

3 April 2012

ISSN 1836-5698 (Print)  
ISSN 1836-5779 (Online)

# EXPOSING A FRAUD!

**AFRONAJA WALLACH, WÜSTER AND  
BROADLEY 2009, IS A JUNIOR SYNONYM  
OF *SPRACKLANDUS* HOSER 2009!**



***Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 9 (2012):1-64.**

## EXPOSING A FRAUD! *AFRONAJA* WALLACH, WÜSTER AND BROADLEY 2009, IS A JUNIOR SYNONYM OF *SPRACKLANDUS* HOSER 2009!

RAYMOND T. HOSER

488 Park Road, Park Orchards, Victoria, 3114, Australia.

Phone: +61 3 9812 3322, Mobile: +61 412 777 211, Fax: +61 3 9812 33 55,

E-mail: See link from the website: <http://www.snakeman.com.au>

Received 20 March 2012, Accepted 30 March 2012, Published 3 April 2012.

### ABSTRACT

Documented here is a consistent pattern of lies, dishonesty and obvious theft of ideas by a group of so-called herpetologists or reptile scientists, spanning more than ten years. Wolfgang Wüster, Donald Broadley, Van Wallach, Wulf Schleip and David John Williams in particular have engaged in fraudulent and morally repugnant activity. This includes against the ICZN's published protocols. Between them, they have used the internet, journals they exercise editorial control over and other means to deliberately spread lies, false statements and censor the truth.

On 21 September 2009 (or thereabouts), in an audacious move, Wüster and two friends (Van Wallach and Donald Broadley) falsely claimed in an online paper (Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009), that seven earlier (2009) print publications by Raymond Hoser (this author), were not validly published under the ICZN rules, known as "the code". They simultaneously attempted to steal naming rights for the Spitting Cobras (genus *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009), renaming the genus *Afronaja* (as a subgenus) in their own online paper. The lie was then spread throughout the internet and elsewhere to destabilize and confuse existing nomenclature for a wide diversity of reptiles including rattlesnakes, cobras, pythons, elapids and skinks. To maintain stability of nomenclature, this paper needed to be published.

**Keywords:** *Spracklandus*, *Afronaja*, *Naja*, Cobras, Hoser, Wallach, Wüster, Broadley, taxonomy, nomenclature.

### INTRODUCTION

This paper is divided into two main sections. The first section, is that which is of significance to taxonomists. It details the original publications of the first seven issues of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (referred to herein as "AJH") (Hoser, 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2009d, 2009e, 2009f, 2009h), including why they fully complied with the ICZN's rules, specifically in terms of being valid publications under the code. More importantly it also deals with the deliberate lies and false statements made in a paper co-authored by Wolfgang Wüster and two others (Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009), repeated by close associates in at least two other cited papers, namely Wüster and Bérnills (2011) and Schleip and O'Shea (2010) as well as numerous internet sites. This paper shows that their central claim of only one original copy of the seventh issue of AJH (and all other issues of AJH) was false and that all relevant people who peddled the lie were aware that the claim was false at all materially relevant times or alternatively, had at best chosen to believe a lie through recklessly failing to investigate the central claims.

This section, as well as published copies of relevant documents herein, demonstrates that AJH Issues 1-7 were validly published under the ICZN's rules, due to there being multiple identical originals (and proven as such) and lodged at the most relevant places, including *Zoological Record*, which was clearly deliberately overlooked by the relevant authors named herein. See for examples, Cumming (2009), Currie (2009), Hua (2009), *Zoological Record* (2009a, 2009b).

This paper therefore shows that the genus name *Afronaja* is a junior synonym for *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009, as published in AJH Issue 7 and that all other taxa first formally named in AJH issues 1-7 are also available names as per the ICZN's current as of 2009 (1999/2000) rules.

As further background, AJH issue 7, split the true Cobras into four genera (from the single *Naja*), with it now noted that three of these groups had "available names" predating AJH Issue 7. The only unnamed group, the spitters, was named *Spracklandus* by Hoser in 2009, and is therefore the only name disputed by Wüster and the others in terms of their later papers.



The latter part of this paper then gives a brief history of criminal activities, frauds, lies and deception by convicted wildlife smuggler David John Williams, his associate Wolfgang Wüster in the period leading to 2012, as well as others who have also chosen to peddle (related) lies and deception to further their own agenda.

This paper was substantively written in September/October 2009, but then left untouched to 2012, due to several (time consuming) factors, including being extremely busy managing the reptile display enterprise Snakebusters, publication of AJH Issue 8 and the extensive “fall-out” from that (see summary later this paper), extensive litigation ongoing throughout the relevant period as part of the fall-out from publication of AJH Issue 8 (Hoser 2010) and also several time-consuming matters involving infringement and use of my Australian registered trademarks by various bootleggers.

**AFRONAJA WALLACH ET. AL. 2009, THE JUNIOR SYNONYM OF *SPRACKLANDUS* HOSER 2009 AND THE VALIDITY OF OTHER HOSER NAMED TAXA OF 2009.**

In an online paper downloaded from <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2009/f/zt02236p036.pdf> by Wallach, V., Wüster, W. and Broadley, D. G., titled “In praise of subgenera: taxonomic status of cobras of the genus *Naja* Laurenti (Serpentes: Elapidae). *Zootaxa* 2236: 26–36 (2009)”, dated 27 September, the authors made allegations against *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*.

They alleged that all 2009 publications by Hoser in the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (AJH), issues 1-7 (Hoser 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2009d, 2009e, 2009f, 2009h), published between January and March that year, were not in compliance with the ICZN’s current code (ICZN 1999).

They alleged that they were not originally published as print and/or not published in print in numerous identical copies.

They further asserted the publication was only “online” or printed “on demand” and hence not compliant with the ICZN rules.

On that basis they then effectively renamed the genus *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009 as published in AJH Issue 7. This Spitting Cobras genus was then renamed as *Afronaja*, although they designated it as a subgenus, also assigning three other subgenera (with pre-existing names) in the “*Naja*” genus, which they nominally retained.

At the same time, and for the first time, the claim was raised that all other names first published in AJH issues 1-7 were not valid or available under the ICZN’s rules. They then peddled this claim widely through internet posts and submissions to places

such as Center for North American Herpetology (CNAH) and later via at least two other papers, namely Wüster and Bérnills (2011) and Schleip and O’Shea (2010).

What follows is an account showing why their claims were false and why all the names in AJH issues 1-7 are valid and available under the ICZN’s rules.

The importance of this paper is that the same false claims have been raised in terms of destabilizing the nomenclature of other relevant taxa in the form of pythons and rattlesnakes via later papers by the same or closely associated authors (Schleip and O’Shea 2010 for pythons and Wüster and Bérnills 2011 for rattlesnakes).

**THE PUBLICATION OF AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL OF HERPETOLOGY**

As shown later in this paper, there has been a campaign by Wolfgang Wüster, David John Williams and associates against general adoption and usage of so-called “Hoser names” for taxa commencing in 1998.

This was the date of the first Hoser papers naming hitherto unnamed taxa (see Hoser 1998a and Hoser 1998b).

While there is nothing inherently wrong with a reasoned, rational scientific debate about the merits of a given classification or naming system, this campaign resembled nothing of the sort. Instead, their campaign was dishonest, ruthless and relentless.

It relied extensively on their practice of internet “trolling”.

Trolling is defined as the practice of frequenting websites and online forums with a view to making trouble, often in the form of posting false and defamatory material about a person and often under a false or assumed ID.

Without exception, journal editors who published Hoser papers were threatened and harassed by Wüster and Williams and often pressured into not printing Hoser material. Some editors complied totally with the threats, while all were clearly intimidated.

Over a period of some years, a number of editors who had for decades actively solicited Hoser papers, began to become reluctant to publish ones submitted. This was a direct result of the threats and harassment from Wüster and Williams.

Three journals that had published Hoser material, including descriptions of new taxa, namely *Monitor*, *Litteratura Serpentina* and *Herptile*, did succumb to the threats, and refused to publish any papers by myself on any subject, although in late 2011, the editor of *Litteratura Serpentina* did write to me

soliciting material!

Also see Wüster et. al. 2001.

Editors of other journals that continued to publish Hoser material would indicate a reluctance to publish anything that could be deemed “controversial”, including as a rule any material of a taxonomic nature.

Secondarily, Wüster, Williams and associates even went so far as to pressure editors to publish “retractions” or “disclaimers” of Hoser taxonomy papers (in order to comply with articles 8.2 or 8.3 of the ICZN code (1999 edition)), with the view to making the names unavailable under the ICZN’s rules, the logical endpoint being that Wüster or others could then rename those taxa, and effectively steal naming rights.

No retractions or disclaimers were published, but editors of at least three journals were approached to print such disclaimers and to their credit they refused. These were editors of *Boydii*, the *Macarthur Herpetological Society Newsletter* and *Crocodylian*. The same threat was made to then editor of *Litteratura Serpentina* (Gijs van Aken), in terms of the paper describing *Pailsus rossignolii* Hoser 2000, where Wüster and friends tried to have this description disclaimed (see van Aken 2001a, 2001b).

In order to prevent such theft of naming rights and potential destabilizing of existing nomenclature and also to prevent any further censorship of Hoser papers in terms of new taxonomic papers and/or to give the right of reply to false claims by Wüster, Williams and others, it became obvious that the best course of action was to commence publication of a journal that was effectively free from harassment and interference by Wüster, Williams and others.

Hence in 2008 it was decided to publish *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (AJH), over which I had ultimate editorial control and would not be bullied by threats and harassment by Williams, Wüster or agents.

Editorial control of such a publication also thwarted the “disclaimer” option by Wüster and friends as it gave me a vehicle to immediately republish any “disclaimed” papers, if the need actually arose.

The first seven issues of AJH were published from January to end March 2009. Each issue consisted of a single paper, usually of large size, although one issue had an obituary to a well-known and recently deceased herpetologist, Les Williams, added to the end. This same obituary was also published elsewhere, including in a 2009 issue of *Crocodylian*.

Between the seven issues of AJH, they described numerous taxa and also published serious rebuttals of claims and papers made by Wüster, Williams and

an associate of theirs, an amateur snake keeper named Wulf Schleip, who at end 2008 had described without evidence three allegedly new species of *Leiopython* (Schleip 2008).

Not all issues of AJH issues 1-7 were devoted to taxonomic matters.

All issues of AJH were published in hard copy (over 100 originals of each) and later online, being posted online on average 10 days after the print copies were first received and distributed, by which stage receipts from recipients had been received and archived. The two publications (print and online) had different ISSN numbers to show that they were separate and while both were identical in all manner, including font, words, pagination and the like, the online versions were only uploaded to the internet after receipts for hard copies had been received from a number of sources, such as “*Zoological Record*”, legal deposit libraries (including those from Canberra, ACT and Melbourne, Victoria) and other recipients, including when relevant, persons after whom taxa had been named.

The delay in uploading online copies, was based also on a well-grounded fear, (based on past experience), that Wüster, Williams or others may rush into print similar material and backdate their publications in order to claim “priority” under the ICZN rules. Refer for example to the ill-fated papers Williams and Starkey (1999, versions A, B, and C) papers, cited herein as Williams and Starkey 1999a, 1999b and 1999c, that in later incarnations tried to falsely assert naming rights over one or more *Pailsus* species first described by myself. If such false priority claims were to occur for the AJH papers I could rely on receipt of publications by libraries and the like to prove priority for nomenclatural purposes.

Because the hard copy publications were different to the online ones (they had a different ISSN number for a start), there was no concern at all that any reasonable person could misinterpret the online papers as purporting to be originals for the purposes of taxonomy and nomenclature.

Their sole purpose for online posting was to satisfy recommendation 8A of the ICZN code which reads:

“Recommendation 8A. Wide dissemination. Authors have a responsibility to ensure that new scientific names, nomenclatural acts, and information likely to affect nomenclature are made widely known.”

Making it easy to download identical copies of papers via the internet, after publication of hard copy paper originals falls within this recommendation and has for some years been standard practice for authors and publishers, including for example



*Zootaxa*, which has numerous papers downloadable in “open access” and the rest behind a so-called “pay wall”.

Wüster also posts most of his papers on his own website as pdf's and no one has raised a claim against him that the originals do not comply with the ICZN's rules.

All hard copies of AJH (volumes 1-7) had minimum print runs of at least 100 copies, printed on gloss paper (2 sided print) and bound on the top left corner with staples. When there were no more originals available for distribution, photocopies or print outs (identical) were sent out, but as a rule, these were sent out as single-sided copies.

There was never any claim made that photocopies or computer and/or internet generated print outs were originals for the purposes of compliance with article 8 of the ICZN rules.

The publication of the online version of AJH, is significant as this has never been touted as a valid publication under the ICZN rules (contrary to assertions made by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley in 2009), and cannot possibly be so, as it does not list places of lodgment on the copy (article 8.6 of the code).

However it is clear that these have been posted online to comply with the ICZN recommendation of wide dissemination of work (Recommendation 8A).

This has also been done by Wüster himself (as of 24 March 2012, the papers downloadable from: <http://pages.bangor.ac.uk/~bss166/Publications.htm>) (Wüster 2012), and most other herpetologists who have also posted pdf versions of their papers online following hard copy publication in order to satisfy the ICZN recommendation of wide dissemination.

The print copies of AJH do however comply with the ICZN code as they were published on paper and were identical copies and were made available free of charge at the time of publication.

There is no claim, nor needs to be a claim that photocopies later generated from these or print outs made after publication, whether direct from the internet or from a computer hard drive are valid publications under the ICZN code, especially if these material/s are produced after the original print run is exhausted.

It is not uncommon for photocopies of published papers to be made “on demand” when originals are unavailable and this is allowable under the code and widely practiced.

This applies to all other taxonomic papers similarly generated after publication and also applies in terms of abstracts, third party reviews and so on.

The original 100 (minimum) identical copy print run

was set at that level in order to comply with the ICZN's rule of “numerous” durable originals of the said publications (articles 8.1.1., 8.1.2, 8.1.3 and 8.5.2 and 8.5.3).

In terms of articles 8.5.2 and 8.5.3, they are clearly satisfied by the print in the box at the bottom of page 15 of AJH issue 7, similarly in all other published issues and also on the AJH internet site, the latter of which is not required under the code.

In terms of print publications, there is no requirement under the ICZN's rules for authors to publish a list of recipients of publications, be they libraries, individuals, institutions or whatever, unless the original publications are in electronic form such as CD-rom, which AJH has never been (see article 8.6).

Hence no list of recipients was placed in any of the AJH papers.

However the rules of the ICZN does give a “recommendation” to send copies of all taxonomic works to *Zoological Record*.

As for all Hoser taxonomic papers, extra care has been taken to ensure correct nomenclature, publishing criteria and the like. To this end, copies of all 8 published to date editions of AJH have been sent to *Zoological Record*, this being the only such repository named in their rules document.

All were shortly after being sent, receipted by *Zoological Record*, and these were archived as for normal incoming mail or e-mail.

Noting previous attempts by Wüster and friends to claim invalidity of “Hoser names”, it goes without saying that these steps of the publishing and post publication process were particularly important in terms of rebutting any potential claims likely to be raised by Wüster in terms of arguments not to use any Hoser names.

There is no requirement under the ICZN rules to keep a record of recipients of any journals and/or whether or not they received material sent.

As a matter of course, no such list was made or kept, and this I am sure would be the case for most other authors and publishers. They would not expect some unscrupulous charlatans to make false and unfounded claims of “non-publication” of their papers.

At time of publication of the first seven issues of AJH (early 2009), there was no indication or warning from anyone that I would perhaps be called upon to justify the publication or distribution of more than one original copy of each issue of AJH, especially in view of the fact that no such claim had been raised in terms of other taxonomic papers by myself, including my first ones in 1998, on Death Adders

and *Pailsus*, in the journal *Monitor* (Hoser 1998a and Hoser 1998b), which at the time I was editor of and had total control of content of the magazine, number printed, etc (as seen currently in AJH).

Fortunately the false claim by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley in September 2009 that only one original of each issue of AJH was produced is easily shown to be false from the receipts received for originals sent or distributed at the original time of publication and predating their plans by some months.

While AJH is peer reviewed, it is not reviewed by persons under control by Wüster or associates, so in their view the journal would not be peer reviewed.

Notwithstanding this, there is no requirement under the ICZN code for descriptions of taxa to be made only in peer reviewed publications, or for a list of reviewers to be published.

If peer review is raised as an issue for "quality control" it is clear that Wüster regularly abuses the process by publishing dishonest and substandard papers, including most notably the relevant September 2009 paper in *Zootaxa*, where through various means he is clearly able to publish unmitigated tripe.

Furthermore, the use of "peer review" as a form of censorship as sought by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley, to stop myself or others publishing taxonomic papers is actually shunned by the ICZN and it's code which writes it's own code should be:

"compatible with the freedom of scientists to classify animals according to taxonomic judgments."

That is the ICZN specifically opposes censorship of differing viewpoints, including those opposed to Wallach, Wüster and Broadley.

In the period immediately following publication of issues 1-7 of AJH to September 2009 there was never a question raised as to the validity of the publications (publicly at least) under the ICZN rules. Quite the contrary.

All debate, including by Wüster himself seemed to relate (mainly) to childish name-calling against the author, that was contrary to the ICZN rules. See the ICZN's code of ethics number five which reads:

"Intemperate language should not be used in any discussion or writing which involves zoological nomenclature, and all debates should be conducted in a courteous and friendly manner."

Occasionally Wüster argued on internet forums in terms of whether the newly assigned names were either appropriate or in one case, synonymous with an earlier published name.

That case was the synonymy of *Wellsus* with (the

overlooked by Hoser) *Uraeus* as a genus group for most of the African (non-spitting) Cobras.

The main argument peddled by all opposed to the Hoser Cobra taxonomy, including Wüster himself, was that it was unnecessary to split the relevant groups of snakes as Hoser had done.

This included in the case of the true Cobras, with Wüster repeatedly arguing in favour of all being placed solely in the single genus "*Naja*".

#### ISSUE 7 OF AJH

Published in hard copy on 23 March 2009, this paper concerned the taxonomy of the True Cobras, generally grouped by most authors into the supergenus "*Naja*". As it happened, *Zoological Record* (ZR) and others were sent hard copies before the cover date of 23 March 2009. This is significant and routine in that it shows, I have been mindful at all stages not to leave myself open to the accusation of dishonest "back-dating" to claim priority for nomenclatural acts, as would be likely should Wüster or others ever become aware of an inadvertent irregularity in terms of cover date and actual printing and distribution.

The paper in issue 7 of AJH for the first time ever split four ways the true Cobras into four new and in my view, obvious and well-defined and delineated genera, using the pre-existing *Naja* and *Boulengerina*, for two groups and then naming the others, *Wellsus* and *Spracklandus* respectively.

As pointed out soon after by Wüster on an internet forum on 29 March (Wüster 2009a), *Wellsus* Hoser 2009 was apparently a junior synonym for *Uraeus* Wagler 1830, that had been overlooked. He wrote:

"Hoser's genus *Wellsus*: Hoser overlooked the existing genus *Uraeus* Wagler 1830, type species *Naja haje*,"

However the name *Spracklandus* remained available for the spitting cobras and it's validity in terms of availability was not doubted.

The only question as of end March 2009, was whether or not the split from *Naja*, was justified.

The purpose of this paper is not to reargue the merits of the case for placing the relevant snakes in four genera. The evidence is set out in the original paper and has been agreed upon both before and since by many authors, including now it seems, Wallach, Wüster and Broadley who in September 2009 published their own paper splitting the true Cobras into exactly the same four groups, choosing to place them in subgenera rather than full genera, noting that Wüster himself has often stated that subgenera placement often precedes elevation to full genus status (see Wüster 1999), meaning that the Hoser 2009 position is probably actually correct in their view.



**WÜSTER'S OPPOSITION TO THE HOSER COBRA RECLASSIFICATION.**

This was anticipated, as Wüster automatically opposes anything I say and do, no matter how stupid the opposite position is (see for example, Williams et. al. 2007).

In fact this opposition was accurately predicted in the original Hoser 2009 Cobra paper.

It is so relevant to this paper and what actually happened in the period to end 2009, I repeat the relevant text in full.

"More insidious is the inevitable resistance from a small group of so-called herpetologists and others, who oppose anything I do. Known generally as the "truth haters", they include individuals by the names of Wulf Schleip, Wolfgang Wüster and David Williams, who between them have a consistent and long track record of form including repeated scientific frauds, plagiarisation, lies, misrepresentations, convictions for wildlife smuggling, animal cruelty, illegal rigging of online hotel competitions and more.

If their past (last 10 years) performance is anything to go by, you can expect them to threaten journal editors who dare to publish so-called "Hoser nomenclature", and to stalk and harass internet sites that use any "Hoser names".

For a better appraisal of the tactics of these men see Hoser (2009a).

The warnings against these people and their tactics apply here again.

While arguments with merit are always worthwhile, I can't recall seeing one from any of these people (or their aliases and assumed names they post under), at any stage in the last ten years in terms of claims against my papers and the like.

There is no doubt that this small group of "truth haters" will present the greatest resistance to the adoption of the taxonomy and nomenclature within this paper.

However I liken their expected resistance to that of a man trying to stop the tide from coming in.

In fairness to Wüster, he has already (predating this paper), decided that while acknowledging the paraphyletic nature of the True Cobras, based on a drawing of the line past the 20 million year mark (his own), he has decided to refer all to a single genus (Wüster et. al. 2007).

I do not expect the paper of Kelly et. al. (2009) or this paper to change his view on this.

Furthermore, he is at liberty to push his line further into the past and redefine the group as monophyletic, which is clearly at odds with my own position and based on the same evidence.

Fortunately the ultimate test of science is the truth and not which group of individuals makes the most "noise".

In terms of taxonomy and nomenclature the end point should be the result of truth and consistent application."

Following publication of the paper by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley in 2009, Richard Wells pointed out accurately, that my predictions in the Cobra paper had been totally true and played out by Wüster in particular.

Following publication of the AJH Issue 7 in March 2009, Wüster flooded internet forums condemning the paper.

His claim that the paper was "evidence free taxonomy" was strange as it had relied in part on his own evidence as published in his earlier Cobra papers.

In other words his criticism could be interpreted as saying he himself had no evidence in terms of Cobra taxonomy.

Most importantly, in the post AJH Issue 7 period, Wüster consistently objected to the four-way split of the true cobras, repeatedly arguing for a monophyletic treatment of the group. This he did with numerous posts on various internet forums.

For example on the internet forum at:

<http://www.venomlist.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=24325&st=20> (Wüster 2009b),

Wüster and friends argued with a lot of smoke and mirrors against the Hoser Cobra taxonomy, the main arguments being along the lines Hoser has no right to reclassify the Cobras.

I attempted with some success to draw attention to the taxonomy as opposed to the person who wrote the paper.

Wüster then came up with his position response which as written on 29 March 2009 was:

"Quote (from Hoser above)

The latter follows from the former.

Other than lumpers vs splitters arguments or "I hate Hoser" comments, there so far appears to be little to rebut the central conclusions in the paper and that is that

greater *Naja* can (and in my view should) be split four ways.”

The case for keeping it as a single genus was made by Wüster et al. 2007.

You can split it any number of ways if you so desire - there are now 20-odd species in *Naja*, so you could have a separate genus for each - your call..”

Trying to keep things to the point (see Hoser 2009i), I rebutted:

“WW,

You wrote:

“The case for keeping it as a single genus was made by Wüster et al. 2007.”

Agreed! At least so far as “a case” was made.

I disagree with your reasoning. I have set the reasons out in my paper for which you and others can again either agree or disagree, as can others 200 years hence.

You wrote:

“You can split it any number of ways if you so desire - there are now 20-odd species in *Naja*, so you could have a separate genus for each - your call.”

My call was four genera, not 20.

ALL THE BEST”

Wüster's 20 genera comment was a typical Wüster smokescreen to deride and make light of a serious taxonomic paper and judgement on the snakes, which as of September 2009, he has now apparently come around to agreeing with (see Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009).

Another of Wüster's close associates, Bryan Fry, is a man who belts innocuous snakes around with metal tongs. He also self promotes himself on snake tormenting TV shows. Since about 2000, Bryan Fry also attacks the Hoser position as an opposite, no matter how ridiculous the opposite position is, and even if his real view is logically the same as the Hoser view.

This included the Cobras.

When he posted his inevitable attack on my Cobra paper, shortly after it's publication on a forum at: <http://www.venomousreptiles.org/forums/Experts/42293?page=2> on 29 March 2009 (Fry 2009), he launched into his usual tirade of childish abuse and name-calling. Between all this he effectively took Wüster's words from the [www.venomlist.com](http://www.venomlist.com) forum and wrote:

“Wolfgang's 2007 paper already considered the higher order taxonomy of cobras and quite rightly lumped them into a single genus.”

Wüster also continued to peddle this “single genus” line for the true Cobras elsewhere and never was there ever indication of movement from this position.

Also affirmed was that his 2007 paper said the last and definitive word on Cobra taxonomy at the genus level.

That the Hoser position of four genera of True Cobras had merit came from several quarters, including of all people the tong-grabbing Bryan Fry who had less than 2 months earlier commented on [kingsnake.com](http://kingsnake.com) that (South African) Cape Cobras are “not a *Naja*”.

The significance of this is to show that Fry is a liar and a hypocrite, claiming a view that he thinks Cobras are a single generic group, solely to attack the Hoser position in March 2009, when in fact his view is the same as that of Hoser!

On 6 February 2009, less than 8 weeks prior to his claim that all Cobras should be *Naja*, Fry was being questioned by [www.kingsnake.com](http://www.kingsnake.com) hosts about his experiences with Cobras (Fry et. al. 2009).

The transcript from the site at: <http://www.pethobbyist.com/articles/ChatMonth11Transcripts/BryanGriegFry2009.html> runs thus:

“JayP: What studies have you done on cape cobras.

