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Accidentally left in a taxonomic disaster zone ... a new species of *Ctenotus* Storr, 1964 from north-west Queensland as well as other taxonomic and nomenclatural issues with skinks.

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# ABSTRACT

As part of an audit of the Australian herpetofauna, the genus *Ctenotus* Storr, 1964 *sensu lato* was scrutinized by Hoser (2024a, 2024b), those papers naming 40 new species and 11 new subspecies.

An unnamed species inadvertently omitted from being named in those papers is named herein.

*Ctenotus kalkadoon sp. nov.* occurs in the Mount Isa / Selwyn Ranges region of north-west Queensland and has until now been treated as a divergent population of *C. brevipes* Storr, 1981, a species found in elevated areas east of the dark soiled Carpentaria Fold. Conservation of Australian fauna cannot be properly executed in the absence of a full inventory of species and this paper represents an

important step in that direction. In addition, a skink genus Celerscincus was erected by Hoser in 2024. That name is a junior homonym for Celerscincus Hoser. 2022 as

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It is formally redescribed herein with the new name *Celereeskinkus gen. nov.* as an available name for the genus so other herpetologists can identify the group properly and in line with the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999). A paper of Hoser (2019) formally named a subgenus as *Paragreersaurus* Hoser, 2019, but then referred to the same genus in the paper

A paper of Hoser (2019) formally named a subgenus as *Paragreersaurus* Hoser, 2019, but then referred to the same genus in the paper extensively as *Paragreerscincus*. That was in error.

As first revisor, I formally assign the correct name as *Paragreersaurus* Hoser, 2019, which is in line with the genus erected in the paper, namely *Greersaurus* Hoser, 2019.

**Keywords:** Taxonomy; nomenclature; lizard; skink; Australia; Queensland; Selwyn Range; *Ctenotus; brevipes; Celerscincus; Paragreersaurus; Paragreerscincus*; first reviser; Hoser; 2019, 2022, 2024, homonym; new genus name; *Celereeskinkus*; new species; *kalkadoon*.

## INTRODUCTION

As part of an audit of the Australian herpetofauna, the genus *Ctenotus* Storr, 1964 *sensu lato* was scrutinized by Hoser (2024a and 2024b), those

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Ctenotus kalkadoon sp. nov. which is formally described below in

accordance with the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) occurs in the Mount Isa / Selwyn Ranges region of north-west Queensland and has until now been treated as a divergent population of *C. brevipes* Storr, 1981.

That is a species found in elevated areas east of the dark soiled

Carpentaria Fold in north-east Queensland and herein confined to this area.

This is in contrast to Storr (1981) who referred Selwyn Ranges animals to the other species.

Conservation of Australian fauna cannot be properly executed in the absence of a full inventory of species and this paper represents an important step in that direction.

As also mentioned in the abstract a skink genus *Celerscincus* was erected by Hoser in 2024. That name is a junior homonym for *Celerscincus* Hoser, 2022 as a subgenus within *Acritoscincus* Wells and Wellington, 1985, making the 2024 group effectively unnamed.

It is formally redescribed herein with the new name *Celereeskinkus gen. nov.* as an available name for the genus so other herpetologists can identify the group properly and in line with the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999).

A paper of Hoser (2019) formally named a subgenus as *Paragreersaurus* Hoser, 2019, but then referred to the same genus in the paper extensively as *Paragreerscincus*. That was in error.

As first revisor, I formally assign the correct name as Paragreersaurus

Hoser, 2019, which is in line with the genus erected in the paper, namely *Greersaurus* Hoser. 2019.

# MATERIALS, METHODS AND RESULTS

All are as for Hoser (2024).

The relevant species named in this paper *Ctenotus kalkadoon sp. nov.* while morphologically most similar to *C. brevipes* Storr, 1981 and until now treated by all publishing authors as conspecific is both morphologically divergent and geographically disjunct.

The Carpentaria Fold in northern central Queensland, that separates the two relevant species, contrasts with areas to the east and west by being relatively flat and with heavy black soils.

It is a significant biogeographical barrier for species pairs that are either sand dwelling or saxicoline in preferred habits.

Thus, the formal separation and naming of this species should not be seen as particularly new of novel as seen by other examples either published in or cited in Hoser (2024b).

