellafrazierae* sp. nov. have a carapace that is typically mid to dark brown and with only a hint of darker blotches.

W. latisternum is characterised by having distinctive dots on either side of the pupil, this not being seen in any of the four other species in the complex, except in some young specimens of *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov..

The two southern forms, *W. spinosa* (Gray, 1871), believed to be from the Burdekin River region in central Queensland and *W. dorsii* Wells, 2009 from the border ranges area of northern New South Wales and South-east Queensland are separated from the northern species by the relatively straight sutures on the plastron, versus wavy in the other species. The sutures in the southern species are also thickly etched with dark brown or black lines, versus thinly etched in the northern three species.

The two southern species are further separated from the northern forms by the following suite of characters: There is no pale facial stripe on the side of the head, giving it a predominantly dark colour and the areas of segmented skin between the eye and tympanum are extremely cornified and raised.

W. dorsii Wells, 2009 is separated from *W. spinosa* by having spiny tubercles on the neck that are particularly long, thin and pointed in comparison to both *W. spinosa* and all other species in the *W. latisternum* complex.

W. spinosa has a brown pupil, versus yellow, heavily flecked with brown in *W. dorsii*.

The iris of *W. darnellafrazierae* sp. nov. is yellow, the iris of *W. georgefloydi* sp. nov. may be either yellow or brown, while the iris of *E. latisternum* is brown, except for a very thin yellow ring around the pupil in younger specimens.

All species within the *W. latisternum* complex are separated from the other species in the genus by having at least some posterior expansion of the carapace (versus none in the others), except for the taxon *W. belli* (Gray, 1844) and the subspecies *W. belli doriani* Wells, 2002 (described as a full species), both of which are instead separated from the morphologically similar *W. latisternum* complex by the generally dark blackish plastron in all but the youngest specimens and the light yellow iris.

Species in the genus *Wollumbinia* are separated from the morphologically similar genus *Euseya* by having the intergular shield as wide as or wider than each gular shield (versus noticeably narrower than each gular shield in *Euseya*), neck with usually conspicuous sharp pointed tubercles on the upper surfaces (versus rounded tubercles in *Euseya*), no alveolar ridge on the maxilla (versus a distinct alveolar ridge on each maxilla in *Euseya*).

Both these genera are separated from all other Australian Chelidae by the following unique suite of characters: They are so-called short-necked species, with five claws on each forelimb, gular shields entirely separated by the intergular; intergular shield not

contacting the pectorals; sutures between the second and third costals and third and fourth costals contacting the seventh and ninth marginals respectively; a usually jagged edged rear end of the carapace, skin of temporal region has prominent. low rounded scales or tubercles, which are distinctively raised above the surface of the head; nuchal shield usually absent.

The name *Myuchelys* Thomson and Georges, 2009 is an objective junior synonym of *Wollumbinia* Wells, 2007. The name *Myuchelys* was created in a deliberate act of taxonomic vandalism by the authors Scott Thomson and Arthur Georges, both being fully aware of the earlier available name erected by highly respected Australian herpetologist Richard Wells two years prior in his printed paper.

In breach of both the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) and more recently, a ruling by the ICZN in April 2021, both Thomson and Georges continue to peddle their illegally coined name online and elsewhere as the "correct" name for the relevant genus.

Rhodin *et al.* (2017), listing Arthur Georges as one of the authors lists *Wollumbinia* as an "unavailable name", without giving a reason for the ridiculous statement, clearly fully aware that their statement has absolutely no factual basis.

Rhodin *et al.* (2017) is a privately published online publication, not subject to any form of peer review.

Distribution: *Wollumbinia darnellafrazierae* *sp. nov.* is known only from the Eungella region of Queensland, Australia.

Etymology: *W. darnellafrazierae* *sp. nov.* is named in honour of Darnella Frazier.

Born 2003 in Nashville, Tennessee to parents LaTangie Gillespie and James Frazier. She has three brothers and one sister. Most of Darnella's life, however, has been spent in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After being active in varsity basketball, she graduated from Roosevelt High School in that city.

She is an American woman who (at age 17) video recorded the murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, and then posted her video on Facebook.

Because Frazier's video contradicted the initial Minneapolis police account of Floyd's death, it sparked global protests regarding police abuse, lies and corruption. Demonstrations demanding justice for Floyd exploded over the summer of 2020 involving an estimated 26 million U.S. citizens in more than 2,000 cities across the nation. Similar protests took place in over 60 nations around the world. The Frazier video sparked the greatest level of demonstrations and protest in human history. More immediately her video led to more intense monitoring of police behaviour around the world including investigations of past acts of police killings of unarmed black men, women, and children. Without her video, the Floyd death would have been ignored and the victim blamed.