Bryan Grieg Fry: *Naja*. Played with them but haven't done anything on the venoms myself. They are the most toxic of the African snakes (and likely the most mental too). Fascinating snakes. They are not a *Naja* at all (neither are forest cobras) as they are genetically on the other side of the tree and water cobras.”

However the taxonomic merits of the Hoser Cobra paper are not relevant here. Rather it is that Wüster, Fry and associates only criteria of view for Cobra taxonomy or for that matter much else, stems solely from a desire to oppose Hoser and with their hatred, cause as much damage as possible to the stability of any Hoser nomenclature.

If they cause chaos and confusion elsewhere, then so be it!

#### DEMAND FOR AJH PAPERS AND JOSEPH COLLINS.

Being of a taxonomic nature and the fact that most dealt with well-known groups of snakes, it was inevitable that demand for the papers would be great.

Internet posting of copies after publication tends to satisfy most demand for reprints, especially when identical pdf's can be downloaded.



It saves on postage and more importantly time spent wrapping and sending photocopies and the like.

For the recipients, the advantage is that they don't have to wait days or weeks for the hard copy of the paper because they can either read it online or print one out!

In terms of my earlier papers (over 150 and most not of taxonomic nature), the internet has cut demand for print/photocopies and the like by more than 90 percent, saving me considerable time and money, in terms of supplying papers dating as far back as 1980.

However there remains a demand for print copies or photocopies, from people, including those who read abstracts and similar, including for example from abstracts seen in *Zoological Record*.

Following posting of the rattlesnake paper (AJH Issue 6) on the website controlled by Joseph Collins at: <http://www.cnah.org/> (Collins 2009b) with the media release url of: <http://www.cnah.org/research.asp?id=92> (Collins 2009b) and the paper downloadable from: [http://www.cnah.org/pdf\\_files/1182.pdf](http://www.cnah.org/pdf_files/1182.pdf) on 10 March 2009, demand for all Hoser papers from AJH exhausted supplies almost immediately. The March 2009 Cobra paper also had all copies accounted for within days of being published, even though it's publication post-dated that of the Collins rattlesnake paper post on his website.

When supplies of AJH originals ran out, photocopies of originals were provided to people requesting copies.

Interestingly however, was the first incoming e-mail I received from Joe Collins, on or about 12 March 2009 (Collins 2009a), where he misquoted sections of the ICZN rules and questioned whether or not AJH was validly published according to the code.

The e-mail was obviously written in haste as it was replete with errors, and is copied here:

It read (text in full):

"Hey Raymond

Article 8.1.3 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature

requires that multiple identical and durable copies be available. Is

AJZ available in a hard copy journal format?

Article 8.6 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature

requires that the journal must contain a statement that explicitly

reports the five publicly accessible libraries into which the

identical and durable copies have been

placed. Did AJZ do that?

Let me know.

Cheers,

Joseph T. Collins

Herpetologist

Kansas Biological Survey - Higuchi Hall

The University of Kansas

2101 Constant Avenue

Lawrence, Kansas 66047-3729

(785) 393-4757 (cell)

email: [jcollins@ku.edu](mailto:jcollins@ku.edu)

[http://www.kbs.ku.edu/people/html/profile\\_collins.htm](http://www.kbs.ku.edu/people/html/profile_collins.htm)"

The e-mail had not been expected, nor had I any recall of there being a requirement for print publications to list places of lodgment as quoted in the e-mail by Collins.

Hence I quickly checked my hard copy and MS-word versions of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (current edition) and found that Collins had got things mixed up.

Article 8.6 only related to non-print publications (as I had thought), so I sent Collins a quick e-mail clarifying the position from here.

That e-mail (also sent on 12 March) (Hoser 2009g) read (text in full)

"Hi,

hope all's well, etc.

I am well aware of the code and yes the publication complies with the

sections you've quoted. (Quoted exact at rear of this e-mail letter)

Have you seen the journal yet?

It is published in identical print and online versions - see ISSN's on

cover page of each edition.

Hard copies are available if you want them.

Let me know.

To date we have been posting hard copies for free, but reserve right to

charge post/handling and always have.

We've have been inundated with hard copy requests from purists and the

like, which I suppose is fair enough.

For more rapid dissemination, the online version is available for free

at:

<http://www.herp.net>

or

<http://www.smuggled.com/AJHFP1.htm>

#### ALL THE BEST

8.1.3. it must have been produced in an edition containing

simultaneously obtainable copies by a method that assures numerous identical and durable copies.

8.6. Works produced after 1999 by a method that does not employ printing on paper. For a work produced after 1999 by a method other than printing on paper to be accepted as published within the meaning of the Code, it must contain a statement that copies (in the form in which it is published) have been deposited in at least 5 major publicly accessible libraries which are identified by name in the work itself."

There's no doubt that Collins would have been shocked that he'd been caught out misrepresenting the text of the ICZN code, but from my perspective that wasn't a serious issue. The e-mail had been private and he had not posted widely the same sort of material casting doubt on the validity of the AJH publication in terms of the ICZN rules. I also attached a receipt (scanned as a pdf file) of a hard copy of AJH, received prior from a public library before my online posting of AJH, so he knew I was serious about what I said and that I was aware of the need for a paper to be published in numerous durable identical print copies to qualify as published under the ICZN rules.

Obviously relenting on the apparent query, he accepted that the relevant paper/s had been published in accordance with the code. He then posted a pdf of the rattlesnake paper from AJH on his website, linked from a "media release" (Collins 2009b) he placed prominently on the websites front page.

From this release, similar advice of the paper was posted on numerous internet forums worldwide.

Collins also amended other parts of his website that had photos of rattlesnakes and the like to use the new Hoser taxonomy and nomenclature, including for example the webpage at:

<http://www.naherpetology.org/detail.asp?id=68> (Collins 2009c), where for example he noted the new genus *Hoserea* for the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake.

Collins was also posted hard copies of the relevant AJH issues, including notably issue 7 of AJH when it was published.

All seven issues of AJH were also received by *Zoological Record* (all acknowledged in writing as received within 14 days of postage) and abstracts posted widely via the internet on their RSS feed site at:

<http://www.organismnames.com/RSS/13669.xml> (Zoological Record (Anonymous) 2009c).

Although the taxonomic merits of the Hoser AJH papers are not relevant here, it is worth noting that outside the core group of people known as the "Truth haters", (yes Wüster even signs on forums using this name "Truth hater"), the Hoser positions have been widely accepted.

In terms of the rattlesnakes paper, Joe Collins gave his support.

On 12 March, I asked him what he thought (Hoser 2009g), to which he replied on the same date:

"Dear Raymond

I have no argument with your divisions."

#### THE VAN WALLACH PAPER.

On 29 April 2009, I received an e-mail from Van Wallach seeking copies of all published issues of AJH (Wallach 2009a).

The request was on the surface no different to many others received and dealt with in similar fashion.

He was posted (free of charge) photocopies as originals available for dissemination had been exhausted. A note enclosed also said, "these are photocopies".

On 9 May 2009 Van Wallach sent me an email (Wallach 2009b) saying:

"Thank you kindly for reprints of your papers, which arrived safely today. Very much appreciated."

Nothing further was heard from him and at no stage did he enquire as to how many originals were printed or where they went.

Significant in his reply is that he knew at all materially relevant times, that he had not been sent originals.

I was never approached or questioned by Wüster or Donald Broadley in relation to what they were later to raise as the salient questions of how many original hard copies were printed or where they were sent. These questions being salient in terms of the paper they later published in *Zootaxa* in September 2009 and the claims raised therein.

At no stage prior to September 2009, did anyone anywhere ask similar questions or raise the idea that the AJH issues 1-7 may not have been published according to the ICZN rules.

On 27 September 2009, I received a phone call from



Scott Eipper who had been sent a broadcast e-mail from Richard Wells (Wells 2009a) the day before (also sent to myself, but at that stage unseen), which read in part:

**" Academic Thieves are at it Again ...**

Hi all,

A quote from the above paper just published in Zootaxa :

see Zootaxa 2236: 26-36 Accepted: 14 Aug. 2009, Published 21 Sept, 2009

In praise of subgenera: taxonomic status of cobras of the genus *Naja* Laurenti (Serpentes: Elapidae)

VAN WALLACH (USA), WOLFGANG WÜSTER (UK) & DONALD G. BROADLEY  
link <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2009/f/z02236p036.pdf>

...

This latest paper by Van Wallach and that imbecile Wüster is a clear case of academic theft, as in my opinion, they have stolen Hoser's work. The swipe at Wells and Wellington in the same paper also clearly hints at things to come. The senior author (Van Wallach) is guilty of academic theft in regards to his earlier description of *Austrotyphlops* over the earlier *W & W Sivadietus* but who really seems to care?"

That Wells sent such an e-mail and that Eipper was similarly enraged arose from the central and all important claim in the paper.

The paper itself contained no new research or data in any meaningful way. Nor did it present any new findings or taxonomic arrangements (except the use of subgenera as opposed to genera to split the true Cobra group).

In summary it claimed that the Hoser Cobra paper in AJH issue 7 was not published under the ICZN rules and because the authors chose to divide the Cobras along the same lines as Hoser 2009, they had renamed *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009, *Afronaja*, going so far as to use the same type species, namely *Naja nigricollis* Reinhardt 1843.

The important claim in the paper was that Hoser had fraudulently masqueraded AJH as validly published as they claimed that no more than one single original of each journal issue had been published.

Of course both Eipper and Wells were in possession of multiple original copies of AJH and so they knew the central claim in the paper had to be false.

The paper's central claim was in effect a direct attack on all Hoser names from all seven issues of AJH and effectively invited others to revisit the

taxonomy and usurp the Hoser names, or at least attempt to.

The paragraphs of note in the paper read:

"While this paper was in preparation, Raymond Hoser, one of several recent amateur herpetologists who have chosen to publish evidence-free taxonomic papers in self-published outlets or in the unreviewed hobbyist literature (see Williams et al., 2006, for a review), named two new genera, for the *Naja haje* group and the African spitting cobras, in his privately edited, online publication *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (Hoser, 2009). Hoser (2009) provided no new data, and his generic diagnoses and descriptions are replete with errors: for instance, he overlooked the existing name *Uraeus* Wagler 1830, which takes precedence over his genus *Wellsus*; Asian *Naja* have 15–25 midbody dorsal scale rows (not 21–25), 19–37 scale rows around the hood (not 25–35), 36–71 subcaudal scales (not 43–56), 153–210 ventral scales (not 164–200) (Wüster, 1990; Wüster & Thorpe, 1989, 1992a; Wüster et al, 1997); the fourth as well as the third supralabial enter the eye; the solid maxillary teeth number 0 or 1, not 1–3 (Bogert, 1943; Szyndlar & Rage, 1990); many Asian *Naja* have highly modified spitting fangs, just like African spitting cobras (Bogert, 1943; Wüster & Thorpe, 1992b; Wüster et al., 1997); and important skeletal characters (Szyndlar & Rage, 1990) were ignored. Other counts are confusing and difficult to attribute to specific taxa recognized by Hoser.

More importantly from the nomenclatural point of view, this online publication does not constitute a published work according to Articles 8.1.3, 8.6, 9.7 and 9.8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999) (hereafter referred to as "the Code"). The new names published therein are therefore unavailable under the rules of the Code. Article 8.6 states that "For a work produced after 1999 by a method other than printing on paper to be accepted as published under the meaning of the Code, it must contain a statement that copies (in the format that it is published) have been deposited in at least five major publicly accessible libraries which are identified by name in the work itself." Although Hoser claims the existence of a printed version of his journal, we have found

evidence of only one single copy, deposited in the Australian National Library (ANL). Article 9 of the Code (What does not constitute published work) includes:

"9.7 copies obtained on demand of an unpublished work [Art. 8], even if previously deposited in a library or other archive." On 9 May 2009, one of us (VW) received printed copies of all issues of the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*. Unlike the ANL copy of Issue 7, all these issues are printed on one side only, and give the appearance of having been printed on demand at the same time: all have a pair of longitudinal white lines along the midline of the entire page: issue 1 has the lines spaced about 2 mm apart but all the other issues have the lines spaced 5 mm apart, suggesting that they were printed at the same time. These lines are not present in the ANL copy of Issue 7. All the issues received by us are bound by a single large staple in the upper, left hand corner. We conclude that the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* is an online publication that fails to fulfill the requirements of Articles 8.1.3 and 8.6, any printed copies are printed on demand and therefore do not constitute published work under the provisions of Article 9.7, and the electronic versions available from Hoser's website are not published under the provisions of Article 9.8. The same almost certainly applies to the previous six issues of the journal published at the time of writing. Since Hoser's 2009 paper is unavailable under the provisions of the Code, we therefore propose the following nomenclatural changes regarding the genus *Naja*: the subgeneric name *Naja* must be applied to the Asiatic cobras, whose type species is *Naja naja* Linnaeus; the non-spitting African cobras are assigned to the subgenera *Uraeus* Wagler (1830), with *Naja haje* as the type species, and *Boulengerina* Dollo (1886), with *Naja annulata* as the type species, while the African spitters are placed in a new subgenus with *Naja nigracollis* as the type species."

The wording of the paragraphs themselves show that Wallach, Wüster and Broadley had deliberately chosen to mislead and confuse readers about AJH and to falsely state that the journal AJH was not legitimately published according to the ICZN code.

In this they have been totally dishonest.

This is seen by the initial reference to the Hoser Cobra paper being:

"in his privately edited, online publication *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (Hoser, 2009)."

As seen from all copies of AJH, it is published in both print and online form and both have separate ISSN's so that there can be no confusion between the two.

Strangely, their own chosen journal, *Zootaxa*, does things the exact same way!

As the ICZN rules do not allow for internet publishing, the only relevant AJH (or *Zootaxa*) is the print version, that Wallach, Wüster and Broadley have chosen to ignore in the first instance.

Notwithstanding this obvious fact, Wallach, Wüster and Broadley then wrote:

"More importantly from the nomenclatural point of view, this online publication does not constitute a published work according to Articles 8.1.3, 8.6, 9.7 and 9.8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999) (hereafter referred to as "the Code")."

The paragraph is meaningless as there has never been pretence that online publications are published works according to the code.

The following text:

"Article 8.6 states that "For a work produced after 1999 by a method other than printing on paper to be accepted as published under the meaning of the Code, it must contain a statement that copies (in the format that it is published) have been deposited in at least five major publicly accessible libraries which are identified by name in the work itself."

is again reference to their false claim that AJH is exclusively an online publication or published in the form of a CD-rom or similar.

Noting that AJH's online versions have never claimed to be valid publications under the ICZN's code (and could not be)(same as for *Zootaxa* incidentally), it can only be concluded that the purpose of all the preceding paragraphs was to fool and confuse readers into believing that AJH is not validly published under the ICZN rules and only an online publication.

The only part of the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley paper that needs to therefore be considered is that which deals with the print publication of AJH, which relates specifically to article 8.1.3 of the 1999 ICZN rules which reads:

"8.1.3. it must have been produced in an edition containing simultaneously obtainable copies by a method that assures numerous identical and durable copies."



or in layman's terms multiple printed copies at time of publication. Although even here Wallach, Wüster and Broadley deliberately and misleadingly interpolate an irrelevant section of the code dealing with non-print publications (namely 8.6).

The relevant section of the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley paper reads:

"Although Hoser claims the existence of a printed version of his journal, we have found evidence of only one single copy, deposited in the Australian National Library (ANL).

Article 9 of the Code (What does not constitute published work) includes:

"9.7 copies obtained on demand of an unpublished work [Art. 8], even if previously deposited in a library or other archive." On 9 May 2009, one of us (VW) received printed copies of all issues of the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*. Unlike the ANL copy of Issue 7, all these issues are printed on one side only, and give the appearance of having been printed on demand at the same time: all have a pair of longitudinal white lines along the midline of the entire page: issue 1 has the lines spaced about 2 mm apart but all the other issues have the lines spaced 5 mm apart, suggesting that they were printed at the same time. These lines are not present in the ANL copy of Issue 7. All the issues received by us are bound by a single large staple in the upper, left hand corner. We conclude that the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* is an online publication that fails to fulfill the requirements of Articles 8.1.3 and 8.6, any printed copies are printed on demand and therefore do not constitute published work under the provisions of Article 9.7, and the electronic versions available from Hoser's website are not published under the provisions of Article 9.8. The same almost certainly applies to the previous six issues of the journal published at the time of writing."

In essence the claim of the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley paper is that the authors looked for original print copies of AJH and only found one in a Library and because 8.1.3 of the rules says there needs to be more than one, the Hoser publication is not valid under the rules.

The logical question to be asked would be:

"what searches exactly did you do for the hard copies of AJH originals"

as written by Hoser 2009j, and it is also a question that should have been answered by the authors in

what they purport to be a scientific and investigative paper.

For the record, at no stage did any of the three authors ask me how many originals were printed, or where they went. Nor have they answered the repeated question since, the best result being their claims as to where they say they did not find the journals.

If they had asked that simple question, ("what searches exactly did you do for the hard copies of AJH originals"), they'd have been directed to relevant places and found what they claimed to be looking for, as in numerous identical original copies of the relevant paper/s, printed double sided on gloss paper.

Furthermore, in terms of where the men searched (or chose not to), this also raises serious questions about their bonafides.

Why they apparently chose to look in the Australian National Library (ANL) is uncertain, but it appears that they knew they'd have trouble denying those publications, because of the "legal deposit" requirements for such publications and reference to these on the AJH internet site.

Had they bothered checking with the State Library of Victoria, they'd also have found legal deposits there as well!

Wüster, the main driver behind this piece of fraud, extended his claim against AJH on 28 September, when on an online forum at:

<http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=83&t=17849>

He wrote:

"Even the ANL, rather interestingly, only seems to hold issue 7 (the cobra paper), not any of the other issues of the journal."

This claim is bizarre, as copies of all were sent to and receipted from ANL.

Was Wüster deliberately spreading more lies, had himself or agents gone and willfully destroyed other issues of AJH or had something else not yet disclosed happened?

Then there's the other logical place to look for copies, namely *Zoological Record*. You see while there's nowhere in the ICZN's rules that demand copies of publications be lodged with any given library or person, there is the call for wide dissemination (8A).

It reads:

"Recommendation 8A. Wide dissemination. Authors have a responsibility to ensure that new scientific names, nomenclatural acts, and information likely to affect nomenclature

are made widely known. This responsibility is most easily discharged by publication in appropriate scientific journals or well-known monographic series and by ensuring that new names proposed by them are entered into the *Zoological Record*. This is most easily achieved by sending a copy of the work to the *Zoological Record*, published by BIOSIS U.K.”

Now we know that Wallach, Wüster and Broadley possess this code as they spend a lot of time quoting from it, even if they deliberately mix up which bits are relevant!

And yet they apparently didn't enquire of the one obvious place that a copy should have been sent!

The next question to ask is which is most likely. Were all three of Wallach, Wüster and Broadley too stupid to realize that *Zoological Record* would or should have been sent copies of the Hoser journal, or were the three so-called scientists at all materially relevant times fully aware that *Zoological Record* had originals of AJH, or was likely to, and that they didn't want to disclose the fact as that would render redundant the central claim that AJH was not validly published under the ICZN rules in multiple identical copies?

Based on the form of Wüster over the previous ten years (see later this paper) with his effective “war” on all Hoser names, the latter seems to be the obvious alternative.

There is also a more serious issue of relevance and that is when the *Zoological Record* itself disclosed they had the relevant Hoser journals.

The online (internet) RSS feed for new publications shows that the relevant Hoser Cobra paper was logged and disseminated on or about 19 June 2009. See *Zoological Record* (Anonymous) 2009), which predates the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley publication in *Zootaxa* by two months.

While it is entirely possible that all three authors of Wallach, Wüster and Broadley had “overlooked” the earlier *Zoological Record* entries for the Hoser paper/s, this must be doubted on the basis of their continued claims of methodological superiority and claims of doing their research properly.

Hence the only other explanation is that these men fraudulently chose to ignore and overlook the *Zoological Record*'s records of the Hoser paper to give credence to their central false claim of only one original of the Hoser Cobra paper (AJH issue 7), and likewise for all other issues of AJH.

Then of course there's the next most likely group of recipients, namely those who had taxa named after them. Were inquiries made of them?

Obviously not as most got 11 originals each!

Now in terms of establishing original print runs of over 100 copies for each issue of AJH (versus as few as just 25 originals for *Zootaxa*, see their website at: <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/support/advantage.htm> viewed in 2009), the ever dishonest Wüster will claim that any verification I produce, or statements from recipients, will have been generated as a response to their paper, and then they'll again try to claim that there was only one original copy of AJH issue 7 actually produced.

Or they may seek out originals to destroy them in the same way their colleague David John Williams attempted to do on 17 August 2001 (Williams 2001) in terms of a paper in *Boydii*, describing new elapid taxa.

On that date he sent an e-mail to the journal editor, Paul Woolf, seeking that he recall and destroy all copies of the July issue of *Boydii*. That issue had Hoser descriptions in it and in that case his motive was evidently the ethically repugnant aim to quash and re-name the Hoser named taxa.

This objective was also made clear on various internet forums at the time.

Clearly for Wüster, the truth should not get in the way of the predetermined outcome or aim of Wüster and friends in this current case, which is to both steal naming rights for the spitting Cobras genus *Spracklandus* and to further destabilize taxonomy and nomenclature of a whole raft of taxa named by myself in 2009.

However it is fortunate that there is a “paper trail” showing the dissemination of originals at the time of publication of all issues of AJH and well predating the execution of the plot by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley to attempt to steal naming rights for the spitting Cobras genus.

In accordance with the ICZN rules, copies of all Hoser taxonomy papers (as in originals) have been sent to *Zoological Record*, at whatever their current address has been, commencing with the Death Adder paper published in *Monitor* in 1998 (Hoser 1998a).

The people at *Zoological Record*, have as a rule, acknowledged receipt and most but not all have been indexed and listed in the paper (hard copy) of *Zoological Record*.

Fortuitously this also happened with all AJH issues that named new taxa, with all being reported via the RSS feed and with equivalent *Zoological Record* entries listed.

To totally destroy the deliberate false claim by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley of there only being one original of AJH (any given issue), I note that on 22 March 2009 I sent an original of AJH issue 7 to

*Zoological Record*, and acknowledged as received on 27 March 2009, which is in line with time of receipt for other AJH issues sent, (issues 1-5 were sent to them as a bundle, issue 6 on it's own).

All were duly archived by them and abstracted for the later entries from the *Zoological Record* RSS feed for subscribers, showing the Cobra entries dated from 19 June 2009 (in line with March *Zootaxa* papers that also appeared on the RSS feed at the same time and were presumably sent to them in hard copy at time of publication) and well before the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley caper emerged.

Hence there can be no claims that this material has been generated with a view to negate the false claims by these three men.

Copies of a sample of receipts and similar generated material, at the time of publication is presented as appendices with this paper in this journal issue to confirm the inescapable facts that:

- 1 – Wallach, Wüster and Broadley have knowingly lied in terms of their central claim that only one original of each journal issue of AJH was published and
- 2 – The secondary claim by Wüster on the internet about AJH is similarly false and deceptive and again typical of Wüster's modus operandi

While it would be unnecessarily tedious to produce reams of evidence of distribution of originals of AJH to various places, sufficient is reproduced here with this paper to show wide distribution of originals of AJH to negate claims of only one original of the key Cobra, rattlesnake and other taxonomic publications, using material generated by independent third parties (that is, not generated by myself), noting that the same sort of material was generated for each issue of AJH and in terms of each individual taxon or group named within.

As for the published forensic analysis of photocopied papers, copied as a lot on demand, well that's meaningless in terms of the ICZN code as there was never any pretext that they were originals, which is even conceded by Wallach in his return e-mail to myself, which he has chosen not to reproduce in his *Zootaxa* paper, for fear of it destroying his central thesis!

Such a serious and deliberate omission of factual material by Wallach should be punishable by dismissal from his position by his university employer as it is an act of gross dishonesty and fraud and brings Harvard University into disrepute.

Also of note is that there is no claim by Van Wallach that the copies he received, were in any way different in terms of font, text, pagination or any materially relevant way. There is no claim that so

much as a single word, or position of them was different to the originals of AJH!

You see as photocopies they were effectively identical to the originals and in the important ways, even though they weren't originals or printed at time of publication.

They do however directly satisfy the ICZN recommendation of "wide dissemination".

As for the lines he refers to on the pages as part of a half-baked "forensic analysis", that probably reflects folding of paper or perhaps a toner cartridge running out of ink at the time of photocopying.

More seriously however, this act of fraud and deception by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley, in terms of trying to steal naming rights for a group of reptiles, if allowed to succeed or even go unchallenged is serious in that it may dissuade taxonomists from sending photocopies or computer generated pdf's of papers to other so-called herpetologists for fear that the recipient may allege the original wasn't properly published and that they may then rename the taxa named in the sent paper!

As a rhetorical line and in the context of the alleged investigations by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley seeking originals of AJH Issues 1-7, it should be pointed out that a (deliberate) absence of evidence, cannot be taken as evidence of absence!

### ZOOTAXA – SERIOUS QUESTIONS

The journal markets itself as a peer reviewed "mega-journal for zoological taxonomists in the world" and as the leading repository for species and taxa descriptions claiming 14 per cent of all taxa indexed in *Zoological Record* in 2007.

As of end 2009, the front page at:

<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/>

also read:

"*Zootaxa* publishes high quality zootaxonomic papers regardless of the length of each paper/monograph, All manuscripts are peer-reviewed before acceptance."

The peer reviewed claim is that which causes alarm here.

Without attacking other authors or papers published in *Zootaxa*, many of which are of impeccably high standard, the Wallach, Wüster, Broadley paper is seriously amiss and should never have been published in the form it was, due to the obvious defects in presentation.

Peer review is touted as a form of "quality control" but it clearly failed in this case.

