

# A division of the African Genus *Psammophis* Boie, 1825 into 4 genera and four further subgenera (Serpentes: Psammophiinae).

Raymond T. Hoser

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

Phone: +61 3 9812 3322 Fax: 9812 3355 E-mail: viper007@live.com.au

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## ABSTRACT

The Colubrid snakes of the subfamily Psammophiinae have been the subject of several phylogenetic studies, including that of Broadley (2002), Kelly et. al. (2008), and most recently as part of a wider study by Pyron et. al. (2011).

All showed the genus *Psammophis* as recognized in 2011 to be paraphyletic at the genus level.

Relying on these results and obvious morphological differences between the relevant species, the genus as now known is split into four genera, including the available *Psammophis* Boie, 1825, *Dromophis* Peters, 1869 and *Phayrea* Theobald, 1868 as well as the newly erected genus *Eipperus* gen. nov., defined and named according to the Zoological Code to accommodate species that fit within none of the other genera.

Furthermore, divergent taxa are assigned to three newly named subgenera and one other for which a name is already available, including two within *Psammophis*, namely, *Elliottus* subgen. nov. and *Slatteryus* subgen. nov., one within *Dromophis* namely *Amphiophis* Bocage, 1872 and another within *Phayrea* namely, *Rayhammondus* subgen. nov.

**Keywords:** new genus; subgenus; taxonomy; nomenclature; systematics; Colubridae; *Psammophis*; *Dromophis*; *Phayrea*; *Eipperus*; *Psammophiinae*; *Elliottus*; *Slatteryus*; *Phayrea*; *Rayhammondus*.

## INTRODUCTION

The morphologically similar, but phenotypically diverse group of about 50 recognized species of snakes known as the Psammophiinae has been the subject of taxonomists attention for many years and in spite of several detailed phylogenetic studies, there has not been stability in the nomenclature of the group.

The approximately 50 species within Psammophiinae were as at end 2011 placed within the following genera, *Dipsina* Jan, 1863 (one species), *Hemiharerrhis* Boettger, 1893 (4 species), *Malpolon* Fitzinger, 1826 (2 species), *Mimophis* Günther, 1868 (1 species), *Rhageris* Peters, 1862 (1 species), *Rhamphiophis* Peters, 1854 (4 species), *Psammophylax* Fitzinger, 1843 (4 species) and *Psammophis* Boie, 1825 (33 species).

At the genus level, the use of the given names and the component species within each genus has been relatively stable in recent times save for those species within the largest genus (by species number), that being *Psammophis*, which is the subject of this paper.

This Afro/Asian (mainly African) group of snakes has been inspected morphologically by herpetologists for more than a century, including by way of a major monograph by Loveridge in 1940. In recent years, studies by Broadley (2002), Kelly et. al. (2008), and to a lesser degree Pyron et. al. 2011, have looked at sizeable numbers of Psammophiine snake species nuclear and mitochondrial DNA including all genera identified above.

All the molecular studies have had similar results.

The most recent of these studies, that by Pyron et. al. (2011)

looked at various Psammophiine species and these tended to group within the various genera within popular usage in herpetology.

Consistent with an earlier study by Kelly et. al. (2008), in Pyron et. al.'s study, the two species formerly placed within the genus *Dromophis* Peters, 1869 both showed up within the clades for *Psammophis* species and not particularly close to one another. This result led Kelly et. al. in 2008 to relegate *Dromophis* to synonymy with the genus *Psammophis*, a position unchanged by Pyron et. al. (2011), although the latter authors noted that their primary concern was the higher taxonomy of the relevant genera, rather than classification of species at the genus level. The wide-ranging results of Pyron et. al. (2011) have been calibrated by myself against other similar molecular phylogenetic studies specific to the Snail-eating Snakes (Guo et. al. 2011), True Vipers (Wüster et. al. 2008), Pitvipers (Castoe et. al. 2003, 2005, and 2006), Coral Snakes (da Silva and Sites 2001), various colubrids (Lawson et. al. 2005, Queiroz et. al. 2002) and been shown to be accurate and consistent.