Also see the etymology of George Floyd in this paper.

HYDROMEDUSA MEYEYUCHELYS SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:E5C2A9DA-6619-4BFD-BFCD-04F3A3C9F167

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the (British) Museum of Natural History, London, UK, specimen number BMNH 1914.3.20.1, collected from Teresopolis (Theresopolis), Brazil, Latitude -22.43 S., Longitude -42.98 W. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Munich), Germany, specimen numbers ZSM 53/32 and ZSM 54/32, collected from Petropolis, Brazil, Latitude -22.52 S., Longitude -43.17 W.

Diagnosis: Until now, *Hydromedusa meyeouchelys* *sp. nov.* has been treated as a north-eastern population of *H. maximiliani* (Mikan, 1825), with a type locality of São Paulo, Brazil.

However for nearly two decades, it has been well established that there are two very distinctive populations of this putative species as confirmed by the molecular results of Souza *et al.* (2003), suggesting an 8-16 MYA divergence between the two populations.

Investigations by myself confirmed that the type form of *H. maximiliani* has a distribution centred on Sao Paulo state, with the unnamed eastern population found in Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais states.

Hydromedusa meyeouchelys *sp. nov.* is readily separated from *H. maximiliani* by the fact that the posterior line of the nuchal plate on the carapace is roughly straight in line, versus semi-circular in *H. maximiliani*. *H. meyeouchelys* *sp. nov.* is further separated from *H. maximiliani* by having an obviously elongated oblong-shaped shell (carapace) with minimal posterior expansion, versus a shell that is only slightly longer than wide and with a significant posterior expansion.

The vertebrals of *H. meyeouchelys* *sp. nov.* are slightly expanded, intruding into the costals, versus less-so in *H. maximiliani*. The mid-carapace upward inflection is slightly more pronounced in *H. meyeouchelys* *sp. nov.* than in *H. maximiliani*.

Both *H. maximiliani* and *H. meyeouchelys* *sp. nov.* are separated from "*Hydromedusa tectifera* Cope, 1870", herein placed in a separate genus *Wittchelys* *gen. nov.* by the following suite of characters: Snout, short, obtusely pointed, slightly prominent; head covered above with undivided smooth skin; sides of neck with conical erect tubercles. Interdigital web moderately developed; three or four large transverse lamellae on the upper surface of the fore limb.

Wittchelys tectifera is further separated from the other (two above identified) species in *Hydromedusa* by having an olive coloured head and neck, with a broad, white, black-edged, lateral band and a very distinctive curved white streak on each side of the throat, (lacking in the other species).

Lovelinaychelys *gen. nov.*, type species *Hydromedusa casamayorensis* De la Fuente and Bona, 2002 (fossil) from the middle Eocene of Patagonia (South America) are separated from the two preceding genera by the

following unique suite of characters: extension of the paraoccipital process of the opisthotic bone behind the occipital condyle, the presence of a pair of subtriangular tubercles on the anterolateral margin of the basioccipital, axillary buttresses extending medially over the first costal bone, a more extensive bridge with axillar buttresses between the third and fourth peripheral bones and an inguinal one between the seventh and eighth peripheral bones; a pentagonal shape of the suprapygal, a sulcus between the last vertebral scute and the twelfth marginal scutes not crossing the suprapygal bone; an almost straight hypo-xiphiplastral sutural contact.

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov. differs from *Hydromedusa maximiliani* and *H. meyeouchelys sp. nov.* by the moderate shell size, strong decoration, the nuchal bone forming the anterior margin of the carapace, the proportion of the first pair of peripheral bones, iliac scars on visceral surfaces of the seventh and eighth costals and the anterolateral margin on the suprapygal.

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov. differs from *Wittchelys gen. nov.* by having a neural series with eight neural bones, the absence of the particular tuberosities in the posterior part of the carapace, the trapezoidal shape of the pygal bone and the first vertebral scute wider than the second one (modified from Maniel *et al.* 2018).

