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Xerotyphlops Hedges *et al.* 2014 is a junior synonym of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and 12 new species in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* from Türkiye and the Levant.

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ABSTRACT

In a major monograph being a review of the extant Scolecophidians, Hoser in 2012 formally named numerous genera and species of Blindsnake.

This included *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 for the *Anguis lumbricalis* Daudin, 1803 species group AKA the *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820 species group, being the well-known the Eurasian Blindsnake at page 28.

In 2014, Hedges *et al*. (2014) followed the advice of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang of hard-core criminals, sex offenders and thieves via Kaiser *et al*. (2013) to unlawfully create an objective junior synonym *Xerotypholops* Hedges *et al.* 2014 in anticipation of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) formally erasing all Hoser works from the scientific record (Kaiser et al. 2013, Rhodin *et al*. 2015). That application of Rhodin *et al*. (2015) was REJECTED by the ICZN, on 30 April 2021 (ICZN 2021) making *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 the only correct and available name for the genus.

Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang member Adam Britton has recently been jailed till at least 2028 for stealing people's pet dogs and anally raping them. His citation of Kaiser *et al*. (2013) as justification for his crimes was not accepted by the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

This paper serves to underline these facts in wake of the continued use of the invalid name *Xerotypholops* and ten other illegally coined Blindsnake genus names, with the active encouragement of the Wuster / Britton gang, including on reptile databases they despotically control including that managed by Peter Uetz at: https://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/

When Hoser published his major Blindsnake paper in 2012 it was well-known that putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820), including putative *Typhlops syriacus* Jan, 1864 consisted of a number of allopatric species, separated across well-known and established biogeographical barriers, since confirmed by Kornilios *et al.* (2011, 2012 and 2020) and Akman and Gocmen (2019). Yet as of 2025, no one had shown any inclination to formally name the relevant unnamed lineages, except for Torki (2017) who made a botched attempt of naming one unnamed lineage (however, his name is treated as valid under the ICZN rules).

The purpose of this paper is therefore also to formally name 12 hitherto unnamed species and one subspecies in the complex, so that each can be managed and conserved by relevant government agencies, non-government organisations (NGO's) and others.

The species *Lenhosertyphlops etheridgei* (Wallach, 2002) is herein placed in a new genus *Quazilenhosertyphlops gen. nov...*The remainder of *Lenhosertyphlops* is divided into two subgenera. Due to the Australian Blindsnake genus *Aa* Hoser, 2025 being a homonym (and therefore not an available name), the species placed into the genus *Aa* Hoser, 2025 are assigned to a newly named genus *Notanaa gen. nov...*

Keywords: Taxonomy; nomenclature; Blindsnake; *Lenhosertyphlops*; *Xerotyphlops*; *aa*; taxonomic vandalism; *vermicularis*; *lumbricalis*; *luristanicus*; *etheridgei*; *socotranus*; *syriacus*; *persicus*; *wilsoni*; new genus: *Notanaa*; *Quazilenhosertyphlops*; new subgenus; *Paralenhosertyphlops*; new species; *netanyahui*; *menachembegini*; *husseinbintalali*; *misfitmindss*; *lenhoseri*; *notaxerotyphlops*; *isalenhosertyphlops*; *isntxerotyphlops*; *yeslenhosertyphlops*; *anotherlenhosertyphlops*; *agoodlenhosertyphlops*; *correctnomenclature*; new subspecies; *ok.*

INTRODUCTION

In a major monograph being review of the extant Scolecophidians Hoser (2012d) formally named numerous genera and species of Blindsnake as part of a planet wide revision.

Hoser (2013a, 2025) continued this process for Australia, including a continent-wide review of species, resulting in 81 new species in the two papers combined, more than doubling the number of recognized species.

Most had been flagged in earlier molecular studies.

Among the dozens of new genera named in Hoser (2012d) included *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 for the *Anguis lumbricalis* Daudin, 1803 AKA the *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820 species group, being the well-known the Eurasian Blindsnake at page 28.

In 2014, Hedges *et al*. (2014) followed the advice of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang of hard-core criminals and thieves via Kaiser *et al*. (2013) to break rules, regulations and ethics as they please.

They did this to breach copyright laws, including the Australian Copyright Act 1968, Section 195 (Moral Rights) and the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al*. 1999) to unlawfully create an objective junior synonym name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al.* 2014 in anticipation of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) formally erasing all Hoser works from the scientific record (Kaiser et al. 2013, Rhodin *et al*. 2015).

That application of Rhodin *et al*. (2015) was REJECTED by the ICZN, on 30 April 2021 (ICZN 2021) making *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 the only correct and available name for the genus.

This paper serves to underline this fact in wake of the continued forced use of the invalid name *Xerotyphlops* with the active encouragement of the Wuster / Britton gang, including on reptile databases they despotically control and censor including that managed by Peter Uetz at:
https://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/

Key Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang member Adam Britton has recently been jailed till at least 2028 for stealing people's pet dogs and anally raping them, before posting the depraved videos online for commercial gain and satisfaction.

For details see at:
https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-08-08/adam-britton-sentenced-bestiality-animal-cruelty/104194702
Britton was ultimately charged for doing these acts dozens of times (Fitzgerald 2024) after falling out with a business partner Graeme Webb but had been doing these bestiality acts with police-protection for decades as had other members of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang.

Britton's attempted citation of Kaiser *et al*. (2013) as justification for his crimes was not accepted by the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, so before the full trial he pled guilty to some of his crimes and he was convicted of multiple (dozens) of criminal offences.

When Hoser (2012d) was published it was well-known (to me and any other relevant herpetologists at least) that putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820), including putative *Typhlops syriacus* Jan, 1864 consisted of a number of allopatric species, separated across well-known and established biogeographical barriers.

This was confirmed by the molecular data of Kornilios *et al.* (2011, 2012 and 2020) and yet as of 2025, no one had shown any inclination to formally name the relevant unnamed lineages.

The purpose of this paper is therefore also to formally name the hitherto unnamed species in the complex, so that each can be managed and conserved by relevant government agencies, non-government organisations (NGO's), as well as concerned members of the public, if legal and safety conditions allow this.

Hoser (2014) placed the species *Lenhosertyphlops socotranus* (Boulenger, 1889) into the monotypic genus *Korniliostyphlops* Hoser, 2014 based on a divergence estimated at 19.6 MYA from *Lenhosertyphlops*.

The species *Lenhosertyphlops etheridgei* (Wallach, 2002) is herein placed in a new genus *Quazilenhosertyphlops gen. nov.* due to significant divergence from other species in *Lenhosertyphlops* as defined in Hoser (2012d).

The species *Lenhosertyphlops etheridgei* (Wallach, 2002) is so morphologically and geographically disjunct from putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820), including putative *Typhlops syriacus* Jan, 1864 that it is not tenable to have it remain in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops.*

Hence an added role of this paper is to erect a new genus for the taxon.

The remainder of *Lenhosertyphlops* is divided into two distinct groups and these are herein placed in newly identified subgenera.

Due to the Blindsnake genus *Aa* Hoser, 2025 being a homonym (and therefore not an available name), the species placed into the genus *Aa* Hoser, 2025 by Hoser (2025b) are herein assigned to a newly named genus.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In terms of materials and methods, these are as for Hoser (2025b) but instead applied to all populations of putative *L. vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820), including synonym names applied to various populations of the putative the species including *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883), *L. persicus* (Blanford, 1874), *L. wilsoni* (Wall, 1908) and *L. luristanicus* (Torki, 2017).

Available specimens of the relevant putative genus were inspected from all parts of their known distributions. They were checked for morphological divergences and/or obvious biogeographical barriers separating the populations, including those flagged in papers such as those listed above and below.

The identified distributional breaks and barriers were (for the first time ever) cross matched against known distributions of potentially competing and/or predatory species as part of the process to confirm that the barriers seen were real and not merely modern (Holocene) artefacts or only apparent on the basis of non-collection in the relevant areas, but rather that the barriers were real zones of absence for the relevant blindsnakes.

Distributions were also mapped against rock and soil types to see if these also affected the relevant taxa.

Specimens inspected included dead and live specimens as well as images with good locality data including photo sharing sites online like "Inaturalist", "Twitter" (AKA "X"), "Flickr", "Facebook" and "Instagram".

Molecular studies involving species within *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 *sensu lato* and other similarly distributed reptiles and frogs from across south Europe and the Middle East were also reviewed to flag likely speciation points for wider-ranging putative taxa.

A sweep of the published literature and museum databases, photo sharing sites and the like was done to properly ascertain relevant distributions of all known populations of putative *Lenhosertyphlops* species.

References relevant to the taxonomic and nomenclatural decisions herein included Afroosheh *et al.* (2013), Afsar *et al.* (2013, 2016), Akman and Gocmen (2019), Amr *et al*. (1997), Bar *et al*. (2021), Blanford (1874), Boettger (1880, 1898), Boulenger (1893), Broadley and Wallach (2007), Buttle (1988), Daudin (1803), Disi *et al*. (2001), Duméril and Bibron (1844), Fitzinger (1843), Franzen (2000), Franzen and Wallach (2002), Geniez (2018), Gray (1845), Grillitsch *et al.* (1999), Gruber (2009), Gul *et al.* (2015), Hoofien (1958), Hoser (1989, 2012, 2013a-b, 2019a-b, 2020a-c, 2022, 2023a-c, 2024a-b, 2025a-b), ICZN (2012, 2021), Ilani and Shalmon (1984), in den Bosch and Ineich (1994), Iordansky (1997), Jablonski and Balej (2015), Jablonski *et al.* (2024), Jan (1864), Kharabadze (1999), Kornilios (2014, 2017), Kornilios *et al.* (2011, 2012, 2020), Manteuffel (1993), Méhely (1894), Merrem (1820), Mertens and Müller (1928),

Mienis (1982), Paysant (1999), Perry (1985), Pulev *et al.* 2018), Pryon and Wallach (2014), Radovanovic (1960), Rajabizadeh (2018), Richter (1955), Rogner (1995), Schleich (1979), Shaban and Hamzé (2018), Strachinis and Wilson (2014), Torki (2017), Wall (1908), Wallach (1995, 2002), Wallach and Gemel (2018), Wallach and Ineich (1996), Wallach *et al*. (2007), Wutschert (1984), Yadgarov (1971) and sources cited therein.

RESULTS

The various clades identified by the relevant authors in the papers of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2011, 2012, 2020) are self-evidently of different species, but see the further comments below.

It appears to be obvious that based on the genetic evidence of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2011, 2012, 2020), combined with the biogeographic history of the east Mediterranean that the widespread lineage of nominate *L. vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) evolved in the region of east Türkiye and then spread from there both east and west, effectively cutting off many of the other lineages in the process in zones of suboptimal habitat.

The invasion of Greece for example was in the recent geological past (last few MYA) as evidenced by the absence from the bulk of the Cyclades Islands, a group relatively recently separated from the mainland parts of Greece.

More archaic Greek herpetofauna, including viperid species are found and isolated on numerous islands in the Cyclades.

Fossil Blindsnakes from other parts of Europe west of the extant range of *L. vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) are therefore presumably of extinct lineages and not part of a continuum with modern *L. vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820).

For the first time ever, I can report a direct association between all species of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 *sensu lato* for limestone, chalk and other similar rock types and soils as their substrate of choice.

This correlation is so stark that distributions of all taxa in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* can be accurately mapped against distributions of areas of limestone, chalk and other similar rock types and soils. That is, they are not found for example in areas of basalt, granite and other obviously different rock and soil types.

The wide-ranging lineage of the type form of *L. vermicularis* while having a very strong preference for limestone, chalk and other similar rock types and soils is the only one in the genus that will inhabit areas of other substrate, which explains why it has been able to spread across the general distribution of the genus and including areas in which limestone, chalk and other similar rock types and soils are not the dominant substrate.

In the southern Levant, extending north to Türkiye, Blindsnakes of the genus *Trioanotyphlops* Hoser, 2012 effectively replace the wide-ranging lineage of *L. vermicularis* separating out populations effectively stapled to areas of limestone, chalk and other similar rock types and soils.

Those five species are a divergent group and placed in a separate subgenus, namely *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.*.

Matching available names to the clades identified by Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2011, 2012, 2020) only resulted in three of the various identified clades actually being already named in terms of available species names.

These were as follows:

1/ The type form is *L. vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820), with a type locality of "Archipelago, Asia" (Merrem, 1820) restricted to "*Griechische Inseln [= Greek islands]*" by Mertens and Müller (1928). It occurs from Afghanistan in central Asia, across various countries in this region to south-west Asia, through Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Iraq, Türkiye and the Mediterranean coast to include Greece and nearby parts of Albania, extending north to Croatia as well as south Bulgaria.

2/ *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883), with a type locality of near Beirut was valid and already named, although two associated populations of related species from Jordan and Israel were unnamed.

The phylogenetic results of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) actually implied five potential species, not the three identified by Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2020).

The most relevant biogeographical barrier in the area to distribution of putative *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883) is the Jordan River Valley.

No specimens are recorded from there. However, this barrier failed to explain the significant divergences of populations between Beiruit, north Israel and central/southern Israel as inferred by the results of Kornilios *et al*. (2020).

I note Kornilios *et al*. (2020) alleged these populations probably comprised two species in total, although the molecular evidence implied three.

These localities are all similar in that they are hilly and rocky (mainly limestones) and all are interrupted by low-lying relatively rock-free zones.

However, that putative *L. syriacus* are somehow stopped by the low-lying areas alone defied reason, as clearly at some stage the proto-species had been able to cross these areas.

Furthermore, in terms of distances, we are only talking 10 or less km between populations by straight line measurements in some cases.

I did a search of all available collection and photo records of putative *L. syriacus* (including under alternative names), including for example "vert net", "inaturalist" and "flickr" and after excluding doubtful location records, ascertained the distribution of putative *L. syriacus* to occupy five main areas, with three west of the Jordan River Valley and two to the east.