As a result, those results are accepted for the genus *Psammophis* as accurate, especially when calibrated with the virtually identical results published by Kelly et. al. (2008) and others.

Any taxa missed in Pyron et. al.'s analysis can also be readily assigned to the various species groups tested, meaning the results were in effect more-or-less comprehensive for the genus. While the molecular studies have shown all snakes currently placed within *Psammophis* to cluster as a group, there are nomenclatural issues that arise from the results.

One group of species, identified herein as the *condanarus* group, is only marginally closer to other *Psammophis* than it is to the four species placed within the genus *Psammophylax*.

Because no one in recent times has proposed merging the two genera, there becomes a strong argument to erect a new genus to accommodate this intermediate group.

The argument for this new genus has increased merit when the criteria for defining a genus (as in depth of divisions between clades) is assessed consistently across all snake genera and species.

Looking at the molecular results in terms of this potential genus group, I find the argument in favor of placing them in a new genus compelling.

Following the erection of a new genus to accommodate the *condanarus* group, for which the long forgotten name *Phayrea* Theobold, 1868 is available, the same argument appears in terms of the next clade, identified herein as the *notostictus* group, again it fitting within the consistent criteria of being sufficiently divergent to be placed in a new genus, for which in this case there is no pre-existing name available.

Beyond the erection of this next genus, the same argument appears in terms of splitting a third group of snakes, known herein in the *praeornatus* group into a third genus.

The genus name *Dromophis* Peters, 1869, is already available for the group.

The largest group, while clearly consisting different species groups and clearly paraphyletic at a level deep enough to yield at least four species groups, is not in my view sufficiently differentiated or diverse to warrant being split any further at the genus level.

However two lineages with more ancient divergence do warrant recognition as subgenera.

Likewise for the species *angolensis* in terms of the available genus group *Dromophis*, as well as the species crucifer within the *condanarus* group.

Following on from the above result, I hereby subdivide the four obvious groups into four genera and four relevant subgenera.

These are *Psammophis* Boie, 1825, *Dromophis* Peters, 1869, as well as the newly erected genus *Eipperus* gen. nov. for the

*notostictus* group and *Phayrea* Theobold, 1868 for the *condanarus* group, the new genus being defined and named according to the Zoological Code (Ride 1999) to accommodate species that fit within.

Furthermore, divergent taxa are assigned to three newly named subgenera, including two within *Psammophis*, namely, *Elliotus* subgen. nov. and *Slatteryus* subgen. nov., another within *Amphiophis* namely, *Rayhammondus* subgen. nov. and resurrection of the name *Amphiophis* Bocage, 1872 for one within *Dromophis*.

The body of literature detailing with and summarizing what's known about *Psammophis* and related genera is vast and includes the following key publications: Böhme and De Pury (2011), Boulenger (1902), Branch (1983), Broadley (1975, 2002), Broadley and Cotterill (2004), Broadley and Howell (1991), Broadley and Hughes (2000), Broadley et. al. 2003, Chiro and Ineich (1992), Egan (2007), Esterbauer (1985), Fitzsimons (1966), Geniez et. al. (2004), Hartmann (1998), Hedges (1983), Hughes (2002), Hulbert and Lutzmann (2004), Kramer and Schnurrenberger (1963), Largen and Spawls (2010), Loveridge (1940), Marx (1958, 1988), Parker (1949), Rato et. al. (2007), Schlegel (1837), Schlüter (2006), Shine et. al. (2006) and Spawls et. al. (2001).

#### GENUS PSAMMOPHIS BOIE 1825, SENSO LATO

Snakes in the subfamily Psammophiinae are sometimes classed as being within the family Colubridae, or alternatively within the Lamprophiidae, with Colubroidea being a superfamily.