Species within the genus *Hydromedusa* Wagler, 1830, (type species *Emys maximiliani* Mikan, 1825) *sensu lato* including also the genera *Wittchelys gen. nov.* and *Lovelinaychelys gen. nov.* are separated from all other species within the Pleurodira and Chelydidae by the following suite of characters: Both fore and hind limbs have four claws, with entirely webbed digits; nuchal shield is behind the anterior marginals, simulating a sixth vertebral; the last pair of costals forms a suture; a slender parieto-squamosal arch; neural plates are present and seven in number. Plastron is large, with moderately strong axillary and feeble inguinal buttresses, the latter just reaching the fourth costal plate. No dermal appendages on the chin. Neck longer than the dorsal vertebral column. A slender supraoccipital arch; jaws weak, without alveolar ridges; a strong fold at the angle of the mouth, connecting both jaws.

Gaffney (1977) found that the three genera (all as *Hydromedusa*) are separated from other known tortoises by the following three properties (1) A relatively large bony apertura narium interna due to the reduction of the palatine ossification; (2) A midline contact of the prefrontal and the overlapping of the anterior frontal process; and (3) A wide and large cervical scute withdraws behind the first pair of marginal scutes.

Photos of *H. meyeouchelys sp. nov.* in life can be found online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/68007262>
and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/69233287>

Photos of *H. maximiliani* in life can be found online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/41407588>
and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/78481952>

Distribution: *H. meyeouchelys sp. nov.* is found in Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais states.

H. maximiliani has a distribution centred on Sao Paulo state.

Etymology: The name "*meyeouchelys*" is a made up configuration of "My - You - Chelys", meaning it is mine, yours and a tortoise and to that extent needs to be identified and preserved. The spelling is changed to "M-eye-you-chelys" so as not to confuse this name with the illegally coined genus name *Myuchelys* Thomson and Georges, 2009, being a junior synonym of *Wollumbinia* Wells, 2007.

The spelling does also reflect the way the word is spoken or pronounced and does not match in itself any known English word or slang.

WITTCHELYS GEN. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C2560EF4-71BC-40C5-97A0-F868C2D35F41

Type species: *Hydromedusa tectifera* Cope, 1870.

Diagnosis: Until now, this taxon has been assigned by all authors to the genus *Hydromedusa* Wagler, 1830, type species *Emys maximiliani* Mikan, 1825. However the putative taxon, *Hydromedusa tectifera* Cope, 1870 is morphologically divergent and Pereira *et al.* (2017) wrote:

"*Hydromedusa tectifera* and *H. maximiliani* failed to be recovered as a monophyletic group in our analysis."

They also found a divergence between the two putative taxa in the Cretaceous period, meaning it is not tenable for the two putative taxa to be placed in a single genus. Therefore *H. tectifera*, including a newly identified and named subspecies *H. tectifera wittorum subsp. nov.* is herein placed in a newly named genus *Wittchelys gen. nov.*

Wittchelys gen. nov. are separated from species in *Hydromedusa* by having an olive coloured head and neck, with a broad, white, black-edged, lateral band and a very distinctive curved white streak on each side of the throat, (lacking in the other species).

Both extant *Hydromedusa* species, namely *H. maximiliani* and *H. meyeouchelys sp. nov.* are further separated *Wittchelys tectifera* Cope, 1870, herein placed in the separate genus *Wittchelys gen. nov.* by the following suite of characters: Snout, short, obtusely pointed, slightly prominent; head covered above with undivided smooth skin; sides of neck with conical erect tubercles. Interdigital web moderately developed; three or four large transverse lamellae on the upper surface of the fore limb.

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov., type species *Hydromedusa casamayorensis* De la Fuente and Bona, 2002 (fossil) from the middle Eocene of Patagonia (South America) are separated from the two preceding genera by the following unique suite of characters: extension of the paraoccipital process of the opisthotic bone behind the occipital condyle, the presence of a pair of subtriangular tubercles on the anterolateral margin of the basioccipital, axillary buttresses extending medially over the first costal bone, a more extensive bridge with axillar

buttresses between the third and fourth peripheral bones and an inguinal one between the seventh and eighth peripheral bones; a pentagonal shape of the suprapygal, a sulcus between the last vertebral scute and the twelfth marginal scutes not crossing the suprapygal bone; an almost straight hypo-xiphiplastral sutural contact.

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov. differs from *Hydromedusa maximiliani* and *H. meyeouchelys sp. nov.* by the moderate shell size, strong decoration, the nuchal bone forming the anterior margin of the carapace, the proportion of the first pair of peripheral bones, iliac scars on visceral surfaces of the seventh and eighth costals and the anterolateral margin on the suprapygal.