Even the most basic of scientific papers has a "materials and methods" or equivalent, enabling



disinterested readers to be able to duplicate the experiment and in theory get the same results or conclusions.

These authors said they searched for originals of AJH issue 7, and then claimed to have been unable to find any. Yet they have not published any details of their searches or who they enquired with.

The implication is of a wide search, but no evidence is given.

Even post publication of the Wallach, Wüster, Broadley paper, I put the same logical question to Wüster on a forum at:

[http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/](http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=83&t=17849)

[viewtopic.php?f=83&t=17849](http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=83&t=17849), where I wrote:

"what searches exactly did you do for the hard copies of AJH originals."

and he refused to answer this most basic of question.

His first post re-asserting the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley paper's claim of only one original copy of AJH issue 7 was made on 28 Sept 09 and my question to him was put on 3 Oct 09 and as of end March 2012, Wüster who habitually stalks the web on a daily basis had chosen not to reply.

Not only does this reveal poor quality control by the "peers" or editors at *Zootaxa* in terms of a basic failure to have authors detail their materials and methods, but also dishonesty on the part of Wüster in his refusal to answer this most basic of questions.

Put another way, there are a number of publications that are NOT peer reviewed that have better quality control than *Zootaxa* did in terms of the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley paper.

Attempts were made by myself to contact various editors and staff from *Zootaxa* in the fortnight following my becoming aware of the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley paper with a view to having a right of reply to the false claims and also to obtain hard copy originals of the said paper.

I got no response from anyone, even though a number of e-mails were acknowledged as received by automated responses sent back to me and received (see Bauer 2009a).

However, Bauer later responded on 8 October 2009, (Bauer 2009b) with an appropriate response inviting me to make a submission to the journal.

As mentioned already, other time stealing factors arose leading this paper being placed on "ice" intervened and I did not take up the invitation.

It was also not taken up on the basis I deemed it unlikely that the journal would allow to be published the secondary information relating to past conduct by Wüster and others as detailed in the second part of this paper, as it does not necessarily relate to

ongoing taxonomic matters.

However all the above raises serious questions as to whether or not hard copies of *Zootaxa* are actually produced and whether or not they may comply with the ICZN rules.

Unlike Wallach, Wüster and Broadley, I have a presumption that a taxonomic journal, including *Zootaxa* would as a matter of course ensure that they comply with the zoological rules. This is also in spite of the fact that I have been unable to find a single library in Australia with a single hard copy of any of their papers or journals, a search being done from Latrobe University's linked libraries search engines on Wednesday 30 September 2009 by a member of the University's own staff.

That is also why I cite Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009 as an "online paper", because put simply, I have never seen it in original hard copy form.

More significantly, as the online copies of *Zootaxa* do not list five or more places that their hard or online copies go to, there is a possibility that authors like Wallach, Wüster and Broadley may invoke the same arguments used against AJH to allege that *Zootaxa* does not qualify as a publication under the ICZN code and then try to redescribe taxa named within the journal.

Based on *Zootaxa*'s claim of "12,744 new taxa in 123,019 pages by 6,238 authors worldwide since 2001" (at: <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/> in 2009), a determination that these descriptions are invalid could cause total taxonomic and nomenclatural confusion and chaos.

While Wallach is listed as the senior author in the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley paper, it is clear that Wüster is the apparent mastermind behind it and without doubt the main proponent since publication.

The methodology and attacks on myself have been typical of Wüster for more than a decade now and this paper represents his latest act of dishonesty and a consistent pattern of dishonest behaviour.

More importantly, post publication, it has been Wüster and neither of the other two authors, who have been stalking the internet and posting far and wide the central claims in the paper with a view to destabilizing nomenclature of all Hoser-named taxa from AJH issues 1-7.

Using search engines such as Google or Yahoo, Wüster has successfully sought out most if not all sites referring in any way to the Hoser AJH papers and since 21 September, made posts asserting his claim that the Hoser names have not been properly published (as per the false claims in his paper) and should not be used.

Wüster has also approached most if not all online reptile databases to list Hoser taxa, including those published in AJH Issues 1-7 as "nomen nudum".

Wüster and persons posting on his behalf, identifying themselves as such, have also directed viewers to the online paper of Wallach, Wüster and Broadley.

By force of "noise" Wüster has already created great instability in nomenclature of well-known and medically significant reptiles.

Examples of such posts made by Wüster include the following internet chat sites:

<http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=83&t=17849>

and on 23 September 2009 on

<http://herpetoblog.wordpress.com/2009/04/02/taxonomic-traumas-for-cobras-and-rattlesnake>

where Wüster (Wüster 2009c) posted the following:

"Truth Hater (08:32:56) :

It may be of interest to readers to note that a recently published paper in Zootaxa provided evidence that neither the new names for cobras nor those for rattlesnakes are in fact validly published:

<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2009/f/zt02236p036>"

And a media release by Wüster posted on the web at: <http://www.cnah.org/research.asp?id=98> (cited here as: Collins 2009d). See also changes made as a result of the Wüster claims, such as: <http://www.naherpetology.org/detail.asp?id=68> accessed 5 10 2009 (Collins 2009e).

Collins 2009d is significant as this hosts a long post identified as being by Wüster detailing his view that only one original copy of the Hoser papers was produced.

It is/was also hosted on Joseph Collins' own CNAH site.

The significance is that the director of the site Joseph Collins was sent and received hard copies of all seven issues of AJH so he would have known immediately that the central claim that there was only one original of each issue of AJH was a lie.

The question then begs, why was Joseph Collins peddling a statement he knew to be false?

An e-mail was sent to Collins asking him just that, but no response was received.

Collins also changed his other webpages to incorporate the claim that the Hoser names were not to be used (e.g. Collins 2009e).

I had intended pursuing Collins further for an answer but this potential line of investigation ended when he died suddenly on 14 January 2012 in Florida from a

"heart attack" (Barringer 2012, Krull, 2012).

Wüster, and associates such as Wulf Schleip have continued to post the false claims about AJH Issues 1-7 not being validly published both on the web and in published papers, including for example in Wüster and Bérnills (2011) and Schleip and O'Shea (2010).

Both these papers knowingly rehashed the same false claims made in the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley paper of 2009, and re-affirming the allegation that all issues of AJH were not validly published according to the ICZN's rules.

We know the false statements were deliberate as on the very online forums they frequent, it had been pointed out by others that AJH Issues 1-7 were in fact validly published, (e.g. see Wells 2009b, Hoser 2009j).

Both Wüster and Schleip "trolled" the internet on a regular basis knowingly spreading lies and misinformation on so-called "hate" websites.

Included was numerous hate posts on the facebook page created in 2011 by trademark bootlegger Tony Harrison, titled "Ray Hoser – Melbourne's biggest wanker" (Various authors 2011). Also included were countless reptile "chat forums" and the like, which of course is yet further violation of the ICZN's rules and demonstrates the contempt these men had for these rules.

By contrast, myself and others associated with me, have never engaged in such disgraceful conduct, name calling or similar, towards anyone else in the field of reptile science, education or similar.

#### PEER REVIEW ERRORS AT ZOOTAXA

In terms of the alleged "peer review" at Zootaxa, another more serious ethical issue arises.

The Wallach, Wüster and Broadley paper details the publication of the Hoser Cobra paper in AJH in March 2009, the actual publication date not in apparent dispute (and as shown in the documents at the rear of this paper, being correct).

The central taxonomic and nomenclatural judgements of that paper are detailed and with reference to article 2 of the ICZN's code of ethics, clearly the Wallach, Wüster and Broadley paper should not have been allowed within the 12 month window specified by the code.

More significantly, article 6 of the code of ethics puts the editors of Zootaxa in direct breach of the rules.

It reads:

"6. Editors and others responsible for the publication of zoological papers should avoid publishing any material which appears to them to contain a breach of the above principles."

In other words, even if the paper by Wallach, Wüster

and Broadley was submitted to them, they had a duty to reject it on the basis of it breaching Article 2 of the code of ethics.

Now while it may be argued that a journal editor may be unaware of the detail of the ICZN's code of ethics, this cannot be credibly argued by editors of the journal *Zootaxa*, which boldly claims to be the taxonomy "megajournal" and touts itself as complying with the ICZN's rules on its own website!

So who exactly is this *Zootaxa* editor who deals with the snake taxonomy papers?

According to the *Zootaxa* website it was Dr. David Gower (d.gower@nhm.ac.uk) based at the Department of Zoology, The Natural History Museum, London, SW7 5BD UK, which coincidentally happens to be where the ICZN itself is also based!

Now surely Gower would have been aware of the ICZN's code of ethics?

And as for the alleged peer reviewers of the offending paper, well who knows?

#### DEALING WITH THE CURRENT INSTABILITY IN NOMENCLATURE

Wüster and associates have shown themselves to be adept at using the internet and other forums they control to spread lies, hate, dishonesty, confusion and most importantly a false perception of reality.

The way they managed to "create" many thousands of illegitimate votes for their "unsung hero, David Williams" in an ill-fated attempt to rig an Accor Hotels competition (see later this paper), shows that Wüster and associates have more time, money and power to create and perpetuate lies than I have to combat them.

In that case, these men created numerous webpages seeking votes for their man, the convicted wildlife smuggler, David John Williams. They posted many thousands of votes from the same IP address, leading to their ruse being discovered and Williams disqualified from the competition.

More significantly, they have since taken a huge amount of time and effort and successfully trawled the web and removed most, if not all the webpages with reference to Williams, his involvement in the competition and his seeking of "votes".

While the claims that the first seven issues of AJH were not validly published are false, it may take years to fully expose the lie and that may not be the best way to maintain stability of nomenclature in the meantime. This is especially if people were to try to redescribe Hoser-named taxa in the interim.

In reality, not all people who are told the lie, will necessarily be known or accessible in terms of

notifying them or the publication of corrections.

The deliberate damage caused to my own reputation and nomenclatural stability by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley will never be totally repaired and for this these men are being held totally liable in all ways.

As a result of the preceding, a second course of action has been commenced to minimize continued damage.

A series of papers will be published at the same time as this or shortly thereafter, redescribing the same taxa as those described (for the first time) in the relevant issues 1-7 of AJH, without reference to them. These papers will be published as "new", making improvements when possible, and including in some cases, for the first time ever, assigning groups of genera into appropriate "Tribes" which to date have been a relatively underutilized level in zoological nomenclature.

A similar course was taken in early 2009 in terms of the *Leiopython* taxon I had previously described, that Schleip had repeatedly claimed in print was "nomen nudum", whereby it was expedient to redescribe the taxon rather than argue for years over the validity of the original name, publication or description.

As was the case earlier, this is in no way an admission that the false claims are true, but merely a sensible way to neutralize the damage deliberately caused by Wüster and associates and to reduce the ongoing dispute to just one name, namely *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009 versus *Afronaja* Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009.

In the current situation, later herpetologists will then have the option of referring to the original papers for nomenclatural purposes or if they choose to believe the lies of Wallach, Wüster and Broadley, can refer to the later Hoser papers as being the first validly published descriptions, the only difference of note being the date, not the names.

Furthermore, in one or more cases, the newer papers also describe other new taxa and/or groupings omitted for one reason or other in the original AJH issues 1-7 as published in 2009.

These issues of AJH will be printed by an external printer (minimum print run of 50 copies due to cost constraints) and each issue or group of issues will carry a copy of a relevant "tax invoice" indicating the number of original identical copies printed, so that no claims in terms of numbers printed can be directed to myself or the company Kotabi Pty Ltd in the form of false and baseless attacks on our credibility.

Due to the written e-mail threat by David Williams to destroy all copies of the July 2001 issue of *Boydii*



sent out by the HSQI (Williams 2001), I will not disclose a list of all recipients of originals of any issues of AJH. This is not required under the ICZN rules.

Online copies of the original papers will appear on the AJH website one month after the publication date of the print issue (plus or minus up to 7 days) so that no claims can possibly be made that the online version masquerades as print for the purposes of complying with the ICZN rules.

Another important reason for the decision to print "as new" further issues of AJH detailing the relevant taxonomic positions relates to the number of copies or photocopies of AJH issues 1-8 on hand as of March 2012.

Issue 8, of AJH (Hoser 2010) detailed a fraud perpetrated by employees of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Victoria in relation to a staged event involving a bottle-raised male Koala that was made to drink bottled water in a bushfire zone, the male later being swapped for a female to gain "celebrity status" as "Sam the Koala", later deceased, stuffed and lodged in the Melbourne Museum.

That issue of AJH was published in February 2010, and led to a series of actions by DSE lawyers against myself as senior management of the department and State MP's tried to suppress dissemination of the publication and attack the credibility of the author (myself).

This climaxed on 17 August 2011, when 11 DSE officers and police conducted a heavily armed raid on our house and business and took computers, diaries, research notes and as many copies of AJH as they could get their hands on.

As photocopy stocks are now low for all issues and the false claim has been raised against their validity of publication, it makes sense to publish "as new" further issues of AJH dealing with taxonomy to solve the issues of both supply and remove the Wüster et. al. created doubts of the validity of publication/ names at the same time.

#### **FURTHER ISSUES INCLUDING ETHICS**

While the ICZN does not have legal power to censure Wüster for his deliberate lies, deception and mischief making, it amazes me that the University that employs him hasn't cottoned onto the idea that he spends much of his paid time surfing the internet spreading lies, deception and hate.

One only needs to see the scale and frequency of his "edits" on sites like "Wikipedia" to get an idea how much time he spends on the internet spreading misinformation and hate.

Universities are meant to be repositories of research and excellence, not the unadulterated theft of

research, ideas and the like, for which Wüster has a well demonstrated long history of doing.

The same applies to Wallach and Broadley who have also engaged in scientific fraud in this most recent case.

In the case of Wallach, his actions have done no credit whatsoever for the reputation of Harvard University.

In the case of the attempted theft of the name *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009, there are other issues relevant in terms of the ICZN rules.

This is again of ethics.

On this the ICZN's code is clear!

The relevant part says:

"2. A zoologist should not publish a new name if he or she has reason to believe that another person has already recognized the same taxon and intends to establish a name for it (or that the taxon is to be named in a posthumous work). A zoologist in such a position should communicate with the other person (or their representatives) and only feel free to establish a new name if that person has failed to do so in a reasonable period (not less than a year)."

The paper of Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009) establishes the following facts:

1 - Hoser indicated a desire to name the Spitting Cobras *Spracklandus* in March 2009 (cited by them as AJH issue 7).

2 - The three authors were also familiar with the code!

Assuming they genuinely believed that Hoser had not published according to the code, they should have allowed Hoser (myself) at least a year to amend the description and/or publish in valid form the description, before attempting to steal naming rights.

They also chose not to communicate with myself in terms of their plan to try to rename the genus (at subgenus level, where the rank name carries), which was again in violation of the code.

Furthermore, the secrecy by which they hatched their plan and in a manner to cause maximum instability to the nomenclature shows the three men to be grossly reckless and irresponsible.

In the case of Van Wallach, it is amazing that an institution with the reputation and prestige of Harvard would employ a man engaged in such low-grade academic fraud and intellectual theft, especially bearing in mind this is not the first such claim like this that has been made against him (Wells 2009a).

The context use of the subgenus level for the description of *Afronaja* by Wallach, Wüster and Broadley is also dishonest.

While the trio spare no effort when attacking myself, they have directly copied my own (to date relatively unusual) use of the sub-genus level in recent taxonomy.

By way of example in the rattlesnake paper (AJH issue 6), I named several subgenera of rattlesnakes and in the python paper of AJH (issue 2) I also named subgenera for the first time.

However in giving reason to employ the use of subgenera, the authors choose not to cite the papers, which they refer to elsewhere in the same paper for the sole purpose of unjustified criticism.

Then there's Wüster's online justification for use of subgenera in order to try to claim a different taxonomy to Hoser 2009's Cobra paper (AJH issue 7), which in material and important reality is no different.

On a forum at:

<http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=83&t=17849>

Wüster (Wüster 2009d) wrote:

"Wallach et al. did not recognise any of the subdivisions of *Naja* as genera. Instead, we recognised them as subgenera".

However Wüster himself is live to the idea that the end point is often elevation to full genera (Wüster 1999), this being the Hoser 2009 position.

On his own website at:

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/~bss166/Updates/Viperinae1999.htm>

for some years he's had the comment:

"the definition of subgenera within a genus often precedes a full split into several genera."

This he has not repeated on the internet forums where he claims a different taxonomy to that of Hoser 2009 and chooses to hide the simple fact that he is attempting to steal naming rights for a group of snakes that is in violation of the code of ethics of the ICZN's rules.

In summary, Wüster has been guilty of the most serious ethical crimes possible for a practicing zoologist or taxonomist with the crimes spanning more than a decade.

He has simultaneously attacked another person, to wit myself and my papers published, while repeatedly stealing the research findings, conclusions and taxonomic judgements, in repeated acts of plagiarism.

Plagiarisation is better known as stealing another's work and failing to correctly attribute it.

Plagiarisation (or Plagiarism) is perhaps the lowest act possible for a practicing zoologist.

To bolster his untenable position, Wüster has harassed, threatened and bullied others into submitting to his convoluted views and lies he peddles. This he's done to the extent of censoring truth or balancing facts, including the repeated removal and banning of correcting information from internet sites and print journals over which he exercises direct control or effective control via proxies.

Wüster has repeatedly violated the rules of the ICZN and the ICZN's code of ethics, most recently by his blatant attempt to steal naming rights over the Spitting Cobras, *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009, in direct violation of the second article in the ICZN's code of ethics.

With other relevant publications of this year (2012) bypassing the Wüster claims against issues 1-7 of AJH, and with the taxa not redescribed since 2009, excluding the Cobra paper, the nomenclature proposed therein will be effectively stabilized from here on.

However in terms of the attempt by Wüster to have his name "*Afronaja*" usurp the senior synonym *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009, the only way to stop his conduct with some sort of finality is probably by way of a submission to the ICZN.

It is my intention to lodge such a submission, calling for the formal suppression of "*Afronaja*" in favour of *Spracklandus* at the first possible opportunity and at some stage in 2012.

### THE TRUTH HATERS, WÜSTER, WILLIAMS, SCHLEIP

Dissent in terms of the Hoser taxonomy was in the main voiced by a group known as the "truth haters" or "the Hoser critics", centred on two men, namely a serial wildlife smuggler David John Williams and his close friend Wolfgang Wüster a Wales based "academic" at Bangor University with a history of publishing sloppy work.

Wulf Schleip, author of Schleip 2008 is a close friend of the above pair and his antics are also covered here as he's joined the chorus of the other two.

Relevant here is that like them, he's also had too much spare time on his hands and through his own website created in 2001 ([www.leiopython.de](http://www.leiopython.de)) and others he visits and posts on via webforums, he has joined in the anti-truth and hate campaign by means of non-stop posts adverse of Hoser wherever he felt his arguments and misinformation would gain traction.

None of their continual barrage of criticisms has had a grain of merit. However using their excess

amounts of spare time and the near limitless resources of the internet, these men have managed to wage a campaign against Hoser of a scale and magnitude that is truly amazing. Recruiting a small-band of misfits, with the ability to repeatedly post under false names and to censor and edit internet sites they control, these men have at times created a veneer and perception that there is widespread disagreement with the various Hoser taxonomy papers (and anything else to do with "Hoser", including the extremely popular venomoid (surgically devenomized) snakes) when the reality among qualified practicing herpetologists has been very different (Hoser 2004c).

By and large the Hoser taxonomy has been very routine and uncontroversial and the divisions at species level generally been of well-defined taxa, conservatively definable via a myriad of criteria.

No one has petitioned the ICZN in relation to any of the Hoser papers, indicating a general lack of concern in terms of the taxonomy and nomenclature.

Outside the group of people to be described in more detail below, the general perception of "Hoser taxonomy" has been that it is at times too conservative, befitting the position of a "lumper" as opposed to a "splitter", as voiced by Wells (2002), the result being further splits of taxa examined by Hoser being proposed by other authors, including one may suppose Schleip (2008), although as this paper shows shortly, the professed views of Schleip cannot be found to be consistent, credible or for that matter even honestly held by Schleip himself.

#### **THE ORIGINAL "TRUTH HATER" THE CONVICTED REPTILE SMUGGLER DAVID JOHN WILLIAMS**

In his view his reason to hate "Hoser" was justified on the basis that he was adversely named in both "*Smuggled*" books, (Hoser 1993 and Hoser 1996) and that forms the original basis of his ongoing hatred since then, which has over time expanded.

While the material in the book was true and correct as easily confirmed by publicly available court records (see Magistrate's Court of Queensland 1997), Williams has held the grudge against Hoser and pursued it ruthlessly and without scruple.

David John Williams, posting on the internet as "Toxinologist" and other names is a man with numerous serious convictions for animal cruelty and wildlife smuggling. See for example a mere fraction of the number of his crimes and convictions in the full transcripts of Magistrates Court of Queensland (1997).

Williams and his close friend Wolfgang Wüster have both been guilty of, or party to, a serious case of

scientific fraud as detailed by Hoser 2001a and Hoser 2001b.

That scientific fraud revolved around an improperly altered (on at least three occasions) "online" paper that was published in the first instance as an alleged critique of the description of *Pailsus pailsei* Hoser 1998.

Since then, his alleged co-conspirator in the fraud Brian Starkey (listed by Williams as a junior co-author of the fraudulent and ever-changing online paper Williams and Starkey (1999 – three versions, listed here as "a", "b" and "c")), has stated that he had no part in the fraud and that Williams had without his permission included his name as co-author in the fraudulently altered paper and in fact printed material that both men knew was patently untrue.

The ill-fated paper did in it's first incarnations claim that the newly described species "*Pailsus pailsei* Hoser 1998" was in fact nothing more than a small or underfed Mulga Snake *Cannia* ("*Pseudechis*") *australis*.

The claim was underpinned by some statistical gymnastics not unlike some of those seen in a 2008 Schleip paper (Schleip 2008a), where he managed to "create" three new species of Brown *Leiopython* from Northern New Guinea in an apparently evidence-free series of descriptions.

Williams altered and reposted his own above-mentioned paper at least three times (cited herein as Williams and Starkey 1999a, 1999b and 1999c), the varied versions being dutifully downloaded by myself and others and now archived and accessible in a single file on the internet as part of the historical record of the fraud, or alternatively separately from the website <http://www.smuggled.com/Sland1.htm> as links to their originally published forms.

The final altered version of the paper, that had it's publication date post-dated effectively reversed the original claims about *Pailsus* and falsely inferred Williams was set to describe the New Guinea taxon, *rossignollii*, actually described and named in Hoser 2000a with the publication Hoser 2000a, long predating the first actual uploading and posting in January 2001 of Williams and Starkey (1999), version "c".

Williams then made false claims on "www.kingsnake.com" and the internet chat forum "australianherps" along the lines that Hoser had stolen his "naming rights" to the New Guinea taxon, later changing it to the claim that Hoser had sought to do so, but inadvertently named another taxon (namely *rossignollii*), with Williams still about to name yet another unnamed taxon, for which fortuitously his enemy Hoser did not have access to



the specimens.

In spite of Williams making these claims in 2000 and 2001, as of March 2012 he has failed to identify or name any such taxon, even though in 2005, he coauthored a paper ostensibly on the taxonomy of the "*Pailsus*" / "*Pseudechis*" group of snakes (Wüster et al. 2005). That paper did not name any new taxa anywhere!

This again shows the unreliability of statements or material published that Williams and his associates write.

As it happens, Williams had nothing whatsoever to do with the initial discovery or naming of the *Pailsus rossignollii* taxon (see Hoser 2000a), although in a book he published in 2005 (Williams et al. 2005), he did recognise it as valid taxon that had been properly named by Hoser in Hoser 2000a (see pages 58, 59 and the distribution map in the Williams book, now identifying the *rossignollii* taxon as also occurring in PNG in the alleged region of his allegedly undescribed similar taxon).

This was significant in itself as it reversed opposing dogma as published by his close associate Wüster et al. (2001) to the effect that *Pailsus rossignollii* was either "*nomen nudum*", see the definition of the term in ICZN (1999), or *Pailsus rossignollii* was alternatively not a valid taxon, that had in turn been widely reposted and cited by Williams as "fact".

Notably however, while Williams chose to use the Hoser material in his book (on venomous snake species from New Guinea), and in spite of an extensive bibliography, Williams chose to deliberately exclude any Hoser publications from his references list in spite of several being key publications on the relevant groups of snakes and yet he chose to cite his own and Wüster's publications (post-dating the Hoser ones by some years) that had committed the morally reprehensible sin of plagiarising the key Hoser results (see below).

However in spite of the above facts relating to the description of the two Hoser *Pailsus* species in 1998 and 2000 (referred by some authors to "*Pseudechis*" or "*Cannia*"), Brian Starkey actually had no role in the false claims made in the ever-morphing paper originally published and dated from 1999 (Williams and Starkey 1999a), (AKA version 1).

In 2008, the "alleged" or "stated" co-author Brian Starkey wrote in an e-mail of that ill-fated 1999 paper that:

"I had absolutely nothing to do with time alteration and the reposting on web.

If fact I was in two minds about the whole paper, without even seeing a specimen of *pailus*. I didn't want to pass judgement until I had got out there and looked for

myself. I did four trips asap to the area and found a couple of specimens 40-50 km from Cloncurry. I knew as soon as I saw my first DOR, that you were right!

When I showed David a few pic's and close ups he knew too! Then I got a live specimen amongst a small group of rocks, so fast I nearly lost it. I have probably

seen about 3 live and 4-5 DOR specimens in 9 or more trips. I wish we didn't jump the gun.

But David wrote the paper and added my name. I never actually wrote a word, although he may have quoted things I said during phone conversations.

And that's the truth."

In other words, Williams had knowingly published false information and conclusions to try to convince third parties of his lie that *Pailsus pailsei* Hoser 1998 was not a valid taxon.