Regardless of the higher level classification, these snakes are recognizable by several features, perhaps most notably the vestigial, tube-like hemipenis. They vary from small to large in size (but not giant), are mainly diurnal, generally fast-moving active terrestrial snakes. Some are partly arboreal, while others burrow in loose dirt and sand.

Preferred habitats include savannah, grassland and semi-desert and includes habitats modified by human activities. All but one species lays eggs.

While defined as back-fanged venomous, they are not generally regarded as dangerous to humans, unless of course the victim displays a rare allergic reaction to venom or saliva.

The most serious symptoms are reported for Mediterranean *Malpolon*.

The subfamily occurs throughout Africa, southern Europe and the nearest parts of south-west Asia.

The genus *Psammophis* as generally recognized in early 2011 consists of an assemblage of small to large snakes with a head distinct from the neck, moderate to large eyes and a round pupil. There are 10-15 maxillary teeth, the largest in front of the eye, and the large grooved "back" fangs are posterior to the eye.

The anterior mandibular teeth are noticeably enlarged.

Usually four infralabials touch the anterior chin shields.

The body is more-or-less cylindrical with usually smooth scales in 11-19 dorsal mid-body rows. The anal may or may not be divided and the subcaudals are always paired.

Some species including *sibilans* and *schokari* polish their bodies with nasal secretions that appear to reduce skin water loss.

Most species are found in low-lying areas, including swamps and other similar places sometimes subject to water inundation.

#### GENUS PSAMMOPHIS BOIE 1825

**Type species:** *Coluber sibilans* Linnaeus, 1758

**Diagnosis:** Separated from the other three genera formerly within *Psammophis*, namely *Dromophis*, *Eipperus* gen. nov. and *Amphiophis* by the following suite of characters: 150-198 ventrals, 90-120 divided subcaudals, (versus 140-170 in genus *Dromophis*), highly variable dorsal colouration, usually with distinct body stripes in shades of brown or olive and yellow running along the body. Sometimes the markings are indistinct or flecked. Grows to nearly 2 metres in length, head is usually broad, except in the subgenus *Elliotus* gen. nov., the widely

separated occipital shields usually separates these snakes from the other three genera *Dromophis*, *Eipperus* gen. nov. and *Amphiophis*.

Found throughout Africa and nearby.

#### Content of Genus *Psammophis*

*Psammophis sibilans* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Type Species)

*Psammophis brevirostris* Peters, 1881

*Psammophis mossambicus* Peters, 1882

*Psammophis phillipsi* (Hallowell, 1844)

*Psammophis leopardinus* Bocage, 1887

*Psammophis rukwae* Broadley, 1966

*Psammophis sudanensis* Werner, 1919

*Psammophis orientalis* Broadley, 1977

*Psammophis subtaeniatus* Peters, 1882

*Psammophis trinasis* Werner, 1902

*Psammophis zambiensis* Hughes, 2002

#### Subgenus *Elliottus* subgen. nov. (see below)

*Psammophis (Elliottus) lineatus* (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854)

#### Subgenus *Slatteryus* subgen. nov. (see below)

*Psammophis (Slatteryus) biseriatus* Peters, 1881 (Type species)

*Psammophis (Slatteryus) tanganicus* Loveridge, 1940

#### SUBGENUS *ELLIOTTUS* SUBGEN. NOV.

**Type species:** *Dryophylax lineatus* Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854

**Diagnosis:** Separated from all other *Psammophis* (*sensu lato*) including genera *Dromophis*, *Eipperus* gen. nov. and *Amphiophis* by the following suite of characters: 17 dorsal mid-body scale rows, 138-167 ventrals, 82-105 subcaudals, light olive or brown and grey longitudinal stripes, greenish-yellow vertebral line, black transverse dashes on the outer edges of the ventrals is diagnostic for the subgenus, the center of the belly being creamy white to grayish yellow or pale green, the build is fairly slender, maximum total length of 1.2 metres, there is a single large anterior temporal which separates this taxon from all others in *Psammophis* which was diagnostic for *Dromorphis*, but is not any longer useful on its own in terms of generic diagnosis as this species and just one in *Dromorphis* (*D. praeornatus*) as defined herein have this character.

