ABSTRACT

The Asian Pitvipers, recently placed in the genus Cryptelytrops Cope, 1860, have long been recognized as a distinct group. Recently a number of phylogenetic studies including Pyron et. al. (2011) and Malhorta et. al. (2011) have confirmed simple observations of morphology to show that within this assemblage of about a dozen described species, six species of these snakes differ significantly from other members of the genus Cryptelytrops senso lato.

The type species for the genus Cryptelytrops is the morphologically distinct taxa C. purpureomaculatus.

This paper formalizes the obvious phylogenetic divergence by placing the six divergent species in a new genus according to the current Zoological Code (Ride et. al. 1999). Placed in Adelynhoserea gen. nov. are the species formerly placed in the genus Cryptelytrops, namely C. cardamomensis, C. Honsonensis, C. kanburiensis, C. macrops, C. rubeus and C. venustus.

Keywords: new genus; Trimeresurus; Adelynhoserea; Cryptelytrops; purpureomaculatus; cardamomensis; honsonensis; kanburiensis; macrops; rubeus; venustus; Viperidae; Crotalinae; Hoser; snake; genus; Asia.

INTRODUCTION

The Pitviper genus Trimeresurus Lacépède, 1804 sensu lato has been subject of intense research in recent years, with numerous new taxa being formally described and proposals made to split the genus as recognized to smaller divisions.


Various other generic names have been proposed for different species within the above group, but have not necessarily come into use for a variety of reasons.

Some of the above cited generic names may even be...
questionable under the current and most recently past zoological codes as published by the ICZN.

By way of example, the series of names proposed by Malhorta and Thorpe 2004 (namely *Himalayophis* Malhotra and Thorpe, 2004, *Popeia* Malhotra and Thorpe, 2004 and *Virdiovipera* Malhotra and Thorpe, 2004) were not defined in accordance with the current (1999/2000) code (several articles) and therefore unless properly defined since, remain unavailable for the purposes of zoological nomenclature.

It would clearly be prudent for me to properly describe the relevant genus level taxa so that names are in fact “available”. However as a matter of correct ethics, I have instead refrained from doing so and herein provide Anita Malhotra the opportunity now to correct the anomaly and retain “naming rights” over the subject genera and to stabilize the nomenclature.

Ceratimuresurus Liang and Liu, (2003) was synonymised with *Protobothrops* in 2008 (David et. al. 2008). *Ermia* Zhang, 1993 is not an available name for snake taxa (already a genus name for something else) and *Zhaeormia* Gumprecht and Tilack, 2004 was later found to be synonymous with *Protobothrops* (Guo et. al. 2007).

Within the genus Cryptelytrops as recently resurrected, there is a distinct division between two main groups. About half the described species including the type species, *C. purpureomaculatus* are clearly very similar. However six species have been known to be divergent, these being the species formally described as *Cryptelytrops cardamomensis* Malhotra et. al., 2011, “*Cryptelytrops honsonesis* Grismer et al., 2008” *Trimeresurus kanburiensis* Smith, 1943”, “*Trimeresurus macrops* Kramer, 1977”, “*Cryptelytrops rubeus* Malhotra et. al., 2011,” and “*Trimeresurus venustus* Vogel, 1991”. A recent phylogenetic study by Pyron et. al. (2011) also showed sufficient distinction between the two above groups of snakes to warrant generic distinction. This follows on from a similar finding in the data of Malhotra and Thorpe (2004), see figs A and B.

Authors of both papers failed to make taxonomic acts in relation to the placement of the divergent species within a different genus. As no name is currently available for the six divergent species, a new genus, *Adelynhoserea* gen. nov. is created according to the Zoological Code (Ride et. al. 1999) to accommodate the six new genus, *Adelynhoserea* gen. nov. as described below on the basis of information provided by the authors. The newly described taxon is apparently most closely related to the species *venustus*.

**GENUS ADELYNHOSEREA GEN. NOV.**

**Type species:** *Trimeresurus macros* Kramer, 1977.

**Diagnosis:** Separated from all other Asian Pitviper species which also have the typical “green pitviper” colouration or variation of it (uniform green dorsal colour and a lateral stripe present on the first few dorsal scale rows in one or both sexes), except other species within *Cryptelytrops* as currently defined, by the presence of a fused first supraocular and nasal scale, these being a trait common to both *Cryptelytrops* and *Adelynhoserea* gen. nov. *Adelynhoserea* gen. nov. can be distinguished from *Cryptelytrops* primarily by the relatively larger size of the eye (most obvious in adults), the relatively wider supraoculars, and the shape of the head, which is elongate-oval in *Cryptelytrops*, but widens quite abruptly behind the eyes in *Adelynhoserea* gen. nov. to give a characteristically triangular-shaped head.

**Distribution:** Hilly, rocky parts of Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, including Hon Son Island, Vietnam.

**Etymology:** Named in honour of my daughter Adelyn Hoser, who has spent the first 13 years of her life teaching many thousands of Australians about snakes and other reptiles. Unfortunately this has included the shattering of lies and false information being peddled by people who have entered the “reptile industry” in recent years, motivated solely by a desire to make vast amounts of money as fast as possible, with no regard for truth, education or public safety. These people have been backed by corrupt and dishonest friends in senior positions within Australian wildlife departments, in particular the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

These people in their total hatred of truth and decency, have subjected Adelyn Hoser to extreme stress and trauma by having her assaulted and impounded for about an hour when attending school on 10 August 2011 and then on 17 August 2011 dragged her out of bed in her own home at the crack of dawn in an illegal armed raid that went for 9 hours and involved 11 wildlife officers and heavily armed gun-toting police. These people destroyed Adelyn’s possessions and had no remorse for their disgusting mistreatment and abuse of the 13-year-old child.

In reality, Adelyn deserves to have many genera of snakes named in her honor in recognition of the great work she has done in 13 years!

**Species within the genus **Adelynhoserea gen. nov.**

*Adelynhoserea macrops* (Kramer, 1977) (Type species).

*Adelynhoserea honsonesis* (Grismer et al., 2008)

*Adelynhoserea cardamomensis* (Malhotra et. al., 2011)

*Adelynhoserea kanburiensis* (Smith, 1943)

*Adelynhoserea rubeus* (Malhotra et. al., 2011)

*Adelynhoserea venustus* (Vogel, 1991)

**Species remaining within the genus Cryptelytrops Cope, 1860**

*Cryptelytrops purpureomaculatus* (Gray, 1832) (Type species)

*Cryptelytrops albolaebis* (Gray, 1842)

*Cryptelytrops cantori* (Blay, 1846)

*Cryptelytrops erythrurus* (Cantor, 1839)

*Cryptelytrops insularis* (Kramer, 1977)

*Cryptelytrops septentrionalis* (Kramer, 1977)

**REFERENCES CITED**