In terms of the *Pailsus* saga and related events and the lies and misinformation by Wüster, Williams and others and the relevant posts between theirs that exposed the misconduct, all the relevant internet posts and the like are cited at the rear of this paper (but not in text here due to their volume of citations).

They are however cited in the text of Hoser 2001a and Hoser 2001b.

Williams has had an axe to grind against Hoser and used it constantly to attack my credibility, after being adversely named in both "*Smuggled*" books, (Hoser 1993, 1996).

Those books detailed numerous cases of animal cruelty and reptile smuggling involving Williams in the periods predating publication of both books. For all cases referred to in the books, he was ultimately charged, convicted and fined by the Australian or Queensland governments, the last relevant case being finalized in 1997 for extreme cruelty to live reptiles and smuggling-related matters.

Himself and his close associates, including a so-called academic named Wolfgang Wüster from a University in Wales, UK, have since spent much of their paid time stalking the internet telling people not to use so-called "Hoser names".

They have done this while simultaneously committing the ethically repugnant crime of plagiarising Hoser research papers and republishing the results in their own later publications (e.g. Williams et al. 2005, Wüster et al. 2005), while consistently failing to appropriately cite or acknowledge the original source of the "findings" (also see Williams, Wüster and Fry 2007).

A close friend of theirs, with a similar "anti-Hoser"

position was a self-admitted “amateur herpetologist” (see text at: <http://leiopython.de/en/vita.html> downloaded on 28 December 2008, or last words page 19, Schleip 2008a) by the name of Wulf Schleip, who in the period after 2001, took a strong interest in the snakes of the genus *Leiopython* which he had as “pets, and to his obvious dislike found that one of just two named and obvious species in the genus was “*Leiopython hoseræ* Hoser 2000”.

Wüster’s best known critique of the “Hoser taxonomy” was a paper he first posted on “kingsnake.com” before he shipped it to various journals, before it got through a new and gullible editor at *Litteratura Serpentina* in 2001. The paper has since been posted by Wüster and all other “Hoser haters” widely over the web and elsewhere to further their cause, including by Williams, Schleip and others. However all the central arguments in the paper (Wüster et. al. 2001, and later ones repeating the same or similar lies) have long since been shown to be false (see for example Hoser 2001a, 2001b, in direct reference to the Wüster et. al. piece, or alternatively Kuch, et. al. 2005, Rawlings et. al. 2008 and others who in turn rebut the false claims by Wüster et. al. relating to the Hoser taxonomy), but that has never stopped these men from repeating, embellishing and further exaggerating their lies and false claims on internet posts and even hard-copy publications, including for example (Williams, Wüster and Fry 2007).

Williams and Wüster have a history of “shopping” their “papers” through friendly and not so friendly editors to publish material that under normal circumstances would never pass even the most basic of editorial processes in anything masquerading as “scientific literature”.

Simultaneously they have phoned and written to journal editors making false claims, threats and even sending legal letters, trying to harass and intimidate editors not to publish material correcting their lies. Affected journal editors include those from *Crocodylian*, *Herptile*, *Litteratura Serpentina*, *Boydii*, *Monitor* and others as well as even the *Herald-Sun* newspaper in Melbourne.

The latter received numerous threats and then even a letter (later passed to myself) after the newspaper published a world first photo of Raymond Hoser “free handling” a large number of the world’s top four deadliest snakes (*Parademansia microlepidota*, *Oxyuranus scutellatus*, *Pseudonaja textilis* and *Notechis scutatus*), that happened to be the world’s first venomoids of those taxa (Hoser 2004b), even though the accompanying captions and stories had no relevance or references to Williams, Wüster or their associates or in theory gave them any reason to contact the newspaper.

This is mentioned merely to indicate the obsessiveness and extent of the campaign against Hoser interests by these men and the degree to which they actively “stalk” and try to counter any favourable mentions of “Hoser” in any context.

#### **FURTHER FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY BY THE CONVICTED REPTILE SMUGGLER DAVID WILLIAMS**

This is detailed here due to the fact that Schleip has by his own admissions in his 2008 paper worked closely with this convicted conman and that it appears he employs similar morals.

In a widely reported statement made by a PNG Pharmacist, Richard McGuinness in 2008, David Williams also allegedly stole dozens of vials of snake anti-venom from government stores when not authorised to do so.

Noting the serious ongoing shortage of such life-saving anti-venom in PNG, the obvious outcome would be an increase in the number of lives lost to snakebite in a country where annual deaths are measured in the thousands.

Williams denied re-selling the anti-venom on the black-market, instead stating that he had used the missing vials for live-saving work, as in treating bite victims.

The explanation was rubbished by McGuinness who stated that there was no evidence to back up the Williams claims.

To date Williams has not provided any detailed explanation to rebut the McGuinness claims.

Furthermore, Williams had been shown on the ABC TV programme “*Foreign Correspondent*” masquerading as “Dr”, David Williams.

This was even though he was not a medical practitioner of any form. Furthermore he had no PhD or other similar qualification allowing him to use the title “Dr” to describe himself in the footage filmed at end 2007 and screened in early 2008.

Several news reports in PNG and Australia also saw Williams identified as being involved in a fraudulent act of improperly arranging the import of Indian anti-venom, ostensibly to be used to treat snakebites in New Guinea.

Such anti-venom is useless on PNG snakes and PNG, Port Moresby City Pharmacy boss Mahesh Patel condemned Williams and his agents for promoting it’s use or availability in New Guinea, saying that his activities could put lives at risk (see Marshall (2008) and material cited therein and Staff Reporters 2008)).

At the time the debacle emerged of the improper importation of the wrong anti-venom emerged, David Williams justified the importation and ordering

the anti-venom on the basis he was planning a trip to regions to the west where such anti-venom may work on some of the local species and hence was a better alternative to having nothing.

#### **EARLIER INCIDENTS INVOLVING REPTILE SMUGGLER DAVID WILLIAMS**

Williams was also the principal of a now defunct enterprise called "Austoxin".

Set-up in around 1994/6 ostensibly to save lives in New Guinea by supposedly supplying venom to make anti-venom, the enterprise actually turned out to be a highly organised reptile smuggling racket that intended to illegally send reptiles out of the country to supply an illegal global reptile trade.

When it collapsed, the debacle was widely reported in the PNG and Australian tabloid media at the time and labelled potentially the largest reptile smuggling racket in PNG history with the unwitting involvement of the then Deputy PM who was also apparently duped by Williams.

Williams blamed the debacle on his business partner Wayne Lewis, who in turn blamed Williams. Regardless of who was to blame, Williams fled the country.

In a widely circulated statement made on 17 December 2007 (Lewis 2007a), Lewis wrote:

"My name is Wayne Lewis and I was one of the founding Directors of Austoxin P/L and a Director of Austoxin (PNG) Ltd. I ran the exhibits in shopping centre's in Australia during the 94/95 period and made ALL of Williams reptile transactions on his behalf. I then spent a year in Port Moresby in total limbo both during and after Williams fell out with Ed Jones, John Ellsworth and Chris Hiaveta the then deputy PM of PNG. A bit of research will confirm these facts. I can attest to all of Williams illegal transactions during the period as well as drug importation from PNG to Australia by someone who I've read is now Williams business partner."

A letter by Lewis sent via e-mail and hard copy, dated 18 December 2007 (Lewis 2007b) sent to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), not widely disseminated is printed below for the benefit of the public record.

So that I am not accused of misquoting the letter, it is reproduced in full.

"From: Rocky Guyforfun  
<rockyblope@gmail.com>

Date: 18 Dec 2007 22:18

Subject: URGENT. Upcoming episode relating to DAVID WILLIAMS in PNG.

To:

foreign2@your.abc.net.au

Dear Sirs.

This is a rather long winded summary but I implore you to read it thoroughly.

This is a basic narration of my associations with DAVID JOHN WILLIAMS that involves both conspired and direct criminal activity. I have

original documentation to prove any and all claims made in this correspondence.

I have been following with keen interest the activities of David John

Williams and in particular the press surrounding his project in Papua New

Guinea. I understand that your program is dedicating time to an episode on

the above mentioned. I feel it necessary, after viewing a 60 Minutes episode

recently on the same subject, to raise concerns regarding the portrayal of

Williams as an all round nice guy dedicated to the salvation of the people of PNG with regard to snakebite..

I was involved with Williams in a venture in the mid nineties called

Austoxin Pty. Ltd and Austoxin (PNG) Ltd.

The primary aim of the companies

was to further the research of venom components for medical applications.

Further aims were to provide educational displays to the public and schools.

A partnership was entered into with Sydney University under the direction of

Prof. Richard Kristopherson. (spelling error) to provide whole dried venom

for research purposes. The company recruited numerous private shareholders

and other stake holders. The founding directors were David Williams, Wayne

Lewis and Laurie Haddrick. All of Cairns, Qld. The company started way under

capitalized and things went down hill fast



financially. Williams basically lived from the company bank accounts and the company premises were always up market residential rental properties. I was in charge of the travelling displays and PNG company. I was later accused of fraud by Williams and slandered in emails by him at the time with regard to the PNG company. All since proven false.

The PNG company was incorporated with Williams, Lewis and John Ellsworth as directors. The aim of this company was to collect animals to produce venom for both the World Health Organization and Sydney University. Also the export of native fauna to the USA through an American fauna dealer Ed Jones was planned and implemented. The plan was to get PNG nationals to capture large quantities of native reptiles, amphibians and mammals for dispatch to the USA via Jones. Initially this was to be done in accordance with the CITES agreement at the time and the then Deputy PM. Chris Hiaveta was the major financier and was able to pull strings when questions were asked. In the end no animals were sent to the USA as Williams fell out with Hiaveta's representative Ellsworth and Jones over the export of animals. Williams and Jones were for the export. Hiaveta and Ellsworth were against due to mounting political pressures in PNG and the Police Superannuation Fund scandal that Hiaveta was embroiled in.

I ran the PNG company and was under the direct instruction of Williams and Jones. Initially enclosures were sent from Australia and set up in a Port Moresby warehouse. Numerous specimens were caught by the initial group of Australian expats including Williams, Lewis, Brian Starkey. Specimens included were Chondropythons, Carpet Snakes, Northern Tree Snakes, Papuan Taipans, Small Eyed Snakes, Monitors and Gekkos. All of which I still have

photographs of inside the enclosures at the PNG warehouse. Only two of those species are of any use for venom research. Williams instructions to me upon departure to PNG was to get the export of the reptiles moving as fast as possible to provide funding for the Australian operation which by that stage was in dire straits financially.

The fact that PNG did not allow the export of native fauna under the CITES agreement was generally considered by Williams et al something to be overcome by Hiaveta. I was recruited by Ellsworth and Hiaveta to continue the PNG operation without the export side of it. However due to family health issues in Australia I returned to Australia leaving Austoxin and severing any and all association with Williams. I was a very naive person to be involved in such a level of business at the time and relied on Williams apparent expertise. This was found to be misplaced trust as with Williams appearances are often deceptive. Williams may be on a noble crusade these days however his past is exceptionally blemished with criminal offences against fauna and trade in fauna in Australia. I acted as his middle man in the mid nineties and made numerous illegal reptile sales on his behalf, using his licence, to some prominent amateur herpetologist in QLD and Victoria. He swapped Dept. of Environment and Heritage implants from his captive bred animals to wild caught specimens and sold these and their wild caught offspring, though me, on numerous occasions. I was prosecuted by the DEH in 1995 for illegal movement of Williams animals, on his license, to a movie shoot for the movie All Men Are Liars. My signature is on all movement documents from 1994 to mid 1996. Williams himself was convicted of cruelty charges in 1997 relating to rotting animals found in the former Austoxin warehouse in Bolton St

Cairns by a DEH raid. I was interviewed by Mike Chepp from DEH and provided my opinions on the state of the animals at the time. Williams was fined some \$7500 and a conviction recorded.

David Williams is a very personable chap who exudes confidence and sincerity, however I have seen the other side of his persona and believe me, though he may well be giving his full commitment to his research in PNG, he is capable of great deception and has always been driven by his ego and need for professional recognition. This overrides all other aspects of David.

I can be contacted on this email address  
Your sincerely  
Wayne Lewis."

Also obtained was a raft of supporting documents, including many from David Williams himself, which confirmed the detail of the above, including that Williams had unsuccessfully raised obscure legal arguments as an appeal defense against his convictions and fines for culpable cruelty to reptiles and smuggling (Williams 1997). The appeal failed with all fines and penalties being re-imposed.

Before the Austoxin debacle, David Williams had pled guilty in Australia to smuggling reptiles in the post in an unrelated incident.

In another incident, David Williams went to a company trading as "Network Rentals and Rent A Ute", where he hired a truck to use for a reptile demonstration. According to a statement by a debt collector,

"The truck was reported stolen after a few weeks, the police caught Williams driving it, but did not do anything as he paid by cheque and it bounced so they said it was a civil matter now."

At the end, Williams wasn't pursued for the debt as he lacked assets and the truck itself had been recovered intact.

See Woolf (2008) for details.

The details of these and other Williams incidents are all beyond the scope of this paper, but readily accessible via court files, news clips and the like from the relevant times.

A mere fraction of these are listed in the bibliographies in Hoser (1993) and Hoser (1996).

## HOLIDAY INN COMPETITION AND VOTE RIGGING EXPOSED

At end 2007 and early 2008 David Williams decided to promote himself as some kind of unsung hero, saving people from death by Snakebite in Papua New Guinea.

He successfully got funds from the "Australian Venom Research Unit" (AVRU), in Melbourne for what are best described as "collecting trips" and the like.

He solicited and duped the ABC TV's "*Foreign Correspondent*" into doing a favourable story about him that was later shown to be fraudulent (see elsewhere in this paper), including what a number of herpetologists speculated was the alleged faking of a Taipan bite.

The bite was not shown on camera, immediately arousing suspicions as every other part of the alleged event was shown.

Added to this was that Williams made an apparent near "instant" recovery by the next day and made inconsistent statements in terms of availability of anti-venom on the ABC broadcast and on internet forums including [www.aussiereptilekeeper.com](http://www.aussiereptilekeeper.com), the latter of which he had said he had spare stored at his facility.

Then there was the already mentioned making false statements to acquire a special order of Indian snake anti-venom for resale in PNG, even though it was of no use to local species.

Peter Lloyd, an ABC work colleague of the reporter who worked with Williams in the New Guinea story, was shortly after, in July 2008 caught and prosecuted for Drug Trafficking in Singapore. He pled guilty to three drug-related offences, including possessing 0.41 grams of methamphetamine, or "ice" and was sentenced to 10 months' jail on 2 December 2008 (Meade 2010).

Also following the making of the ABC report, Williams was also exposed for improper conduct elsewhere as part of his broad campaign to masquerade as a life-saving hero from New Guinea.

In early 2008, Williams and associates, Wolfgang Wüster, Wulf Schleip, Al Coritz and Mark O'Shea spammed internet sites and most major internet reptile forums seeking people to vote for him as a so-called "Everyday hero" in a contest where the winner got a free all inclusive holiday at a hotel run by the Holiday Inn Hotel Group valued by them at US\$20,000.00.

Wüster posted on UK sites and others including <http://www.reptileforums.co.uk> inviting reptile enthusiasts to post multiple votes for Williams (see Wüster 2008) being touted as "one of us".

Williams and the same crew that usually devote their endless hours of spare time attacking myself had found a new cause to promote and as their actions didn't impinge on me, it was in my view a useful diversion for them.

My only regret is that the competition didn't run for several years!

The history of the competition is thankfully recorded on archived posts from the many reptile forums easily searchable at the time via the internet. Most have now been deleted or edited.

As the competition progressed Williams found himself being out-voted by another man, an academic from Pakistan and so Williams and others stepped up the campaign for votes continuing to call for people to register multiple votes and even encouraging people to register fake e-mail addresses solely to bolster votes for Williams.

One of Wüster's students posting under the name of "Gaboon" on <http://www.reptileforums.co.uk> even sought higher marks from his University teacher (Wüster) if he voted for Williams (Gaboon 2008).

The Gaboon post followed numerous repeated pleas for assistance by Wüster on the same forum and others.

On the UK forum there was a general disinterest, so Wüster repeatedly had to "bump" the thread to make it seen (in at least one case merely posting the word "bump"), or otherwise it'd have dropped off the main front page of the site, making the thread less likely to be seen by third parties.

As the contest drew to a close Williams sent a message out, also reposted by his helpers, including Wüster at: <http://www.reptileforums.co.uk>,

Which read:

"I am especially grateful to my friends Shane Hunter from ARK in Australia, Mark (O'Shea) and Wolfgang in the UK, Al Coritz and Chris Harper in the USA, and Wulf Schlep from Europe, who promoted this contest fiercely, spending many long hours at the keyboard or on the phone to mates stirring up interest."

However it appears that the help wasn't all above board, with Williams actually being disqualified for vote rigging as identified by the hotel chain running the contest. In order to beat the main competitor, Williams or someone working on his behalf had illegally inflated his vote tally near the end by improperly adding a massive 4,000 votes in order to get him over the line as alleged "winner".

Based on a separate post by Williams on <http://www.reptileforums.co.uk> (and many others) he implied that the fraudulent votes had come from a single computer (see Williams 2008), which seems

to be patently obvious in hindsight, especially noting the skills in false and cross-posting Williams and associates has developed over the preceding ten years.

It also emerged that Williams also faced potential disqualification for making a false claim about himself on the hotel chain's own website <http://www.holidayinneverydayheroes.com/readmore.aspx?id=57&page=1> which also happened to be against the hotel chain's guidelines. As mentioned before, working with Williams in this fraudulent debacle were his close friends, Wolfgang Wüster, Mark O'Shea, Wulf Schleip, Shane Hunter and Al Coritz.

Coritz even went to the extent of filming and posting a video on "youtube" (at: <http://au.youtube.com/watch?v=QzgluS-tIKc>) of him ranting on, solely for the purpose of calling on other reptile enthusiasts to vote for Williams. Coritz is better known to herpetologists for the squalid conditions he kept a wild-caught Taipan through another video he posted on "Youtube" at: <http://au.youtube.com/watch?v=ujBiDuloYgM>.

This shows a thin snake at his home covered in exo-parasites, as a result having failed to shed properly in an unventilated cage replete with an inappropriate turned up and spilt water bowl, creating a bacteriological cocktail of a nightmare as the by-product it is shown mixed with an inappropriately wet substrate and uncleaned faecal matter strewn across the cage in a room with loose electrical wires forming a potential death trap for both snake and handler!

Coritz is also well-known for the false advice he gives about the abundance of "dry bites" from venomoid snakes, which he publicly opposes.

While one may ask what the relevance of this hotel competition fraud has to do with reptile taxonomy and the like, it goes to show how this group of men will use improper means to peddle views, including to make out that they are more widespread than is actually the case.

In the case of the hotel chain competition, Williams managed to garner at least 4,000 votes for himself, with the obvious aim and intention to mislead innocent persons and to form a false perception that there was a groundswell of independent people in support of him, which was never the case.

His actual support base was at best a mere handful of people.

There is absolutely no doubt at all that following publication of this paper that Williams, Schleip and Wüster (and aliases) will post material contrary to the facts and views that are in this paper.

This will be including under fake ID's, as well as



using their influence to improperly censor out balancing viewpoints on forums that they control.

This will be done in order to lead to a false perception that their views are those of the majority of herpetologists, which quite clearly they never have been.

### **SUCCESS BY SCHLEIP, WÜSTER AND WILLIAMS IN MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS**

Unfortunately these men continue to run their warped campaigns because at times they do have a degree of success and it is this level of success that is cause for concern, as it relies on tactics of bullying and censorship, rather than persuasive and valid arguments.

To give an accurate appraisal and motive for their improper actions, some further instances of their actions should be related.

The major taxonomic act of Hoser 2004a was the erection of a genus for the *reticulatus* pythons, transferring them from "*Python*" to a new genus, "*Broghammerus* Hoser 2004".

Essentially adopting diagnostic characters derived from earlier authors, most notably McDowell (1975), the most notable thing about the designation was that no one had attempted it earlier, which was point raised by a number of independent commentators.

The morphological and behavioural differences between the Reticulated and Indian/Burmese pythons is stark and for them to be placed in separate genera made eminent sense.

Following publication of Hoser 2004a, Schleip and Wüster true to usual form stalked the internet in usual fashion and bullied people into not using the name *Broghammerus*, including in places like [www.kingsnake.com](http://www.kingsnake.com) and elsewhere.

On 24 July 2004, I posted at <http://forums.kingsnake.com/view.php?id=520074,520074> (Hoser, 2004d) advising merely of the publication in accordance with the ICZN rules.

The relevant section is:

"Recommendation 8A. Wide dissemination. Authors have a responsibility to ensure that new scientific names, nomenclatural acts, and information likely to affect nomenclature are made widely known."

Immediately, Schleip, made repeated posts here and elsewhere specifically discouraging persons from using *Broghammerus*, but without providing any sensible reasons for the position. (See Schleip 2004b, 2004c).

Schleip of course was joined by Wüster on the same forum, who supported his position in favour of non-usage of *Broghammerus*, again without providing any sensible reason, but nevertheless

making considerable noise, (see Wüster 2004a and 2004b as examples) with numerous similar posts on other sites made by both men, whenever reference was made either to the Hoser paper or the name *Broghammerus*.

As a result of their bullying and vigilance in stifling dissent, the name did not get widespread usage.

Google searches as of early 2008, showed that without exception, whenever the name "*Broghammerus*" was raised on any internet forum (anywhere in the world), Schleip, Williams and Wüster would descend on the thread to condemn use of the name and flame and bully anyone who supported it, including forcing supportive posts to be deleted, in order to present a false view that the use of *Broghammerus* was not generally supported.

(I presume they used "Google alerts" or similar to monitor the web in real time).

The men would invariably refer in their posts to the online version of Wüster et. al. 2001, posted on Wüster's own university-funded website, the alleged (and long discredited) facts in the paper being justification not to use so-called "Hoser-names".

In 2008, Rawlings et. al. independently and without any input from Hoser, published their own paper that using mtDNA data, not surprisingly confirmed the Hoser 2004a position and adopted the use of *Broghammerus*, extending it to include *timorensis* (a taxon with which I have little expertise), that action being the significant taxonomic move in the paper.

Noting that Wüster and Williams have in the past been ruthless in stopping publications in favour of the Hoser positions, including harassing and intimidating journal editors, it's fair to assume that neither were aware of the paper's imminent publication or the central conclusions.

None of, Wüster, Williams, Schleip or close associates, Fry, Coritz, (Peter) Mirtschin or O'Shea are listed in any way as being consulted or assisting in the paper in the acknowledgements, which is notable, as had any been aware of the paper, they'd almost certainly have tried to stop it's publication as they have done previously.

This paper effectively undermined the Wüster et. al. claims that "Hoser" was a useless and clueless amateur (Wüster et. al. 2001 or Schleip and O'Shea 2010), who's taxonomy should be forcibly suppressed and ignored (again see Wüster et. al. 2001 or Schleip and O'Shea 2010), thereby leading other herpetologists and the US Geological Survey to accept the Rawlings et. al. position and adopt *Broghammerus* for the *reticulatus* group.

Wüster, Schleip and Williams continued to stalk the web and "flaming" anyone who dared use the term "*Broghammerus*" including through the use of

assumed names, but eventually the tide became overwhelming, as had occurred some years earlier, when Wüster had fought a losing battle against the acceptance of *Acanthophis wellsi* Hoser 1998 (see details of Wüster's campaign about this in Hoser 2001b).

The comments during this campaign were to say the least improper, like for example:

"Raymond Hoser should be banned from EVER having a scientific description considered as valid",

posted anonymously on: <http://www.albertareptilesociety.org/forum/archive/index.php?t-963.html> on 23 Feb 2008, or a post by Wüster ("in person" this time) on 2 December 2008 on an obscure South African reptile forum at: <http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=5&p=104864> where he said that he'd never in his life use the term "*Broghammerus*", (Wüster 2004c).

Notwithstanding the above, Wüster maintains a vigil on webpages like "Wikipedia" which he edits under the username "Mokele" to regularly to ensure that even as of March 2012, Reticulated Pythons are not called "*Broghammerus*".

There is no doubt that as for other Hoser-named taxa that manage to gain widespread acceptance in spite of the bullying and misinformation by Wüster/Schleip/Williams, their campaign of hatred will descend to the usual mud-slinging and false claims.

These will be along the lines that Raymond Hoser stole all the research work out of someone else's filing cabinet and in an "ethically repugnant" act, deliberately "scooped" them in naming the taxon/ taxa before they could do so.

#### MORE WIKIPEDIA

Due to the fact that literally within minutes of the name "Raymond Hoser" appearing on the internet, Wüster, Schleip or one of their aliases posts hate and lies on the internet, it is clear that they have a means to know as and when these posts are made.

Investigations have yielded several ways by which this can be done, including for example "google alerts", which send an e-mail to the person seeking all web pages, posts and the like using a given search term as pages are created and indexed.

This ability to know when the "Raymond Hoser" name appears on the web, includes sites like Wikipedia, which Wüster edits heavily.

As mentioned earlier, he has made a vigil of the Reticulated Python pages to keep *Broghammerus* off it.

He has done much the same for other reptile-related websites that as a matter of course would rely on

Hoser taxonomic names, including for example the pages relating to Death Adders (*Acanthophis*), Mulga Snakes (*Cannial/Pseudechis*) and so on.

Wüster has even gone so far as to be a party to the creation and continual editing of a "Raymond Hoser" wikipedia page (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond\\_Hoser](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Hoser)) and another devoted to "Venomoid snakes" (see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venomoid>) both of which are essentially "hate" sites against myself. Both Wüster edited pages are replete with false and misleading information.

The most obvious lies including the claims on both sites that our venomoid snakes are dangerous because they have regenerated venom!

The fact is that after more than 8 years, none of 39 venomoid snakes have ever been shown to have regenerated a drop of venom and all have been tested, not just on rodents, by milking and so on, but even by biting myself and others in public and on television.