The subgenus is monotypic for the species *Psammophis (Elliottus) lineatus*. It's known as the Striped Swamp Snake, being called this in reflection of the sort of habitats it is often found in and its typical colouration. It's found in most parts of Africa except for the far north and far south.

**Etymology:** Named in honour of Adam Elliott of Hoppers Crossing, in recognition of his contributions to Australian herpetology.

#### SUBGENUS *SLATTERYUS* SUBGEN. NOV.

**Type species:** *Psammophis biseriatus* Peters, 1881

**Diagnosis:** Separated from all other *Psammophis* (*sensu stricto*), by having 15 instead of 17 dorsal mid-body rows. These snakes have 142-189 ventrals, 93-135 divided subcaudals, dorsal colour is grey or light brown, the top of the head is often lighter, including sometimes a bright green, maximum total length is 1.4 metres, pre-ocular 1 (rarely 2), 2 postoculars, the loreal is much longer than deep, temporals are variable 2+2 or 2+3, rarely 1+2 or 1+3; 8,9 or 10 upper labials with 3-5th or 4th-6th entering the orbit; 10 infralabials contact the anterior chin shields, which are shorter than posterior, narrow head, pair of occipital shields are widely separated. These are very slender snakes often arboreal in low vegetation.

They are found in the drier eastern sector of Africa, from the central regions, northwards to Sudan and Libya where they are not as common as further south.

**Etymology:** Named in honor of Paul Slattery, of Park Orchards, Victoria, Australia, for services to local governance, including

through the publication and distribution of his independent local newspapers.

#### Content of Subgenus *Slatteryus* subgen. nov.

*Psammophis (Slatteryus) biseriatus* Peters, 1881 (Type species)

*Psammophis (Slatteryus) tanganicus* Loveridge, 1940

#### GENUS *DROMOPHIS* PETERS, 1869

**Type species:** *Dendrophis praeornatus* Schlegel, 1837

**Diagnosis:** Separated from the other three genera formerly within *Psammophis*, namely *Psammophis*, *Eipperus* gen. nov. and *Amphiophis* by the following suite of characters: 170-197 ventrals, 140-170 divided subcaudals, versus 90-120 in genus *Psammophis*, usually 17 mid-body rows, 9 supralabials, rarely 8 or 10, numbers 5-6 enter the orbit, rarely numbers 4-5 or 4-6, very rarely 6 and 7 enter the eye, pre-oculars are usually in contact, rarely separated from the frontal, 2 postoculars, loreal much longer than deep, temporal 2+2 or 2+3, or rarely 1+2, these are sometimes obscured and appear 2+1+3 or 2+2+3, 10 or 11 infralabials (4-6 usually largest) 4-5 contact chin shields long as or shorter than posterior.

The genus is usually recognizable by the very gaudy colour, which consists of 3 well-defined black stripes running down a yellow or creamish-white body although sometimes with a speckled pattern. Large bulging eye and a pair of large occipital shields. Of moderate build, but never bulky.

Grows to nearly 2 metres in length.

Found throughout Africa and nearby.

#### Content of genus *Dromophis*:

*Dromophis praeornatus* (Schlegel, 1837) (Type species)

*Dromophis aegyptius* (Marx, 1958)

*Dromophis elegans* (Shaw, 1802)

*Dromophis pulcher* (Boulenger, 1895)

*Dromophis punctulatus* (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854)

*Dromophis schokari* (Forsk., 1775)

#### Subgenus *Amphiophis* Bocage, 1872

*Dromophis (Amphiophis) angolensis* (Bocage, 1872)