These were as follows:

A/ The mountains immediately west of Beiruit, being the inferred exact collection location of the type for *L. syriacus.*

B/ Separated by the Litani River south of here, is the population occupying the so-called Lebanon Mountains in the region of the Lebanon and Israel border region, generally north of the plains of Esdraelon.

C/ South of the plains of Esdraelon, principally in the Jerusalem / Judean Hills and also the low hills in near coastal areas south to Gaza is the third population.

Based on my assessment of the molecular results of Kornilios *et al*. (2020), these are believed to have diverged from one another at least 1.3 MYA.

However, in the absence of yet more compelling evidence, I can see exactly why Kornilios *et al*. (2020) did not rush to name these populations as new species.

D/ In Jordan, east of the Jordan River Valley, was another clade Kornilios *et al*. (2020) also identified as their third potential species in the *L. syriacus* complex.

E/ Further east of the above population, in southern Syria, another divergent population was found, which Kornilios *et al*. (2020) lumped in with the Jordan species but in Kornilios *et al*. (2012) found had diverged 1.2 MYA.

Due to the proximity of locations, this isolation cannot be by distance, but is rather an artifact of allopatric speciation across a well-defined (originally) low-lying rock free zone.

The Jordan and Syrian locations, in common with the Israeli ones were all in elevated and rocky areas. All five locations of limestone rocks and soils were separated by areas that were naturally rock free and of different soils.

I do note however that in recent centuries of massive human population explosions, buildings and wars, bombed building rubble and solid human created waste in the form of concrete slabs and the like litters the entire landscape of Syria, making it a vastly different landscape to what was originally there.

The intervening zones were also subject to semi-regular inundation by floods, which based on my investigations did not have any naturally occurring populations of putative *L. syriacus.*

I then repeated the same distributional exercise with the morphologically similar species *Trioanotyphlops simoni* (Boettger,

1879), being the type species for the genus *Trioanotyphlops* Hoser, 2022 and a known inhabitant of low-lying and swampy areas.

Significantly and with only minor exceptions at the peripheries, this species and putative *L. syriacus* were mutually exclusive.

This inferred that since putative *L. syriacus* occupied the relevant areas, *Trioanotyphlops* has invaded from stock derived from north Africa and cut off the relevant populations for sufficient time to allopatrically speciate.

Even if I am incorrect in assuming that competing *T. simoni* is the causative factor for the isolation of populations of putative *L. syriacus*, the well-defined isolation of the five populations in an area of intensive herpetological fieldwork cannot be denied.

Therefore, because specimens in each population can be easily separated from one another, and are species-level divergent, I have absolutely no hesitation at all in formally naming the four unnamed populations as four new species herein.

3/ *L. luristanicus* (Torki, 2017) with a type locality of Badavar region, Nourabad, Lorestan Province, western Zagros Mountains, western Iran is also a valid named taxon of a region in north-west Iran, again where limestones and the like dominate.

It should be noted that *L. persicus* (Blanford, 1874) and *L. wilsoni* (Wall, 1908) both from further south in Iran correspond with populations of the type form of *L. vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820), based on the phylogenetic results of Kornilios *et al*. (2020) and are therefore relegated to the synonymy of that taxon.

The other eight unnamed clades identified by Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) of putative *L. vermicularis* that also corresponded to populations more than 1.5 MYA divergent from nearest relatives are also named herein as new species, giving a total of 12 newly named species in this paper (out of 15 in the genus).

These clades are generally proximal to the north-east Mediterranean region, generally proximal to the southern border of Türkiye and north Syria, each taxon being of relatively narrow distribution and as a cohort were more similar to *L. vermicularis* than *L. syriacus* and the other four associated Middle East species.

They remain in the nominate genus of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012, while the five associated with *L. syriacus* (including *L. syriacus*) are placed in the divergent and newly named subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.*.

As all 15 species are diagnosable from one another, the twelve unnamed clades are each formally named herein as new species.

One species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has a divergent population and it is also named herein as a new subspecies.

The likely causes of separation and isolation of the relevant species clades is discussed in some length in Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012) and is not repeated in detail here.

While climatic oscillations may have had some role to play (as asserted by Kornilios *et al*. (2012) as the main driver for speciation), those authors did not consider the effects of competing species, which quite evidently appear to have kept populations apart across barriers that would otherwise be physiologically easy to cross.

I believe the latter to be more likely a stronger driver of speciation in otherwise land-connected populations not separated by obvious sea barriers, as opposed to climate changes.

I know that use of the words “climate change” and “global warming” gain scientists kudos when they invoke it as causative of things in papers, but the reality is that *Lenhosertyphlops* are relatively tough and adaptable in their microhabitats, moving to different temperature zones depending on climate, season and the like.

Given species occupy significant elevation gradients and all this implies that a general oscillation in annual mean temperature of plus or minus 6-8 degrees Celsius over some thousands of years, will not impede or affect the main distributions of the relevant taxa, especially noting their centres of evolution have been in upland areas, not lowland areas and ice-age refugia are going to be lower elevation in any event.

The molecular results do not by my analysis imply any actual extinctions caused by climate oscillations at all in the current and extant distribution of *Lenhosertyphops*, with the possible exception of the recently invaded far north-west of the distribution (north of Greece).

Kornilios *et al*. (2012) and in later papers, failed to investigate the relevance of substrate in the form of rocks or soils derived from them in terms of allopatric speciation and my own inquiries imply this to be a major factor and more so than climate oscillations.

The issue of rock or soil type, being a driver of speciation, including in areas of shifting sand dunes or flood plains is significant in Australia and facilitated speciation in numerous Australian reptile taxa in the Pliocene, as detailed in a number of my papers published in 2022 to 2025, including for example Hoser (2020b, 2022, 2023a-c, 2025a-b).

In terms of those species clades associated with putative *L. vermicularis* it is self-evident that the spread of the widespread clade from east to west able to occupy a range of rock and soil types, caused the populations from (on average) relatively elevated areas of limestone, chalk and other similar rock types and soils to become isolated and in time allopatrically speciate from one another.

There was obviously reproductive separation of the widespread clade of *L. vermicularis* and the other clades at the relevant times they contacted one another and that speciation ongoing occurred, as they would not have been allopatric beyond this time at the peripheries of their ranges.

These clades I refer to are the relevant clades identified in the papers of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020).

This speciation was in effect enforced by the inability of specimens in these populations to be able to breed with those of the expanding widespread clade that occupied intervening zones (in the same way that *Trioanotyphlops simoni* (Boettger, 1879), prevented separated populations of putative *L. syriacus* from ongoing gene flow). Most of the newly named taxa herein have an estimated divergence in the order of 2-5 MYA from nearest relatives (Kornilios 2017).

The *L. syriacus* complex of species (being five identified herein) has also been variously estimated at about 10 MYA or more divergent from the nominate *L. vermicularis* clade and so is formally named herein as a new subgenus, being *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.*.

This is in addition to the placement of the species *Lenhosertyphlops etheridgei* (Wallach, 2002) into a new monotypic genus *Quazilenhosertyphlops gen. nov.*.

GENUS *AA* HOSER, 2025 IS A JUNIOR HOMONYM

As already mentioned, the species *Typhlops broomi* Boulenger, 1898 was assigned by Hoser (2025) to a newly erected genus *Aa* Hoser, 2025, along with two newly described species and two more (making a total of 5).

However, overlooked was the fact that the name *Aa* Hoser, 2025 cannot be used, as it is pre-occupied by the subgenus *Philonesia (Aa)* Baker, 1940, of gastropods from Hawaii with type species *P. (Aa) waiheensis*.

The relevant reference is:

Baker, H. B. 1940. Zonitid snails from Pacific Islands. Part 2. 2. Hawaiian genera of Microcystinae. *Bernice P. Bishop Museum Bulletin* 165:105-201, at pp. 107-108 and 145-148, also online at: http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/pubs-online/pdf/bull165.pdf.

Therefore the five relevant species are herein assigned to a genus newly erected in this paper being *Notanaa gen. nov.*.

This genus description precedes the other new names descriptions in this paper.

Keith Edkins, a UK-based invertebrate taxonomist alerted me to the homonym issue and I thank him for this.

INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE FORMAL DESCRIPTIONS THAT FOLLOW

There is no conflict of interest in terms of this paper, or the conclusions arrived at herein.

Several people including anonymous peer reviewers who revised the manuscript prior to publication are also thanked as are relevant staff at museums who made specimens and records available in line with international obligations.

In terms of the following formal descriptions, spelling of names should not be altered in any way for any purpose unless expressly and exclusively called for by the rules governing Zoological Nomenclature as administered by the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (Ride *et al.* 1999 and ICZN 2012).

Material downloaded from the internet and cited anywhere in this paper was downloaded and checked most recently as of 2 April 2025, unless otherwise stated and were accurate in terms of the context cited herein as of that date.

Unless otherwise stated explicitly, colour descriptions apply to living adult specimens of generally good health and not under any form of stress by means such as excessive cool, heat, dehydration, excessive aging or abnormal skin reaction to chemical or other input.

This includes the descriptions of the snakes not including pre-sloughing snakes, which are often significantly different to the usual colouration for the specimen or species, being usually more whitish or dull.

Note that there is ordinarily some sexual dimorphism between adults of species within the relevant taxa and changes in colour often from young to adult.

While numerous texts and references were consulted prior to publication of this paper, the criteria used to separate the relevant species has already been spelt out and/or is done so within each formal description and does not rely on material within publications not explicitly cited herein.

In the unlikely event any "first reviser" seeks to merge two or more newly named taxa into one, then the name to be retained is that which is first by page priority as listed in the abstract keywords.

Some material within descriptions may be repeated to ensure each fully complies with the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al*. 1999) and the 2012 amendments (ICZN 2012).

The "version of record" is the printed version and not pdf version. Both are identical in all materially relevant ways except for the fact that the images in the printed version may be in black and white, as opposed to colour as seen in the pdf version.

The people who assisted with provision of photos and other materials used within this paper or for research by me are also thanked for their assistances, for which they sought nothing in return.

The new genus level descriptions mentioned already, appear before the relevant species descriptions.

The use of provocative and interesting etymologies is deliberate and designed to further public interest in the relevant species, which will aid conservation outcomes and/or to highlight other matters of public importance that may otherwise be overlooked, including the scourge of taxonomic vandalism.

CONSERVATION OF BLIND SNAKES IN WEST ASIA AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

In terms of governments in the relevant areas and even so-called herpetologists, there is almost zero concern for the conservation of the Blind Snakes generally.

Quite a few of the species may be endangered due to alterations in supplies of food sources, such as ants in the competition between them and introduced species, the latter of which there are dozens of species.

However, due to the cryptic nature of most Blind Snake species, it is likely that severe declines in numbers will almost certainly be overlooked by herpetologists and governments alike.

In terms of those formally named before now, collectively herpetologists know very little about individual species including such basic facts as what they eat, how long they live for, number of offspring and effects of competing species or food sources on distributions and range expansion constraints.

There are no published baseline figures on preferred habitats.

All we have is general distribution information, from which habitats and preferences can be inferred.

There is no baseline data on what is "normal" for any of the relevant species of Blind Snakes referred to in this paper.

Some newly named species herein have been given unusual and "different" names for the express purpose of encouraging others to take a more active interest in these species and their long-term study and conservation, the latter (conservation) of which is only possible with the action of the former (study).

I make no apologies for choosing scientific names that may at times be deemed humorous, shock, or even offend those who actively look for any excuse to be offended as seems fashionable in some places in year 2025.

However, as no reasonable person could possibly be offended by any of the names I have proposed herein or elsewhere, none of the names breach Recommendation 25 (C) of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999).

The relevant comments in Hoser (1989, 1991, 1993, 1998a, 2007, 2019a-b, 2024) and sources cited therein apply to the conservation of the species formally named within this paper even though most facts and comments in the cited papers mainly refer to the Australian situation.

THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF TAXONOMIC VANDALISM ON THE CONSERVATION OF BLIND SNAKES AND OTHER REPTILES

Human overpopulation and all its associated consequences are without doubt the greatest long-term threat to the relevant species as outlined in Hoser (1989, 1991, 1993 and 1996). Delays in recognition of these species could jeopardise the long-term survival of the taxa as outlined by Hoser (2019a, 2019b) and sources cited therein.

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

Claims by the Adam Britton / Wolfgang Wüster gang against this paper and the descriptions herein will no doubt be no different to those the gang have made previously, including for instance against Wells and Wellington (1984, 1985), (see for example Shine 1987, Shea 1987, Shea and Sadlier 1999), all of which were discredited long ago as outlined by Ceraico *et al*. (2023), Cogger (2014), Cotton (2014), Dubois *et al*. (2019), Hawkeswood (2021), Hołyński (1994, 2020), Hoser, (2001, 2007, 2009a, 2012a-c, 2013b, 2015a-f, 2019a-b, 2020a-b, 2021a-b, 2023, 2024a-b), ICZN (1991, 2001, 2021), Jiménez-Mejías *et al*. (2024), Kok (2023), Mosyakin (2022), Pethigayoda (2023), Wellington (2015), Winkler (2024), Zheng and Gold (2020) and sources cited therein.

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

He did this in the first instance in 2001, by altering versions of his

online "paper" (as seen in Williams and Starkey 1999a, 1999b and 1999c), all of which were different and changed versions of a single paper originally published in the first form in 1999, claiming (without any evidence) to refute the existence of the species *Pailsus pailsei* Hoser, 1998 (see Hoser 1998b and Hoser 2001 for details).

Claims by Shea and Sadlier (1999) and similar elsewhere by the Wüster gang to the effect that earlier published names are unavailable for zoological nomenclature are patently false and the making of these false claims is seriously counter to wildlife conservation (Hoser, 2007, Ceriaco *et al*. 2023, Cogger 2014, Cotton 2014, and so on).

NOTANAA GEN. NO.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:4BD4D3A3-65EE-423B-B25E-0B5E3F874FB5

Type species: *Aa aa* Hoser, 2025.