The 10 March 2011 version of [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond\\_Hoser](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Hoser) went even further and published the following alleged facts:

"In February 2011, Hoser was fined \$33,000 in Ringwood Magistrates court, after four cases where his venomoid snakes had bitten members of the public, (at agricultural shows), the result being serious life-threatening bites that required hospital and anti-venom to save the people. Hoser's venomoids had all regenerated venom and the magistrate summed up stating that Hoser was delusional to think his venomoids had no regenerated venom."

No such incidents had ever occurred and because venomoids had never regenerated venom, such incidents would not have been possible!

While it's not possible to work out all user-names Wüster posts under, I am aware of at least four aliases he posts under to spread his lies, including, WW, truth hater, Mokele and TH.

#### THE HISTORY OF THE WEBSITE WWW.LEIOPYTHON.DE

In 2001, a private snake hobbyist by the name of Wulf Schleip from Germany, created the website [www.leiopython.de](http://www.leiopython.de). Here he professed to disseminate information on the genus *Leiopython*, which happened to be the genus/species of snake he was keeping at the time.

At first his site recognised both taxa (*albertisi* and *hoserae*) as different species, which was in line with accepted taxonomy of 2001, noting that Hoser (2000b) had in the case of the latter, merely formalized a long recognised species arrangement. Schleip gave accounts of both as different species,

which was appropriate for a website purporting to be an up-to-date reference for the genus.

Unfortunately, and presumably as a result of his frequenting similar internet chat groups to the convicted smuggler David Williams, Schleip soon became a close friend and associate of him and Wüster, generally offering support to Williams whenever he “flamed” or attacked others and of course in the ill-fated hotel competition detailed above.

Significantly in the context of this paper, from at least 2004, and after a series of posts on webforums, including “www.kingsnake.com” by Wolfgang Wüster and convicted smuggler David Williams, Schleip amended his site to deny the legitimacy of the taxon *hoserae*, variously declaring it “*nomen nudum*” in numerous places and also stating that the southern black “race” regularly climbed the central range of New Guinea to hybridise with the Northern “race” of *L. albertisi* (Schleip 2007b).

Put simply, he joined the David Williams campaign of lies and hate against “Hoser”.

By way of example, in a post to <http://www.herpbreeder.com/> Schleip also denied the existence of *L. hoserae*, going so far as to infer that he had mtDNA evidence that didn’t support the Hoser 2000b designation (Schleip 2004).

Based on the mtDNA material in the Schleip 2008 paper, we now know his 2004 statement to be totally dishonest (as in the opposite to the evidence he actually possessed), which must therefore make everything else Schleip writes similarly questionable and worthy of closer assessment before accepted as “correct” as would commonly be the place after a sizeable taxonomic treatise is published.

While either of Schleip’s “new” 2004 concepts are patently ridiculous, there was no means or for that matter reason for myself to try to change or remove the offending material.

The internet is full of questionable material, and in terms of Schleip’s website, it was just one of many being run by persons of questionable integrity with undisclosed (to their readers) axes to grind.

Schleip avidly posted on internet forums and elsewhere his consistently negative views of Hoser, on all matters, ranging on taxonomy, venomoid (devenomized snakes), wildlife legislation, education and so on.

Schleip also edited the “wikipedia” webpage for *Leiopython* on many occasions, where he made sure that the view that there was only one species in the genus was peddled and remained so, even when others edited the site to indicate the generally prevailing (post 2000) view that there was two

species in the genus (*albertisi* and *hoserae*), giving him the opportunity to edit it back to the single species view. This was at:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leiopython>

and the edit history is publicly available via a link on the page.

As late as 12 December 2008, that site read as follows:

“*Leiopython* is a monotypic genus created for the non-venomous python species, *L. albertisii*, found in New Guinea. No subspecies are currently recognized.”

For the record, in terms of all the Hoser descriptions of taxa, they most certainly conformed with the relevant “Rules” as published by the ICZN (ICZN 1999).

Hence the names were all “available”. However neither myself or anyone else can force anyone to use those or other names to describe given taxa.

Furthermore, while anything is possible, it seemed unlikely to me that a forest-dwelling python would be able to climb extremely high, sometimes snow-capped hills of the New Guinea central range cordillera to find other snakes to breed with, especially as in over 100 years no one has ever found any snake that is apparently intermediate or hybrid in any way to the taxa *L. albertisi* and *L. hoserae*.

The Schleip website and comments by Wüster, including those he published in *Litteratura Serpentina* in 2001, were in the materially relevant times clearly an attack on Hoser as opposed to any credible scientific assault on the taxonomy or nomenclature of the relevant Hoser papers.

As it happens, all major taxonomic conclusions (and following on nomenclature) of the Hoser papers, have been corroborated by independent studies of other herpetologists and generally been viewed by them as conservative.

The list runs broadly as follows:

Hoser 1998/2002 *Acanthophis* taxonomy (confirmed by Aplin and Donnellan 1999, Wells 2002, bootlegged and agreed by Fry et. al. 2002 and Wüster et. al. 2005)(also see support from Starkey 2008 dating back many years)

Hoser 2000b/2003a/2004a *Python* Taxonomy (confirmed by Rawlings and Donnellan 2003 (“*Chondropython*”), Rawlings, et. al. 2008 (“*Broghammerus*” and other genera), O’Shea 2007a, 2007b (“*Leiopython*”), Schleip 2008 (“*Leiopython hoserae*” and other), Wells 2005 (“*Morelia*” Carpet Pythons))



Hoser 1998/2000a/2001 "*Pseudechis*" group taxonomy (confirmed by Kuch, et. al. 2005, bootlegged and agreed by Wüster et. al. 2005)

Hoser 2001a/2001b *Pseudonaja* taxonomy (bootlegged and agreed by Williams et. al. 2008)

Hoser 2002 *Oxyuranus* taxonomy (bootlegged and agreed by Wüster et. al. 2005)

For other Hoser-named taxa, e.g. *Tropidechis sadlieri* Hoser 2003 (Hoser 2003b), which are generally easily and consistently diagnosed species (there has never been public argument in terms of the original findings) (See J. Craig Venter Institute 2008).

Of significance is the fact that as of late 2008, Schleip's website (and wikipedia entries) was still peddling the line that the Hoser taxonomy for the genus *Leiopython* was wrong and that all could be assigned to a single species, namely *L. albertisi*.

Also of note is the consistent (opposing Hoser) position of Schleip (and Williams and Wüster), no matter how absurd the opposing position actually is.

All three men control websites running anti-Hoser petitions, the main one as of 2006-8 being one against Raymond Hoser being allowed to own or possess venomoid (devenomized) snakes for the purposes of being able to do educational wildlife demonstrations without putting the public at risk.

In terms of that petition and websites associated with it, the three men have peddled countless lies, including most seriously that the Hoser venomoid snakes have regenerated venom and are dangerous.

After a video of numerous world's deadliest snakes, venomoid snakes biting Hoser (with no effect) appeared on "youtube" these men and/or associates petitioned "youtube" to have the video removed, the actual reason being it made a mockery of their lies.

On 24 December 2008, when I posted material on websites calling for an end to the sale and use of "glue traps" to kill snakes in Australia, the "Hoser haters" posted material on "www.aussiereptilekeeper.com" in support of the continued use of the traps (see Hunter 2008) on the same day, which remained unchallenged (for at least a fortnight) solely on the basis that the position was opposite to the Hoser one, with Schleip being a poster on and official sponsor of the site/server/s at the materially relevant time, including on 28 December 2008!

## THE SCHLEIP 2008 PAPER ON *LEIOPYTHON*

Late in 2008, Schleip removed all material from his website.

In a download (dated 7 December) all that was written there was:

"This site is closed for major updates and will be relaunched in a couple of days!"

(cited here as Schleip 2008c).

The site was in fact reloaded and relaunched on 10 December 2008.

The significance of the relaunch was that all his material denying the existence of the taxon *L. hoseae* was removed and Schleip had suddenly and without appropriate explanation or apology declared the species as valid!

The site's relaunch was based around the simultaneous (within days prior) publication of his 2008 paper, broadly accepting the Hoser taxonomy and in turn "creating" three new species of Brown *Leiopython* from the northern New Guinea region.

On 28 December 2008, he posted details of his newly published paper on *Leiopython* taxonomy on the website [www.aussiereptilekeeper.com](http://www.aussiereptilekeeper.com), a site moderated by the convicted reptile smuggler David John Williams.

This site's main reason to exist is to attack Raymond Hoser (this author). But on this occasion Schleip exploited the site to advertise his new paper and new "species".

As inferred earlier, Williams cannot be sued for defamation due to his lack of assets.

A search of the internet yielded abstracts of the Schleip paper only, (at: <http://www.bioone.org/perlserv/?request=get-abstract&doi=10.1670%2F06-182R5.1>) see Bioone (2008), which stated that new species had been created on the basis of DNA evidence.

The paper itself was not publicly available except via a paywall, so for most internet users, the claims were unsubstantiated and would be expected to be believed on "face value".

I was able to acquire a photocopy of the publication through a Museum-based subscriber to the *Journal of herpetology*.

The abstract was quite definitive in stating it's basis for diagnosing and describing new taxa of *Leiopython*, including mtDNA, which one would reasonably assume would be for those species that may otherwise have a questionable diagnosis. However a read of the paper itself had the data revealing a different picture to that inferred in the abstract and essentially no different to that of Hoser 2000b.

While the Schleip website (all pages) broadly mirrored his findings as published in Schleip 2008a (the paper in the *Journal of Herpetology*), (we'll call all pages on the server as of 28 Dec 08 (Schleip 2008b)), there were a number of notable differences.

The differences in essence were a more vitriolic attack on myself and less editorial discipline leading to his inadvertent and inconsistent statements including some on various webpages stating that all the northern white-lipped pythons are of the same species, namely "*L. albertisi*"!

These points are only raised here to demonstrate the sloppy methodology of Schleip and how motive dictates what he writes, as opposed to the facts as they should be written.

Note for example that Schleip made at least four substantive changes (edits) to his website/s (at: [www.leiopython.de](http://www.leiopython.de)) in December 2008 alone!

He was also apparently active at wikipedia, this time apparently making anonymous edits to webpages for *Leiopython*. This time however he was changing the pages to indicate all new taxa as recognised in his 2008 paper. That Schleip was the editor was revealed via a reverse IP address search giving the European address of his internet gateway and seeing that it matched his footprint elsewhere on the web.

In fairness to Schleip he could sustain an argument that he had suddenly as of end 2008, changed his mind about *Leiopython* and reversed his tune denying the existence of the Hoser-named taxa. This is not a hanging offence, but a proper explanation and apology would have been ethical.

Also in fairness to Schleip, the ICZN rules do call for "wide dissemination" of taxonomic work, and Schleip could legitimately claim his stalking the web to (now) promote his published paper fitted this request from the ICZN.

However it is prudent to point out the hypocrisy here as Schleip, Wüster and Williams have put in print many times that Hoser's wide dissemination of taxonomy papers amounts to nothing more than "self promotion", (see Wüster et. al. 2001, or Williams et. al. 2006) and then as reposted and promoted on the web at "[www.aussiereptilekeeper.com](http://www.aussiereptilekeeper.com)" by Schleip.

However even allowing for Schleip's editorial inconsistencies, complete dishonesty and hypocrisy, the fact remains that Schleip had managed to have a taxonomic paper published.

Regardless of how badly either that or his webpage are written, whether or not his newly "created" species are actually valid ultimately turns on the evidence and that was found to be lacking.

## SCHLEIP AND HIS LACK OF EVIDENCE

Contrary to the abstract, there was no DNA evidence in support of his three newly created species.

In fact there was only DNA evidence available to support just two species of *Leiopython*, namely the nominate form, *L. albertisi* and the southern "black" form, described in 2000, as *Leiopython hoserae* Hoser 2000.

But one does not need to resort to DNA evidence to realise those taxa are distinct!

The only conclusive mtDNA evidence given by Schleip in his 2008 paper was in his Figure 4, which showed separation of *L. hoserae* Hoser 2000 from "*L. albertisi*" from Madang (summarised in the text of the second page (second column) of his paper).

While that confirms the taxonomic position of Hoser 2000b, in contrast to Schleip's own posts on Wikipedia and elsewhere at least to mid 2007, the non-publication of similar data splitting his own "new" species seems to indicate that the evidence he acquired (if he in fact looked) went against his published argument in favour of the new "species".

Interestingly for his newly created "species" "*fredparkeri*", Schleip wrote:

"this assignment should be subject to future studies on a genetic basis".

which showed that he either did not conduct genetic studies on this species, or alternatively his results weren't published as they went against his clear desire to name new "taxa" and be believed by his readers.

In other words two issues emerged in terms of Schleip and his 2008 paper.

1 – He did not provide evidence to support his claim of three new *Leiopython* species.

2 – Schleip showed he would lie in an abstract of a paper about evidence he simply did not have!

I detailed these shortcomings in Hoser 2009b, which also described further python taxa.

Wallach, Wüster and Broadley (2009) falsely claimed that AJH (issues 1-7) were not validly published (see above), leading to Schleip (and O'Shea) 2010 having yet another go at making false and baseless attacks against myself. This time the attack was a general call for people to disregard almost all Hoser taxonomy, including the new taxa names as described in Hoser 2009b.

Not content with these attacks, Schleip has trolled the internet attacking me at all opportunities, including making numerous false statements on the hate website "Ray Hoser – Melbourne's biggest wanker" and elsewhere.

### FIVE AUSTRALIAN PYTHONS

In August 2003, I had a paper describing 5 new Python taxa published in the *Newsletter of the Macarthur Herpetological Society* (Hoser 2003).

Shortly after publication, Wüster and Williams requested a "hard copy" from the editor, who replied that none were left and he could not supply one as the disk from which they were generated had been forwarded onto myself.

Subsequent to this Wüster posted widely that the publication was not valid under the ICZN rules as a disk is not a publication.

The argument is ridiculous as it'd be the same as saying a printing machine is not a publication either!

Anyway, rather than fighting the argument, it was deemed simpler to re-do the descriptions in another hard copy publication to stabilize the names. This was in fact done in a subsequent paper published in *Crocodilian* at end 2003 and early 2004, titled, "A Reclassification of the Pythoninae Including the Descriptions of Two New Genera, Two New Species, and Nine New Subspecies".

### WHEN LIES BECOME DANGEROUS

In 2004, I published a series of papers detailing the world's first successful venomoid (devenomizing) operation on the world's deadliest snakes, using a newly developed method of internal excision.

The operations were a success in that all snakes were operated on relatively painlessly, healed without incident and remained non-venomous permanently.

While the operation was initially done with handler safety in mind, the benefits went wider to encompass all forms of public safety.

The unexpected and eventually over-riding benefit was for the welfare of the venomous snakes, who now in a non-venomous state could be "free handled" instead of restrictively handled with sticks and tongs.

The result invariably became more placid and well-adjusted captive snakes.

Notwithstanding these obvious benefits, Wüster, Williams and others commenced a concerted campaign against myself and the venomoids, viewing it as an "achilles heal" by which to attack myself and my reptile display business enterprise.

To that end, Wüster, Williams and others have sponsored several online petitions, not just against venomoids, but specifically against myself and my venomoids.

As a result of this campaign, which included efforts of local business rivals and others, the operation has been outlawed in the Victorian jurisdiction and other practitioners have been scared off from either

doing the operation on snakes, or at least publicly disclosing the fact.

The most disturbing part of this campaign has been the use of lies and deception to promote it.

The most common claim made has been cruelty to the snakes. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Pain is measurable in snakes and both during and after the operation, pain is minimal. A good indicator is that snakes operated on will (as a rule) eat immediately post operation if offered food.

The venom glands do not have major nerves running to them and due to the lack of evident pain post operation, analgesics are not recommended.

Of greater significance in terms of human public safety is the false claim that venomoids regenerate venom being used to undermine both myself and our business claim that the snakes are totally safe and risk free.

This claim is easily rebutted and after three years of seeing the false claims made by Wüster and others on the web and elsewhere, I produced a series of videos of myself and others taking bites from venomoid snakes, including Taipans, Tiger Snakes, Death Adders and others, without ill effect.

That should have settled the matter.

However beyond that, Wüster and others claimed that the Hoser venomoids had regenerated venom and that I had been lucky and merely sustained so-called "dry bites".

A "dry bite" is one of those (normally rare) events, when a snake may bite a victim and not inject any venom. This lie was also peddled by business rivals, including Melbourne Zoo, whose staff even made the same claim in various courts, most notably being





a VCAT matter heard and judged in 2008.

For the record the claim was made by Melbourne Zoo veterinary surgeon Helen McCracken, who under cross examination admitted she had never performed venomoid surgery or for that matter even seen a venom gland in a snake.

Judge Anne Coghlan, with no knowledge of snakes and a bias against me stemming from earlier corruption books publications (see for example Hoser 1999c and Hoser 1999d), upheld the claims of regeneration of venom and “dry bites” to rule that all my venomoids were dangerous and that I had been fortuitous to have received a lot of dry bites (numbering hundreds) and yet never been envenomated once.

The judgement was posted on the internet at:

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2008/2035.html>

(Coghlan 2008) and then reposted widely by Wüster and others, including on the Wüster edited wikipedia page at:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venomoid>

Similar was reposted on countless reptile forums including for example at:

<http://www.faunaclassifieds.com/forums/archive/index.php/t-119300.html> under the totally false and misleading heading “The PROOF that venomoid snakes are not safe”,

Other examples of the same lies can be seen at:

<http://ball-pythons.net/forums/showthread.php?159576-venomoid/page2>

or

<http://www.cornsnakes.com/forums/showthread.php?p=755147>

or

<http://forum.kingsnake.com/venom/messages/35762.html>

and so on.

As a result, of the wide postings by Wüster, Schleip and others a false view was made out that so-called “dry bites” by snakes were common, with the figure of 80-90% being bandied about and posted on some webpages (e.g. <http://www.hindu.com/mag/2004/06/13/stories/2004061300400200.htm>).

The fact is that well over 90% of snake bites by large venomous elapid snakes that close their mouth on a victim would NOT be dry bites!

Of course with lies being peddled widely as truth, the inevitable result is that they will be believed.

So the result was people being led to believe that the videos showing me being bitten by up to 36 (normally very dangerous) venomoid snakes at once (as seen in September 2008), and suffering no ill

effects was due to good luck on my part, as all had regenerated venom and all were lucky “dry bites”.

On 26 November 2010 in Western Australia, Michael Thorpe, aged 43 was bitten by a Brown Snake. He did not do anything for the bite in terms of first aid or seeking medical help (Ninemsn staff 2010). This was on the basis of what he'd been led to believe about the high frequency of “dry bites”. He died shortly thereafter (Fenech 2010).

Al Coritz, posting widely on the internet as “viperkeeper” also promoted the anti-Hoser anti-venomoid line on numerous internet chat forums.

As part of this, he also actively peddled the line on forums including on the [www.kingsnake.com](http://www.kingsnake.com) “venomoid forum” that venomoids regenerate venom and of the high frequency of “dry bites” involving venomous snakes. The latter being part of the argument as to why persons such as myself can get bitten by venomoids regularly, yet suffer no ill effects, while it would still be possible to argue the same snakes are a serious public risk to anyone else potentially bitten.

On 14 June 2011, a well-known snake handler, Aleta Stacey was bitten by a Black Mamba at her home and following the advice of Al Coritz, assumed the bite would probably be a “dry bite”. Thus she failed to do any first aid or seek medical attention. She died shortly thereafter (see Various authors 2011b).

The twin lies as peddled by the truth haters that venomoid snakes regenerate venom and that venomous snakes routinely give “dry bites” has already been responsible for two people dying from venomous snake bites.

If the lies continue to be peddled as facts, more people will unnecessarily die.

More alarmingly, the demonstrably corrupt VCAT Judge Pamela Jenkins, did in 2012, hand down yet another ridiculous judgement again stating that all Hoser venomoids are an unacceptable public risk on the basis of the obvious lie that they have regenerated their venom and again that Hoser and others are fortuitous to have only received “dry bites” (Jenkins 2012).

When an unexpected snake bite death involves a well-known snake handler like Aleta Stacey, it is almost a certainty that governments will use the incident as justification for imposing further bans and restrictions on the rights of people to keep both venomous and non-venomous reptiles as pets or for study subjects. This did in fact happen in 2011!

It is for this reason that the truth haters who peddle dangerous lies including the twin lies of venomoids regenerating venom and of “dry bites” being common should be stopped sooner rather than later.

## REFERENCES CITED

(All internet sites downloaded on 1 October 2009 unless post-dating the date or otherwise cited. The author has taken screen dump copies of online material cited "as is")

Anonymous 1987. Case 2531. Three works by Richard W. Wells and C. Ross Wellington: proposed suppression for nomenclatural purposes. (allegedly written by the unnamed "President of the Australian Society of Herpetologists"), *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 44(2):116-121.

Anonymous 2009. Zootaxa websites at: <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/taxa/Reptilia.html> and <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/> and <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/support/advantage.htm> downloaded on 27 September 2009.

Aplin, K. P. and Donnellan S. C. 1999. An extended description of the Pilbara Death Adder, *Acanthophs wellsi* Hoser (Serpentes: Elapidae), with notes on the Desert Death Adder, *A. pyrrhus* Boulenger, and identification of a possible hybrid zone. *Records of the Western Australian Museum* 19: 277-298.

Barringer, J. 2012. Reptile world loses 2 days apart – Joseph Collins and Andy Price. Post online at: <http://www.kingsnake.com/blog/archives/786-Reptile-world-loses-2-days-apart-Joseph-Collins-and-Andy-Price.html> on 21 January.

Bauer, A. 2009a. Automatic e-mail response dated 27 September.

Bauer, A. 2009b. E-mail to Raymond Hoser dated 8 October.

Bioone, 2008. Abstract of Schleip 2008 *Leiopython* paper, hosted on the internet at: <http://www.bioone.org/perlserv/?request=get-abstract&doi=10.1670%2F06-182R5.1>

Brammell, P. 2001a. Re nomenclature - Fry and Wüster avoiding the obvious. Posting on Kingsnake.com on January 30, 2001 at 01:39:46:

Brammell, P. 2001b. Hoser's taxonomy is correct and a plea for sensibility. Posting to Kingsnake.com venomous snake forum dated January 30, 2001 at 02:04:45:

Brammell, P. 2001c. Williams/Starkey paper fraudulently altered. Posting to Kingsnake.com venomous snake forum dated January 30, 2001 at 02:41:21:

Brammell, P. 2001d. In defence of Hoser and a plea for reason. Posting on Kingsnake.com the elapidae forum on February 01, 2001 at 05:48:08:

Cogger, H. G. 1992. *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*, Revised Edition, Reed Publishing, Sydney, NSW, Australia. 775 pp.

Cogger, H. G. et. al. 1983. *Zoological Catalogue of Australia (1) Amphibia and Reptilia*, Australian

Government Publishing Service, Canberra, ACT, Australia. 319 pp.

Cogger, H. G., Cameron, E. E., Sadler, R. A., and Egger P. E. 1993. *The action plan for Australian reptiles*. The Director of National Parks and Wildlife Australian Nature Conservation Agency, December.

Coghlan, A. 2008. Raymond Hoser versus the Department of Sustainability and Environment Victoria, Judgement. Posted online at: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2008/2035.html> on 9 October.

Collins, J. T. 2009a. Two e-mails to Raymond Hoser dated 12 March 2009.

Collins, J. T. 2009b. Rattlesnakes reclassified. Webpage at: <http://www.cnah.org/research.asp?id=92> accessed 12 March 2009.

Collins, J. T. 2009c. Western Diamondback Rattlesnake, webpage at: <http://www.naherpetology.org/detail.asp?id=68> accessed 5 6 2009.

Collins, J. T. 2009d. Rattlesnakes rescued. Webpage at: <http://www.cnah.org/research.asp?id=98> accessed on 26 9 2009.

Collins, J. T. 2009e. Western Diamondback Rattlesnake, webpage at: <http://www.naherpetology.org/detail.asp?id=68> accessed 5 10 2009.

Collins J. T. 2009f. Rock rattlesnake. Webpage on CNAH website.

Cumming, F. 2009. Email to Raymond Hoser. 20 March.

Currie, M. 2009. Letter to Raymond Hoser, LEGAL DEPOSIT RECEIPT OF SERIAL PUBLICATION, Title Australasian Journal of Herpetology, no 2 – no 6 (2009). 20 March.

Eipper, S. 2000. Observations of the Black Snake Genus (*Pseudechis*) in Captivity. *Monitor: Journal of the Victorian Herpetological Society* 11(1):Cover, 25-31.

Eipper, S. 2001a. Posting on Kingsnake.com elapidae forum on July 02, 2001 at 21:22:41.

Eipper, S. 2001b. Posting on Kingsnake.com elapidae forum on July 03, 2001 at 07:04:23.

Eipper, S. 2001c. Posting on Kingsnake.com elapidae forum on July 03, 2001 at 07:15:09.

Fenech, K. 2010. Gingin man dies after freak snake bite. News story posted at: <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/gingin-man-dies-after-freak-snake-bite-20101201-18g55.html> on 1 December.