#### SUBGENUS *AMPHIOPHIS* BOCAGE, 1872

**Type species:** *Amphiophis angolensis* Bocage, 1872

**Diagnosis:** Separated from all other *Psammophis* (*sensu lato*) including genera *Psammophis*, *Dromophis*, *Eipperus* gen. nov. and *Amphiophis* by the following suite of characters: nostril pierced between 2 nasals; preocular 1, usually widely separated from frontal; postoculars 2; temporals usually 1+2; supralabials 8 (rarely 6, 7 or 9), the fourth and fifth (rarely third and fourth, fourth only or fifth and sixth) entering orbit; infralabials 8 (rarely 7 or 9), the first 4 (rarely 3 or 5) in contact with anterior sublinguals; dorsal scales in 11-11-11 rows (rarely 9 rows); ventrals 133-157; cloacal shield divided; subcaudals 58-80. Head dark brown, three narrow yellow transverse bands posteriorly, supralabials white; neck dark brown with one or two grey crossbands which broaden laterally, a dark brown black-edged dorsal band three scales wide, greyish or yellowish laterally, sometimes with black hairlines through the outer two scale rows. Ventrals and lower half of outer scale row white or yellow, uniform or with an ill defined lateral series of dark flecks, sometimes a mid-ventral pale orange band present.

Found in the drier parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The subgenus is monotypic for *Dromophis (Amphiophis) angolensis*.

#### GENUS *EIPPERUS* GEN. NOV.

**Type species:** *Psammophis moniliger* var. *notostictus* Peters, 1867

**Diagnosis:** Separated from all other *Psammophis* (*sensu lato*) including genera *Psammophis*, *Dromophis*, and *Amphiophis* by the following suite of characters. The nostril is pierced between 3 nasals, the upper posterior with a posterior prolongation; preoculars 2 (rarely 1), usually in contact with frontal; postoculars 2 (very rarely 3); temporals basically 2+2+3, but with frequent fusions; supralabials 8 (very rarely 7 or 9), the fourth

and fifth (rarely third and fourth) entering orbit; infralabials 9-12 (usually 10), the first 4 (rarely 3 or 5) in contact with anterior sublinguals; dorsal scales in 17-17-13 (or 17-17-15) rows; ventrals 155-183; cloacal shield entire or divided; subcaudals divided 76-107. Light grey to dark brown above, often paler laterally, uniform or with a pale stripe or series of spots on the vertebral scale row and a pale stripe on row 4, these stripes may be bordered by black flecks. The head shields may have pale margins, with a pair of pale blotches on the parietals. A white ventrolateral stripe covers the lower half of the outer scale row and ends of the ventrals, extending forward onto the labials, pre- and post-oculars. Chin and throat white with grey or black spots and streaks. Venter yellowish, more or less infuscated with grey and with a grey line bordering the white ventrolateral stripe. There are sometimes grey flushes on the venter.

These are long-thin and fast-moving diurnal snakes that actively chase their prey. Diagnostic of the genus is the long tail and high subcaudal count (76 to 107).

The genus is restricted to southern Africa, mainly in the countries to the immediate north of South Africa.

**Etymology:** Named in honor of Scott Eipper, a herpetologist from Queensland, Australia.

**Content of *Eipperus* gen. nov.**

*Eipperus notostictus* (Peters, 1867) (Type species)

*Eipperus leightoni* (Boulenger, 1902)

*Eipperus namibensis* (Broadley, 1975)

*Eipperus jallae* (Peracca, 1896)

*Eipperus ansorgii* (Boulenger, 1905)

*Eipperus trigrammus* Günther, 1865)

**GENUS PHAYREA THEOBOLD, 1868**

**Type species:** *Coluber condanarus* Merrem, 1820

**Diagnosis:** This genus is herein defined in two parts, firstly the five south-west and south Asian species, namely, *Phayrea condanarus* (type species), *P. lineolatus*, *P. indochinensis*, *P. leithii* and *P. longifrons*, then the remaining taxon, *P. crucifer*, placed in its own subgenus, *Rayhammondus* gen. nov.