Diagnosis: The genus *Notanaa gen. nov.* are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Pink, purple, light brown, brown, blackish above, becoming vaguely whitish or yellowish white below. The flanks are coloured same as the dorsum and there is no obvious demarcation between the dorsal colour and the venter as one moves to the very underneath of the snake.

The dark dorsal colour forms into obvious or semi-distinct longitudinal streaks formed by dark patches on the anterior part of each dorsal scale (in contrast to the related genus *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013 where such longitudinal streaks are not seen in adults). The snout is entirely rounded from above and in profile, ranging from being somewhat blunt to slightly angular. The nasal cleft which may or may not be visible from above (if it is, then only just), joins the preocular, continuing in front of the nostril and often dividing the nasal. The rostral is oval in the genus *Notanaa gen. nov.* versus relatively narrow and constricted from above in the genus *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013, being longer than broad. 20 midbody scale rows. Body diameter 30-70 times in its length. Average adult maximum length is 25 cm and doesn't exceed 35 cm.

Distribution: Restricted to the very top end of the Northern Territory and north parts of Cape York, Queensland, in far north Australia.

Etymology: Late at night in 2019 when I asked Paul Woolf, the president of the Herpetological Society of Queensland Incorporated, what the genus name for these snakes should be called he simply went "aa", and hence the first proposed genus name as done in the paper of Hoser (2025).

However, overlooked was the fact that the name *Aa* Hoser, 2025 cannot be used, as it is pre-occupied by the subgenus *Philonesia (Aa)* Baker, 1940, of gastropods from Hawaii with type species *P. (Aa) waiheensis*.

The relevant reference is: Baker, H. B. 1940. Zonitid snails from Pacific Islands. Part 2. 2. Hawaiian genera of Microcystinae. *Bernice P. Bishop Museum Bulletin* 165:105-201, at pp. 107-108 and 145-148, also online at: http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/pubs-online/pdf/bull165.pdf. Therefore the five relevant species are herein assigned to this genus newly named in this paper being *Notanaa gen. nov.*.

This genus name is a direct take of the literal English words "not an *aa*" in reflection of what they are.

This genus name is a noun in apposition.

Keith Edkins, a UK-based taxonomist alerted me to the homonym issue and I thank him for this.

Content: *Notanaa aa* (Hoser, 2025) (type species), *N. aaaaagh* (Hoser, 2025), *N. broomi* (Boulenger, 1898), *N. chamodracaena* (Ingram and Covacevich, 1993), *N. tovelli* (Loveridge, 1945).

QUAZILENHOSERTYPHLOPS GEN. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B87E3438-05D7-4445-B5BC-FDBF48D710A0

Type species: *Typhlops etheridgei* Wallach, 2002.

Diagnosis: *Quazilenhosertyphlops gen. nov*. is monotypic for the species originally described as "*Typhlops etheridgei* Wallach, 2002".

Blindsnakes within this genus can be separated from all other Blindsnakes by the following unique combination of characters:

T-III supralabial imbrication pattern (SIP), 24 midbody scale rows, 424 middorsal scales, rounded snout without papillae, a typical head shield arrangement as opposed to circular, the infranasal suture contacts the preocular, prefrontal twice; frontal less than 0.5 prefrontal, posterior border of preocular with dorsal concavity, superior nasal suture visible dorsally, total length/midbody diameter ratio 55, tail length to total length 1.1%, tail length to midtail width 1.0 and rostral width/head width 0.41 (derived largely from Wallach 2002).

Wallach (2002) specifically details which of these preceding features separate this species and genus from other Eurasian and African Blind Snakes in genera as defined by him in his paper of 2002.

Quazilenhosertyphlops gen. nov. is separable from *Rhinotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843 by the T-III SIP (vs. T-0 or T-II), from *Acutotyphlops* Wallach, 1995 by the 24 midbody scale rows (vs. 26-36) and rounded snout (vs. pointed snout), from *Cyclotyphlops* in Den Bosch and Ineich, 1994 by its typical head shields (vs. circular arrangement), and from *Xenotyphlops* Wallach and Ineich, 1996 by the T-III SIP (vs. T-0) and papillaless rounded snout (vs. pointed snout with papillae). *Quazilenhosertyphlops gen. nov*. shares the T-III SIP with genera *Ramphotyphlops* and other Australian and Asian Blindsnake genera including *Anilios* Gray, 1845 (*sensu lato*, *sensu* Wilson and Swan 2021 as divided by Hoser 2025b) and *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012 by the combination of the infranasal suture contacting the second supralabial and 24 midbody scale rows.

Quazilenhosertyphlops gen. nov. is separated from the morphologically similar *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 by the following combination of characters (*Lenhosertyphlops* characters in brackets): The number of middorsal scales 424 (302-413), prefrontal twice as broad as deep (as broad as deep), frontal less than 0.5 prefrontal (1.0), posterior border of preocular with dorsal concavity (border straight), superior nasal suture visible dorsally (not visible), total length/midbody diameter ratio 55 (34-52), tail length/total length 1.1% (1.8-2.5%), tail length/midtail width 1.0 (1.3-1.5), and rostral width/head width 0.41 (0.30-0.38) (modified from Wallach 2002).

Korniliostyphlops Hoser, 2014 species (only one species extant in that genus) are separated from both *Quazilenhosertyphlops gen. nov.* and *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 species by having a whiteish striped dorsal colouration, less flattened snout, more distinct eyes and a preocular that is much broader than the ocular (versus one that is about the same width).

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Likewise, the genus name *Indotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior (subjective) synonym for *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should not be used as a correct name either due to the fact that the type species for both putative genera are closely related (about 6 MYA divergent).

Blair S. Hedges is a grant scamming fraudster, and a prominent member of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang of hard-core criminals (see Hoser 2024 for details).

Distribution: *Quazilenhosertyphlops gen. nov*. is only known from the type locality of the single specimen known, being Amsâga of western Mauritania, West Africa, Latitude 21° N., Longitude -13° W.

Etymology: The name *Quazilenhosertyphlops gen. nov*. comes from the fact that this genus resembles *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

The genus name is a noun in apposition.

Content: *Quazilenhosertyphlops etheridgei* (Wallach, 2002).

PARALENHOSERTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:3D6530DF-1CB6-4BF3-8FEC-4B79E5E402AD

Type species: *Lenhosertyphlops (Paralenhosertyphlops) netanyahui sp. nov.*

Diagnosis: The five species within the genus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. are separated from those in the nominate genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 by the fact that as a rule the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish-purple on top, (in mature adults) and also with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Likewise, the genus name *Indotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior (subjective) synonym for *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should not be used as a correct name either due to the fact that the type species for both putative genera are closely related (about 6 MYA divergent).

Blair S. Hedges is a grant scamming fraudster, and a prominent member of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang of hard-core criminals (see Hoser 2024 for details).

Distribution and relevant comment: *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. species occur in the region including Lebanon, Jordan, nearby parts of Syria, most of Israel and with an element of doubt, potentially nearby parts of Egypt, including the Sinai Peninsula.

No specimens have been collected on the Sinai Peninsula in the past 100 years and the old records of Duméril and Bibron (1844) may refer to the general area, and not necessarily the Peninsula as recognised today.

Wallach (2002) noted:

"*One of the specimens from the base of Mt. Sinai, southern Sinai Peninsula, reported by Duméril and Bibron(1844), is in the Leiden Museum (RMNH3719).*"

However, my reading of the original work of Duméril and Bibron said "*au pied du Sinaï*," which translated as "*at the foot of Sinai*".

This may have referred to the foot of the desert, rather than the mountain or even the part of Isreal that borders the Sinai, as in the Negev Desert.

There could easily be specimens of putative *Paralenhosertyphlops* in the lower Sinai, where the mountains are large and microclimate allows for these species to survive.

However, mitigating against this concept to some extent is the main rock type there, being granitic. My own inquiries of the entire distribution of most *Lenhosertyphlops* including *Paralenhosertyphlops* has been that they are almost always effectively stapled to substrates that are limestone based or similar, at least in the case from Greece, through southern Türkiye, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan and north-west Iran.

I note for example that no *Lenhosertyphlops* are found in areas of basaltic rocks to the north of Türkiye well away from the Mediterranean coasts.

With a fairly flat, straight line of sandy substrate of apparently unsuitable habitat, sitting across the northern Sinai running broadly between lower Gaza and the lower Jordan Valley, there is firm biogeographical barrier preventing any movement between populations in Judea/Samaria and the adjacent upper Negev to those of the lower Sinai Peninsula, if they are extant.

To the west the Mediterranean is an obvious barrier as is the Jordan Valley to the east.

This would mean any *Lenhosertyphlops* species occupying the south Sinai area (including Mount Sinai) would be of a different species to those five recognised herein within *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*..

In other words, a serious attempt should be made to find any populations of *Lenhosertyphlops* on the lower Sinai Peninsula, including the Mount Sinai area and they should (if extant) be formally named and brought into the modern sciences as a valid and separate species as a matter of urgency.

Etymology: *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. is named in reflection of the fact that relevant species occur in a distributional sense adjacent to those species within *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and are also very similar in form to those within the nominate genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

The subgenus name is a noun in apposition.

Content: *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. (type species (this paper), *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *husseinbintalali sp. nov*. (this paper), *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *menachembegini sp. nov*. (this paper), *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *misfitmindss sp. nov*. (this paper), *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *syriacus* (Jan, 1883).

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*PARALENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *NETANYAHUI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:6E7A7E56-88F7-480B-9EC6-3C04043B545D

Holotype: A specimen at the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University, Israel, specimen number TAU-R 16214 collected from Upper Galilee, Israel.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Herpetology Department, Vertebrate Zoology Division, Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven, Connecticut, USA, specimen number YPM HERR 000611 collected from Ein Naaman, Vay of Haifa, Israel, Latitude 32.8333 S., Longitude 35.0833 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) has been treated by virtually all publishing herpetologists as a wide-ranging taxon distributed from Greece in the West, east through the Middle East and to drier parts of west Asia, as far east as Afghanistan and south to include southern Israel and potentially the Sinai in Egypt.

Following phylogenetic studies by Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2011, 2012, 2020), the specimens from 1/ Lebanon, 2/ north Israel, 3/ central and south Israel potentially including the Sinai (Egypt), 4/ north-west Jordan and 5/ south-central Syria have been collectively lumped within the putative species *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883), with a type locality of near Beirut, Lebanon, (previously being a part of a greater Syria).

Based on the molecular results of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) indicating a minimum divergence between each of the preceding five populations of 1.2 MYA, separation of each geographically proximal population by relatively rock free

lowland areas subject to occasional inundation and inhabited by significant numbers of the usually allopatric competing species *Trioanotyphlops simoni* (Boettger, 1879), being the type species for the genus *Trioanotyphlops* Hoser, 2022 itself a well-known inhabitant of low-lying and swampy areas, the five morphologically divergent populations are herein treated as full species, with four formally described for the first time in this paper.

These five species also form the entirety of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and are separated from the nominate subgenus of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 as follows:

As a rule, the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012. *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and also with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The five species in the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. are:

1/ *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. a species from the Upper Galilee and elevated near coastal areas in north Israel, generally north of the Plain of Esdraelon, extending through the hilly region on the Israel and Lebanon border to the Litani River basin in southern Lebanon as defined by Shaban and Hamzé (2018) and only occurring west of the Jordan River basin.

2/ *L. menachembegini sp. nov.* being found west of the Jordan River Valley and south of the Plain of Esdraelon, through the Jerusalem and Jordan Hills including Judea and Samaria to the Negev Desert and potentially elevated parts of the Sinai (Egypt).

3/ *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883), is from the area generally north and west of the Litani River basin (i.e. the Mount Lebanon Ranges, west of the Bekaa Valley), but wholly within Lebanon.

4/ *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov.* is a taxon from north-west Jordan, found generally east of the Jordan River Valley and west of the arid zone occupying most of the country of Jordan, extending north through the Golan Heights (currently controlled by Israel) into Lebanon, east of the Litani River basin (Bekaa Valley) along the ranges to Baddouaa, Lebanon in the north, making it essentially a taxon of the Anti-Lebanon mountains.

5/ *L. misfitmindss sp. nov.* (not named with any Middle east connotation) is a taxon from south-central Syria in an area of low to medium sized rocky hills and mounts, just east of As-Suwayda in the region of Jabal Ad Duruz, all of which are east of a low-lying zone of red soils (running more-or-less from Daraa in the south, north to Damascus).

The five preceding species are separated from one another by the following unique combinations of characters:

L. netanyahui sp. nov. has an eye spot in the centre of the ocular scale (when looked at from front to back) and slightly higher than centre; the ocular scale itself is sharply triangular in shape above the eye spot and below (as in wide at base and pointed upper edge), thick lighter lines etching the upper scales of the snout, tail is similar colour on top to the rest of the dorsal colour. The prefrontal is a fraction smaller than the frontal. The anterior edge of the prefrontal forms a curved pointed edge intruding into the top of the rostral.

L. menachembegini sp. nov. is a distinctively darker brown dorsally than *L. netanyahui sp. nov*. It has an eye spot slightly posterior of the centre of the ocular scale (when looked at from front to back) and slightly higher than centre; the ocular scale itself is crescent shaped above the eye spot and also narrows significantly below the eye. There are thick lighter lines etching the upper scales of the snout, tail is similar colour on top to the rest of the dorsal colour. The prefrontal is a fraction smaller than the frontal. The anterior edge of the prefrontal forms a bluntly pointed flattish triangular edge intruding into the top of the rostral.

L. syriacus has snout and neck that is medium brown on top. The rest of the dorsum is a different shade of brownish purple on top and purplish on the sides. Distal part of body and tail are blackish on the upper surface.

L. husseinbintalali sp. nov. has whitish scales on the scales of the snout, which are either moderately thickly dark etched or alternatively with dark spotting along the scale edges on otherwise semi-distinct whitish etching lines. Body scales are faintly etched lighter. Eye spot sits posterior in the ocular scale, usually touching or entering the rear suture. The ocular scale itself is more-or-less circular with the upper and lower edges forming smallish points or small triangular points.