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov. differs from *Wittchelys gen. nov.* by having a neural series with eight neural bones, the absence of the particular tuberosities in the posterior part of the carapace, the trapezoidal shape of the pygal bone and the first vertebral scute wider than the second one (modified from Maniel *et al.* 2018).

Species within the genus *Hydromedusa* Wagler, 1830, (type species *Emys maximiliani* Mikan, 1825) *sensu lato* including also the genera *Wittchelys gen. nov.* and *Lovelinaychelys gen. nov.* are separated from all other species within the Pleurodira and Chelydidae by the following suite of characters: Both fore and hind limbs have four claws, with entirely webbed digits; nuchal shield is behind the anterior marginals, simulating a sixth vertebral; the last pair of costals forms a suture; a slender parieto-squamosal arch; neural plates are present and seven in number. Plastron is large, with moderately strong axillary and feeble inguinal buttresses, the latter just reaching the fourth costal plate. No dermal appendages on the chin. Neck longer than the dorsal vertebral column. A slender supraoccipital arch; jaws weak, without alveolar ridges; a strong fold at the angle of the mouth, connecting both jaws.

Gaffney (1977) found that the three genera (all as *Hydromedusa*) are separated from other known tortoises by the following three properties (1) A relatively large bony apertura narium interna due to the reduction of the palatine ossification; (2) A midline contact of the prefrontal and the overlapping of the anterior frontal process; and (3) A wide and large cervical scute withdraws behind the first pair of marginal scutes.

Distribution: Argentina (Buenos Aires, Chaco, Córdoba, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Formosa, Misiones, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero), Brazil (Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo), Paraguay, Uruguay (modified from Rhodin *et al.* 2017).

Etymology: Named in honour of world famous breeders of Great Dane dogs, Robin and Sue Witt of Heathcote, Victoria, Australia trading as Crystalquin Great Danes, in recognition of their contributions to the welfare of animals and humans over many decades.

They also provided us with two Great Danes named "Oxy" and "Slop" (or "Slopp") as detailed elsewhere in this paper.

Content: *Wittchelys tectifera* (Cope, 1870) including all subspecies.

WITTCHELYS TECTIFERA WITTORUM SUBSP. NOV.
LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:74B52A12-F71F-45E9-9714-4E9F9BB4A18F

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Munich), Germany, specimen number ZSM 81/1928 collected at Porto Alegre, Brazil, Latitude -30.07 S., Longitude -51.18 W. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Munich), Germany, specimen number ZSM 224/25 collected at Porto Alegre, Brazil, Latitude -30.07 S., Longitude -51.18 W.

Diagnosis: *Wittchelys tectifera wittorum subsp. nov.* has until now been treated as a population of Guaiba River *Wittchelys tectifera* Cope, 1870 with a type locality of "tributaries of the Parana or Uruguay rivers, either in the Argentine Confederation or the Banda Oriental".

Six other synonym names apply to the same population (Rhodin *et al.* 2017).

The divergent population from Porto Alegre, the Rio Guaiba and Jacui River drainage system has no available name, has no obvious connection with the Rio de la Plata drainage system population, even at times of lowered sea levels in recent glacial maxima and so is formally named for the first time as *Wittchelys tectifera wittorum subsp. nov.*

W. tectifera wittorum subsp. nov. is readily separated from nominate *W. tectifera tectifera* by the following suite of characters: A blackish, rather than dark brown carapace in adults, blackish, rather than dark brown, yellowish-brown or greyish skin on the head, tiny pointed tubercles on the lower neck and upper surfaces of the limbs, orange tipped, rather than yellow-tipped under the feet and on the lower neck in *W. tectifera tectifera* and on the carapace a gular that either approaches or touches the pectoral, versus one that falls far short of it as well as an obvious narrowing immediately posterior to the abdominal, versus only slight narrowing in *W. tectifera tectifera*.

Wittchelys gen. nov. are separated from species in *Hydromedusa* by having an olive coloured head and neck, with a broad, white, black-edged, lateral band and a very distinctive curved white streak on each side of the throat, (lacking in the other species).

Both extant *Hydromedusa* species, namely *H. maximiliani* and *H. meyeouchelys sp. nov.* are further separated *Wittchelys tectifera* Cope, 1870, herein placed in the separate genus *Wittchelys gen. nov.* by the following suite of characters: Snout, short, obtusely pointed, slightly prominent; head covered above with undivided smooth skin; sides of neck with conical erect tubercles. Interdigital web moderately developed; three or four large transverse lamellae on the upper surface of the fore limb.