Frome, B. 2001a. Taxonomic and scientific fraud by David Williams. Posting on Kingsnake.com on January 29, 2001 at 20:14:05:

- Frome, B. 2001b. The reason why David Williams committed the fraud. Posting on Kingsnake.com on January 29, 2001 at 20:44:51:
- Fry, B. G. et. al. 2002. Electrospray liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry fingerprinting of *Acanthophis* (death adder) venoms: taxonomic and toxicological implications. *Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry* 16:600-608.
- Fry, B. G. et. al. 2009. Transcript comments at: <http://www.pethobbyist.com/articles/ChatMonth11Transcripts/BryanGriegFry2009.html> Posted on 6 Feb 2009
- Fry, B. G. 2009. Post on internet chat forum at: <http://www.venomousreptiles.org/forums/Experts/42293?page=2> on 29 March 2009.
- Fry, B. G. et. al. 2009. Transcript comments at: <http://www.pethobbyist.com/articles/ChatMonth11Transcripts/BryanGriegFry2009.html> Posted on 6 Feb 2009.
- Gaboon 2008. Post on 21 January at: <http://www.reptileforums.co.uk/snakes/87176-support-new-guinea-snakebite-research-2.html> and later posts.
- Greer, A. E. 1997. *The Biology and Evolution of Australian Snakes*, Surrey Beatty and Sons Pty Limited, Chipping Norton, NSW, 2170, Australia. 370 pp.
- Harvey, M.B., Barker, D. G., Ammerman, L. K. and Chippendale, P. T. 2000. 'Systematics of pythons of the *Morelia amethistina* complex (Serpentes: Boidae) with the description of three new species', *Herpetological Monographs* (The Herpetologist's League Incorporated), 14:139-185.
- Henderson, S. 2009. Re Zoological Records. E-mail to Tom Cotton dated 13 October.
- Hoser, R. T. 1989. *Australian Reptiles and Frogs*, Pierson and Co., Sydney, NSW, Australia. 240 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1993. *Smuggled: The Underground Trade in Australia's Wildlife*, Apollo Publishing, Moss Vale, NSW, Australia. 159 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1996. *Smuggled-2: Wildlife trafficking, crime and corruption in Australia*, Kotabi Publishing, Doncaster, Victoria, Australia. 280 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1998a. Death Adders (Genus *Acanthophis*): An overview, including descriptions of Five new species and One subspecies. *Monitor - Journal of the Victorian Herpetological Society* 9 (2):20-41.
- Hoser, R. T. 1998b. A New Snake From Queensland, Australia (Serpentes: Elapidae), *Monitor - Journal of the Victorian Herpetological Society*, 10 (1):Cover, 5-9, 31.
- Hoser, R. T. 1999a. Comments on comments on the Genus *Pailsus* Hoser 1998. *Monitor - Journal of the Victorian Herpetological Society*, 10 (2/3):120-122.
- Hoser, R. T. 1999b. What you may have missed - Herp news and media watch, *Monitor - Journal of the Victorian Herpetological Society*, 10 (2/3): 130-136.
- Hoser, R. T. 1999c. *Victoria Police Corruption*, Kotabi Publishing, Doncaster, Victoria, Australia. 736 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1999d. *Victoria Police Corruption-2*, Kotabi Publishing, Doncaster, Victoria, Australia. 736 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 2000a. A new species of snake (Serpentes: Elapidae) from Irian Jaya. *Litteratura Serpentina* 20(6): 178-186.
- Hoser, R. T. 2000b. A revision of the Australasian pythons. *Ophidia Review* 1(1): 7-27.
- Hoser, R. T. 2000c. What's in a species name? *Crocodylian - Newsletter of the Victorian Association of Amateur Herpetologists* 2: 9-10.
- Hoser, R. T. 2001a. A current assessment of the status of the snakes of the genera *Cannia* and *Pailsus*, including descriptions of three new subspecies from the Northern Territory and Western Australia, Australia. *Boydii - Journal of the Herpetological Society of Queensland Incorporated*, July 2001:26-60. (online via links from <http://www.herp.net>).
- Hoser, R. T. 2001b *Pailsus* - a story of herpetology, science, politics, pseudoscience, more politics and scientific fraud. *Crocodylian - Journal of the Victorian Association of Amateur Herpetologists* - 2 (10): 18-31, September 2001. (online via links from <http://www.herp.net>).
- Hoser, R.T. 2002. Death Adders (Genus: *Acanthophis*): An Updated overview, including descriptions of 3 New Island species and 2 New Australian Subspecies. *Crocodylian*. September 2002: 5-11, 16-22, 24-30. (online via links from <http://www.herp.net>).
- Hoser, R.T. 2003a. Five new Australian pythons. *Macarthur Herpetological Society Journal* Issue 40:4-9. (online via links from <http://www.herp.net>).
- Hoser, R. 2003b. The rough-scaled snakes, genus *Tropidechis* (Serpentes: Elapidae), including the description of a new species from far north Queensland, Australia. *Crocodylian*, 4 (2): 11-14. (online via links from <http://www.herp.net>).
- Hoser, R. T. 2004a. A reclassification of the Pythoninae including the description of two new Genera, two new species and nine new subspecies. *Crocodylian* 4(3,4):21-40. (online via links from <http://www.herp.net>).
- Hoser, R. T. 2004b. Surgical Removal of Venom



Glands in Australian Elapid Snakes: The creation of venomoids. *Herpfile* 29(1):37-52. (online via links from <http://www.herp.net>).

Hoser, R. T. 2004c. Silicone snakes cause sensation in Australia and elsewhere. *Hard Evidence* (November 2004) 4(6):25-29. (online via links from <http://www.herp.net>).

Hoser, R. T. 2004d. Post at: <http://forums.kingsnake.com/view.php?id=520074,520074> dated 20 July.

Hoser, R. T. 2007. A new technique for artificial insemination in squamates. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* (January 2008) 43 (1):1-9.

Hoser, R. T. 2009a. One or two mutations doesn't make a new species ... The taxonomy of Copperheads (*Austrelaps*) (Serpentes:Elapidae). *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 1 (2009):1-28. (1 January).

Hoser, R. T. 2009b. Creationism and contrived science: A review of recent python systematics papers and the resolution of issues of taxonomy and nomenclature. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 2 (2009):1-34. (3 February).

Hoser, R. T. 2009c. A new genus and a new species of skink from Victoria. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 3 (2009):1-6. (4 February).

Hoser, R. T. 2009d. Eight new taxa in the genera *Pseudonaja* Gunther 1858, *Oxyuranus* Kinghorn 1923, and *Panacedechis* Wells and Wellington 1985 (Serpentes:Elapidae). *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 4 (2009):1-27. (9 February).

Hoser, R. T. 2009e. Pain makes venomous snakes bite humans. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 5 (2009):1-21. (10 February).

Hoser, R. T. 2009f. A reclassification of the Rattlesnakes; species formerly exclusively placed in the Genera *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus*. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 6 (2009):1-21. (9 March).

Hoser, R. T. 2009g. Two e-mails to Joseph Collins, CNAH, dated 12 March 2009.

Hoser, R. T. 2009h. A reclassification of the True Cobras; species formerly referred to the genera *Naja*, *Boulengerina* and *Paranaja*. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 7 (2009):1-15. (23 March).

Hoser, R. T. 2009i. Post on <http://www.venomlist.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=24325&st=20> on 30 March 2009.

Hoser, R. T. 2009j. Post on forum at: <http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=83&t=17849> on 3 Oct 2009.

Hoser, R. T. 2010. Sam the scam: Sam the Koala is an imposter, *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 8 (2010):1-64. (12 February).

Hua, K. 2009. Letter to Raymond Hoser, *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 1 (2009) issue. 27 February.

Hughett, P. 2001a. Internet site at: <http://ntr.freesevers.com/photo.html> with a photo and text naming *Pailsus rossignollii*.

Hughett, P. 2001b. Internet site at: <http://ntr.freesevers.com/index.html> with a photo and text naming *Pailsus rossignollii*.

Hughett, P. 2001c. 27 postings on the Kingsnake.com, elapidae forum, dated between 15 June and 13 July 2001.

Hunter, S. 2008. Glue traps being sold to kill snakes. Posting at: <http://www.aussiereptilekeeper.com/modules.php?name=Forums&file=viewtopic&p=55730#55730> dated 24 December.

Ingram, G. J. and Raven, R. J. 1991. An atlas of Queensland's Frogs, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals, Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Qld, Australia:391 pp.

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) 1999, International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Fourth Edition), International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, The Natural History Museum - Cromwell Road - London SW7 5BD – UK: 306 pp. Also online at: <http://www.iczn.org/iczn/index.jsp>.

Jaslow, R. 2011. Did bite from Black Mamba kill New York Woman? News clip online at: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763\\_162-20072069-10391704.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-20072069-10391704.html) 17 June.

J. Craig Venter Institute 2008. Website at: <http://www.jcvi.org/reptiles/species.php?genus=Tropidechis&species=sadlieri> downloaded on 22 December 2008.

Jenkins, P. 2012. Raymond Hoser versus the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria. Judgement. Posted online at: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/sinodisp/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2008/2035.html?stem=0&synonyms=0&query=Hoser%20vcat> 19 March.

Kluge, A. G. 1974. *A taxonomic Revision of the lizard Family Pygopodidae*. Ann Arbor, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, USA:228 pp.

Krull, D. 2012. Joseph T. Collins, July 3, 1939 – January 14, 2012. Post online at: <http://cherokeecountykansas.yuku.com/topic/382/Re-quot-Joseph-T-Collins-quot-Kansas-Herpetological-Society?page=-1> on 19 January.

Kuch, U, J. S. Keogh, J. Weigel, L. A. Smith, D. Mebs. 2005. Phylogeography of Australia's king brown snake (*Pseudechis australis*) reveals Pliocene divergence and Pleistocene dispersal of a

- top predator. *Naturwissenschaften* 92:121-127.
- Lewis, W. 2007a. Statement re David Williams and Austoxin, dated 17 December.
- Lewis, W. 2007b. Letter to the ABC re David Williams, dated 18 December.
- Longmore, R. 1986. *Atlas of Elapid Snakes of Australia*. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, ACT, Australia. 120 pp.
- Magistrate's Court of Queensland, Cairns. Transcript of hearing and sentencing of QNPWS v David John Williams. Queensland Government, Australia.
- Marshall, S. 2008. PNG Pharmacy attacks ABC over unsafe medication exposure. ABC News release posted online at: <http://abc.com.au/news/stories/2008/02/25/2172264.htm?section=justin>
- McCarthy, C. 2001. E-mail to Raymond Hoser, 20 February at: 17:50:37+0000: 1 p.
- Meade, A. 2010. Drug-charge reporter returns to ABC fold for Lateline post. Online news story posted at: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/media/drug-charge-reporter-returns-to-abc-fold-for-lateline-post/story-e6frg996-1225852477917>, 12 April.
- Mengden, G. A., Shine, R. and Moritz, C. 1986. Phylogenetic relationships within the Australian venomous snakes of the genus *Pseudechis*. *Herpetologica*, 42(2):215-229.
- Ninemsn staff. 2010. Man dies after snake bite at computer. News post at: <http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/8173894/man-dies-after-snake-bite-at-computer> on 1 December.
- Paull, J. 2001. Posting on the Kingsnake.com academic forum dated February 01, 2001 at 21:24:36:
- Rawlings, L. H., Barker, D. G. & Donnellan, S. C. 2004. Phylogenetic relationships of the Australo-Papuan *Liasis* pythons (Reptilia: Macrostromata), based on mitochondrial DNA. *Australian Journal of Zoology*, 52 (2), 215-227.
- Rawlings, L. H. and Donnellan, S. C. 2003. Phylogeographic Analysis of the Green Python (*Morelia viridis*) reveals cryptic diversity. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 27(2003):36-44.
- Rawlings, L. H., Rabosky, D. L., Donnellan, S. C. and Hutchinson, M. N. 2008. Python phylogenetics: inference from morphology and mitochondrial DNA. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 93, 603–619.
- Schleip, W. 2004a. Post at: <http://www.herpbreeder.com/> dated 19 November.
- Schleip, W. 2004b. Post at: <http://forums.kingsnake.com/view.php?id=520074,521737> dated 22 July.
- Schleip, W. 2004c. Post at: <http://forums.kingsnake.com/view.php?id=520074,531946> dated 2 August.
- Schleip, W. et. al. 2007 – Numerous edits to Wikipedia page for “*Leiopython*” as hosted at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leiopython>, including the linked edit history for that page as downloaded on 12 December 2008.
- Schleip 2007b. Website and all pages hosted on the internet server “[www.leiopython.de](http://www.leiopython.de)”, as downloaded on 24 June 2007 (Note: The site remained essentially unchanged until late 2008 – see Schleip 2008c below).
- Schleip, W. 2008a. Revision of the Genus *Leiopython* Hubrecht 1879 (Serpentes: Pythonidae) with the Redescription of Taxa Recently Described by Hoser (2000) and the Description of New Species. *Journal of Herpetology* 42(4): 645–667.
- Schleip, W. 2008b. Website and all pages hosted on the internet server after 10 December 2008 to end December 2008, including revisions at: “[www.leiopython.de](http://www.leiopython.de)”.
- Schleip, W. 2008c. Website and all pages hosted on the internet server on 7 December 2008 at: “[www.leiopython.de](http://www.leiopython.de)”.
- Schleip, W. D., and O'Shea, M. 2010. Annotated checklist of the recent and extinct pythons (Serpentes, Pythonidae), with notes on nomenclature, taxonomy, and distribution. *Zookeys*; (66): 29–80. Published online 4 November 2010. doi: 10.3897/zookeys.66.683.
- Shea, G. 1991. E-mail to Raymond Hoser, sent at: 05 Feb 2001, 12:13:40 +1100: 1p.
- Shea, G., Shine, R. and Covacevich, J. C. 1993. Family Elapidae. Pp. 295-309 in Glasby, C. J., Ross, G. J. B. and Beesley, P. L. (eds), 1993. *Fauna of Australia. Vol. 2A Amphibia and Reptilia*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, ACT, Australia. 447 pp.
- Shea, G., Weigel, J., Harwood, A., Floriani, H. and Hemsley, C. 1988. 'Notes on the herpetofauna of Mitchell Plateau, Western Australia. Results of the 1987 Australian Herpetological Society Field Trip to the Kimberleys', *Herpetofauna* 18(1): 9-20.
- Staff Reporters, 2008. PNG Bites back at Aust. TV. Report published on the front page of the print version of *Post Courier* on 25 Feb and reposted online at: <http://www.postcourier.com.pg/20080225/news01.htm>
- Starkey, B. 2008. E-mail to R. Hoser dated 1 Feb 2008 at 22:12:40.
- Sutherland, S. K. 1999. 'Concern over the choice of anti-venom for “false king brown snake” bites and a plea for a name change', *Medical Journal of Australia* 170:187.

- Uetz, P. 1998-2001. The EMBL Reptile database, at: [http://www.embl-heidelberg.de/~uetz/db-info/changes12\\_98.html](http://www.embl-heidelberg.de/~uetz/db-info/changes12_98.html) (Statement at foot of page says the webpage was created on 8 December 1998 - still active and unchanged as of: 17 July 2001) and other relevant sites on the same server (as cited in the paper above) including: [http://srs.embl-heidelberg.de:8000/srs5bin/cgi-bin/wgetz?-e+\[REPTILIA-Species:'Acanthophis\\_SP\\_crotalusei'\]](http://srs.embl-heidelberg.de:8000/srs5bin/cgi-bin/wgetz?-e+[REPTILIA-Species:'Acanthophis_SP_crotalusei']), [http://srs.embl-heidelberg.de:8000/srs5bin/cgi-bin/wgetz?-e+\[REPTILIA-Species:'Acanthophis\\_SP\\_barnetti'\]](http://srs.embl-heidelberg.de:8000/srs5bin/cgi-bin/wgetz?-e+[REPTILIA-Species:'Acanthophis_SP_barnetti']), etc.
- van Aken, G. 2001a. E-mail message to Raymond Hoser, dated 6 May 2001 16:06:35 +0200.
- van Aken, G. 2001b. E-mail message to Raymond Hoser, dated 17 May 2001 11:40:48 +0200
- Various authors 2011a. Ray Hoser - Melbourne's Biggest Wanker. Facebook page dated May-July 2011.
- Various authors 2011b. NY Woman dead from snake bite? Post at: <http://www.venomousreptiles.org/forums/Experts/51290>, June 2011.
- Wallach, V. 2009a. E-mail to Raymond Hoser dated 29 April.
- Wallach, V. 2009b. E-mail to Raymond Hoser dated 9 May.
- Wallach, V., Wüster, W. and Broadley, D. G. 2009. In praise of subgenera: taxonomic status of cobras of the genus *Naja* Laurenti (Serpentes: Elapidae). *Zootaxa* 2236: 26–36 (2009), online paper downloaded from <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2009/f/zt02236p036.pdf> on 27 September 2009, via <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/taxa/Reptilia.html>.
- Weigel, J. 2001a. E-mail posting to the [australianherps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:australianherps@yahoogroups.com) list server at: 3 Feb 2001 11:20:02 +1100:1 p.
- Weigel, J. 2001b. E-mail posting to the [australianherps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:australianherps@yahoogroups.com) list server at: 16 Jul 2001 09:24:14 –0000.
- Wells, R. W. 2002. Taxonomy of the genus *Acanthophis* (Reptilia: Elapidae) in Australia. *Australian Biodiversity Record*. 5 (March):16 pp.
- Wells, R. W. 2005. Post at: <http://forums.kingsnake.com/view.php?id=976434,976914> dated 29 December.
- Wells, R. W. 2009a. E-mail to Raymond Hoser, Scott Eipper (and others), 26 September 2009.
- Wells, R. W. 2009b. Post on chat forum at <http://herpetoblog.wordpress.com/2009/04/02/taxonomic-traumas-for-cobras-and-rattlesnakes/> dated 7 December.
- Wells, R. W. and Wellington, C. R. 1983. A synopsis of the class Reptilia in Australia', *Australian Journal of Herpetology*, 1 (3-4):73-129.
- Wells, R. W. and Wellington, C. R. 1985a. 'A classification of the Amphibia and Reptilia of Australia', *Australian Journal of Herpetology*, Supplementary Series, (1):1-61.
- Wells, R. W. and Wellington, C. R. 1985b. 'A synopsis of the Amphibia and Reptilia of New Zealand', *Australian Journal of Herpetology*, Supplementary Series, (1):62-64.
- Wells, R.W. and Wellington C.R. 1987. 'A new species of proteroglyphous snake (Serpentes: Oxyuranidae) from Australia', *Australian Herpetologist* 503: 1-8.
- Williams, D. J. 1997. Appeal documents, Qld NPWS Vs David John Williams.
- Williams, D. J. 1998. Posting on Internet Venom and Toxin Discussion Group, November 1:4 pp. (essentially similar to Williams, D. J. and Starkey, B. A. (1999) version 1).
- Williams, D. J. 1999a. Posting on Internet Venom and Toxin Discussion Group, March 6:1 p.
- Williams, D. J. 1999b. Posting on Internet Venom and Toxin Discussion Group, March 6:1 p.
- Williams, D. J. 2001a. Posting on Kingsnake.com forum dated 23 January 2001, 07:09:37.
- Williams, D. J. 2001b. Posting on Kingsnake.com forum dated January 24, 2001 at 02:53:06 and spammed widely.
- Williams, D. J. 2001c. Posting on [ozherps@egroups.com](mailto:ozherps@egroups.com) list server on 24 Jan 2001 20:03:19 +1000
- Williams, D. J. 2001d. Posting on Kingsnake.com forum dated May 05, 2001 at 08:54:14:
- Williams, D. J. 2001e. E-mail message spammed to various places including [australianherps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:australianherps@yahoogroups.com) and [herpconserv@yahoogroups.com](mailto:herpconserv@yahoogroups.com) dated 17 May 2001 07:29:38 -0700 (PDT).
- Williams, D. J. 2001f. E-mail message spammed to various places including [australianherps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:australianherps@yahoogroups.com) on 17 May 2001 15:18:22 -0700 (PDT).
- Williams, D. J. 2001g. E-mail message spammed to various places including [australianherps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:australianherps@yahoogroups.com) and [herpconserv@yahoogroups.com](mailto:herpconserv@yahoogroups.com) dated 17 May 2001 15:21:55 -0700 (PDT).
- Williams, D. J. 2001h. E-mail message spammed to various places including [australianherps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:australianherps@yahoogroups.com) on 17 May 2001 15:27:15 -0700 (PDT).
- Williams, D. J. 2001j. Six postings on



- Kingsnake.com elapidae forum dated, June 28, 2001 at 07:18:58:, June 29, 2001 at 17:42:41:, June 30, 2001 at 06:32:16:, July 02, 2001 at 04:49:19:, July 02, 2001 at 05:00:05:, and July 03, 2001 at 06:28:42:
- Williams, D. J. 2001j. Twenty two other separate postings spammed by David Williams on the Kingsnake.com elapidae forum and [australianherps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:australianherps@yahoogroups.com) and [herpconserv@yahoogroups.com](mailto:herpconserv@yahoogroups.com) between 22 January, 2001 at 08:48:29: and January 27, 2001 at 21:13:54:
- Williams, D. J. 2001k. Postings on kingsnake.com on June 28, 2001 at 07:18:58:, and June 29, 2001 at 17:42:41:,
- Williams, D. J. 2001j. E-mail to Paul Woolf, 17 August 2001.
- Williams, D. J. 2008. Two posts dated 14 February 2008 at: <http://www.reptileforums.co.uk/snakes/87176-support-new-guinea-snakebite-research-2.html> and also posted at the same time at "aussiepythons.com" and numerous other internet chat forums.
- Williams, D. J., Jensen, S., Nimorakiotakis, B. and Winkel, K. D. (Eds) 2005. *Venomous bites and stings in Papua New Guinea*. Australian Venom Research Unit, Melbourne.
- Williams, D. J. and Starkey, B. A. 1999a. 'Comments on the Genus *Pailsus* (Hoser, 1998)', Undated document from the internet site <http://www.uq.edu.au/~ddb fry/index.html>: 5 pp (note the url) - "Version 1" dated 1 November 1998 (date only at foot of document).
- Williams, D. J. and Starkey, B. A. 1999b. 'Comments on the Genus *Pailsus* (Hoser, 1998)', Undated document from the internet site Kingsnake.com " at: <http://www.Kingsnake.com/toxinology/snakes/taxonomy.html> (note the url) and later "The Venomous Snake Forum" January 29, 2001 at 01:50:13: pp. "Version 2". (Actually published in this altered form in January 2001)
- Williams, D. J. and Starkey, B. A. 1999c. 'Comments on the Genus *Pailsus* (Hoser, 1998)', Undated document from the internet site Kingsnake.com "The Venomous Snake Forum" January 30, 2001 at 02:12:58:5 at: <http://www.Kingsnake.com/forum/venom/messages/31762.html> (note the url) - Version 3. (Actually published in this altered form in January 2001)
- Williams, D. J., Wüster, W., Fry, B. G., 2007. The good, the bad and the ugly: Australian snake taxonomists and a history of the taxonomy of Australia's venomous snakes. *Toxicon*, vol 48, 919–930.
- Woolf, P. 2008. Statement re David John Williams, false report of stolen truck several years earlier, bouncing check and the like. 19 May.
- Wüster, W. 1999. Internet site at: <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/~bss166/Updates/Viperinae1999.htm> titled: Viperidae - Viperinae - 1999 Publications.
- Wüster, W. 1999. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated May 21, 1999 at 07:30:16:
- Wüster, W. 2000. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated June 22, 2000 at 08:01:22:
- Wüster, W. 2001a. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated January 22, 2001 at 11:28:04:
- Wüster, W. 2001b. Posting on the Kingsnake.com dated January 22, 2001 at 11:29:07:
- Wüster, W. 2001c. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated January 23, 2001 at 15:25:33:
- Wüster, W. 2001d. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated January 24, 2001 at 05:53:29:
- Wüster, W. 2001e. Posting on [australianherps@egroups.com](mailto:australianherps@egroups.com) dated Wed, 24 Jan 2001 14:24:39 +0000:
- Wüster, W. 2001f. Posting on [herpconserv@egroups.com](mailto:herpconserv@egroups.com) dated Wed, 24 Jan 2001 17:05:33 +0000:
- Wüster, W. 2001g. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated January 25, 2001 at 03:45:16:
- Wüster, W. 2001h. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated January 26, 2001 at 06:25:52:
- Wüster, W. 2001i. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated January 28, 2001 at 03:59:11:
- Wüster, W. 2001j. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated January 29, 2001 at 15:53:43:
- Wüster, W. 2001k. Posting on [herpconserv@egroups.com](mailto:herpconserv@egroups.com) dated Tue, 30 Jan 2001 16:13:31 +0000:
- Wüster, W. 2001l. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated February 02, 2001 at 04:13:35:
- Wüster, W. 2001m. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated February 03, 2001 at 04:19:28:
- Wüster, W. 2001n. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated May 06, 2001 at 05:53:06:
- Wüster, W. 2001o. Spam posting to several hundred recipients, including: [australianherps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:australianherps@yahoogroups.com), [herpconserv@yahoogroups.com](mailto:herpconserv@yahoogroups.com) dated 13 May 2001 12:43:34 +0100.
- Wüster, W. 2001p. Spam posting to several hundred recipients, including: [australianherps@yahoogroups.com](mailto:australianherps@yahoogroups.com), [herpconserv@yahoogroups.com](mailto:herpconserv@yahoogroups.com) dated 14 May 2001 09:46:34 +0100.
- Wüster, W. 2001q. Posting to whistleblowers-

australia@yahoo.com on 19 May 2001 09:18:20 +0930.

Wüster, W. 2001r. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated June 22, 2001 at 03:32:35:

Wüster, W. 2001s. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated June 28, 2001 at 03:49:56:

Wüster, W. 2001t. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated June 29, 2001 at 04:45:21:

Wüster, W. 2001u. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated June 30, 2001 at 07:07:16:

Wüster, W. 2001v. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated June 30, 2001 at 07:17:00:

Wüster, W. 2001w. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated July 01, 2001 at 05:51:09:

Wüster, W. 2001x. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated July 02, 2001 at 05:00:53:

Wüster, W. 2001y. Posting on Kingsnake.com dated July 13, 2001 at 07:53:49:

Wüster, W. 2001z. Numerous and sometimes defamatory postings on the internet server <http://sbsweb.bangor.ac.uk/> and/or elsewhere re "Hoser names", dated June/July 2001.

Wüster, W. 2004a. Posting at <http://forums.kingsnake.com/view.php?id=520074,521870>, dated 22 July.