Anterior edge of the prefrontal is effectively flat and only touches a small part of the upper edge of the rostral which is more-or-less horseshoe shaped at the top and relatively wide and straight sided below. Prefrontal and frontal are of the same size.

On the flanks the demarcation between darker dorsum and lighter venter is not well defined but is characterised by scattered irregular intrusions of light centred scales in patches along the mid and upper flank. These whitish scale centres occupy virtually the entire visible scale that they appear on, except for the darker outer edges.

L. misfitmindss sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov.* as detailed above but separated from that species by having light scales on the anterior part of the upper snout, in turn thickly etched cream, eye spot only slightly posterior of centre in the ocular scale, a rostral that barely touches the pre-frontal and obvious whitish patches of scales scattered along the mid and upper flank.

Numerous photos of the first four of the preceding species can be found in life at: www.inaturalist.org.

L. netanyahui sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/164496844

and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/221678511

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Likewise, the genus name *Indotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior (subjective) synonym for *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should not be used as a correct name either due to the fact that the type species for both putative genera are closely related (about 6 MYA divergent).

Blair S. Hedges is a grant scamming fraudster, and a prominent member of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang of hard-core criminals (see Hoser 2024 for details).

Distribution: *L. netanyahui sp. nov*. is a species from the Upper Galilee and elevated near coastal areas in north Israel, generally north of the Plain of Esdraelon, extending through the hilly region

on the Israel and Lebanon border to the Litani River basin in southern Lebanon as defined by Shaban and Hamzé (2018) and only occurring west of the Jordan River basin.

Etymology: *L. netanyahui sp. nov*. is named in honour of Benjamin Netanyahu.

Born 21 October 1949, he is as of 2025 an Israeli politician who has served as the Prime Minister (PM) of Israel since 2022, having previously held the office from 1996 to 1999 and from 2009 to 2021. Netanyahu is the longest-serving prime minister in Israel's history, having served a total of over 17 years.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas and several other Palestinian terrorist organisations launched coordinated armed incursions from the Gaza Strip into the Gaza envelope of southern Israel.

The attacks, which coincided with the Jewish religious holiday Simchat Torah, initiated the ongoing Gaza war (continuing as of April 2025).

In total, 1,195 people were killed, being 736 Israeli civilians, including 36 children, 79 foreign nationals, and 379 members of the security forces.

364 civilians were killed and many more wounded while attending the Nova music festival.

About 250 Israeli civilians and soldiers were taken as hostages to the Gaza Strip, alive or dead, and including 30 children, with the stated goal to force Israel to exchange them for imprisoned Palestinians.

Dozens of cases of rape and sexual assault occurred.

Benjamin Netanyahu has been blamed for the security lapse that allowed this massacre to occur and as of 2025, roughly 70% of Israeli citizens did not want him to remain as State leader for this or other reasons.

As PM, he also has to maintain a coalition consisting of hard-line Zionists and so-called moderates and because of this dichotomy in a time of extended war and suffering, it is inevitable that most people will not be satisfied with whatever outcome he tries to deliver.

While Netanyahu is not a perfect human being and there is plenty of press coverage to this effect, I do not find it appropriate for him to be "victim blamed" for the terrorist actions of others.

It is not Netanyahu who massacred 1,195 innocent people and took about 250 more as hostages for the purpose of extorting others.

Blaming Netanyahu for this is scandalous and the false narrative against him in this regard needs to be re-written.

In Australia Jews are also "victim blamed" by police and other government officials when brazen and unlawful terrorist attacks are mounted against them.

I have suffered this "victim blaming" myself as a result of a violent attack against me from a gang led by a Muslim Terrorist at Ascot Vale, Melbourne, Australia on 11 March 2023.

Not only was the terrorist and his cohort not charged with multiple assaults, but an attempt was made by corrupt Victorian Police to have me charged with "make false complaint" (it failed), even though there were multiple CCTV and other cameras that filmed the attacks in their entirety and the offenders were well-known to police.

The names of the attackers have been suppressed by court orders on application from the Victorian Police.

Suppression orders are used to hide truth and prevent it being reported in Australia.

They are issued by the police and the cocaine addicted judiciary in Australia on a daily basis. The most minor of breaches or perceived breaches of a suppression order can land one in jail indefinitely.

To his credit, in December 2024 Netanyahu publicly called out the Australian Labor government in 2024 for their ongoing support of antisemitism and terrorist attacks against Jews in this country.

This followed as firebomb attack on the Adass Synagogue in Melbourne.

As with the attack against me, there was lots of CCTV camera footage and the police knew exactly who was responsible as in the three offenders, including by way of tracking the escape vehicle, being a blue VW Golf Car as it drove through Melbourne through the Government's extensive and elaborate network of CCTV Cameras across the city.

This camera network is used effectively to spy on and monitor the population here for the purposes of quelling any dissent and targeting enemies of the State such as corruption whistleblowers.

The Victoria Police explicitly chose not to arrest or charge the Adass Synagogue fire bombers and as of April 2025, no one has been arrested for the attack.

Significantly the Victoria Police even effectively greenlighted further crimes by the same individuals over the following weeks and again no one was arrested or charged.

For more details see:

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-12-07/israel-benjamin-netanyahu-links-adass-synagogue-arson-to-un-vote/104697376

and

https://au.news.yahoo.com/fresh-clue-solving-synagogue-firebombing-043951139.html

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*PARALENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *MENACHEMBEGINI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:47FE2C46-4917-4505-9BD7-3EEDA130CA98

Holotype: A specimen at the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University, Israel, specimen number TAU-R 16698 collected from Shomeron Malkishua, Israel, Latitude: 32.261199 N., Longitude: 35.242891 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved specimen at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA, Herp Collection, specimen number MVZ:Herp:47156 collected from Jerusalem, Israel, Latitude 31.77917 N., Longitude 35.22222 E., 2/ A preserved specimen at the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany, specimen number SMNS Herpetologie 2509 collected from Jerusalem, Israel, Latitude 31.77917 N., Longitude 35.22222 E., 3/ Three preserved specimens at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, herps collection specimen numbers 90787, 90790 and 90792 all collected from Kibbutz Netzer Serweni Mienis, Israel, Latitude 31.9228 N., Longitude 34.8212 E.

Diagnosis: Until now (2025), putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) has been treated by virtually all publishing herpetologists as a wide-ranging taxon distributed from Greece in the West, east through the Middle East and to drier parts of west Asia, as far east as Afghanistan and south to include southern Israel and potentially the Sinai in Egypt.

Following phylogenetic studies by Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2011, 2012, 2020), the specimens from 1/ Lebanon, 2/ north Israel, 3/ central and south Israel including potentially the Sinai (Egypt), 4/ north-west Jordan and 5/ south-central Syria have been collectively lumped within the putative species *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883), with a type locality of near Beirut, Lebanon, (previously being a part of a greater Syria).

Based on the molecular results of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) indicating a minimum divergence between all the preceding five populations of 1.2 MYA, separation of each geographically proximal population by relatively rock free lowland areas subject to occasional inundation and inhabited by significant numbers of the usually allopatric competing species *Trioanotyphlops simoni* (Boettger, 1879), being the type species for the genus *Trioanotyphlops* Hoser, 2022 itself a well-known inhabitant of low-lying and swampy areas, the five morphologically divergent populations are herein treated as full species, with four formally described for the first time in this paper.

These five species also form the entirety of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and are separated from the nominate subgenus of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 as follows:

As a rule, the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012. *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and also with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The five species in the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. are:

1/ *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. a species from the Upper Galilee and elevated near coastal areas in north Israel, generally north of the Plain of Esdraelon, extending through the hilly region on the Israel and Lebanon border to the Litani River basin in southern Lebanon as defined by Shaban and Hamzé (2018) and only occurring west of the Jordan River basin.

2/ *L. menachembegini sp. nov.* being found west of the Jordan River Valley and south of the Plain of Esdraelon, through the Jerusalem and Jordan Hills including Judea and Samaria to the Negev Desert and potentially to parts of the Sinai (Egypt) but see earlier comments in the subgenus description for distribution.

3/ *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883), from the area generally north and west of the Litani River basin (i.e. the Mount Lebanon Ranges, west of the Bekaa Valley), but wholly within Lebanon.

4/ *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov.* is a taxon from north-west Jordan, found generally east of the Jordan River Valley and west of the arid zone occupying most of the country of Jordan, extending north through the Golan Heights (currently controlled by Israel) into Lebanon, east of the Litani River basin (Bekaa Valley) along the ranges to Baddouaa, Lebanon in the north, making it essentially a taxon of the Anti-Lebanon mountains.

5/ *L. misfitmindss sp. nov.* (not named with any Middle east connotation) is a taxon from south-central Syria in an area of low to medium sized rocky hills and mounts, just east of As-Suwayda in the region of Jabal Ad Duruz, all of which are east of a low-lying zone of red soils (running more-or-less from Daraa in the south, north to Damascus).

The five preceding species are separated from one another by the following unique combinations of characters:

L. netanyahui sp. nov. has an eye spot in the centre of the ocular scale (when looked at from front to back) and slightly higher than centre; the ocular scale itself is sharply triangular in shape above the eye spot and below (as in wide at base and pointed upper edge), thick lighter lines etching the upper scales of the snout, tail is similar colour on top to the rest of the dorsal colour. The prefrontal is a fraction smaller than the frontal. The anterior edge of the prefrontal forms a curved pointed edge intruding into the top of the rostral.

L. menachembegini sp. nov. is a distinctively darker brown dorsally than *L. netanyahui sp. nov*. It has an eye spot slightly posterior of the centre of the ocular scale (when looked at from front to back) and slightly higher than centre; the ocular scale itself is crescent shaped above the eye spot and also narrows significantly below the eye. There are thick lighter lines etching the upper scales of the snout, tail is similar colour on top to the rest of the dorsal colour. The prefrontal is a fraction smaller than the frontal. The anterior edge of the prefrontal forms a bluntly pointed flattish triangular edge intruding into the top of the rostral.

L. syriacus has snout and neck that is medium brown on top. The rest of the dorsum is a different shade of brownish purple on top and purplish rather than brownish on the upper parts of the flanks. Distal part of body and tail are blackish on the upper surface.

L. husseinbintalali sp. nov. has whitish scales on the scales of the snout, which are either moderately thickly dark etched or alternatively with dark spotting along the scale edges on otherwise semi-distinct whitish etching lines. Body scales are faintly etched lighter. Eye spot sits posterior in the ocular scale, usually touching or entering the rear suture. The ocular scale itself is more-or-less circular with the upper and lower edges forming smallish points or small triangular points.

Anterior edge of the prefrontal is effectively flat and only touches a small part of the upper edge of the rostral which is more-or-less horseshoe shaped at the very top and relatively wide and straight sided below. Prefrontal and frontal are of the same size.

On the flanks the demarcation between darker dorsum and lighter venter is not well defined but is characterised by scattered irregular intrusions of light centred scales in patches along the mid and upper flank. These whitish scale centres occupy virtually the entire visible scale that they appear on, except for the darker outer edges.

L. misfitmindss sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov.* as detailed above but separated from that species by having light scales on the anterior part of the upper snout, in turn thickly etched cream, eye spot only slightly posterior of centre in the ocular scale, a rostral that barely touches the pre-frontal and obvious whitish patches of scales scattered along the mid and upper flank.

Numerous photos of the first four of the preceding species can be found in life at: www.inaturalist.org.

L. menachembegini sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/100123353@N08/52064768895/
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/111014515
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/206422819

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Likewise, the genus name *Indotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior (subjective) synonym for *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should not be used as a correct name either due to the fact that the type species for both putative genera are closely related (about 6 MYA divergent).

Blair S. Hedges is a grant scamming fraudster, and a prominent member of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang of hard-core criminals (see Hoser 2024 for details).

Distribution: *L. menachembegini sp. nov.* is a taxon found west of the Jordan River Valley and south of the Plain of Esdraelon, through the Jerusalem and Jordan Hills including Judea and Samaria to the Negev Desert and potentially to parts of the Sinai (Egypt) but see earlier comments in the subgenus description for distribution. It also occurs in the undulating country between the Jordan Valley hills and the coastal strip.

Etymology: *L. menachembegini sp. nov.* is named in honour of Menachem Begin (16 August 1913 to 9 March 1992). Before the creation of the state of Israel, he was the leader of the Zionist militant group Irgun, the Revisionist breakaway from the larger Jewish paramilitary organization Haganah.

Begin was described by the British government as the "*leader of the notorious terrorist organisation*".

After a long political career in the newly formed State of Israel, he became the Sixth Prime Minister of Israel. His term went from 21 June 1977 to 10 October 1983.

Begin's most significant achievement as Prime Minister was the signing of a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979, for which he and Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat shared the Nobel Peace Prize.

That agreement remains in force as of 2025 and countless human lives have been saved as a result.

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*PARALENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *HUSSEINBINTALALI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:A1306774-40BF-4F6B-A014-A9C439D6289B

Holotype: A specimen at the Natural History Museum of Crete, Greece, specimen number 80.3.21.6 collected from Ajloun, Jordan, Latitude 32.3326 N., Longitude 35.7517 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A specimen at the Natural History Museum of Crete, Greece, specimen number 80.3.21.7 collected from Zai Park, Jordan, Latitude 32.6060 N., Longitude 35.4300 E.

Diagnosis: Until now (2025), putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) has been treated by virtually all publishing herpetologists as a wide-ranging taxon distributed from Greece in the West, east through the Middle East and to drier parts of west Asia, as far east as Afghanistan and south to include southern Israel and potentially the Sinai in Egypt.

Following phylogenetic studies by Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2011, 2012, 2020), the specimens from 1/ Lebanon, 2/ north Israel, 3/ central and south Israel including potentially the Sinai (Egypt), 4/ north-west Jordan and 5/ south-central Syria have been collectively lumped within the putative species *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883), with a type locality of near Beirut, Lebanon, (previously being a part of a greater Syria).