The Asiatic species are separated from all other snakes within the genera *Phayrea*, *Psammophis*, *Eipperus* and *Dromophis* by the following suite of characters: The rostral is as deep as broad and easily visible from above; nasal divided or semidivided; internasals rather more than half the length of the prefrontals; frontal very narrow, as long as or longer than its distance from the end of the snout, as long as the parietals; loreal about twice as long as deep; preocular single, not extending to the frontal; two postoculars; temporals 1+2 or 1+3, rarely 2+3; upper labials 8, fourth and fifth entering the orbit; 4 lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are as long as the posterior. 17 dorsal mid-body rows, 156-182 ventrals, anal divided, subcaudals 75-90. Dorsally the coloration varies, but is usually a pale olive-brown, with two pairs of more or less distinct dark bands each two scales wide, the lower of these bands, which passes through the eye, often black-edged; upper labials and lower parts uniform yellowish, with a dark line along each side of the ventrals and subcaudals. Total body length of about a metre.

The African taxon within this genus is separated from all other snakes within the genera *Phayrea*, *Psammophis*, *Eipperus* and *Dromophis* by the following suite of characters: Nostril pierced between 2 nasals; preocular 1, widely separated from frontal; postoculars 2 (very rarely 3); temporals basically 2+2+3, but with frequent fusions; supralabials 8 (rarely 7 or 9), the fourth and fifth (rarely third and fourth or fifth and sixth) entering orbit; infralabials 9 (rarely 10), the first 4 (rarely 5) in contact with anterior sublinguals; dorsal scales in 15-15-13 rows; ventrals 134-165; anal plate divided; subcaudals 68-91, though there is an isolated record of a specimen with a substantially lower ventral and subcaudal count, being an aberrant female from the Nyanga highlands, Zimbabwe, which had only 117 ventrals and 47 subcaudals (Broadley 2002). Head grey, with a dark red-

brown black-edged stripe extending from the snout, dividing on the frontal and again on the parietals, in each case enclosing a grey centre, continuing on the body as a black-bordered three scale wide dorsal stripe, this is separated by a thin white line from a grey dorso-lateral stripe on scale rows 4, 5 and 6. A dark grey-brown lateral stripe covers scale rows 2 and 3 and the upper half of the outer row, the lower half being white. Pre- and post-oculars white, supralabials, chin and throat white, blotched or speckled with black. Ventrums orange with a broken black lateral line. South African specimens usually have one or two dark crossbars intersecting the vertebral stripe on the nape to form the "cross" from which the species derives its name, these crossbars are missing in specimens from Zimbabwe and KwaZulu-Natal. Some South African specimens are uniform grey above and pinkish white below.

The first described species from Asia are found in drier parts of south-west Asia, (two species), entering wetter parts in the south, with the single species from *Rayhammondus* subgen. nov. being confined to drier parts of east Africa south of the Sahara latitudes.

**Content of *Phayrea* Theobold, 1868**

*Phayrea condanarus* (Merrem, 1820) (Type species)

*Phayrea lineolatus* (Brandt, 1836)

*Phayrea indochinensis* (Smith, 1943)

*Phayrea leithii* (Günther, 1869)

*Phayrea longifrons* (Boulenger, 1896)

**Subgenus *Rayhammondus* subgen. nov. (see below)**

*Phayrea (Rayhammondus) crucifer* (Daudin, 1803)

**SUBGENUS RAYHAMMONDUS SUBGEN. NOV.**

**Type species:** *Coluber crucifer* Daudin, 1803

**Diagnosis:** This subgenus is monotypic for the species *Phayrea crucifer*, known under the common name of Mountain or Cross-marked Grass Snake.