Wüster, W. 2004b. Posting at <http://forums.kingsnake.com/view.php?id=520074,532926>, dated 3 August.

Wüster, W. 2004c. Posting at, <http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=5&p=104864> dated 2 December.

Wüster, W. 2008 Posts at: <http://www.reptileforums.co.uk/snakes/87176-support-new-guinea-snakebite-research.html>. Dated 20 Jan and later.

Wüster, W. 2009a. Post on chat forum at: <http://www.venomousreptiles.org/forums/Experts/42293> on 29 March.

Wüster, W. 2009b. Posts on internet chat forum at: <http://www.venomlist.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=24325&st=20>, during March 2009.

Wüster, W. 2009c. Post on chat forum at: <http://herpetoblog.wordpress.com/2009/04/02/taxonomic-traumas-for-cobras-and-rattlesnakes/> on 23 September 2009.

Wüster, W. 2009d. Post on chat forum at: <http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=83&t=17849> on 29 September.

Wüster, W. 2012. Webpage url <http://pages.bangor.ac.uk/~bss166/Publications.htm> (downloaded on 24 March).

Wüster, W. and Bérnills, R.S. 2011. On the generic classification of the rattlesnakes, with special reference to the Neotropical *Crotalus durissus complex* (Squamata: Viperidae). *Zoologia* 28: 417–419.

Wüster, W., Bush, B., Keogh, J. S., O'Shea, M., Shine, R. 2001. Taxonomic contributions in the "amateur" literature: comments on recent descriptions of new genera and species by Raymond Hoser. *Litteratura Serpentina* 21:67-91. also posted online on Wüster's website at: <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/~bss166/FWit/LittSerp.pdf> and elsewhere.

Wüster, W., Dumbrell, A. J., Hay, C., Pook, E. E., Williams, D. J. and Fry, B. G. 2005. Snakes across the Strait: Trans-Torresian phylogeographic relationships in three genera of Australasian snakes (Serpentes: Elapidae: *Acanthophis*, *Oxyuranus* and *Pseudechis*). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 34 (1): 1-14.

Zoological Record 2009a. Australasian Journal of Herpetology 1-5 2009. Email dated 24 February.

Zoological Record 2009b. Australasian Journal of Herpetology 6 2009. Email dated 27 March.

Zoological Record (Anonymous) 2009c. Abstracts posted online at: <http://www.organismnames.com/RSS/13669.xml>

## NOTES

- All cited e-mails, forum posts and the like have been saved and archived for verification purposes.
- The author will entertain requests for recovery of any of this material, but unless it is immediately "on hand" may demand an appropriate fee for its recovery to cover the time and effort spent doing so and will only retrieve material if time permits.
- Hard copy publication of this issue has colour covers only. The rest is in black and white.
- Minimum print run is at least 50 hard copies.
- Excluding "legal deposits" and the like, the cost is \$10 Australian (plus charges to us through banks and the like), per 10 pages of journal published (or part thereof for longer papers), per paper ordered. Journals must be ordered "whole", as in per issue.
- This issue costs \$70 (Australian Dollars) in 2012 and includes postage and handling.
- To avoid extra charges it best to order with credit card (Mastercard/Visa) or send cash.
- Copies (or photocopies) will be posted in the event no originals remain on hand.

## Australasian Journal of Herpetology. Publication policies.

For issues 1-7, the hard copies were published, copies were mailed out and about a week later online versions were uploaded.

The uploading of the online versions in every case post-dated written acknowledgement of receipt by print subscribers or recipients who received copies sent in the first mailouts.

This policy and practice complied with criteria of publication as dictated by the rules of the ICZN, effective 2000.

In late 2009, a paper was published (see this issue of this journal for the full details), falsely claiming that the Australian Journal of Herpetology (AJH) was not published according to the 2000 ICZN rules. This false claim has been widely republished since. To further reduce the potential for such false claims in the future, the posting of copies online will now be delayed by a month (plus or minus up to a week) post-dating the publication date of hard-copies of the journal.

This makes it harder for people to allege that the online version is the original of this journal. The one month date will be taken to include the later of the date of publication on the cover of the issue or the latest date of reply of at least three receipt received letters by the publisher from libraries or other subscribers/recipients.

As a rule, the mail out date pre-dates the cover published date and by less than a week.

Print copies are distributed to major libraries and institutions that satisfy deposit requirements of the ICZN, ANL and similar bodies. Both print (first print run) and online are identical.

Where there are differences, (colour versus black and white) in print and online versions, this will be identified in the relevant part of the hard copy and online journal so that there can be no confusion. Other than colour (online/print) versus black and white (online/print) there are no differences between hard copy originals and online.

Reprints of the print version are usually done in 50 or 100 copy print runs on paper that satisfies permanency requirements of governing bodies and are printed by external printers in order to satisfy verification of actual print runs.

For print, online and copies and reprints of the print journal, the text, illustrations, pagination and the like remain identical. As a rule, there are no corrections made to any version after publication, including for reprints. If corrections are required, these are done as an addition to the original paper/journal.

Online papers are always uploaded one month (plus or minus up to a week) after the publication of (receipt of) and distribution of hard copies to subscribers, statutory bodies and the like, thereby ensuring dated receipts for hard copies before the physical publication of online copies.

In 2009 we supplied originals of print versions free of charge. However demand for some early issues ran to thousands of copies within weeks of publication and we could not afford to continue to supply demand at our cost. We now supply copies of all issues at "cost" to cover printing and postage. The rate is \$10 Australian (plus charges



to us through banks and the like), per 10 pages of journal published (or part thereof for longer papers), per paper ordered. This includes the cost for the paper and postage anywhere. To avoid extra charges, it is best to order by cash or credit card (Mastercard/Visa only).

To order hard copies it is best to do so via the internet gateway at <http://www.herp.net> and then follow the relevant links.

Online versions may be downloaded from the relevant web address free of charge. We generally do not guarantee availability of copies of the print version for distribution more than 6 months after the publication date as indicated in each issue and reserve the right to run out of copies sooner in the event a given issue is subjected to particularly high demand (as has happened for some earlier issues).

**Conditions of use/subscription:**

No copies of this journal are to be sold or otherwise traded for profit without the express written permission of the editor and publisher.

Post-dating hard copy publication, distribution includes by the online version via simple download.

Any person is allowed to download free of charge copies of the journal from our website/s.

No copies of the journal may be hosted on websites other than those authorized in writing by the editor or publisher.

We welcome third party websites directing links to the URL's for this journal.

Copies of the journal as a permanent record may be reproduced and disseminated free of charge, including between scientists and other interested persons, including as pdf files downloaded from our server, hard copies and copies of either.

Material may be used from the journal as part of legitimate research, including quotations so long as the original source is properly credited, there is no secondary financial gain and the material is quoted fairly, in context and not misrepresented.

Persons are allowed to copy, e-mail or otherwise distribute copies of the journal for legitimate research purposes, notwithstanding the above.

We reserve all legal rights in all domains and jurisdictions. If in doubt, contact the publisher.

The copyright and ownership of all intellectual property is however retained and protected and will be subject to legal action if misused.

If in doubt, contact the editor or publisher.

Published by Kotabi Pty Ltd

PO Box 599

Doncaster, Victoria, 3108.

Australia.

E-mail: Please use the e-mail address at "Snakebusters" bookings webpage page at: <http://www.snakebusters.com.au/sbsboo1.htm>

Please note e-mails not answered should be deemed "not sent" or "not received".

This document contradicts the Wüster claim on internet forum at:  
<http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=83&t=17849>  
 made on 28 September 2009 which said:

"Even the ANL, rather interestingly, only seems to hold issue 7  
 (the cobra paper), not any of the other issues of the journal."  
 Thereby falsely implying copies had not been lodged at ANL.

Date: 27 February 2009

Mr Raymond Hoser  
 488 Park Road  
 PARK ORCHARDS VIC 3114

Dear Mr Hoser,



CANBERRA ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE (02) 6262 1111

HOME PAGE ADDRESS  
<http://www.nla.gov.au>

TELEPHONE TYPEWRITER NUMBER  
 1800 026 372

NATIONAL LIBRARY FACSIMILE  
 (02) 6257 1703

-----  
**LEGAL DEPOSIT**  
**RECEIPT OF SERIAL PUBLICATION**  
 -----

Thank you for sending the following publication to the National Library of Australia:

**Australasian journal of herpetology, 1 (2009) issue**

Your publication is a valuable addition to our collection. Please send one deposit copy of each future issue, free of charge, as it becomes available.

Our postal address is:

Australian Serials  
 National Library of Australia  
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

*As staff in the area may change, please address all mail to the Unit not to individual staff members.*

We appreciate your support of the library, which will help us build a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Australia and the Australian people.

-----  
 If you have any further queries, please contact me on (02) 6262 1169.  
 -----

Yours sincerely

Kieu Hua  
 For Barbara Hart  
 Australian Serials

**Dated proof of distribution of hard copies of  
 AJH issues 1-7 at time of publication**

**Available online at [www.herp.net](http://www.herp.net)  
 Copyright- Kotabi Publishing - All rights reserved**

This document contradicts the Wüster claim on internet forum at:  
<http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=83&t=17849>  
 made on 28 September 2009 which said:  
 "Even the ANL, rather interestingly, only seems to hold issue 7  
 (the cobra paper), not any of the other issues of the journal."  
 Thereby falsely implying copies had not been lodged at ANL.

Subject:  
 Legal Deposit receipt  
 Date:  
 Fri, 20 Mar 2009 14:33:56 +1100  
 From:  
 Marjorie Currie <MCURRIE@nla.gov.au>  
 To:  
 "adder@smuggled.com" <adder@smuggled.com>

.EmailQuote { margin-left: 1pt; padding-left: 4pt; border-left: #800000 2px solid; }

20/03/2009

Dear Raymond Hoser

LEGAL DEPOSIT  
 RECEIPT OF SERIAL PUBLICATION

Thank you for sending the following publication to the National Library of Australia:

[Title:Australasian Journal of Herpetology, no. 2- no. 6 (2009)]

Your publication is a valuable addition to our collection. Please send one deposit copy of each future issue, free of charge, as it becomes available.

Our postal address is:  
 Australian Serials  
 National Library of Australia  
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

As staff in the area may change, please address all mail to the Unit not to individual staff members.

We appreciate your support of the library, which will help us build a comprehensive collection of library materials relating to Australia and the Australian people.

If you have any further queries, please contact me on (02) 6262 1369

Yours sincerely

Marjorie Currie

For Barbara Hart

**Dated proof of distribution of hard copies of  
 AJH issues1-7 at time of publication**

**Available online at [www.herp.net](http://www.herp.net)  
 Copyright- Kotabi Publishing - All rights reserved**



This document contradicts the all important Wallach, Wüster, Broadley claim made in their September 2009 *Zootaxa* paper that the only hard copy originals of AJH were lodged with the ANL at time of publication and that no others were produced or distributed.

Subject:  
Australasian Journal of Herpetology  
Date:  
Tue, 24 Feb 2009 02:14:45 +1100  
From:  
ts-emea-york.dcsadmins@thomson.com (ts-emea-york.dcsadmins@thomson.com)  
To:  
adder@smuggled.com

Kotabi Pty Ltd  
PO Box 599  
Doncaster  
VIC  
3108  
Australia

Dear Publisher

Australasian Journal of Herpetology

1 - 5 2009

Thank you for sending us copies of the above publication, which arrived safely today.  
Relevant articles will be considered for inclusion in the Zoological Record as appropriate.  
Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Zoological Record

Thomson Reuters  
Enterprise House  
Innovation Way  
Heslington, York YO10 5NY  
United Kingdom

Tel +44 207 433 4590

<http://scientific.thomsonreuters.com/products/zr/>

**Dated proof of distribution of hard copies of  
AJH issues 1-7 at time of publication**

**Available online at [www.herp.net](http://www.herp.net)  
Copyright- Kotabi Publishing - All rights reserved**

**Sent:** Tue Mar 17 21:58:39 2009  
**Received:** Tue Mar 17 21:58:42 2009  
**From:** { HYPERLINK "javascript:open\_compose\_win('to=ts-emea-york.dcsadmins@thomson.com')" }  
**To:** { HYPERLINK "javascript:open\_compose\_win('to=adder@smuggled.com')" }  
**Subject:** Australasian Journal of Herpetology  
**Part(s):** { HYPERLINK "javascript:view('21', 0);" } { HYPERLINK "http://webmail.optuszoo.com.au/view.html?mailbox=INBOX&actionID=22&uid=27408" }

Kotabi Pty Ltd  
 PO Box 599  
 Doncaster  
 VIC  
 3108  
 Australia

This document contradicts the all important Wallach, Wüster, Broadley claim made in their September 2009 *Zootaxa* paper that the only hard copy originals of AJH were lodged with the ANL at time of publication and that no others were produced or distributed.

Dear Publisher

Australasian Journal of Herpetology

6 2009

Thank you for sending us copies of the above publication, which arrived safely today.

Relevant articles will be considered for inclusion in the Zoological Record as appropriate.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Zoological Record

WE HAVE MOVED - PLEASE UPDATE YOUR MAILING LISTS! AS OF MONDAY MAY 19th 2008 OUR NEW ADDRESS IS:

Thomson Reuters

**Dated proof of distribution of hard copies of AJH issues 1-7 at time of publication**

**Available online at [www.herp.net](http://www.herp.net)  
 Copyright- Kotabi Publishing - All rights reserved**

This document contradicts the all important Wallach, Wüster, Broadley claim made in their September 2009 *Zootaxa* paper that the only hard copy originals of AJH were lodged with the ANL at time of publication and that no others were produced or distributed.

### New Taxon Alert:- (Gobiidae) *Luciogobius* n

Friday, 19 June 2009, 10:00:00 AM

**Taxon Name:**

*Luciogobius ryukyuensis*

**Publication Title:**

A new species of gobiid

### New Taxon Alert:-

Friday, 19 June 2009, 10:00:00 AM

**Taxon Name:**

*Gymnothorax shaoi*

**Publication Title:**

*Gymnothorax shaoi*, a new species of Moray eel (Anguilliformes: Muraenidae) from southeastern Taiwan.

### New Taxon Alert:- (Elapidae) *Wellsus*

Friday, 19 June 2009, 10:00:00 AM

**Taxon Name:**

*Wellsus*

**Publication Title:**

A reclassification of the true cobras; species formerly referred to the genera *Naja*, *Boulengerina* and *Paranaja*.

### New Taxon Alert:- (Elapidae) *Spracklandus*

Friday, 19 June 2009, 10:00:00 AM

**Taxon Name:**

*Spracklandus*

**Publication Title:**

A reclassification of the true cobras; species formerly referred to the genera *Naja*, *Boulengerina* and *Paranaja*.

### New Taxon Alert:- (Ascidacea) *Polyzoa atlantica*

Friday, 19 June 2009, 10:00:00 AM

**Taxon Name:**

*Polyzoa atlantica*

**Publication Title:**

A new species of Polyzoa (Ascidacea: Styelidae) from the Atlantic coast of N America, U.S.A.





THOMSON REUTERS

[Home / Search](#)[Alerts / RSS](#)[Metrics](#)[Submit Name](#)[Help](#)[About](#)[Contact](#)[Name](#)[References](#)[Recommended Web](#)[Resources](#)[External Links](#)[GBIF Distribution](#)[NCBI](#)[Encyclopedia of Life](#)

## Name - Spracklandus Hoser 2009

### NAME DETAILS

#### LIFE SCIENCES IDENTIFIER (LSID)

urn:lsid:organismnames.com:name:4361523  
[metadata]

#### REPORTED TAXONOMIC RANKS

Genus

#### REPORTED TAXONOMIC HIERARCHIES

Animalia (Kingdom)  
Chordata (Phylum)  
Vertebrata (Subphylum)  
Reptilia (Class)  
Lepidosauria (Subclass)  
Squamata (Order)  
Serpentes (Suborder)  
Elapidae (Family)

### REFERENCES

#### ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION REFERENCE

- A reclassification of the true cobras; species formerly referred to the genera *Naja*, *Boulengerina* and *Paranaja*. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*, 7 2009: 1-15. [Zoological Record Volume 145]

View reference in:



#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- A reclassification of the true cobras; species formerly referred to the genera *Naja*, *Boulengerina* and *Paranaja*.

Search name in:



### Related Links

[BIOSIS Previews](#)

[Take a Tour](#)

[Zoological Record](#)

[Take a Tour](#)

[Master Journals List](#)

[Conferences](#)

[Guide to the Animal Kingdom](#)

[Nomenclatural Glossary for Zoology](#)

[BiologyBrowser](#)

[InCites](#)

[ISI Highly Cited](#)

[ScienceWatch](#)



Join ResearcherID.com to increase recognition of you and your work.

This document contradicts the all important Wallach, Wüster, Broadley claim made in their September 2009 *Zootaxa* paper that the only hard copy originals of AJH were lodged with the ANL at time of publication and that no others were produced or distributed.

This document contradicts the all important Wallach, Wüster, Broadley claim made in their September 2009 *Zootaxa* paper that the only hard copy originals of AJH were lodged with the ANL at time of publication and that no others were produced or distributed.

Subject:  
hey legend [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
Date:  
Fri, 20 Mar 2009 16:33:14 +1100  
From:  
Fia.Cumming@health.gov.au  
To:  
adder@smuggled.com

Hey Raymond thanks for sending me your latest scientific article, what an honour to have a genus named after me and such a NICE description.

It is great to see you still working so hard on your scientific side as well as being the great showman.

I will call you next week, I can't say I have been busy here this week it's been very quiet actually but I had a million other things to do incl taking Adam to hospital, he got his K Rudd

money and celebrated by climbing a tree which ended badly for his ankle. Apart from that he's a lot better this year than he was, I am trying not to take his whims and weaknesses personally!

All is good with kids and horses, I still have way too many horses but hopefully some will be sold over the next few months., It's really dry here which is scary and depressing, I do hope

we get some decent rain before winter.

I also hope your friends and colleagues have not been too hard hit by the fires, of course the wildlife has suffered terribly.

Anyway, hope to catch up telephonically very soon!

love

Fia

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

**Dated proof of distribution of hard copies of  
AJH issues 1-7 at time of publication**

**Available online at [www.herp.net](http://www.herp.net)  
Copyright- Kotabi Publishing - All rights reserved**

CNAH

Page 1 of 3



### Rattlesnakes Re-Arranged

NEWS RELEASE

The Center for North American Herpetology  
Lawrence, Kansas  
<http://www.cnah.org>  
10 March 2009

A RECLASSIFICATION OF THE RATTLESNAKES; SPECIES FORMERLY EXCLUSIVELY REFERRED TO THE GENERA *CROTALUS* AND *SISTRURUS*

Raymond Hoser

2009. Australasian Journal of Herpetology 6: 1-21

Submitted 24 February 2009, Accepted 1 March 2009, Published 9 March 2009

**ABSTRACT:** In spite of the fact that the taxonomy of most rattlesnakes at the species level has been established for many years, the genus *Crotalus* as referred to by most taxonomists up to 2008 failed to properly distinguish relationships within the group commonly defined as "rattlesnakes." The genera *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus* (the latter sometimes subsumed in whole or part within *Crotalus*) as defined by most authors also fails to properly delineate relationships between taxa and fails to account for the modern definition and use of the "genus" level in terms of grouping closely related species only. This paper principally redefines the rattlesnakes at both genus and subgenus levels, formally naming a number of well-recognized species and species groups at the genus level for the first time. In summary, rattlesnakes are subdivided into nine genera for which names were previously available for a total of five. For the other four genera, they are formally defined, diagnosed and named for the first time. A further seven well-defined subgenera are also defined and named for the first time. Later workers may choose to elevate some or all of these to full genus level.

**Keywords:** new taxa, snake, rattlesnake, taxonomy, *Crotalus*, *Sistrurus*, *Piersonus*, *Matteoea*, *Cummingea*, *Hoserea*, *Caudisona*, *Aechmophrys*, and *Uropsophus*

\*\*\*\*\*

A gratis PDF of this article is available from the CNAH PDF Library at

[http://www.cnah.org/cnah\\_pdf.asp](http://www.cnah.org/cnah_pdf.asp)

\*\*\*\*\*

**CNAH Note:** To date, the New World Rattlesnakes have been placed in two genera, *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus*. The above paper divides these serpents into nine genera (species assigned to each genus by Hoser are listed with generic attribution and date; standard common names are added for those taxa that occur in the United States and/or Canada), as follows:

Genus *Aechmophrys* Coues 1875

*A. cerastes* - Sidewinder

*A. intermedius*

*A. polystictus*

*A. pricei* - Twin-spotted Rattlesnake



CNAH

Page 2 of 3

*A. tancitarensis*  
*A. transversus*  
*A. willardi* - Ridgenose Rattlesnake

Genus *Caudisona* Laurenti 1768  
*C. basiliscus*  
*C. culminatus*  
*C. durissus*  
*C. enyo*  
*C. estebanensis*  
*C. molossus* - Blacktail Rattlesnake  
*C. simus*  
*C. totonacus*  
*C. tzabcan*  
*C. vegrandis*  
*C. unicolor*

Genus *Crotalus* Linnaeus 1758  
*C. abyssus* - Grand Canyon Rattlesnake  
*C. cerberus* - Arizona Black Rattlesnake  
*C. concolor* - Midget Faded Rattlesnake  
*C. helleri* - Southern Pacific Rattlesnake  
*C. horridus* - Timber Rattlesnake  
*C. lutosus* - Great Basin Rattlesnake  
*C. oreganus* - Northern Pacific Rattlesnake  
*C. scutulatus* - Mojave Rattlesnake  
*C. viridis* - Prairie Rattlesnake

Genus *Cummingea* Hoser 2009  
*C. ericsmithi*  
*C. iannomi*  
*C. stejnegeri*

Genus *Hoserea* Hoser 2009 (named to honor Shireen Hoser, not the author)  
*H. adamanteus* - Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake  
*H. atrox* - Western Diamondback Rattlesnake  
*H. catalinensis*  
*H. exsul*  
*H. lorenzoensis*  
*H. ruber* - Red Diamond Rattlesnake  
*H. tortugensis*

Genus *Matteoea* Hoser 2009  
*M. angelensis*  
*M. mitchellii* - Speckled Rattlesnake  
*M. stephensi* - Panamint Rattlesnake (implied)  
*M. tigris* - Tiger Rattlesnake

Genus *Piersonus* Hoser 2009  
*P. ravus*

Genus *Sistrurus* Garman 1883  
*S. catenatus* - Massasauga  
*S. miliarius* - Pigmy Rattlesnake

Genus *Uropsophus* Wagler 1830  
*U. aquilus*  
*U. lepidus* - Rock Rattlesnake  
*U. pusillus*  
*U. triseriatus*

CNAH

Page 3 of 3

CNAH Comment: Announcement of papers does not constitute endorsement by CNAH of the proposals or conclusions contained therein. CNAH merely makes sure you don't miss out on these interesting topics.

THE ACADEMIC PORTAL TO NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY

WWW.CNAH.ORG

© 1994-2009, CNAH - Director - [Joseph T. Collins](#)  
 Accessed at: 10/8/2009 1:33:17 AM CST.

Programmer/Webmaster - [Travis W. Taggart](#)

Sent: Thu Mar 12 10:44:09 2009  
 Received: Thu Mar 12 10:45:23 2009  
 From: Joe Collins <[jcollins@ku.edu](mailto:jcollins@ku.edu)>  
 To: [adder@smuggled.com](mailto:adder@smuggled.com)  
 Subject: Re: rattlers  
 Part(s): Message Source  
 Dear Raymond

Save As

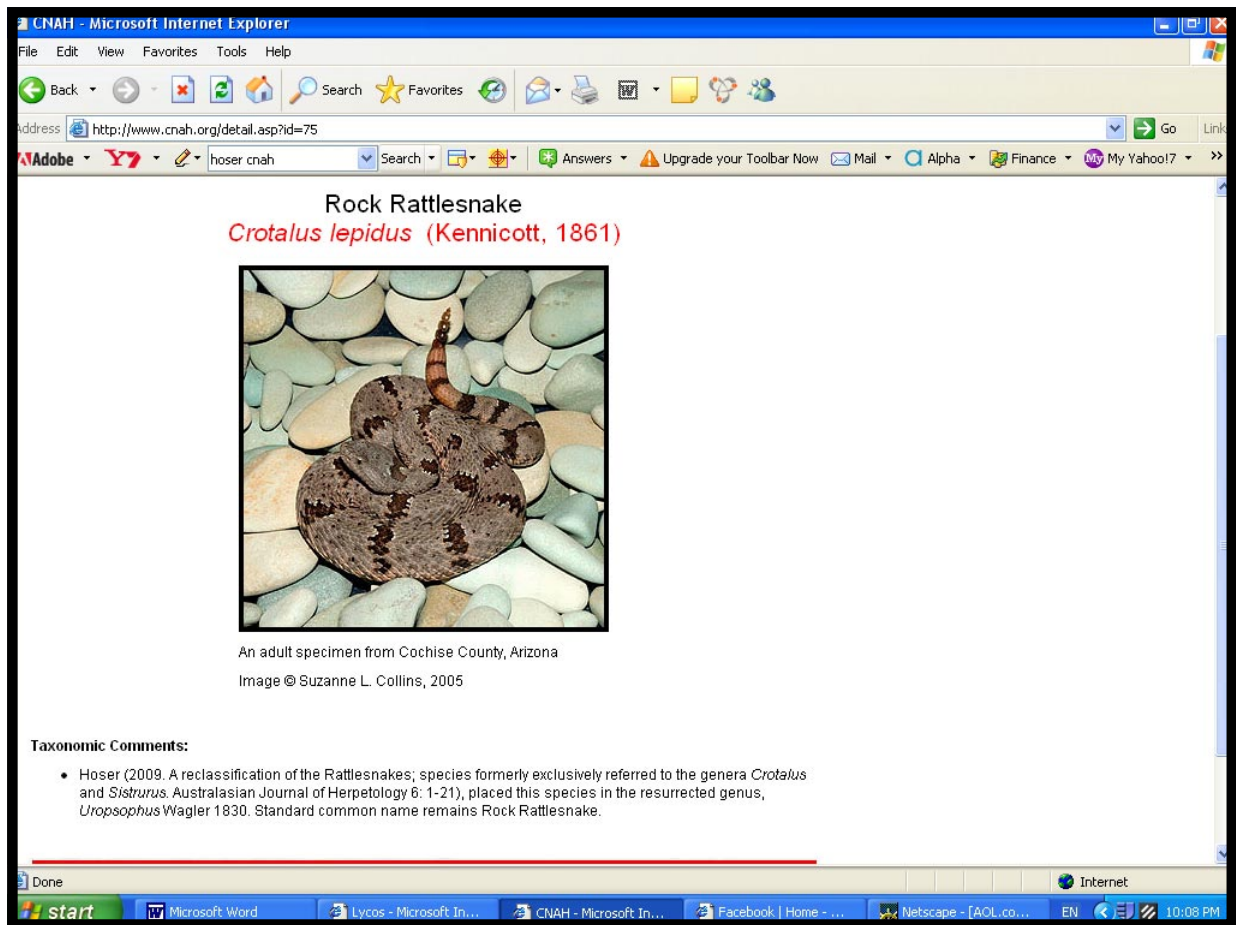
I have no argument with your divisions. The genus *Aechmophrys* does not seem to hang as well as the others (but that is just my initial impression based on the external morphology of the beasts contain therein), and there is the philosophical argument against creating a monotypic genus such as *Piersonus*, but otherwise I will be interested to see how closely future data, probably molecular, fit your taxonomy.