Based on the molecular results of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) indicating a minimum divergence between all the preceding five populations of 1.2 MYA, separation of each geographically proximal population by relatively rock free lowland areas subject to occasional inundation and inhabited by significant numbers of the usually allopatric competing species *Trioanotyphlops simoni* (Boettger, 1879), being the type species for the genus *Trioanotyphlops* Hoser, 2022 itself a well-known inhabitant of low-lying and swampy areas, the five morphologically divergent populations are herein treated as full species, with four formally described for the first time in this paper.

These five species also form the entirety of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and are separated from the nominate subgenus of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 as follows:

As a rule, the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012. *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and also with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The five species in the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. are:

1/ *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. a species from the Upper Galilee and elevated near coastal areas in north Israel, generally north of the Plain of Esdraelon, extending through the hilly region on the Israel and Lebanon border to the Litani River basin in southern Lebanon as defined by Shaban and Hamzé (2018) and only occurring west of the Jordan River basin.

2/ *L. menachembegini sp. nov.* being found west of the Jordan River Valley and south of the Plain of Esdraelon, through the Jerusalem and Jordan Hills including Judea and Samaria to the Negev Desert and potentially to parts of the Sinai (Egypt) but see earlier comments in the subgenus description for distribution.

3/ *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883), from the area generally north and west of the Litani River basin (i.e. the Mount Lebanon Ranges, west of the Bekaa Valley), but wholly within Lebanon.

4/ *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov.* is a taxon from north-west Jordan, found generally east of the Jordan River Valley and west of the arid zone occupying most of the country of Jordan, extending north through the Golan Heights (currently controlled by Israel) into Lebanon, east of the Litani River basin (Bekaa Valley) along the ranges to Baddouaa, Lebanon in the north, making it essentially a taxon of the Anti-Lebanon mountains.

5/ *L. misfitmindss sp. nov.* (not named with any Middle east connotation) is a taxon from south-central Syria in an area of low to medium sized rocky hills and mounts, just east of As-Suwayda in the region of Jabal Ad Duruz, all of which are east of a low-lying zone of red soils (running more-or-less from Daraa in the south, north to Damascus).

The five preceding species are separated from one another by the following unique combinations of characters:

L. netanyahui sp. nov. has an eye spot in the centre of the ocular scale (when looked at from front to back) and slightly higher than centre; the ocular scale itself is sharply triangular in shape above the eye spot and below (as in wide at base and pointed upper edge), thick lighter lines etching the upper scales of the snout, tail is similar colour on top to the rest of the dorsal colour. The prefrontal is a fraction smaller than the frontal. The anterior edge of the prefrontal forms a curved pointed edge intruding into the top of the rostral.

L. menachembegini sp. nov. is a distinctively darker brown dorsally than *L. netanyahui sp. nov*. It has an eye spot slightly posterior of the centre of the ocular scale (when looked at from front to back) and slightly higher than centre; the ocular scale itself is crescent shaped above the eye spot and also narrows significantly below the eye. There are thick lighter lines etching the upper scales of the snout, tail is similar colour on top to the rest of the dorsal colour. The prefrontal is a fraction smaller than the frontal. The anterior edge of the prefrontal forms a bluntly pointed flattish triangular edge intruding into the top of the rostral.

L. syriacus has snout and neck that is medium brown on top. The rest of the dorsum is a different shade of brownish purple on top and purplish rather than brownish on the upper parts of the flanks. Distal part of body and tail are blackish on the upper surface.

L. husseinbintalali sp. nov. has whitish scales on the scales of the snout, which are either moderately thickly dark etched or alternatively with dark spotting along the scale edges on otherwise semi-distinct whitish etching lines. Body scales are faintly etched lighter. Eye spot sits posterior in the ocular scale, usually touching or entering the rear suture. The ocular scale itself is more-or-less circular with the upper and lower edges forming smallish points or small triangular points.

Anterior edge of the prefrontal is effectively flat and only touches a small part of the upper edge of the rostral which is more-or-less horseshoe shaped at the very top and relatively wide and straight sided below. Prefrontal and frontal are of the same size.

On the flanks the demarcation between darker dorsum and lighter venter is not well defined but is characterised by scattered irregular intrusions of light centred scales in patches along the mid and upper flank. These whitish scale centres occupy virtually the entire visible scale that they appear on, except for the darker outer edges.

L. misfitmindss sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov.* as detailed above but separated from that species by having light scales on the anterior part of the

upper snout, in turn thickly etched cream, eye spot only slightly posterior of centre in the ocular scale, a rostral that barely touches the pre-frontal and obvious whitish patches of scales scattered along the mid and upper flank.

Numerous photos of the first four of the preceding species can be found in life at: www.inaturalist.org.

L. husseinbintalali sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/21636410

and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/5243227

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Likewise, the genus name *Indotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior (subjective) synonym for *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should not be used as a correct name either due to the fact that the type species for both putative genera are closely related (about 6 MYA divergent).

Blair S. Hedges is a grant scamming fraudster, and a prominent member of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang of hard-core criminals (see Hoser 2024 for details).

Distribution: *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov.* is a taxon from north-west Jordan, found generally east of the Jordan River Valley and west of the arid zone occupying most of the country of Jordan, extending north through the Golan Heights (currently controlled by Israel) into Lebanon, east of the Litani River basin (Bekaa Valley) along the ranges to Baddouaa, Lebanon in the north, making it essentially a taxon of the Anti-Lebanon mountains.

Etymology: *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov.* is named in honour of Hussein bin Talal (14 November 1935 to 7 February 1999), better known as King Hussein of Jordan.

As a member of the Hashemite dynasty, the royal family of Jordan since 1921, Hussein was allegedly a 40th-generation direct descendant of the Islamic prophet Muhammad.

He was enthroned at the age of 17 on 2 May 1953. Hussein was married four separate times and fathered eleven children.

He declared Marshall Law in 1956 and was regarded as a dictator from that date on.

He quelled numerous uprisings and there were numerous attempts on his life before he ultimately died of cancer at age 63.

One of his most notable achievements was when after losing three wars against Israel in 1994 he became the second Arab head of state to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*PARALENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *MISFITMINDSS SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C4292D25-7B80-4348-AA8C-88A39E38F92C

Holotype: A specimen at the National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic, specimen number NMP6V 70460-1 collected from 4 km east of Sweida (AKA As Suwayda), Syria, Latitude 32.7129 N., Longitude 36.5663 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two specimens at the National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic, specimen numbers NMP6V 70460-2 and NMP6V 70460-3 both collected from 4 km east of Sweida (AKA As Suwayda), Syria, Latitude 32.7129 N., Longitude 36.5663 E.

Diagnosis: Until now (2025), putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) has been treated by virtually all publishing herpetologists as a wide-ranging taxon distributed from Greece in the West, east through the Middle East and to drier parts of west Asia, as far east as Afghanistan and south to include southern Israel and potentially the Sinai in Egypt.

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Based on the molecular results of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) indicating a minimum divergence between all the preceding five populations of 1.2 MYA, separation of each geographically proximal population by relatively rock free lowland areas subject to occasional inundation and inhabited by significant numbers of the usually allopatric competing species *Trioanotyphlops simoni* (Boettger, 1879), being the type species for the genus *Trioanotyphlops* Hoser, 2022 itself a well-known inhabitant of low-lying and swampy areas, the five morphologically divergent populations are herein treated as full species, with four formally described for the first time in this paper.

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2/ *L. menachembegini sp. nov.* being found west of the Jordan River Valley and south of the Plain of Esdraelon, through the Jerusalem and Jordan Hills including Judea and Samaria to the Negev Desert and potentially to parts of the Sinai (Egypt) but see earlier comments in the subgenus description for distribution.

3/ *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883), from the area generally north and west of the Litani River basin (i.e. the Mount Lebanon Ranges, west of the Bekaa Valley), but wholly within Lebanon.

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L. menachembegini sp. nov. is a distinctively darker brown dorsally than *L. netanyahui sp. nov*. It has an eye spot slightly posterior of the centre of the ocular scale (when looked at from front to back) and slightly higher than centre; the ocular scale itself is crescent shaped above the eye spot and also narrows significantly below the eye. There are thick lighter lines etching the upper scales of the snout, tail is similar colour on top to the rest of the dorsal colour. The prefrontal is a fraction smaller than the frontal. The anterior edge of the prefrontal forms a bluntly pointed flattish triangular edge intruding into the top of the rostral.

L. syriacus has snout and neck that is medium brown on top. The rest of the dorsum is a different shade of brownish purple on top and purplish rather than brownish on the upper parts of the flanks. Distal part of body and tail are blackish on the upper surface.

L. husseinbintalali sp. nov. has whitish scales on the scales of the snout, which are either moderately thickly dark etched or alternatively with dark spotting along the scale edges on otherwise semi-distinct whitish etching lines. Body scales are faintly etched lighter. Eye spot sits posterior in the ocular scale, usually touching or entering the rear suture. The ocular scale itself is more-or-less circular with the upper and lower edges forming smallish points or small triangular points.

Anterior edge of the prefrontal is effectively flat and only touches a small part of the upper edge of the rostral which is more-or-less horseshoe shaped at the very top and relatively wide and straight sided below. Prefrontal and frontal are of the same size.

On the flanks the demarcation between darker dorsum and lighter venter is not well defined but is characterised by scattered irregular intrusions of light centred scales in patches along the mid and upper flank. These whitish scale centres occupy virtually the entire visible scale that they appear on, except for the darker outer edges.

L. misfitmindss sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov.* as detailed above but separated from that species by having light scales on the anterior part of the upper snout, in turn thickly etched cream, eye spot only slightly posterior of centre in the ocular scale, a rostral that barely touches the pre-frontal and obvious whitish patches of scales scattered along the mid and upper flank.

Numerous photos of the first four of the preceding species can be found in life at: www.inaturalist.org.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Likewise, the genus name *Indotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior (subjective) synonym for *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should not be used as a correct name either due to the fact that the type species for both putative genera are closely related (about 6 MYA divergent).

Blair S. Hedges is a grant scamming fraudster, and a prominent member of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang of hard-core criminals (see Hoser 2024 for details).

Distribution: *L. misfitmindss sp. nov.* is a taxon from south-central Syria in an area of low to medium sized rocky hills and mounts, just east of As-Suwayda in the region of Jabal Ad Duruz, all of which are east of a low-lying zone of red soils (running more-or-less from Daraa in the south, north to Damascus).

Etymology: *L. misfitmindss sp. nov.* is named in honour of a group of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia comics known as “Misfit Mindss”, who have a huge cult following in Australia, including in the local Islamic and Jewish communities for services to the Australian entertainment industry.

Details at:

https://www.youtube.com/@misfitmindss

and

https://x.com/misfitmindss

and

https://www.instagram.com/misfitmindss

The name should not be amended to add the suffix “orum” as usually is the case when names are Latinized. The exact spelling of this species name should be retained as is.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*LENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *LENHOSERI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:66AE3775-FA09-43A0-87C0-DD7EBBFE0499

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Natural History Museum of Crete, Greece, specimen number NHMC 80.3.21.20 collected from Greko Cape, Cyprus, Latitude 34.9609 N., Longitude 34.0836 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ Two preserved specimens at the Natural History Museum of Crete, Greece, being specimen number NHMC 80.3.21.12 collected from Kyvernitis Beach, Cyprus, Latitude 34.7304 N., Longitude 32.5208 E., and specimen number NHMC 80.3.21.21 collected from Lefkara, Cyprus, Latitude 34.8674 N., Longitude 33.3053 E.

2/ A preserved specimen at the National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic, specimen number NMP6V 72541 collected from Gecitköy, Cyprus, Latitude 35.3375 N., Longitude 33.0685 E.

3/ A preserved specimen at the Department of Zoology, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, specimen number CUB 8986 collected from Paphos, Cyprus, Latitude 34.7754 N., Longitude 32.4218 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Lenhosertyphlops*)

lenhoseri sp. nov. restricted to the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean has been treated as an insular population of *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Lenhosertyphlops*) *vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820).

The molecular phylogenies of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al.* (2012, 2020) confirm that it is a different species that diverged from nearest other relatives in the *L. vermicularis* species complex 3.9-6.3 MYA (see Fig. 1 in Kornilios 2017).

The detailed morphological analysis of Akman and Gocmen (2019) confirmed readily identifiable means to separate the Cyprus taxon from all other species in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012, which has a type species of *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820.

L. lenhoseri sp. nov. is readily separated from all other species within *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 of the nominate subgenus by having 10-13 mid-tail scales (MTS), these being the longitudinal rows around the mid-tail, versus 17-22 in all other species and 18-22 dorsocaudals (DC), this being the number of vertebral scales along the tail, versus 10-15 in all other species.

Akman and Gocmen (2019) detail other trend differences between the relevant species.

The five species of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. are separated from those in the nominate subgenus of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 (including *L. lenhoseri sp. nov.*) as follows:

As a rule, the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012. *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and also with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Likewise, the genus name *Indotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior (subjective) synonym for *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should not be used as a correct name either due to the fact that the type species for both putative genera are closely related (about 6 MYA divergent).

Blair S. Hedges is a grant scamming fraudster, and a prominent member of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang of hard-core criminals (see Hoser 2024 for details).

L. lenhoseri sp. nov. is depicted in life in Akman and Gocmen (2019) on page 14 at Fig. 7, in image "f" and online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/99613800@N02/53673626939 the photo taken of a specimen from Paphos Archeological Site, Paphos, Cyprus by Chris Kirby-Lambert (along with four other images of the same specimen posted on the same domain) as well as numerous images on www.inaturalist.org including at: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/277047330

and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/278139720

Relevant comment: Akman and Gocmen (2019) summarized their work stating:

"*There were significant differences between Xerotyphlops vermicularis populations from Anatolia and Cyprus, regarding their pholidotic characters, metric measurements, and geometric morphometrics. Therefore, it is suggested that the Cyprian populations could properly be named as a different taxon*."