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov., type species *Hydromedusa casamayorensis* De la Fuente and Bona, 2002 (fossil) from the middle Eocene of Patagonia (South America)

are separated from the two preceding genera by the following unique suite of characters: extension of the paraoccipital process of the opisthotic bone behind the occipital condyle, the presence of a pair of subtriangular tubercles on the anterolateral margin of the basioccipital, axillary buttresses extending medially over the first costal bone, a more extensive bridge with axillar buttresses between the third and fourth peripheral bones and an inguinal one between the seventh and eighth peripheral bones; a pentagonal shape of the suprapygal, a sulcus between the last vertebral scute and the twelfth marginal scutes not crossing the suprapygal bone; an almost straight hypo-xiphiplastral sutural contact.

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov. differs from *Hydromedusa maximiliani* and *H. meyeouchelys sp. nov.* by the moderate shell size, strong decoration, the nuchal bone forming the anterior margin of the carapace, the proportion of the first pair of peripheral bones, iliac scars on visceral surfaces of the seventh and eighth costals and the anterolateral margin on the suprapygal.

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov. differs from *Wittchelys gen. nov.* by having a neural series with eight neural bones, the absence of the particular tuberosities in the posterior part of the carapace, the trapezoidal shape of the pygal bone and the first vertebral scute wider than the second one (modified from Maniel *et al.* 2018).

Species within the genus *Hydromedusa* Wagler, 1830, (type species *Emys maximiliani* Mikan, 1825) *sensu lato* including also the genera *Wittchelys gen. nov.* and *Lovelinaychelys gen. nov.* are separated from all other species within the Pleurodira and Chelydidae by the following suite of characters: Both fore and hind limbs have four claws, with entirely webbed digits; nuchal shield is behind the anterior marginals, simulating a sixth vertebral; the last pair of costals forms a suture; a slender parieto-squamosal arch; neural plates are present and seven in number. Plastron is large, with moderately strong axillary and feeble inguinal buttresses, the latter just reaching the fourth costal plate. No dermal appendages on the chin. Neck longer than the dorsal vertebral column. A slender supraoccipital arch; jaws weak, without alveolar ridges; a strong fold at the angle of the mouth, connecting both jaws.

Gaffney (1977) found that the three genera (all as *Hydromedusa*) are separated from other known tortoises by the following three properties (1) A relatively large bony apertura narium interna due to the reduction of the palatine ossification; (2) A midline contact of the prefrontal and the overlapping of the anterior frontal process; and (3) A wide and large cervical scute withdraws behind the first pair of marginal scutes.

Photos of *Wittchelys tectifera wittorum subsp. nov.* in life can be found online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/66855510>
and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/20308815>

Photos of nominate *Wittchelys tectifera tectifera* in life can be found online at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/17438809>
and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/39211003>

Distribution: *Wittchelys tectifera wittorum subsp. nov.* is found in the region of Porto Algre, the Rio Guaiba and Jacui River drainage systems in Brazil.

Nominate *Wittchelys tectifera tectifera* occurs in all river drainages associated with the Rio de la Plata drainage system, including Parana, Uruguay and Solada River systems.

Etymology: Named in honour of world famous breeders of Great Dane dogs, Robin and Sue Witt of Heathcote, Victoria, Australia trading as Crystalquin Great Danes, in recognition of their contributions to the welfare of animals and humans over many decades.

They also provided us with two Great Danes named "Oxy" and "Slop" (or "Slopp") as detailed elsewhere in this paper.

LOVELINAYCHELYS GEN. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:49D5F504-A751-4E41-8070-518657A2C6A4

Type species: *Hydromedusa casamayorensis* De la Fuente and Bona, 2002.

Diagnosis: A species identified as *Hydromedusa casamayorensis* De la Fuente and Bona, 2002 from a fossil from the middle Eocene of Patagonia (South America) was placed by those authors in the genus *Hydromedusa* Wagler, 1830, type species *Emys maximiliani* Mikan, 1825.