Cheers,

Joe

>Joe, more importantly, I assume you agree with the divisions at the  
 >levels specified in the paper?  
 >If not, then I'd be interested in your reasons why.  
 >  
 >ALL THE BEST

Joseph T. Collins  
 Herpetologist  
 Kansas Biological Survey - Higuchi Hall  
 The University of Kansas  
 2101 Constant Avenue  
 Lawrence, Kansas 66047-3729  
 (785) 393-4757 (cell)  
 email: [jcollins@ku.edu](mailto:jcollins@ku.edu)  
[http://www.kbs.ku.edu/people/html/profile\\_collins.htm](http://www.kbs.ku.edu/people/html/profile_collins.htm)



The previous four pages shows evidence of agreement with and use of the Hoser rattlesnake taxonomy by North American herpetologists virtually immediately post-publication of the papers. Comments elsewhere indicated that such a review was long overdue and generally agreed with the Hoser position. The four pages also show treatment of the paper by Joe Collins in the wake of his being given evidence of widespread dissemination of print originals.



Subject:

Reprints received

Date:

Sat, 9 May 2009 15:43:30 -0400

From:

Van Wallach <serpentes1@comcast.net>

To:

adder@smuggled.com

Dear Raymond,

Thank you kindly for reprints of your papers, which arrived safely today. Very much appreciated.

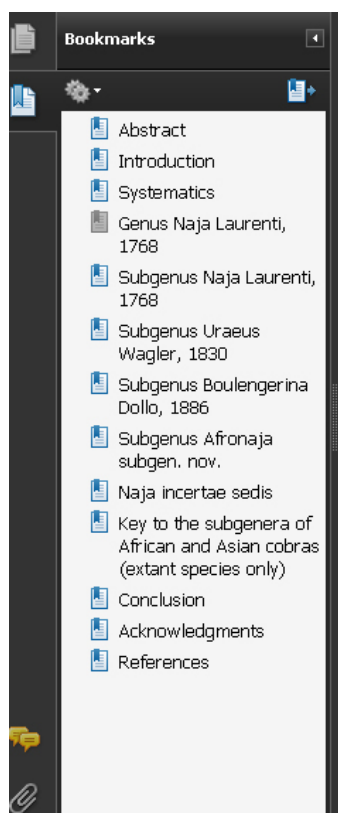
Best wishes, Van

Van Wallach  
4 Potter Park  
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA  
serpentes1@comcast.net

Museum of Comparative Zoology  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA  
vwallach@oeb.harvard.edu

On the next page are sections of two different print outs from the offending section from the Wallach et. al. paper in the online journal "Zootaxa".

The online version prints differently from different computers (as shown in just two examples here), violating article 8.1.3 of the rules and hence cannot be possibly regarded as published under the ICZN rules. Because the rules prevents later hard copies of the same being valid under the code (article 9.7), using the methodology within the Wallach et. al. paper, all publications from *Zootaxa* are perhaps invalid under the ICZN's rules, either requiring republishing or a ruling from the ICZN. Chaos in nomenclature could be a potential result of the Wallach et. al. position if widely adopted.



and the African spitting cobras, in his privately edited, online publication *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (Hoser, 2009). Hoser (2009) provided no new data, and his generic diagnoses and descriptions are replete with errors: for instance, he overlooked the existing name *Uraeus* Wagler 1830, which takes precedence over his genus *Wellsius*; Asian *Naja* have 15–25 midbody dorsal scale rows (not 21–25), 19–37 scale rows around the hood (not 25–35), 36–71 subcaudal scales (not 43–56), 153–210 ventral scales (not 164–200) (Wüster, 1990; Wüster & Thorpe, 1989, 1992a; Wüster *et al.*, 1997); the fourth as well as the third supralabial enter the eye; the solid maxillary teeth number 0 or 1, not 1–3 (Bogert, 1943; Szyndlar & Rage, 1990); many Asian *Naja* have highly modified spitting fangs, just like African spitting cobras (Bogert, 1943; Wüster & Thorpe, 1992b; Wüster *et al.*, 1997); and important skeletal characters (Szyndlar & Rage, 1990) were ignored. Other counts are confusing and difficult to attribute to specific taxa recognized by Hoser.

More importantly from the nomenclatural point of view, this online publication does not constitute a published work according to Articles 8.1.3, 8.6, 9.7 and 9.8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999) (hereafter referred to as "the Code"). The new names published therein are therefore unavailable under the rules of the Code. Article 8.6 states that "For a work produced after 1999 by a method other than printing on paper to be accepted as published under the meaning of the Code, it must contain a statement that copies (in the format that it is published) have been deposited in at least five major publicly accessible libraries which are identified by name in the work itself." Although Hoser claims the existence of a printed version of his journal, we have found evidence of only one single copy, deposited in the Australian National Library (ANL). Article 9 of the Code (What does not constitute published work) includes: "9.7 copies obtained on demand of an unpublished work [Art. 8], even if previously deposited in a library or other archive." On 9 May 2009, one of us (VW) received printed copies of all issues of the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*. Unlike the ANL copy of Issue 7, all these issues are printed on one side only, and give the appearance of having been printed on demand at the same time: all have a pair of longitudinal white lines along the midline of the entire page: issue 1 has the lines spaced about 2 mm apart but all the other issues have the lines spaced 5 mm apart, suggesting that they were printed at the same time. These lines are not present in the ANL copy of Issue 7. All the issues received by us are bound by a single large staple in the upper, left hand corner. We conclude that the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* is an online publication that fails to fulfill the requirements of Articles 8.1.3 and 8.6, any printed copies are printed on demand and therefore do not constitute published work under the provisions of Article 9.7, and the electronic versions available from Hoser's website are not published under the provisions of Article 9.8. The same almost certainly applies to the previous six issues of the journal published at the time of writing.

Since Hoser's 2009 paper is unavailable under the provisions of the Code, we therefore propose the following nomenclatural changes regarding the genus *Naja*: the subgeneric name *Naja* must be applied to the Asiatic cobras, whose type species is *Naja naja* Linnaeus; the non-spitting African cobras are assigned to the

and the African spitting cobras, in his privately edited, online publication *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (Hoser, 2009). Hoser (2009) provided no new data, and his generic diagnoses and descriptions are replete with errors: for instance, he overlooked the existing name *Uraeus* Wagler 1830, which takes precedence over his genus *Wellsius*; Asian *Naja* have 15–25 midbody dorsal scale rows (not 21–25), 19–37 scale rows around the hood (not 25–35), 36–71 subcaudal scales (not 43–56), 153–210 ventral scales (not 164–200) (Wüster, 1990; Wüster & Thorpe, 1989, 1992a; Wüster *et al.*, 1997); the fourth as well as the third supralabial enter the eye; the solid maxillary teeth number 0 or 1, not 1–3 (Bogert, 1943; Szyndlar & Rage, 1990); many Asian *Naja* have highly modified spitting fangs, just like African spitting cobras (Bogert, 1943; Wüster & Thorpe, 1992b; Wüster *et al.*, 1997); and important skeletal characters (Szyndlar & Rage, 1990) were ignored. Other counts are confusing and difficult to attribute to specific taxa recognized by Hoser.

More importantly from the nomenclatural point of view, this online publication does not constitute a published work according to Articles 8.1.3, 8.6, 9.7 and 9.8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999) (hereafter referred to as "the Code"). The new names published therein are therefore unavailable under the rules of the Code. Article 8.6 states that "For a work produced after 1999 by a method other than printing on paper to be accepted as published under the meaning of the Code, it must contain a statement that copies (in the format that it is published) have been deposited in at least five major publicly accessible libraries which are identified by name in the work itself." Although Hoser claims the existence of a printed version of his journal, we have found evidence of only one single copy, deposited in the Australian National Library (ANL). Article 9 of the Code (What does not constitute published work) includes: "9.7 copies obtained on demand of an unpublished work [Art. 8], even if previously deposited in a library or other archive." On 9 May 2009, one of us (VW) received printed copies of all issues of the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*. Unlike the ANL copy of Issue 7, all these issues are printed on one side only, and give the appearance of having been printed on demand at the same time: all have a pair of longitudinal white lines along the midline of the entire page: issue 1 has the lines spaced about 2 mm apart but all the other issues have the lines spaced 5 mm apart, suggesting that they were printed at the same time. These lines are not present in the ANL copy of Issue 7. All the issues received by us are bound by a single large staple in the upper, left hand corner. We conclude that the *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* is an online publication that fails to fulfill the requirements of Articles 8.1.3 and 8.6, any printed copies are printed on demand and therefore do not constitute published work under the provisions of Article 9.7, and the electronic versions available from Hoser's website are not published under the provisions of Article 9.8. The same almost certainly applies to the previous six issues of the journal published at the time of writing.

Since Hoser's 2009 paper is unavailable under the provisions of the Code, we therefore propose the following nomenclatural changes regarding the genus *Naja*: the subgeneric name *Naja* must be applied to the Asiatic cobras, whose type species is *Naja naja* Linnaeus; the non-spitting African cobras are assigned to the subgenus *Uraeus* Wagler (1830), with *Naja naja* as the type species, and *Boulengerina* Dollo (1886), with

**Sent:** Sat Sep 26 20:12:55 2009  
**Received:** Sat Sep 26 22:29:14 2009  
**From:** Richard Wells <{ HYPERLINK "javascript:open\_compose\_win('to=biospherica@live.com.au')"}>  
**To:** { HYPERLINK "javascript:open\_compose\_win('to=snakeman@snakebusters.com.au')"}  
**Subject:** Academic Thieves are at it Again  
**Part(s):** { HYPERLINK "javascript:view('21', 0);"} { HYPERLINK "http://webmail.optuszo.com.au/view.html?mailbox=INBOX&actionID=22&uid=44333"} }

Hi all,

A quote from the above paper just published in Zootaxa :  
 see Zootaxa 2236: 26-36 Accepted: 14 Aug. 2009, Published 21 Sept, 2009  
 In praise of subgenera: taxonomic status of cobras of the genus *Naja* Laurenti  
 (Serpentes:  
 Elapidae)  
 VAN WALLACH (USA), WOLFGANG WÜSTER (UK) & DONALD G.  
 BROADLEY

link { HYPERLINK "http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2009/f/zt02236p036.pdf"  
 \t "\_blank" }

□ As a final note, the authors find it profoundly disconcerting that, 25 years after the controversy surrounding the publications of Wells and Wellington, 1984 1985 □ see Thulborn, 1986) taxonomy remains as vulnerable to acts of nomenclatural vandalism as it was then. In the middle of the current biodiversity crisis, taxonomists should be able to devote their time to studies of taxonomy rather than cleaning up after evidence-free taxonomic acts perpetrated in self-published, un-reviewed publications. We urge the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature to give the fight against nomenclatural vandalism highest priority as part of its stated mission, □ achieving stability and sense in



the  
scientific naming of animals□. □

This latest paper by Van Wallach and that imbecile Wuster is a clear case of academic theft, as in my opinion, they have stolen Hoser□s work. The swipe at Wells and Wellington in the same paper also clearly hints at things to come. The senior author (Van Wallach) is guilty of academic theft in regards to his earlier description of Austrotyphlops over the earlier W&W Sivadictus □ but who really seems to care? Similarly Arthur Georges committed academic theft with his recent description of Myuchelys over the earlier Wollumbinia□ and the other earlier examples of academic theft from Hutchinson et al, Sadler, Horner, Storr, Smith, Sprackland, etc which mostly failed. However, this recent smearing of so-called amateur taxonomists, has strong overtones of the terrorism mantra that politicians used to destroy perceived interlopers and enemies following the 9/11 attacks ! In my opinion it□s really all about control of taxonomy for future massive financial gains through patent-rights controls being developed through legislation in the USA and Europe. In effect, whoever describes a life form or even creates a nomenclatural act concerning that life form would be potentially entitled to royalties derived from gene-patent protections and the like. It really appears to me that certain universities and other institutions are setting themselves up as the gate-keepers and fat-controllers of taxonomy in tandem with multinational corporations that will drive financially lucrative fields of research into all forms of life□.and guess who hasn□t been invited to the Party ?

Regards

Richard Wells

CNAH - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites

Address <http://www.cnah.org/detail.asp?id=68> Go Links

Adobe Y7 Hoserea cnah Search Answers Upgrade your Toolbar Now Mail Alpha Finance My Yahoo!7 >>

**THE CENTER FOR NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY**

**CNAH** Promoting the preservation and conservation of North American Amphibians, Crocodilians, Reptiles, & Turtles through scholarship & information

HOME PAGE THE ACADEMIC PORTAL TO NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY CNAH.ORG

**Western Diamondback Rattlesnake**  
*Crotalus atrox* Baird & Girard, 1853




Image © Suzanne L. Collins, 2001

**Taxonomic Comments:**

- Hoser (2009). A reclassification of the Rattlesnakes; species formerly exclusively referred to the genera *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus*. Australasian Journal of Herpetology 6: 1-21, placed this species in a new genus, *Hoserea* Hoser 2009. Standard common name remains Western Diamondback Rattlesnake.

Internet

start Microsoft Word Lycos - Micros... CNAH - Micros... Facebook | Ho... Netscape - [A... Adobe Photos... EN 10:18 PM

This page is before the Wallach et. al. lie. The next page is the lie itself being widely disseminated via all available means, with the key proponent being Wüster. The page after (and those following) are the intended consequences of the reckless and dishonest activity by Wallach et. al., again with Wüster masterminding the dishonest activity.

**World's deadliest Snakes**  
**Only Snakebusters**  
Shown here is the  
Snakeman Raymond  
Hoser with 4 Fierce  
Snakes, one Coastal  
Taipan, 1 Brown  
and others



Forget the lies peddled in places like the Wüster edited Wikipedia, judgements by corrupt Victorian judges, false claims by Snakebusters business competitors and the like.

In more than 8 years, none of these venomoid snakes have ever regenerated a drop of venom!

They are no risk to anyone!

Put simply, once a snake's venom glands are removed, they remain gone forever!

And don't believe the lie about so-called "dry bites" being common.

Two snake-handlers who believed that lie paid with their lives!

The details are in this journal.



### Rattlesnakes Rescued

#### CNAH ANNOUNCEMENT

The Center for North American Herpetology  
Lawrence, Kansas  
<http://www.cnah.org>  
22 September 2009

#### RATTLESNAKES RESCUED AND COBRAS CLARIFIED

A recent paper by Australian herpetologist Raymond Hoser, in which he named a number of genera and subgenera of rattlesnakes, has caused considerable controversy in New World herpetology. The names were published in Hoser's own Australasian Journal of Herpetology (AJH). The availability of the names under the provisions of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature was taken for granted by many.

In a paper dedicated to the systematics of African and Asian cobras, Wallach et al. (2009) provided evidence that all new names published in the Australasian Journal of Herpetology were not in fact published within the meaning of the Code. The authors showed that the claimed printed version of the AJH was not in fact available at the time of publication in a manner compatible with Article 8.1.3 of the Code: only a single copy was available in the Australian National Library. The online pdf version of the journal did not constitute a publication due to the specific exclusion of web documents (Article 9.8) and failure to state the libraries in which the article was to be deposited (Article 8.6). The printed copy of an issue in the Australian National library (itself a corner staple-bound home printout) differed from hard copies of all issues obtained directly from Hoser by Wallach et al. (2009), whereas all the latter copies showed identical printing flaws, suggesting they were printed at the same time. Wallach et al. (2009) concluded that the printed copies of AJH papers in existence were printed on demand, and therefore did not constitute publications under the provisions of Article 9.7.

While the paper by Wallach et al. (2009) was concerned specifically with Cobras, their conclusions on the AJH affected all new names published therein: the names of rattlesnake genera and subgenera contained in Hoser (2009) were not published within the meaning of the Code and therefore do not exist for nomenclatural purposes. The same applies to names published in the AJH for a number of Australasian elapids, pythons and a genus of Australian skink.

#### References

Hoser, Raymond. 2009. A reclassification of the Rattlesnakes; species formerly exclusively referred to the genera *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus*. Australasian Journal of Herpetology. 6: 1-21.

Wallach, Van, Wolfgang Wüster & Donald G. Broadley. 2009. In praise of subgenera: taxonomic status of Cobras of the genus *Naja* Laurenti (Serpentes: Elapidae). Zootaxa 2236: 26-36.

Wolfgang Wüster  
University of Wales, Bangor

\*\*\*\*\*

A pdf of the article by Wallach et al. is available from the CNAH PDF Library at

[http://www.cnah.org/cnah\\_pdf.asp](http://www.cnah.org/cnah_pdf.asp)

<http://www.cnah.org/research.asp?id=98>

27/09/2009



CNAH

Page 1 of 1

THE CENTER FOR NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY

**CNAH**

Promoting the preservation and conservation of North American Amphibians, Crocodilians, Reptiles, & Turtles through scholarship & information



HOME PAGE THE ACADEMIC PORTAL TO NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY CNAH.ORG

Western Diamondback Rattlesnake  
*Crotalus atrox* Baird & Girard, 1853



Image © Suzanne L. Collins, 2001

**Taxonomic Comments:**

- Hoser (2009. A reclassification of the Rattlesnakes; species formerly exclusively referred to the genera *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus*. Australasian Journal of Herpetology 6: 1-21), placed this species in a new genus, *Hoserea* Hoser 2009. Standard common name remains Western Diamondback Rattlesnake.
- Wallach, Van, Wolfgang Wüster & Donald G. Broadley (2009. In praise of subgenera: taxonomic status of Cobras of the genus *Naja* Laurenti (Serpentes: Elapidae). Zootaxa 2236: 26-36) pointed out that taxonomy published in the "Australasian Journal of Herpetology" was invalid because AJH is not a legitimate publication under the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

THE ACADEMIC PORTAL TO NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY

WWW.CNAH.ORG

© 1994-2009, CNAH - Director - [Joseph T. Collins](#)

Programmer/Webmaster - [Travis W. Taggart](#)

Accessed at: 10/5/2009 2:39:58 AM CST.

<http://www.naherpetology.org/detail.asp?id=68>

5/10/2009



ironic and tragic because they think that they can find the Truth by using bad characters! 🤖

There is no cladistic dogma that the results of any particular phylogenetic analysis are "Truth", and commonly used estimates of support for a topology don't just reinforce a belief in the correctness of that topology. You must think that bootstrap replicates can only give high support; trust me, this is not the case!

Patrick

[Top](#)

[profile](#) [email](#)

**El Lagarto**

**Post subject:** Re: Rattlesnakes reclassified **Posted:** Tue Sep 22, 2009 9:30 am



Looks like the entire paper get rejected on a bunch of different technicalities, so we're at least spared the danger of having to name a new genus *Hoserea* if legit taxonomists ever find support for a reclassification.....

**Joined:** Sat Jun 16, 2007 10:10 am  
**Posts:** 492  
**Location:** coastal Georgia

Wallach, Van, W. Wuster, and D. Broadley 2009 In praise of subgenera: taxonomic status of cobras of the genus *Naja* Laurenti (Serpentes: Elapidae). Zootaxa. 2236: 26-36.

It's available as a .pdf from CNAH. They only touch on **Hoser**, and in relation to his "work" with cobras, but their reasons for rejecting his names (and thus their priority for any future taxonomists), will also affect his rattlesnake findings.

[Top](#)

[profile](#)

**atrox**

**Post subject:** Re: Rattlesnakes reclassified **Posted:** Tue Sep 22, 2009 10:10 am



Thank you Wolfgang!

**Joined:** Tue Jun 06, 2006 9:20 pm  
**Posts:** 4548  
**Location:** Where the pavement ends

[Top](#)

[profile](#) [email](#)

**Mike Pingleton**

**Post subject:** Re: Rattlesnakes reclassified **Posted:** Tue Sep 22, 2009 10:15 am

<http://www.fieldherpforum.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=23300&p=283971&hilit=ho...> 5/10/2009

Taxonomic traumas for cobras and rattlesnakes « Herpetoblog

Page 4 of 5



Truth Hater (08:32:56) :

It may be of interest to readers to note that a recently published paper in Zootaxa provided evidence that neither the new names for cobras nor those for rattlesnakes are in fact validly published:

<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2009/f/zt02236p036.pdf>

[Reply](#)

Leave a comment

Name (required)

E-mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

<http://herpetoblog.wordpress.com>

**Tax Invoice**

Invoice Number: 16479      Date: 28/03/2012

Reference:

Raymond Hoser  
Australasian Journal of Herpetology Issue 9

**Kwik Kopy**  
Corporate Design  
& Print Solutions  
3/1031 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill VIC 3128  
Tel: (03) 9899 0833 Fax: (03) 9899 0536  
mail@kwikkopyboxhill.com.au  
www.kwikkopyboxhill.com.au  
Suechess Pty. Ltd. | ABN 65 740 679 782

Please return this remittance advice with your payment using one of the methods listed at the bottom of this page.

Quantity	Description	Price
50	Australasian Journal of Herpetology Issue 9 - 64 page document printed black and white on 128gsm gloss and 250gsm gloss cover in colour	\$276.77

**Payment Details**  
Please pay within 30 days, this is an invoice/statement and a statement will not be issued.  
Make cheques payable to Kwik Kopy Box Hill.  
We accept Visa, Mastercard and Amex payments and they will incur an additional 2% fee.  
You can deposit directly into our bank account.  
E & O.E. All claims and returned goods are to be accompanied by this invoice, and made within 7 days of receipt of goods.

**Direct Deposit Details:**  
Please debit my (tick appropriate card)  
For the amount of \$  
Card Number (please print numbers clearly)      Visa      Expiry Date      Mastercard      Amex

SUBTOTAL	\$276.77
TAX	\$27.68
TOTAL	\$304.45
DEPOSITS	\$0.00
AMOUNT DUE	\$304.45

Subject: RE: zoological records  
 Date: Tue, 13 Oct 2009 12:49:07 +0100  
 From: stephen.henderson@thomsonreuters.com  
 To: tthomas46@live.com

Dates received:  
 Australasian Journal of Herpetology 2 23/02/2009  
 Australasian Journal of Herpetology 6 17/03/2009  
 Australasian Journal of Herpetology 7 27/03/2009  
 Regards,  
 Steve

.....  
**Stephen Henderson**  
 Group Leader, Bibliographic Control  
 Healthcare & Science  
**Thomson Reuters**  
 Phone: +44 207 433 4575  
 stephen.henderson@thomsonreuters.com  
 thomsonreuters.com

**From:** Thomas cotton [mailto:tthomas46@live.com]  
**Sent:** 13 October 2009 11:57  
**To:** TS York Dcsadmins  
**Subject:** zoological records

Dear Sir, madam,  
 A query has arisen in terms of priority dates for certain taxa and papers listed in Zoological record's online rss.  
 Can you please advise me of the dates that you actually received hard copies of originals of the Australasian Journal of Herpetology Issues 2, 6 and 7, or at least the approximate dates that you got them.  
 Thanking you for your help, i just really want to know, one of the genus specified is named after my last name and would really like to know.

Yours sincerely  
 Thomas cotton,  
 Australia, victoria

*Thomson Reuters (Scientific) Ltd is a company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales (registered number 756619) having its registered office and address for service at Aldgate House, 33 Aldgate High Street, London, EC3N 1DL*

*This email is for the sole use of the intended recipient and contains information that may be privileged and/or confidential. If you are not an intended recipient, please notify the sender by return email and delete this email and any attachments.*

## Australasian Journal of Herpetology

Publishes original research in printed form in relation to reptiles, other fauna and related matters, including the subjects of classification, ecology, public interest, legal, captivity, exposure of frauds, "academic misconduct", etc. It is a peer reviewed printed journal for permanent public scientific record, with a sizeable print run and has a global audience.

Full details of acquiring copies, either printed or in identical form online, editorial policies, publication procedure, author submission guidelines, peer review guidelines, legal matters, advantages of publication in this journal and the like can be found by following links from:

<http://www.herp.net>

**Published by Kotabi Pty Ltd**  
**PO Box 599**  
**Doncaster, Victoria, 3108.**  
**Australia.**

**ISSN 1836-5698 (Print)**  
**ISSN 1836-5779 (Online)**

Online journals (this issue) do not appear for a month after the actual and listed publication date of the printed journals. Minimum print run of first printings is always at least fifty hard copies.