This request by these authors has been satisfied herein.

I note that the use of the word "*Xerotyphlops*" was contrary to the International Copyright Law, including for example the Australian Copyright Act 1968 (Section 195, Moral Rights), and the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al*. 1999).

The *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* states the following:

"Article 23. Principle of Priority

23.1. Statement of the Principle of Priority

The valid name of a taxon is the oldest available name applied to it"

Xerotyphlops Hedges *et al.* 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

They have the same type species!

Xerotyphlops is therefore not available for zoological nomenclature and should never be used as correct. It can only be placed on a synonyms list as an unavailable name.

The International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) issued a ruling in favour of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 against *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al.* 2014 on 30 April 2021 (ICZN 2021).

Distribution: *Lenhosertyphlops lenhoseri sp. nov.* is confined to the island of Cyprus.

Etymology: As for the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 (see Hoser 2012).

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*LENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *NOTAXEROTYPHLOPS SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:E09726FA-A5ED-4732-BA3F-16A98B3F06F2

Holotype: A specimen at the Zoology Department, Ege University, Türkiye specimen number ZDEU D3/2009-1 collected from Tersane Cove, Kekova, Kaş, Antalya, Türkiye, Latitude 36.1833 N., Longitude 29.8000 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A specimen at the Zoology Department, Ege University, Türkiye specimen number ZDEU D2/2009-1 collected from Kale, Kaş, Antalya, Türkiye, Latitude 36.267502 N., Longitude 29.415030 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, most authors have treated putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) as a wide-ranging species, found from the Adriatic coast to west Asia and including the Levant.

However, the molecular phylogenies of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al.* (2012, 2020) confirm that this putative species is in fact a complex.

15 species are recognised in this paper, with all but three species formally named for the first time.

The five Levant species associated with *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883) are herein placed within the newly named subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and include *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. (type species) (this paper), *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. menachembegini sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. misfitmindss sp. nov*. (this paper) and *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *syriacus* (Jan, 1883).

They are separated from the ten species in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 by the fact that as a rule the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The remaining ten species in the nominate subgenus are as follows:

Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis (Merrem, 1820) is a wide-ranging taxon, occurring at the easternmost and westernmost extremities of the range for the genus, both near the Adriatic Sea and east to west Asia, in the vicinity of Afghanistan. It occurs in locations across this distribution, but usually outside where each of the following nine species occur. Those are all in effect confined to specific uplifted biogeographical regions of sedimentary rocks, limestones and the like generally along the southern margins of where the African and Eurasian continental plates have collided.

The other nine taxa are separated from one another by areas of usually flattish lowland, generally not preferred by this genus and/or areas inhabited by *L. vermicularis*.

The other nine taxa are as follows:

L. luristanicus (Torki, 2017) is a taxon from north-west Iran, extending into nearby northeast Türkiye, most of Azerbaijan, and southern Georgia.

L. lenhoseri sp. nov. is confined to the island of Cyprus.

L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov. occurs generally near the south coast in West Türkiye in association with the West Bati Toroslar and for the subspecies *L. notaxerotyphlops ok subsp. nov*. in the region of Pamphylia to the east.

L. isalenhosertyphlops sp. nov. occurs in the Cilicia region of Türkiye in association with the immediately adjoining Toros Daglari.

L. isntxerotyphlops sp. nov. occurs in association with the Amanos Daglari in southern central Türkiye.

L. yeslenhosertyphlops sp. nov. occurs in association with the Gaziantep Platosu and associated nearby elevated areas.

L. anotherlenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is apparently confined to the vicinity of the An-Nusayriyan Mountains near the west coast of Syria.

L. agoodlenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is apparently confined to the Mardin Platosu, south of the Tigris River.

L. correctnomenclature sp. nov. occurs in the hilly country immediately north of the Tigris Basin in the Siirt District of Siirt Province in Türkiye.

The other nine species are readily separated from one another by the following combinations of characteristics:

L. lenhoseri sp. nov. is readily separated from all other species within *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 of the nominate subgenus by having 10-13 mid-tail scales (MTS), these being the longitudinal rows around the mid-tail, versus 17-22 in all other species and 18-22 dorsocaudals (DC), this being the number of vertebral scales along the tail, versus 10-15 in all other species.

L. lenhoseri sp. nov. is depicted in life in Akman and Gocmen (2019) on page 14 at Fig. 7, in image "f" and online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/99613800@N02/53673626939
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/277047330
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/278139720

L. vermicularis is distinguished by the combination of pinkish-brown dorsum, eye spot slightly over halfway up the ocular scale and posterior in it, touching the rear suture line. Snout is lighter than back of head and rostral scale has thick creamish suture line etchings that get thicker (or wider) as one moves up the head away from the snout. The prefrontal/frontal arrangement is of two scales of identical size and then a much wider one behind that.

The anterior one enters the rostral with a flattish, blunt edged triangular edge. Belly is pinkish white and the transition from darker upper body on the lower flank is even along the relevant edge but not at all well-defined. That is the line (without edge) runs across the scales and is not jagged edged by way of one scale row darker and another not. Tail region sometimes, but not always has a slight darker or brownish tinge on the upper surface, but otherwise (excluding the upper snout area), the snake much the same colour from head to tail on top and similarly for the lighter ventral surface.

The base of the nasal scale is narrower than the preocular, but it is wider at the top at the triangular-shaped edge.

L. vermicularis is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/aleksandar_simovic/26353039423/
and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/110394983@N04/33696754524/
and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/mikepingleton/52465613977/
and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/95482238@N02/44956955931/

L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov. is distinguished by the combination of pinkish dorsum, eye spot is slightly higher than centre in the ocular scale and slightly anterior of centre. Top of snout is yellowish in colour; suture line etchings of rostral scale are light brownish and thicker towards the snout rather than further from it. The prefrontal/frontal arrangement is of two scales of identical size and then a barely wider one behind that.

The anterior one enters the rostral with a flattish edge.

Belly is whitish and the transition from darker upper body on the lower flank is even along the relevant edge but not at all well-defined.

Tail region sometimes, but not always has a slight darker or brownish tinge on the upper surface, but otherwise (excluding the upper snout area), the snake much the same colour from head to tail on top and similarly for the lighter ventral surface.

Nasal is triangular with concave sides and the preocular has convex sides, but the nasal scale is larger and higher overall.

L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/62110327
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/116594044
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/272507522

L. notaxerotyphlops ok subsp. nov. is similar in most respects to nominate *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*. as described above but is separated from that taxon by having a top of snout that is brown in colour, suture line etchings of rostral scale are thick, cream in colour and even along the suture lines (same top and bottom). On the dorsum, the last fifth of the snake's length is a different shade of colour with an obvious brown tinge.

L. notaxerotyphlops ok subsp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/156549602
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/206226870

L. isalenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is separated from the preceding species by having a dorsum that is a deeper purplish colour and this extends down the flanks to well onto the ventral surface, which in turn is barely lighter than the dorsum.

The scales of the upper surface of the anterior of the snout are barely lighter than those of the body itself, but with a slight yellowish tinge. The etchings of these scales are barely noticeable and in the form of slightly darker thin and indistinct etching.

The preocular is much wider than the nasal, which is relatively

thin and more-or-less rectangular in shape.

Eye spot is above centre in the ocular scale and a fraction posterior to centre. There is also a slight darkening of the line of the upper edge separating darker dorsum from lighter whitish-pink venter.

Prefrontal does not enter the rostral at all, which has a uniform curved edge at the top.

Prefrontal and two scales immediately behind are of identical size and shape.

L. isalenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is depicted in life in Akman and Gocmen (2019), on page 14 at Fig 7, image "a" and online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/112023319

and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/112023319

L. isntxerotyphlops sp. nov. is a pinkish brown on top, with an obviously chocolate brown terminal end of the tail. The slightly darker posterior edges of scales seen in other species in the complex are not seen in this species giving it a particularly uniform appearance. Scales on the anterior of the snout are light brown, with scattered dark brown spot-type markings along the suture lines.

Nasal and preocular are a pair of identically shaped thin topped triangles. Eye spot is slightly below centre and slightly posterior in the ocular scale.

The line between darker top and whitish venter on the flank is poorly defined.

The scales on the back of the head (only) do have obvious dark etching at the posterior edges.

L. isntxerotyphlops sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/146485649

L. yeslenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is pinkish on top all over, including the tip of the snout, which is still pinkish in colour but a fraction lighter in colour. Sutures of anterior head scales are thin and pink. End of tail is medium chocolate brown. Eye spot is roughly at centre of ocular scale in terms of top and bottom and slightly posterior of centre.

Change from darker top to lighter venter is gradual and venter is pinkish white in colour.

L. yeslenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is depicted in life in Akman and Gocmen (2019), on page 14 at Fig 7 image "b".

L. anotherlenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is the lightest coloured species in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* being pinkish beige in colour on top and whitish below. The scales of the upper surfaces of the snout are whitish with an even moderately thick darker etching. Rostral is particularly wide. Body on top is similar colour along the entire length, including the tail. Eye spot is effectively centred in the ocular scale, save for being a fraction anterior of the centre.

L. agoodlenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is separated from the other species by the combination of a pinkish-purple dorsum, eye spot slightly over halfway up the ocular scale and posterior in it but not touching the rear suture line. Snout is lighter than back of head, being beige and the rostral scale has thick creamish suture line etchings that are uneven as one moves up the head away from the snout (they widen upwards). The prefrontal/frontal arrangement is of two scales of identical size and then a moderately wider one behind that.

The anterior one enters the rostral with a flattish, blunt curved rather than triangular edge, and then only just. Belly is pinkish white and the transition from darker upper body on the lower flank is even along the relevant edge but not at all well-defined. That is the line (without edge) runs across the scales and is not jagged edged by way of one scale row darker and another not. Tail region is the same colour as the rest of the upper body or slightly darker.

The base of the nasal scale is narrower than the preocular, but it is wider at the top at the bluntly triangular-shaped edge, but notably it curves up in a curved back c-shaped manner.

L. correctnomenclature sp. nov. is separated from the other species by the combination of a dark pinkish-brown dorsum, eye spot slightly over halfway up the ocular scale and posterior in it but not touching the rear suture line. Snout is lighter than back of head and rostral scale has thick creamish suture line etchings that are even as one moves up the head away from the snout. The prefrontal/frontal arrangement is of two scales of identical size and then a much wider one behind that.

The anterior one enters the rostral with a flattish, blunt edged triangular edge. Belly is pinkish white and the transition from darker upper body on the lower flank is even along the relevant edge but not at all well-defined. That is the line (without edge) runs across the scales and is not jagged edged by way of one scale row darker and another not. Tail region is the same colour as the rest of the upper body.

The base of the nasal scale is narrower than the preocular, but it is wider at the top at the sharply triangular-shaped edge, but notably it curves up in a curved back c-shaped manner.

L. correctnomenclature sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/117441710

L. luristanicus (Torki, 2017), type locality, Badavar region, Nourabad, Lorestan Province, western Zagros Mountains, western Iran, was defined by (Torki, 2017) as different to *L. vermicularis* based on hemipenal morphology. The description of Torki (2017) was in error, although that does not mean the two taxa do not have hemipenal differences. It is just that he did not identify them.

While the description of Torki (2017) failed to provide a proper diagnosis for his putative species, under the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999), his name is an "available" one.

As the holotype specimen he named is of one of the identified species clades of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) in their phylogenies, *L. luristanicus* (Torki, 2017) is herein treated as a valid species.

L. luristanicus is separated from all the preceding species in the nominate subgenus of *Lenhosertyphlops* by the following combination of characters: Overall colour on top is a relatively dark purplish brown on top. The very tip of the snout is yellowish or beige, but otherwise the head and neck on top are the same colour as the body. Etching of anterior scales on the snout is whitish and uneven, but not necessarily thicker at either top or bottom and absent in many specimens. The scales of the dorsum are darker in the centre (most of them) and light etched posteriorly. The tip of the tail on top is slightly darker than the rest of the body colour.

Eye spot sits slightly above centre and slightly posterior in the ocular shield. Prefrontal is much smaller than the frontal, which is nearly double the size.

The prefrontal has a curved outwards rather than triangular edge going into the rostral. Rostral is moderately wide. Nasal is big, wide and squarish rectangular in shape, being higher than wide, but not as much as in the other species in the subgenus. The pre-ocular is much smaller and sharply triangular at the top, but with a square edge at the very top (at the apex, or where the apex would otherwise be).

L. luristanicus (Torki, 2017) is depicted in life in Akman and Gocmen (2019), on page 14 at Fig 7 image "c", and dead in Torki (2017) and in life online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/260166607

and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/212226102

and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/260598467

and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/216334183

It is important that a species carries a correct ICZN name, not so much who actually named it.

Deliberately overwriting a name because the original description

was defective is both dishonest and illegal under both Copyright laws (e.g. The Australian Copyright Act at Section 195 (Moral Rights) and the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*) and I will not be a part any such unlawful and ethically repugnant action.

Likewise in terms of the illegal act of failing to cite or recognise an earlier work when illegally renaming a taxon.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species in both subgenera are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Likewise, the genus name *Indotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior (subjective) synonym for *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should not be used as a correct name either due to the fact that the type species for both putative genera are closely related (about 6 MYA divergent).

Blair S. Hedges is a grant scamming fraudster, and a prominent member of the Wolfgang Wuster / Adam Britton gang of hard-core criminals (see Hoser 2024 for details).

Other blindsnake genera have been illegally renamed in acts of taxonomic vandalism by the same cohort of criminals. See Hoser (2024b) for a full listing of acts of taxonomic vandalism to that date, which includes over 100 illegally coined junior synonym names that the gang are posting globally are correct.

They are dishonest and know this is not the case.