Relevant references in terms of the taxonomic decision herein are cited by Hoser (2024b) and include the relevant sources cited therein as well. **CTENOTUS KALKADOON SP. NOV.** 

### LSIDurn:Isid:zoobank.org:act:87C627E2-9C9C-4113-AB6E-081D30009CF0

**Holotype:** A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number WAM R58266 collected from Rifle Creek, 18 km south of Mount Isa, north-west Queensland, Australia, Latitude -20.95 S., Longitude 139.566667 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 WAM R58267 collected from Rifle Creek, 18 km south of Mount Isa, north-west Queensland, Australia, Latitude -20.95 S., Longitude 139.566667 E. **Diagnosis:** Until now *Ctenotus kalkadoon sp. nov.* of the Mount Isa and Selwyn Ranges region of north-west Queensland has been treated as an outlier population of *C. brevipes* (Storr, 1981), otherwise being found generally on most parts of Cape York (see below). That species originally described as "*Ctenotus essingtonii brevipes*" has the following holotype details.

"R63611 in Australian Museum, collected on 24 June 1977 by A. E. and P. Greer at Venture Creek, 62 km E of Croydon, Queensland, in 18°13'S, 142°49'E."

The two morphologically similar taxa, both treated as one by Storr (1981) and all publishing authors since are geographically disjunct, being split by the Carpentaria Fold, generally running south from the south-east corner of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

In contrast to the sandy soiled and rocky areas to the east and west, the Carpentaria Fold is dominated by heavy dark soils and is unsuitable habitat for either species of the pair and has caused them to diverge C. kalkadoon sp. nov. is separated from C. brevipes by the following suite of characters: Dorsum is light yellowish-brown with well-defined medium brown etchings on each dorsal scale, versus medium brown without obvious darker etchings on each dorsal scale in C. brevipes; the light dorsolateral line is well defined and yellow, versus very thin and/or poorly defined, usually white or only slightly tinged yellow in C. brevipes; the thin dark brown line on the lower edge is well defined and not peppered in any way, versus the same line being broad, heavily infused white in C. brevipes; the upper labials are immaculate white or whitish, versus with brown peppering, infusions or even a lower line in C. brevipes. The two species C. kalkadoon sp. nov. and C. brevipes are separated from all other species of Ctenotus Storr, 1964 sensu lato as defined in Cogger (2014) by the following combination of characters: No ear lobules, relatively short limbs, with length of appendages being

(% SVL): foreleg 21-26 (N 14, mean 22.7), hindleg 36-44 (N 14, mean 39.8), tail 193-211 (N 8, mean 201.4), 21-26 midbody rows; toes slightly compressed; 17-21 (N 15, mean 18.8) lamellae under fourth toe, each with a narrow to moderately wide callus. Nasals usually narrowly separated, occasionally in short contact. Prefrontals separated (usually widely, occasionally narrowly). Supraoculars 4, first 3 in contact with frontal; second much wider than first and third. Supraciliaries 7-10 (mostly 8, N 13, mean 8.2), third to penultimate much smaller than others. Upper ciliaries 7-11 (N 15, mean 8.5). Second loreal 1.3-1.9 (N 14, mean 1.65) times as wide as high. Presuboculars 2. Upper labials 7 (N 13) or 6 (1). Ear lobules absent, unless a small slat-like preauricular scale partly covering upper anterior sector of aperture is construed as a lobule. Nuchals 3-5 (N 15, mean 3.7).

For adult specimens, the colouration is as follows:

Upper surface is brown, tinged with olive on head, red on tail and sometimes yellow on back. As a rule no dorsal pattern. Narrow but conspicuous white or yellow dorsolateral stripe from orbit to tail (on which it is suffused with reddish-brown), edged above by a narrow, sharply defined, blackish-brown latero-dorsal stripe. Blackish-brown upper lateral zone, continuing forward through the orbit as a loreal stripe to the nasal, and back on to tail (on which it becomes reddish-brown with dark edges). White midlateral stripe extending forward above ear aperture and below eye to bottom of first loreal, and back on to tail, where it is suffused with pink. Blackish-brown lower lateral stripe extending forward to lips (not on them in any way on *C. kalkadoon sp. nov.*). Some indication of a dark brown ventrolateral stripe in front of and behind the arm. (taken, corrected and modified from Storr 1981).

**Distribution:** *Ctenotus kalkadoon sp. nov.* occurs in the Mount Isa and Selwyn Ranges region including northern outliers and elevated nearby areas, near the southern edge of the Gulf of Carpentaria (all in Queensland), including just into the Northern Territory, all within northern Australia.

*C. brevipes* occurs east of the Carpentaria Fold generally including all of Cape York, except for the wetter parts in the far east and far north generally.

**Etymology:** The species name "*kalkadoon*" is of the Aboriginal tribe native to the region. The spelling should not be changed and is intentional. **Conservation:** There are no known threats to the species *Ctenotus kalkadoon sp. nov.*.