However it is significantly divergent morphologically and by date divergence and so is herein placed in the new genus *Lovelinaychelys gen. nov.*

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov., type species *Hydromedusa casamayorensis* De la Fuente and Bona, 2002 (fossil) from the middle Eocene of Patagonia (South America) are separated from *Hydromedusa* Wagler, 1830 and the newly erected genus *Wittchelys gen. nov.*, with a type species of *Hydromedusa tectifera* Cope, 1870 by the following unique suite of characters: extension of the paraoccipital process of the opisthotic bone behind the occipital condyle, the presence of a pair of subtriangular tubercles on the anterolateral margin of the basioccipital, axillary buttresses extending medially over the first costal bone, a more extensive bridge with axillar buttresses between the third and fourth peripheral bones and an inguinal one between the seventh and eighth peripheral bones; a pentagonal shape of the suprapygal, a sulcus between the last vertebral scute and the twelfth marginal scutes not crossing the suprapygal bone; an almost straight hypo-xiphiplastral sutural contact.

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov. differs from *Hydromedusa maximiliani* and *H. meyeouchelys sp. nov.* by the moderate shell size, strong decoration, the nuchal bone forming the anterior margin of the carapace, the proportion of the first pair of peripheral bones, iliac scars on visceral surfaces of the seventh and eighth costals and the anterolateral margin on the suprapygal.

Lovelinaychelys gen. nov. differs from *Wittchelys gen.*

nov. by having a neural series with eight neural bones, the absence of the particular tuberosities in the posterior part of the carapace, the trapezoidal shape of the pygal bone and the first vertebral scute wider than the second one (modified from Maniel *et al.* 2018).

Until now, the putative taxon *Hydromedusa tectifera* Cope, 1870 has been assigned by all authors to the genus *Hydromedusa* Wagler, 1830, type species *Emys maximiliani* Mikan, 1825. However the putative taxon, *Hydromedusa tectifera* Cope, 1870 is morphologically divergent and Pereira *et al.* (2017) wrote:

“*Hydromedusa tectifera* and *H. maximiliani* failed to be recovered as a monophyletic group in our analysis.”

They also found a divergence between the two putative taxa in the Cretaceous period, meaning it is not tenable for the two putative taxa to be placed in a single genus.

Therefore *H. tectifera*, including a newly identified and named subspecies *H. tectifera wittorum subsp. nov.* are herein placed in a newly named genus *Wittchelys gen. nov.*

Wittchelys gen. nov. are separated from species in *Hydromedusa* by having an olive coloured head and neck, with a broad, white, black-edged, lateral band and a very distinctive curved white streak on each side of the throat, (lacking in the other species).

Both extant *Hydromedusa* species, namely *H. maximiliani* and *H. meyeouchelys sp. nov.* are further separated *Wittchelys tectifera* Cope, 1870, herein placed in the separate genus *Wittchelys gen. nov.* by the following suite of characters: Snout, short, obtusely pointed, slightly prominent; head covered above with undivided smooth skin ; sides of neck with conical erect tubercles. Interdigital web moderately developed; three or four large transverse lamellae on the upper surface of the fore limb.

Species within the genus *Hydromedusa* Wagler, 1830, (type species *Emys maximiliani* Mikan, 1825) *sensu lato* including also the genera *Wittchelys gen. nov.* and *Lovelinaychelys gen. nov.* are separated from all other species within the Pleurodira and Chelydidae by the following suite of characters: Both fore and hind limbs have four claws, with entirely webbed digits; nuchal shield is behind the anterior marginals, simulating a sixth vertebral; the last pair of costals forms a suture; a slender parieto-squamosal arch; neural plates are present and seven in number. Plastron is large, with moderately strong axillary and feeble inguinal buttresses, the latter just reaching the fourth costal plate. No dermal appendages on the chin. Neck longer than the dorsal vertebral column. A slender supraoccipital arch; jaws weak, without alveolar ridges; a strong fold at the angle of the mouth, connecting both jaws.

Gaffney (1977) found that the three genera (all as *Hydromedusa*) are separated from other known tortoises by the following three properties (1) A relatively large bony apertura narium interna due to the reduction of the palatine ossification; (2) A midline contact of the prefrontal and the overlapping of the anterior frontal process; and (3) A wide and large cervical scute

withdraws behind the first pair of marginal scutes.

Distribution: Currently known only from southern Chubut, Argentina.

Etymology: Named in honour of Tony Love-Linay of Taylors Lakes, Victoria, Australia, owner of Reconnect Communications, Australia, for services to telecommunications and herpetology in Australia including the most insane and amazing repairs to motor vehicles used in important fieldwork at the most demanding of times.

CHELYDERA THOMSON AND GEORGES, 2020 IS A SUBJECTIVE SYNONYM OF SUPREMECHELYS HOSER, 2014.