Distribution: *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*. occurs generally near the south coast in West Türkiye in association with the West Bati Toroslar and for the subspecies *L. notaxerotyphlops ok subsp. nov*. in the region of Pamphylia to the east.

Etymology: The new species name for this taxon *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*. is a direct take of the English words "*Not a Xerotyphlops*" which accurately describes the state of this species.

The spelling of the species name is deliberate and should not be changed.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*LENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *NOTAXEROTYPHLOPS OK SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:4BBD450D-89FA-493B-96A5-7D5E74052025

Holotype: A specimen at the Zoology Department, Ege University, Türkiye specimen number ZDEU 13A collected from Between Gündoğmuş and Akseki, Antalya, Türkiye, Latitude 37.0460 N., Longitude 31.7904 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: Until now, most authors have treated putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) as a wide-ranging species, found from the Adriatic coast to west Asia and including the Levant.

However, the molecular phylogenies of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) confirm that this putative species is in fact a complex.

15 species are recognised in this paper, with all but three species formally named for the first time.

The five Levant species associated with *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883) are herein placed within the newly named subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and include *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. (type species) (this paper), *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. menachembegini sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. misfitmindss sp. nov*. (this paper) and *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *syriacus* (Jan, 1883).

They are separated from the ten species in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 by the fact that as a rule the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The remaining ten species are in the nominate subgenus including *Lenhosertyphlops notaxerotyphlops sp. nov.* and the subspecies *L. notaxerotyphlops ok sp. nov.*

L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov. occurs generally near the south coast in West Türkiye in association with the West Bati Toroslar and for the subspecies *L. notaxerotyphlops ok subsp. nov*. in the region of Pamphylia to the east.

Other species in the genus are found from the Adriatic Sea in the west to west Afghanistan in the east and members of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* occur in the Levant.

L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov. is separated from all other species in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012, type species *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820 by the following unique combination of characters:

A strongly pinkish dorsum, eye spot is slightly higher than centre in the ocular scale and slightly anterior of centre. Top of snout is yellowish in colour; suture line etchings of rostral scale are light brownish and thicker towards the snout rather than further from it. The prefrontal/frontal arrangement is of two scales of identical size and then a barely wider one behind that.

The anterior one enters the rostral with a flattish edge.

Belly is whitish and the transition from darker upper body on the lower flank is even along the relevant edge but not at all well-defined.

Tail region sometimes, but not always has a slight darker or brownish tinge on the upper surface, but otherwise (excluding the upper snout area), the snake much the same colour from head to tail on top and similarly for the lighter ventral surface.

Nasal is triangular with concave sides and the preocular has convex sides, but the nasal scale is larger and higher overall.

L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/62110327

and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/116594044

and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/272507522

L. notaxerotyphlops ok subsp. nov. is similar in most respects to nominate *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*. as described above but is separated from that taxon and all others in the genus by having a top of snout that is brown in colour, suture line etchings of rostral scale are thick, cream in colour and even along the suture lines (same top and bottom). On the dorsum, the last fifth of the snake's length is a different shade of colour with an obvious brown tinge. Otherwise this species description is as for the

nominate subspecies *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*.

L. notaxerotyphlops ok subsp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/156549602
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/206226870

Separation of all species in the nominate subgenus is within the preceding formal description of *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*.. Separation of all species in the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* is within the preceding formal description of *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*..

Both these descriptions are relied upon explicitly as part of this formal description.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species in both subgenera are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

Distribution: *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*. occurs generally near the south coast in West Türkiye in association with the West Bati Toroslar and for the subspecies *L. notaxerotyphlops ok subsp. nov*. in the region of Pamphylia to the east.

Etymology: The new subspecies name for this taxon *L. notaxerotyphlops ok subsp. nov*. is a direct take of the English words "*Not a Xerotyphlops ok*" which accurately describes the state of this species. The word "ok", pronounced "okay" confirms this obvious fact.

The spelling of the species name is deliberate and should not be changed.

The species name is a noun in apposition and the subspecies name is an interjection.

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*LENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *ISALENHOSERTYPHLOPS SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:290B2F9A-79E3-4A92-AD22-6DA851531B46

Holotype: A specimen at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA specimen number CAS HERP 105276 collected from Misis, 26 km East of Adana, Türkiye, Latitude 36.965208 N., Longitude 35.620367 at 33 metres elevation.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Four preserved specimens at the Aydın Adnan Menderes University Museum Collection, Türkiye, specimen numbers AAMU TV28A, AAMU TV28B, AAMU TV28C and AAMU TV28D all collected from Pozantı, Türkiye, Latitude 37.4256 N., Longitude 34.8736 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, most authors have treated putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) as a wide-ranging species, found from the Adriatic coast to west Asia and including the Levant.

However, the molecular phylogenies of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) confirm that this putative species is in fact a complex.

15 species are recognised in this paper, with all but three species formally named for the first time.

The five Levant species associated with *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883) are herein placed within the newly named subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and include *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. (type species) (this paper), *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. menachembegini sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. misfitmindss sp. nov*. (this paper) and *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *syriacus* (Jan, 1883).

They are separated from the ten species in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 by the fact that as a rule the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The remaining ten species including *L. isalenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. are in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

L. isalenhosertyphlops sp. nov. occurs in the Cilicia region of Türkiye in association with the immediately adjoining Toros Daglari.

Other species in the genus are found from the Adriatic Sea in the west to west Afghanistan in the east and members of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* occur in the Levant.

L. isalenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is separated from all other species in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012, type species *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820 by the following unique combination of characters:

The dorsum is a deeper purplish colour than most others in the genus and in this taxon this extends down the flanks to well onto the ventral surface (versus lightening in the other similarly colouredspecies), which in turn is barely lighter than the dorsum.

The scales of the upper surface of the anterior of the snout are barely lighter than those of the body itself, but with a slight yellowish tinge. The etchings of these scales are barely noticeable and in the form of slightly darker thin and indistinct etching.

The preocular is much wider than the nasal, which is relatively thin and more-or-less rectangular in shape.

Eye spot is above centre in the ocular scale and a fraction posterior to centre. There is also a slight darkening of the line of the upper edge separating darker dorsum from lighter whitish-pink venter.

Prefrontal does not enter the rostral at all, which has a uniform curved edge at the top.

Prefrontal and two scales immediately behind are of identical size and shape.

L. isalenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is depicted in life in Akman and Gocmen (2019), on page 14 at Fig 7, image "a" and online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/112023319
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/112023319

Separation of all species in the nominate subgenus is within the preceding formal description of *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*.. Separation of all species in the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* is within the preceding formal description of *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*..

Both these descriptions are relied upon explicitly as part of this formal description.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species in both subgenera are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width

of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Distribution: *L. isalenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. occurs in the Cilicia region of Türkiye in association with the immediately adjoining Toros Daglari.

Etymology: The new species name for this taxon *L. isalenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. is a direct take of the English words "*Is a Lenhosertyphlops*" which accurately describes the state of this species being within the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

The spelling of the species name is deliberate and should not be changed.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*LENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *ISNTXEROTYPHLOPS SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:6C2F0B9D-81CD-49C2-8EF8-D79D849F0620

Holotype: A specimen at the Aydın Adnan Menderes University Museum Collection, Türkiye, specimen number AAMU TV20A collected from Kozan, Türkiye, Latitude 37.4521 N., Longitude 35.8193 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ Two specimens at the Aydın Adnan Menderes University Museum Collection, Türkiye, specimen numbers AAMU TV20B and AAMU TV20C collected from Kozan, Türkiye, Latitude 37.4521 N., Longitude 35.8193 E., and 2/ Four specimens at the Aydın Adnan Menderes University Museum Collection, Türkiye, specimen numbers AAMU TV19A, AAMU TV19B, AAMU TV19C and AAMU TV19D all collected from Topbağalı, Türkiye.

Diagnosis: Until now, most authors have treated putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) as a wide-ranging species, found from the Adriatic coast to west Asia and including the Levant.

However, the molecular phylogenies of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) confirm that this putative species is in fact a complex.

15 species are recognised in this paper, with all but three species formally named for the first time.

The five Levant species associated with *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883) are herein placed within the newly named subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and include *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. (type species) (this paper), *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. menachembegini sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. misfitmindss sp. nov*. (this paper) and *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *syriacus* (Jan, 1883).

They are separated from the ten species in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 by the fact that as a rule the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The remaining ten species including *L. isntxerotyphlops sp. nov*. are in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

L. isntxerotyphlops sp. nov. occurs in association with the Amanos Daglari in southern central Türkiye.

Other species in the genus are found from the Adriatic Sea in the west to west Afghanistan in the east and members of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* occur in the Levant.

L. isntxerotyphlops sp. nov. is separated from all other species in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012, type species *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820 by the following unique combination of characters:

L. isntxerotyphlops sp. nov. is a pinkish brown on top, with an obviously chocolate brown terminal end of the tail. The slightly darker posterior edges of scales seen in other species in the complex are not seen in this species giving it a particularly uniform appearance. Scales on the anterior of the snout are light brown, with scattered dark brown spot-type markings along the suture lines.

Nasal and preocular are a pair of identically shaped thin topped triangles. Eye spot is slightly below centre and slightly posterior in the ocular scale.

The line between darker top and whitish venter on the flank is poorly defined.

The scales on the back of the head (only) do have obvious dark etching at the posterior edges.

L. isntxerotyphlops sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/146485649

Separation of all species in the nominate subgenus is within the preceding formal description of *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*.. Separation of all species in the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* is within the preceding formal description of *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*..

Both these descriptions are relied upon explicitly as part of this formal description.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species in both subgenera are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Distribution: *L. isntxerotyphlops sp. nov*. occurs in association with the Amanos Daglari in southern central Türkiye.

Etymology: The new species name for this taxon *L. isntxerotyphlops sp. nov*. is a direct take of the English words

"*In't* Xerotyphlops" AKA "*is not a* Xerotyphlops" which accurately describes the state of this species being within the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and not an invalidly coined name for the same genus. It therefore cannot be *Xerotyphlops* and/or isn't *Xerotyphlops.*

See also Hoser (2024b).

The spelling of the species name is deliberate and should not be changed.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*LENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *YESLENHOSERTYPHLOPS SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:810CE8D2-4F8D-4A2C-AB67-10ADC85091B7

Holotype: A specimen at the Zoology Department, Ege University, Türkiye, specimen number ZDEU 42/2005/55A collected from Öncüpınar, Kilis, Türkiye, Latitude 36.6463 N., Longitude 37.0825 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A specimen at the Zoology Department, Ege University, Türkiye, specimen number ZDEU70/2006/70A collected from 4 km east of Polateli, Kilis, Türkiye, Latitude 36.8422 N., Longitude 37.1436 E., 2/ Two specimens at the Aydın Adnan Menderes University Museum Collection, Türkiye, specimen numbers AAMU TV18A and AAMU TV18B both collected from Yuvabaşı, Türkiye, Latitude 36.8623 N., Longitude 36.9758 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, most authors have treated putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) as a wide-ranging species, found from the Adriatic coast to west Asia and including the Levant.

However, the molecular phylogenies of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) confirm that this putative species is in fact a complex.

15 species are recognised in this paper, with all but three species formally named for the first time.

The five Levant species associated with *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883) are herein placed within the newly named subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and include *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. (type species) (this paper), *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. menachembegini sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. misfitmindss sp. nov*. (this paper) and *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *syriacus* (Jan, 1883).

They are separated from the ten species in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 by the fact that as a rule the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The remaining ten species including *L. yeslenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. are in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

L. yeslenhosertyphlops sp. nov. occurs in association with the Gaziantep Platosu and associated nearby elevated areas in Türkiye.

Other species in the genus are found from the Adriatic Sea in the west to west Afghanistan in the east and members of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* occur in the Levant.

L. yeslenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is separated from all other species in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012, type species *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820 by the following unique combination of characters:

L. yeslenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is pinkish on top all over, including the tip of the snout, which is still pinkish in colour but a fraction lighter in colour. Sutures of anterior head scales are thin and pink. End of tail is medium chocolate brown. Eye spot is roughly at centre of ocular scale in terms of top and bottom and slightly posterior of centre.

Change from darker top to lighter venter is gradual and venter is pinkish white in colour.

L. yeslenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is depicted in life in Akman and Gocmen (2019), on page 14 at Fig 7 image "b".

Separation of all species in the nominate subgenus is within the preceding formal description of *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*.. Separation of all species in the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* is within the preceding formal description of *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*..

Both these descriptions are relied upon explicitly as part of this formal description.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species in both subgenera are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Distribution: *L. yeslenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. occurs in association with the Gaziantep Platosu and associated nearby elevated areas in Türkiye.

Etymology: The new species name for this taxon *L. yeslenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. is a direct take of the English words "*yes* Lenhosertyphlops" AKA "*yes it is* Lenhosertyphlops" which accurately describes the state of this species being within the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and not an invalidly coined name for the same genus. It therefore cannot be *Xerotyphlops* and/or isn't *Xerotyphlops.*

See also Hoser (2024b).

The spelling of the species name is deliberate and should not be changed.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*LENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *ANOTHERLENHOSERTYPHLOPS SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:278B0723-CE3E-4353-8750-EB21966628AB

Holotype: A specimen at the National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic, specimen number NMP6V 72540 collected from Al´Adimah, 5 km south of Baniyas, Al´Adimah, Syria.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: Until now, most authors have treated putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) as a wide-ranging species, found from the Adriatic coast to west Asia and including the Levant.

However, the molecular phylogenies of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) confirm that this putative species is in fact a complex.

15 species are recognised in this paper, with all but three species

formally named for the first time.

The five Levant species associated with *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883) are herein placed within the newly named subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and include *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. (type species) (this paper), *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. menachembegini sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. misfitmindss sp. nov*. (this paper) and *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *syriacus* (Jan, 1883).

They are separated from the ten species in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 by the fact that as a rule the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The remaining ten species including *L. anotherhosertyphlops sp. nov*. are in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

L. anotherlenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is apparently confined to the vicinity of the An-Nusayriyan Mountains near the west coast of Syria.