It is separated from all other snakes in the genera *Psammophis*, *Dromophis*, *Eipperus* gen. nov. and *Amphiophis* by the following suite of characters: Nostril pierced between 2 nasals; preocular 1 widely separated from frontal; postoculars 2 (very rarely 3); temporals basically 2+2+3, but with frequent fusions; supralabials 8 (rarely 7 or 9), the fourth and fifth (rarely third and fourth or fifth and sixth) entering orbit; infralabials 9 (rarely 10), the first 4 (rarely 5) in contact with anterior sublinguals; dorsal scales in 15-15-13 rows; ventrals 134-165; anal plate divided; subcaudals 68-91, though there is an isolated record of a specimen with a substantially lower ventral and subcaudal count, being an aberrant female from the Nyanga highlands, Zimbabwe, which had only 117 ventrals and 47 subcaudals (Broadley 2002). Head grey, with a dark red-brown black-edged stripe extending from the snout, dividing on the frontal and again on the parietals, in each case enclosing a grey centre, continuing on the body as a black-bordered three scale wide dorsal stripe, this is separated by a thin white line from a grey dorso-lateral stripe on scale rows 4, 5 and 6. A dark grey-brown lateral stripe covers scale rows 2 and 3 and the upper half of the outer row, the lower half being white. Pre- and post-oculars white, supralabials, chin and throat white, blotched or speckled with black. Ventrums orange with a broken black lateral line. South African specimens usually have one or two dark crossbars intersecting the vertebral stripe on the nape to form the "cross" from which the species derives its name, these crossbars are missing in specimens from Zimbabwe and KwaZulu-Natal. Some South African specimens are uniform grey above and pinkish white below.

Found in drier parts of eastern southern Africa.

**Etymology:** Named in honor of Raymond (Ray) Hammond of Hamilton, Victoria, for services to governance in Australia, including his assistances to those who blew the whistle on corruption in the Victoria Police and also the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment.

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## NEW ARRANGEMENT OF GENERA AND SPECIES FORMERLY PLACED WITHIN *PSAMMOPHIS*

### Genus: *Psammophis* Fitzinger, 1843

*Psammophis sibilans* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
(Type species)

*Psammophis brevirostris* Peters, 1881

*Psammophis mossambicus* Peters,  
1882

*Psammophis phillipsi* (Hallowell, 1844)

*Psammophis leopardinus* Bocage,  
1887

*Psammophis rukwae* Broadley, 1966

*Psammophis sudanensis* Werner,  
1919

*Psammophis orientalis* Broadley, 1977

*Psammophis subtaeniatus* Peters,  
1882

*Psammophis trinasis* Werner, 1902

*Psammophis zambiensis* Hughes,  
2002

### Subgenus *Elliottus* subgen. nov.

*Psammophis (Elliottus) lineatus*  
(Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854)

### Subgenus *Slatteryus* subgen. nov.

*Psammophis (Slatteryus) biseriatus*  
Peters, 1881 (Type species)

*Psammophis (Slatteryus) tanganicus*  
Loveridge, 1940

### Genus: *Dromophis* Peters, 1869

*Dromophis praeornatus* (Schlegel,  
1837) (Type species)

*Dromophis aegyptius* (Marx, 1958)

*Dromophis elegans* (Shaw, 1802)

*Dromophis pulcher* (Boulenger, 1895)

*Dromophis punctulatus* (Duméril,  
Bibron and Duméril, 1854)

*Dromophis schokari* (Forskål, 1775)

### Subgenus *Amphiophis* Bocage, 1872

*Dromophis (Amphiophis) angolensis*  
(Bocage, 1872)

### Genus: *Eipperus* gen. nov.

*Eipperus notostictus* (Peters, 1867)  
(Type species)

*Eipperus leightoni* (Boulenger, 1902)

*Eipperus namibensis* (Broadley, 1975)

*Eipperus jallae* (Peracca, 1896)

*Eipperus ansorgii* (Boulenger, 1905)

*Eipperus trigrammus* Günther, 1865)

### Genus: *Phayrea* Theobald, 1868

*Phayrea condanarus* (Merrem, 1820)  
(Type species)

*Phayrea lineolatus* (Brandt, 1836)

*Phayrea indochinensis* (Smith, 1943)

*Phayrea leithii* (Günther, 1869)

*Phayrea longifrons* (Boulenger, 1896)

### Subgenus *Rayhammondus* subgen. nov.

*Phayrea (Rayhammondus) crucifer*  
(Daudin, 1803)