In an online publication, Shea, Thomson and Georges (2020), published a long-winded ramble on their views about the taxonomy of Australia's long-necked terrapins of the genus *Chelodina* Fitzinger, 1826.

At the conclusion of their paper, they erected a new subgenus that they called “*Chelydera* Thomson and Georges, 2020”, with a type species of “*Chelodina parkeri* Rhodin & Mittermeier 1976.”

Their concept of the genus included the following: “Assigned Species: *C. parkeri* Rhodin & Mittermeier 1976; *C. burrungandjii* Thomson, Kennett & Georges 2000; *C. expansa* Gray 1857; *C. kuchlingi* Cann 1997; *C. rugosa* Ogilby 1890; † *C. insculpta* De Vis 1897; † *C. alanixi* Lapparent de Broin & Molnar 2001.”

Six years earlier, Hoser (2014), erected the subgenus *Supremechelys* Hoser, 2014, with a type species of *Chelodina expansa* Gray, 1857.

Because *Chelodina expansa* Gray, 1857 is included in the list of species assigned to the more recently erected subgenus *Chelydera* it is therefore a subjective synonym of the earlier name *Supremechelys*.

In other words, if one accepts the taxonomy of Shea, Thomson and Georges (2020), the name *Supremechelys* is the one that should be used and not the later coined name.

Thomson and Georges were both key advocates for the case against myself (Hoser) at the ICZN, via their various proposals such as Kaiser *et al.* (2013) as amended and then Rhodin *et al.* (2015), which they both signed on as “co authors”, which they adopted in a form that explicitly superseded all their earlier claims.

In any event, their claims had no merit and so it was a formality that the ICZN refused their application to have my (Hoser's) works formally erased from the scientific record.

In other words, at all materially relevant times, the name *Supremechelys* has been available in the sense of the ICZN Code and has at all times identified a previously unnamed lineage.

Following publication of Shea, Thomson and Georges (2020), I contacted Glenn Shea, listed as the senior author and he stated he had innocently overlooked the name *Supremechelys* Hoser, 2014, which raised even more issues.

Shea justified this omission on his part on the fact that Thomson and Georges had allegedly (by him) written the paper, Shea's name was tacked on at the end after

he read over the draft and Shea made a point of noting that the name *Chelydera* was formally attributed to Thomson and Georges only and not Shea.

In other words, Shea admitted to the error of omission and to that extent was “sorry”.

However the online paper, while ignoring the earlier papers of myself (including Hoser, 2014), did make a point of citing Rhodin *et al.* (2017), which they cited as: “Rhodin, A.G.J., Iverson, J.B., Bour, R., Fritz, U., Georges, A., Shaffer, H.B. & van Dijk, P.P. (2017) Turtles of the World. Annotated Checklist and Atlas of Taxonomy, Synonymy, Distribution, and Conservation Status (8th Edition). Chelonian Research Monographs, 7, 1-292. [Turtle Taxonomy Working Group] <https://doi.org/10.3854/crm.7.checklist.atlas.v8.2017>”

On page 187 of that publication under the relevant heading:

“*Chelodina* Fitzinger 1826”

was written:

“*Chelodina* (*Supremechelys*) Hoser 2014b:8 (unavailable name pending ICZN decision; Rhodin *et al.* 2015)”

The Hoser paper of 2014, was also cited on page 272 as follows:

“Hoser, R.T. 2014b. A taxonomic revision of the Giant Long-necked Terrapin, *Chelodina expansa* Gray, 1857 species complex and related matters of taxonomy and nomenclature. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 24:3-11.”

One would expect that if an author cites a paper, they had in fact read it!

Clearly, Glen Shea at least had not!

That Shea (and quite possibly Thomson and Georges) had not read a paper they had cited, immediately calls into question the integrity of their entire work.

Because Shea has been upfront and stated he was unaware of *Supremechelys* and had not read the references cited, he has in effect admitted to engaging in substandard science.

In terms of Thomson and Georges, far more serious ethical issues arise.

Both have repeatedly deliberately overwritten older ICZN names in acts of taxonomic vandalism as defined by Hoser (2015a-f) (e.g. their illegal name *Myuchelys*, which overwrote the legitimate ICZN name *Wollumbinia* Wells, 2007) and it appears almost certain that they had ignored and overwritten *Supremechelys* in anticipation of the Rhodin *et al.* (2015) application to the ICZN to succeed.

In any event, it was highly unethical of the pair to write a so-called paper on the taxonomy of a genus of tortoises and not to cite a work they were in effect copying!