Other species in the genus are found from the Adriatic Sea in the west to west Afghanistan in the east and members of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* occur in the Levant.

L. anotherlenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is separated from all other species in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012, type species *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820 by the following unique combination of characters:

L. anotherlenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is the lightest coloured species in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* being pinkish beige in colour on top and whitish below. The scales of the upper surfaces of the snout are whitish with an even moderately thick darker etching. Rostral is particularly wide. Body on top is similar colour along the entire length, including the tail. Eye spot is effectively centred in the ocular scale, save for being a fraction anterior of the centre.

Separation of all species in the nominate subgenus is within the preceding formal description of *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*.. Separation of all species in the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* is within the preceding formal description of *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*.. Both these descriptions are relied upon explicitly as part of this formal description.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species in both subgenera are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Distribution: *L. anotherlenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. is apparently confined to the vicinity of the An-Nusayriyan Mountains near the west coast of Syria.

Etymology: The new species name for this taxon *L. anotherlenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. is a direct take of the English words "*another* Lenhosertyphlops" AKA "*yes it is another* Lenhosertyphlops" which accurately describes the state of this species being within the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and not an invalidly coined name for the same genus. It therefore cannot be *Xerotyphlops* and/or isn't *Xerotyphlops.*

See also Hoser (2024b).

The spelling of the species name is deliberate and should not be changed.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*LENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *AGOODLENHOSERTYPHLOPS SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B5924C2D-FCBC-4835-8BBE-C0BE1083BA36

Holotype: A specimen at the Zoology Department, Ege University, Türkiye, specimen number ZDEU C15/2008-1 collected from Çığır, Şırnak, Türkiye, Latitude 37.5190 N., Longitude 42.4537 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the Zoology Department, Ege University, Türkiye, specimen numbers ZDEU 124/2005/62A and ZDEU 124/2005/62B both collected from 17 km northwest of Mardin, Türkiye, Latitude 37.3129 N., Longitude 40.7340 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, most authors have treated putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) as a wide-ranging species, found from the Adriatic coast to west Asia and including the Levant.

However, the molecular phylogenies of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) confirm that this putative species is in fact a complex.

15 species are recognised in this paper, with all but three species formally named for the first time.

The five Levant species associated with *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883) are herein placed within the newly named subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and include *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. (type species) (this paper), *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. menachembegini sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. misfitmindss sp. nov*. (this paper) and *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *syriacus* (Jan, 1883).

They are separated from the ten species in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 by the fact that as a rule the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The remaining ten species including *L. agoodlenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. are in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

L. agoodlenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is apparently confined to the Mardin Platosu, south of the Tigris River.

Other species in the genus are found from the Adriatic Sea in the west to west Afghanistan in the east and members of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* occur in the Levant.

L. agoodlenhosertyphlops sp. nov. is separated from all other

species in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012, type species *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820 by the following unique combination of characters:

A pinkish-purple dorsum, eye spot slightly over halfway up the ocular scale and posterior in it but not touching the rear suture line. Snout is lighter than back of head, being beige and the rostral scale has thick creamish suture line etchings that are uneven as one moves up the head away from the snout (they widen upwards). The prefrontal/frontal arrangement is of two scales of identical size and then a moderately wider one behind that.

The anterior one enters the rostral with a flattish, blunt curved rather than triangular edge, and then only just. Belly is pinkish white and the transition from darker upper body on the lower flank is even along the relevant edge but not at all well-defined. That is the line (without edge) runs across the scales and is not jagged edged by way of one scale row darker and another not. Tail region is the same colour as the rest of the upper body or slightly darker.

The base of the nasal scale is narrower than the preocular, but it is wider at the top at the bluntly triangular-shaped edge, but notably it curves up in a curved back c-shaped manner.

Separation of all species in the nominate subgenus is within the preceding formal description of *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*.. Separation of all species in the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* is within the preceding formal description of *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*..

Both these descriptions are relied upon explicitly as part of this formal description.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species in both subgenera are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Distribution: *L. agoodlenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. is apparently confined to the Mardin Platosu, south of the Tigris River.

Etymology: The new species name for this taxon *L. agoodlenhosertyphlops sp. nov*. is a direct take of the English words "*a good* Lenhosertyphlops" which accurately describes the state of this species being a good species and within the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

It is not in an invalidly coined name for the same genus. It therefore cannot be *Xerotyphlops* and/or isn't *Xerotyphlops*.

See also Hoser (2024b).

The spelling of the species name is deliberate and should not be changed.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

LENHOSERTYPHLOPS* (*LENHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *CORRECTNOMENCLATURE SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:464FB973-A6E6-4EEA-8E80-AE2E05685045

Holotype: A specimen at the Zoology Department, Ege University, Türkiye, specimen number ZDEU 396/2011 collected from Meydandere, Türkiye, Latitude 37.9265 N., Longitude 42.0950 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A specimen at the Zoology Department, Ege University, Türkiye, specimen number ZDEU 397/2011 collected from Meydandere, Türkiye, Latitude 37.9265 N., Longitude 42.0950 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, most authors have treated putative *Lenhosertyphlops vermicularis* (Merrem, 1820) as a wide-ranging species, found from the Adriatic coast to west Asia and including the Levant.

However, the molecular phylogenies of Kornilios (2017) and Kornilios *et al*. (2012, 2020) confirm that this putative species is in fact a complex.

15 species are recognised in this paper, with all but three species formally named for the first time.

The five Levant species associated with *L. syriacus* (Jan, 1883) are herein placed within the newly named subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov*. and include *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*. (type species) (this paper), *L. husseinbintalali sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. menachembegini sp. nov*. (this paper), *L. misfitmindss sp. nov*. (this paper) and *L.* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *syriacus* (Jan, 1883).

They are separated from the ten species in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 by the fact that as a rule the nasal furrow is shortened and does not surpass the nostril, whereas it does in the species within the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov. species are further defined by having a wide, slightly squarish-shaped rostral (versus more ovoid at the upper edge), mainly brownish, rather than pinkish purple on top, (in mature adults) and with relatively well-defined dark edges on the posterior of each dorsal scale.

The remaining ten species including *L. correctnomenclature sp. nov*. are in the nominate subgenus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

L. correctnomenclature sp. nov. occurs in the hilly country immediately north of the Tigris Basin in the Siirt District of Siirt Province in Türkiye.

Other species in the genus are found from the Adriatic Sea in the west to west Afghanistan in the east and members of the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* occur in the Levant.

L. correctnomenclature sp. nov. is separated from all other species in the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012, type species *Typhlops vermicularis* Merrem, 1820 by the following unique combination of characters:

A dark pinkish-brown dorsum, eye spot slightly over halfway up the ocular scale and posterior in it but not touching the rear suture line. Snout is lighter than back of head and rostral scale has thick creamish suture line etchings that are even as one moves up the head away from the snout. The prefrontal/frontal arrangement is of two scales of identical size and then a much wider one behind that.

The anterior one enters the rostral with a flattish, blunt edged triangular edge. Belly is pinkish white and the transition from darker upper body on the lower flank is even along the relevant edge but not at all well-defined. That is the line (without edge) runs across the scales and is not jagged edged by way of one scale row darker and another not. Tail region is the same colour as the rest of the upper body.

The base of the nasal scale is narrower than the preocular, but

it is wider at the top at the sharply triangular-shaped edge, but notably it curves up in a curved back c-shaped manner.

L. correctnomenclature sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/117441710

Separation of all species in the nominate subgenus is within the preceding formal description of *L. notaxerotyphlops sp. nov*.. Separation of all species in the subgenus *Paralenhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* is within the preceding formal description of *Lenhosertyphlops* (*Paralenhosertyphlops*) *netanyahui sp. nov*.. Both these descriptions are relied upon explicitly as part of this formal description.

Lenhosertyphlops Hoser, 2012 species in both subgenera are separated from all other Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is depressed and rounded, strongly projecting; nostrils are lateral. The rostral is about one third of the width of the head, extending nearly to the level of the eyes; nasal is incompletely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular is present, about as broad as the ocular to twice as broad, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes are distinguishable; upper head scales are moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-52 times in the total length. The tail is about as long as broad and ends in a spine. There are 22-24 mid body rows, 302-413 mid-dorsal scales, total length/midbody diameter ratio is 34-52, superior nasal suture is not visible dorsally, rostral width/head width 0.30 to 0.38. Colour is pinkish to purplish or brownish above (in adults), also varies depending on species and coloured lighter (usually yellowish or whitish) ventrally.

This diagnosis for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 has been modified and corrected in minor ways since the publication of the original description of Hoser (2012) and should therefore be relied upon as an updated and corrected version.

The genus name *Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined objective junior synonym for *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012 and therefore should never be used as correct.

Distribution: *L. correctnomenclature sp. nov*. occurs in the hilly country immediately north of the Tigris Basin in the Siirt District of Siirt Province in Türkiye.

Etymology: The new species name for this taxon *L. correctnomenclature sp. nov*. is a direct take of the English words "*correct nomenclature*" which accurately describes the state of this species being a good properly named taxon in accordance with the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* and placed in a genus compliant with this code, namely the genus *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

It is not placed in an invalidly coined name for the same genus. It therefore cannot be within *Xerotyphlops* and/or isn't *Xerotyphlops*, as that name is a junior synonym of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.

See also Hoser (2024b).

The spelling of the species name is deliberate and should not be changed.

Also see the material immediately below.

ILLEGALLY COINED BLINDSNAKE GENUS NAMES BY WOLFGANG WÜSTER AND HIS GANG OF THIEVES.

A criminal gang, led by the notorious Wolfgang Wüster of Wales, masquerading as scientists have for some decades been in a state of war with the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN).

Their published aim is the destruction of the ICZN via themselves disobeying the rules of science and the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) a rule book that governs scientific communications and naming of organisms.

They do this by illegally renaming species, genera and families of reptiles and other animals in breach of the code and copyright laws. They then hack and sabotage worldwide databases and the like to get others to use their names as "correct" ICZN names, while the Wüster gang are fully aware that their illegally coined names are not correct.

As of 2025, over 130 entities have had illegally coined synonyms created by the Wüster gang and peddled globally as correct.

Over 400 members of the Wüster gang are listed by name in the Wüster gang terrorism memo, available online in their "paper" Wüster *et al.* (2021).

When not engaging in egregious taxonomic vandalism the Wüster gang are engaged in hard core criminal acts.

The examples are too numerous to publish here and are so outrageous as to be generally described as "unbelievable".

This unbelievability of what they do is one of the reasons why that as a group, they continue to get away with it.

These unbelievable acts include Don Broadley and Bill Branch kidnapping young black boys in Africa for anal sex. As if that is not bad enough, another high-profile member of the Wüster gang is Adam Britton. In 2023 he pled guilty to anally raping people's pet dogs that he kidnapped.

He posted his crimes to others in the Wüster gang on the dark web. Britton is now in jail till at least 2028 and was only arrested and charged after falling foul of a more powerful member of the same Wüster gang whom he operated with as a partner for many years.

Another member of the gang in Australia whose name has been suppressed by the courts was found in civil courts to have raped multiple women over 1,000 times, engaged in acts of animal abuse and cruelty As well as other serious crimes against very young children. As he is an ex-police officer, the police have not followed the instructions of the County Court judge and charged the man, so he remains free and has come to the attention of the courts again for alleged crimes against women, who have successfully got restraining orders against him.

Of course those court orders have been disobeyed!

Another serial trademark infringer in the group pled guilty to shooting aboriginals, which is itself unusual in Australia. Usually people who shoot and kill aboriginals get bravery awards.

See for example the etymologies in the paper of Hoser (2025b) for *Sloppytyphlops fildesi sp. nov*., *S. dhuae sp. nov*., *S. johnpati sp. nov*. and *S. murderingpoliceorum sp. nov*..

Meanwhile another member of the Wüster gang, Jamie Benbow, of Bendigo, Victoria, has done stints in jail after being found guilty in the courts of crimes of violence, stalking, harassment and similar as well as dealing in commercial quantities of illegal drugs.

In case it was missed, Benbow also ran over someone while high on Ice (a toxic illicit drug).

Better known illegally coined synonym names by the Wolfgang Wüster gang are *Malayopython* Reynolds, Niemiller and Revell, 2013 which is an illegal duplicate for *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004, *Leiopython meridionalis* Schleip, 2014 as an illegal duplicate for *Leiopython hoserae* Hoser, 2000 (see Hoser 2000b) and *Afronaja* Wallach Wüster and Broadley, 2009 which is an illegally coined duplicate for *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (see Hoser 2009b).

As this paper is about Blind Snakes, it is relevant that the illegally coined Blindsnake names be presented here for readers so that they know the correct ICZN names for the relevant entities and avoid using the illegally coined ones and/or if reading these names, to know what the correct ICZN names actually are.

This is because the authors will quite likely be dishonestly hiding the relevant information.

These illegally coined Blind Snake genus names are as follows:

***Amerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior synonym of *Altmantyphlops* Hoser, 2012.**

***Antillotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior synonym of *Mosestyphlops* Hoser, 2012.**

***Asiatyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior synonym of *Argyrophis* Gray, 1845.**

***Indotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior synonym of *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012.**

***Virgotyphlops* Wallach 2020 and 2021 is yet another illegally coined junior synonym of *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012, so if a dual nomenclature won't screw things up, a three way one will!**

***Madatyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior synonym of *Ronhoserus* Hoser, 2012.**

***Malayotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior synonym of *Katrinahosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.**

***Pseudoindotyphlops* Sidharthan, Roy and Karanth, 2024 is an illegally coined junior synonym of *Freudtyphlops* Hoser, 2012.**

***Sundatyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior synonym of *Ackytyphlops* Hoser, 2012.**

***Xerotyphlops* Hedges *et al*., 2014 is an illegally coined junior synonym of *Lenhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2012.**

The names of Gray and Hoser should be used as the correct ICZN scientific names.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.