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The description of new snake subgenera, species and subspecies from Australia (Squamata:Serpentes).

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ABSTRACT

A number of snake taxa within Australia have been recognized as warranting taxonomic recognition for some time, but for various reasons have remained unnamed scientifically.

This paper for the first time formally recognizes and names 12 new subgenera of Australasian Blind Snakes (plus the nominate two), as well as five new species of Blind Snake, all restricted to Australasia in accordance with the Zoological Code (Ride *et al*. 1999). Furthermore this paper formally names one new species and two new subspecies of elapid snake, all three from north-west Australia.

Keywords: Taxonomy; Nomenclature; Zoological Code; Typhlopidae; *Libertadictus*; *Sivadictus*; new subgenera; *Ackytyphlops*; *Suewitttyphlops*; *Robinwitttyphlops*; *Pattersontyphlops*; *Slopptyphlops*; *Mantyphlops*; *Jackyhosertyphlops*; *Kerrtyphlops*; *Adelynhosertyphlops*; *Bennetttyphlops*; *Silvatyphlops*; *Sheatyphlops*; new species; *adelynhoserae*; *cliffrosswellingtoni*; *jackyhoserae*; *sloppi*; *richardwellsi*; *Cannia*; *Pailsus*; *hoserae*; new subspecies; *Furina*; *diadema*; *ornata*; *toddpattersoni*; *Notopseudonaja*; *modesta*; *wellsi.*

INTRODUCTION

Globally, about 200 species of reptile were formally named for the first time in 2012. On 25 December 2012, Uetz (2012c) claimed 183 newly described reptile taxa for the year, giving a total of known and widely recognized species at just under 10,000, on his generally good and supposedly comprehensive database, a total likely to be exceeded within a few short years.

While most newly described reptiles are lizards, there were many new snake species also described and named for the first time in 2012.

For many groups of reptiles, including the Scolecophidians, molecular studies and audits of wide-ranging species are yielding ever more species, with the list of known species not yet formally described increasing. This increase is resulting from the relatively recent phenomenon of cheap and effective genetic sequencing technology and resulting molecular studies identifying new species at a rate faster than taxonomists can describe them.

Within Australia, there are more than a dozen undescribed species of Blind Snake known, as of end 2012. To partially remedy the situation, I herein describe five well known taxa long recognised as being distinct at the species level, and in the absence of molecular data, but not yet formally named, although here I note that recent molecular studies (e.g. Marin *et al.* 2012) confirm this recognition.

At the higher level, Hoser (2012b), identified as yet unnamed subgenera of Australian Typhlopids, which were not formally named pending other papers being published by Richard Wells, Julie Marin, Nicolas Vidal and others before year end.

Wells hasn't published anything and while the other authors did publish a paper at end 2012 (Marin *et al.* 2012), they took no new taxonomic actions in terms of naming the unnamed subgenera or species.

This was in spite of the presentation of further compelling molecular evidence for such assignments (Marin *et al.* 2012) and similar assignments for non-Australian subgenera of Blindsnakes by Hoser 2012b.

In order to rectify this anomaly and bring the classification of the Australian Blindsnakes into line with those of the other continents; this paper for the first time formally names the subgenera according to the Zoological Code (Ride *et al.* 1999).

Hoser (2012b) cites numerous key references in terms of Blindsnakes globally. Key publications in terms of the Australian species covered within this paper include: Annable (1995), Aplin (1998), Aplin and Donnellan (1993), Boulenger (1893a, 1893b, 1895), Cogger (1975, 1979, 2000), Cogger *et al.* (1983), Couper *et al.* (1998), Covacevich (1971), Coventry (1970), Coventry and Robertson (1971), De Vis (1891), Ehmann (1993), Fitzinger (1843), Garman (1901), Glauert (1950), Gray (1845), Hoser (1989), Houston (1976), in den Bosch and Ineich (1994), Ingram and Covacevich (1993), Jan (1863, 1864, 1865a, 1865b), Kinghorn (1929a, 1929b, 1942, 1956), Loveridge (1934, 1945), Marin *et al.* (2012), Mattison (1995), McDiarmid *et al.* (1999), McDowell (1974), Mertens (1930), Montague (1914), Parker (1931), Peters (1867, 1869), Rawlinson (1966), Robb (1966a, 1966b, 1972), Shea (1995, 1999), Shea and Horner (1997), Shine and Webb (1990), Smith (1927), Somaweera (2009), Stimson *et al.* (1977), Storr (1981b, 1983, 1984), Tilbrook (1993), Waite (1893, 1894, 1897a, 1897b, 1898, 1917, 1918a, 1918b), Wallach (1993, 1996), Wells (1979), Wells and Wellington (1983, 1985), Wilson (2005), Wilson and Knowles (1988), Worrell (1963).

Within Australia, three elapids needing taxonomic recognition have remained unnamed for several years.