#### A HOMONYM CORRECTED AND OTHER MATTERS. CELEREESKINKUS GEN. NOV.

# LSIDurn:Isid:zoobank.org:act:51C6DDCF-5236-42EC-8F66-2103E59ACAAD

Type species: Heteropus rostralis De Vis, 1885.

A skink genus *Celerscincus* was erected by Hoser in the paper Hoser (2024c) at page 20, cited in full below. That name is a junior homonym for *Celerscincus* Hoser, 2022 (with type species "*Acritoscincus* (*Celerscincus*) *katrinahoserae sp. nov.*") as a subgenus within *Acritoscincus* Wells and Wellington, 1985, making the identified 2024 genus group (with type species "*Heteropus rostralis* De Vis, 1885") remaining effectively unnamed, due to the unavailability of the 2024 homonym name for this group.

The "Heteropus rostralis De Vis, 1885" group is therefore formally redescribed herein with the new name *Celereeskinkus gen. nov.* as an available name for the genus so other herpetologists can identify the group properly and in line with the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999).

The single species in this genus, including the described subspecies in Hoser (2024c) at pages 20-21, originally described as "*Celerscincus rostralis blacki subsp. nov.*", but now formally identified as *Celereeskinkus* 

*rostralis blacki* (Hoser, 2024) now formally placed in the genus in *Celereeskinkus gen. nov.* are separated from all other species in the two genera, *Carlia* Gray, 1845 type species *Mocoa melanopogon* Gray, 1845 and *Lygisaurus* De Vis, 1884, type species *Lygisaurus foliorum* De Vis, 1884 as defined by Cogger (2014) by the following unique combination of characters:

Dorsal scales are smooth, striated or weakly keeled, 4-sided and each with a smoothly curved posterior edge; prefrontals separated; seven supraciliaries; interparietal is distinct and not fused to the frontoparietals; 25-38 midbody rows; 26-36 lamellae under the fourth toe; males with a very distinctive black throat and broad upper lateral stripe from the eye to hindlimb; females with a conspicuous pale dorso-lateral stripe; ear opening vertically elliptic and slightly larger than the palpebral disc, with 1-3 enlarged anterior facing pointed lobules, the remainder of the ear without enlarged scales; up to 65 mm snout-vent length.

The closely related and morphologically similar genus *Veloxscincus* Hoser, 2024 known alternatively as the "*Carlia fusca* group" is separated from *Celereeskinkus gen. nov.* by the fact that breeding males lack a very distinctive black throat and broad upper lateral stripe from the eye to hindlimb and females lack a pale dorsolateral stripe.

Both preceding genera are separated from the morphologically similar genus *Circularisauris* Hoser, 2024 by the presence of an ear opening that is vertically elliptic or oblong shaped, versus a well formed circular ear opening in *Circularisauris* Hoser, 2024. Furthermore, the rim of the ear in *Circularisauris* Hoser, 2024 is encircled with smallish acute auricular lobes, distinctly pointed on anterior and anteriodorsal edges, contrasting with the blunter lobes confined to the anterior and anteriodorsal border in the other two genera.

**Distribution:** Wet tropics of north-east Queensland, with apparent outlier populations on the Northern part of Cape York and eastern Gulf of Carpentaria.

**Etymology:** The Latin word "celer" means fast and "skinkus" is the Latinised word for skink, with a bastardised spelling to prevent creation of yet another homonym and hence the genus name says "fast skink", which is an apt description. The words are an adjective and noun in apposition. British entomologist Keith Edkins is thanked for bringing the matter of the homonym name *Celerscincus* Hoser, 2024 to my attention so that a new genus name could be created.

**Content:** Celereeskinkus rostralis (De Vis, 1885) (monotypic as treated herein and including one divergent subspecies).

## GENUS NAME RESOLVED BY FIRST REVISER

A paper of Hoser (2019) (cited in full below) formally named a subgenus as *Paragreersaurus* Hoser, 2019, (as pages 8-9) but then referred to the same genus in the paper extensively as *Paragreerscincus*, including within the formal description of *Paragreersaurus* itself. That use of the word *Paragreerscincus* was in error.

As first revisor, I formally assign the correct name as *Paragreersaurus* Hoser, 2019, which is in line with the genus erected in the paper of which it is a subgenus, namely *Greersaurus* Hoser, 2019. The Zoobank registration has been correct since the time of publication of the paper in 2019.

British entomologist Keith Edkins is thanked for bringing this matter and several other errors to my attention and I own all the mistakes wholly ... there is no blame shifting here.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST - NONE