A read of the taxonomy parts of Shea, Thomson and Georges (2020) reads remarkably similar to the text of Hoser (2014) and to such an extent, that it could not possibly be a mere coincidence.

Plagiarisation is another dishonest tactic of fake scientists and combined with taxonomic vandalism, make for the most ethically repugnant combination of

actions possible by any scientist or person pretending to be one could ever do.

A proper scientist and a person with even the most miniscule amount of ethics would cite professionally all relevant materials, even if written by a person that is disliked or disagreed with.

Another issue also arises in terms of the subgenus *Chelydera*.

This relates to the concept of the subgenus, or perhaps ultimately genus if divergence is deemed archaic enough.

The concept of *Chelydera* did not match that of *Supremechelys* which was in 2014 confined to the type species *C. expansa* and the closely related *C. duboisi* Hoser, 2014.

Significantly, the most recent molecular phylogeny published by Robert C. Thomson (no relation to Scott Thomson), Phillip Q. Spinks and H. Bradley Shaffer, (Thomson *et al.*, 2014), showed that there were just three clades in *Chelodina*, being in line with the named subgenera *Chelodina*, *Macrochelodina* and *Supremechelys* only, when using correct ICZN nomenclature.

To remove any element of doubt, I note that the *Chelodina* (type species *C. longicollis*) clade includes the species *Chelodina steindachneri* Siebenrock, 1914, the type species of *Hesperochelodina* Wells and Wellington, 1985, making the latter name a subjective synonym of the former, the *Macrochelodina* Wells and Wellington, 1985 clade appears monotypic for the divergent south-west Australian species *C. oblonga* Gray, 1841, with all the larger flat headed, narrow plastron species being within *Supremechelys* Hoser, 2014, including of course *Chelodina parkeri* Rhodin and Mittermeier, 1976.

For completeness I should mention that *Hydraspis* Bell, 1828 is an objective synonym of *Chelodina* with the same type species and so should never be used. Same applies for *Macrodiemys* McCord and Joseph-Ouni, 2007 with the same type species as *Macrochelodina*. The Thomson *et al.* (2021) phylogeny is robust and in terms of *Chelodina sensu lato*, can be reasonably expected to have settled the subgeneric taxonomy for the group.

Combining the preceding with the fact that the petition by Rhodin *et al.* (2015) to have the works of myself (Hoser) erased from the scientific record failed, this means that the only three subgeneric names that should be used for the Australasian Long-necked Terrapins are 1/ *Chelodina* for the smaller long-necked species with broad plastrons, 2/ *Macrochelodina* for the divergent south-west Australian species *C. oblonga*, and 3/ *Supremechelys* for all the larger flat headed, narrow plastron species.

TAXONOMIC VANDALISM, THE ONLINE PRINO “JOURNAL” AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Finally it should be noted that the online blogging site that published the taxonomic vandalism of Shea, Thomson and Georges (2020) was that notorious PRINO (peer reviewed in name only) “journal” *Zootaxa*.

Marketed as a “mega journal” the only thing “Mega” about *Zootaxa* is the scale of taxonomic vandalism that is allowed in its pages.

In case anyone reading this paper is unfamiliar with sheer scale of taxonomic vandalism put through *Zootaxa*, I refer you to Hoser (2015a-f) for a summary of numerous such acts in *Zootaxa* prior to 2015, but note that the issue of non-science being published in that online “journal” has got worse since then.

More recently in 2018, *Zootaxa* lost their “Impact Factor” (IF) as in it was scrapped, because an audit found that authors were running self-citation scams (as in gaming the system), with lead perpetrators including the Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves who use *Zootaxa* as their online publishing vehicle of choice (Pinto *et al.* 2018).

The same authors, Wolfgang Wüster, Scott Thomson, Arthur Georges and the like also aggressively engage in so-called “Search Engine Optimisation” or SEO on the internet generally to peddle their non-ICZN names for species and genera online, in a method that often makes it nearly impossible for third party users to locate and use the correct ICZN names for taxa.

All aggressively control and edit Wikipedia hate pages, taxonomic vandalism sites and the like, as well as running thousands of fake accounts online (see Hoser 2015a-f and sources cited therein) and so it is important to herein issue a warning that what one finds online in search via “Google” with respect to taxonomy and nomenclature on reptiles may well be wholly incorrect.

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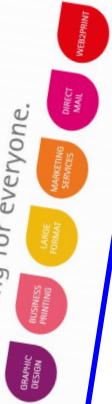
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