In 1981, Glenn Storr merged several described snakes into the

single species *Furina ornata* (Gray, 1842). Storr (1981a) noted regional differences for these snakes within Western Australia, yet failed to accord taxonomic recognition to any. Because only two of the three well-known regional variants are named (both having originally been described as full species), I herein name the third of these, being the Pilbara form.

That this taxon has remained unnamed for over thirty years is astounding!

It is herein named for the first time ever, according to the Zoological Code at the subspecies level.

The Ringed Brown Snake, *Notopseudonaja modesta* (Günther, 1872) has been taxonomically unstable for some time.

Most authors have placed it in the genus *Pseudonaja* Günther, 1858, although Wells (2002) erected a new genus to accommodate what has long been recognized as a divergent taxon within the *Pseudonaja* group.

Molecular studies published, such as that of Pyron *et al.* 2011 (see figure on p. 336), Skinner *et al.* (2005) and Skinner (2009) have somewhat supported this position, which is why I have used the genus name for this species taxon herein.

The differences between *Notopseudonaja* and other species placed within *Pseudonaja* by most authors are described in detail by Wells (2002), who also resurrected from synonymy the species *Notopseudonaja sutherlandi* (De Vis, 1884), from north-east Australia and *Notopseudonaja ramsayi* (Macleay, 1885) from north-west NSW.

Another taxon within the *Notopseudonaja modesta* group that remains unnamed is the form from the Kimberley Ranges in north west Western Australia, best known for having a higher average ring count than those specimens from other regions.

While these specimens are quite distinct and identifiable from all other *Notopseudonaja modesta*, I am not in a position to assert reproductive isolation from other *Notopseudonaja modesta.* Therefore I have taken the conservative path and described them herein as a subspecies of *Notopseudonaja modesta* according to the Zoological Code.

Finally, there remains an unnamed "Pygmy Mulga Snake" from the Northern Territory of Australia.

The first of the Pygmy Mulga Snakes was named by Wells and Wellington (1987) as *Cannia weigeli*, this being a taxon currently only known from the West Kimberley, Western Australia, the holotype specimen being from the Mitchell River Falls area, WA.

Shea *et al.* (1988) published a paper in *Herpetofauna*, relegating the Wells and Wellington taxon to synonymy with "*Pseudechis australis*" on the tenuous basis that the characteristics for the newly named species fitted within the known variation of the earlier named species.

The claim did not stand up to scrutiny, but in an indictment of Australian herpetologists, no one else bothered to do such a scrutiny and so the Wells and Wellington description was effectively ignored and forgotten, although to their credit and in spite of immense pressure from others, Wells and Wellington stood by their diagnosis and description.

Hoser (1998) described a new species from Queensland as *Pailsus pailsei*, by erecting a new genus to accommodate what was clearly a divergent taxon.

Numerous authors including Williams and Starkey (1999)(three versions as cited here), published lengthy diatribes alleging the species described by Hoser (1998) was nothing more than an underfed "*Pseudechis australis*".

The patently false claim was also peddled by Wolfgang Wüster in countless places online and elsewhere, including on the Peter Uetz moderated "Reptile database", which as recently as 25 December 2012 stated:

"Questionable genus and species. Maybe synonymous to *Pseudechis australis* (W. Wüster, pers. comm. and WÜSTER *et al.* 2004)." (Uetz 2012a)

Alternatively see Wüster *et al.* 2001, which was a print publication rant against all Hoser papers to that date which has in the fullness of time since been shown to be a collection of lies and false claims.

Of relevance to the ongoing claims by Wüster and friends against Hoser taxonomy as recently as 2012 on Uetz's reptile database website, specifically with reference to the species *pailsei* and *rossignollii*, Wüster published a paper in 2005 (see Wüster *et al.* 2005), which presented compelling molecular evidence to support the Hoser papers of 1998, 2000 and 2001.

The false claims against the Wells and Wellington (1987) and Hoser (1998) papers were quite scandalous as the original descriptions of both taxa were extremely detailed and compelling in their evidence.

Hoser (1998) was published without knowledge of the Wells and Wellington (1987) paper, but was quite fortuitously a description of a similar, but different species.

These key facts had been confirmed by the time of publication of a more detailed paper by Hoser (2001), which also post-dated a paper by Hoser (2000), which described a similar "Pygmy Mulga Snake", named *Pailsus rossignollii* from southern New Guinea.

As a result of the wide dissemination of the relevant Hoser papers according to the Zoological code (Ride *et al.* 1999), the three species have become well-known and widely recognized, all in spite of a dishonest campaign by Wolfgang Wüster to try to convince people not to recognize the taxa.

Added to this has been the recruitment into captivity in Europe of large numbers of *Pailsus rossignollii* following the Hoser (2000) description of the taxon, still currently only known from Irian Jaya.

Of note that as of 25 December 2012, and on instruction of Wolfgang Wüster, Peter Uetz listed *Pailsus rossignollii* as a synonym of "*Pseudechis australis*" on his online database (see Uetz 2012b). The entry reads in the synonyms list as "Pailsus rossignolii HOSER 2000 (fide WÜSTER *et al.* 2001)", the reference itself being the long discredited paper of Wüster *et al.* (2001).

Since 2001, and initially through herpetologist Mick Pugh of Geelong, I have been aware of an undescribed taxon similar in most respects to *Pailsus pailsei* from the Northern Territory.

Via e-mail Ulrich Kuch indicated he wanted to describe the taxon, and so I deferred to him to do this.

Kuch published a paper in 2005 (Kuch *et al.* 2005), and while identifying the new species via molecular data, he failed to describe the taxon.

In that paper, as senior author he wrote "Pending the resolution of complex nomenclatural

problems and the formal description of a new species (U. Kuch *et al.*, unpublished data), we refrain from assigning names to these taxa at this time."

That statement could only be taken to mean he intended naming the species by formal description he identified in his paper as being undescribed.

Seven years later no description has appeared.

The Zoological Code expressly prohibits scientists by monopolizing taxa and encourages publication of species descriptions within 12 months of advertising such an intent.

I was later advised that Wüster had pressured Kuch not to describe the taxon as that would have necessitated him differentiating it from both *pailsei* and also probably *weigeli*, which would have meant recognizing papers and species named by two people Wüster had effectively declared "war" on (see also Kaiser 2012a, 2012b and Kaiser *et al.* 2013).

Refer also to the various letters and documents from Wüster and associates in Hoser (2012c).

None of these later actions by Wüster or Kuch could be described as either scientific or sensible, but are typical of the actions of Wüster in particular (see Hoser 2012a and again

Hoser 2012c)

As a result to end 2012, the untenable situation of an unnamed but well-known species in Australia remained.

Eipper (2012) became the first book published by an author to include the unnamed Dwarf Mulga Snake from the Northern Territory as a species recognized as new and valid, but he was relegated to listing it in the book as "sp." due to the absence of it ever being formally named according to the Zoological Code.

He said he didn't want to describe the taxon for fear of Wüster similarly declaring a "war" on him and engaging in unwanted smear and character attacks on the internet and elsewhere.

He was also concerned that Wüster or others associated with him, in particular Australians Tony Harrison, Ron Waters and Sean McCarthy would attack Eipper by initiating armed raids on his reptile facility by police and wildlife officers, which is something he also wanted to avoid.

Therefore, I take the risk of further attacks from these men and have the situation resolved here with the species being formally named according to the Zoological code as *Pailsus hoserae sp. nov.* in honor of my long-suffering wife, who has in fact had a gun shoved to her head in an illegal armed raid on our family home that was sought and initiated by the men just named in 2011.

Kuch *et al.* 2005 did also present compelling molecular evidence to support the recognition of the Wells and Wellington species *weigeli* and the two Hoser species, *pailsei* and *rossignollii* as did Wüster *et al.* the same year.

Of note is that the genus *Pailsus* was erected in 1998 to recognize the (thought to be monotypic) clade of small Mulga Snakes, recently placed in the genus *Cannia*, Wells and Wellington 1983, as a separate group from the "Black Snake" Genus *Pseudechis*, Wagler 1830 which had included both live-bearing and egg-laying, but morphologically similar species, all of somewhat larger adult size.

Molecular studies published, including Kuch *et al.* (2005) and Pyron *et al.* (2011) have been somewhat equivocal in terms of the *Pseudechis* and *Cannia* division, with current evidence supporting the split (just), with the caveat being where one may choose to draw the line defining a genus (see Pyron *et al.* 2011, p. 336).

The molecular evidence in favour of retaining the genus *Pailsus* is not terribly good.

This position is also supported by more recent descriptions of three (relatively) dwarf forms of *Cannia australis* by Hoser in 2001, the snakes having many characteristics thought to be diagnostic of the *pailsei* genus, thereby muddying the original delineation between the two erected genera *Cannia* and *Pailsus*.

So while *Pailsus* Hoser, 1998 is retained as a genus in this paper for the Dwarf Mulga Snakes, (all four species) the likely long-term position will probably be retention of the name, but as a subgenus only.

Nominate subgenera may be listed within this paper or by others as *subgen. nov.* and attributed to myself, to indicate that they are formally described at this level for the first time, even though it is usually appropriate to attribute the subgenus name and date to the original author (person who named the nominate genus in the first instance).

Please also note that the nomenclature and gender of names given below is intentional, even though the gender of the names may not match those of the person/s for whom the taxon or taxa are named after and unless specifically required under the ICZN rules, none should be amended on the basis of gender or for any other reason.

The same applies for all earlier names defined by myself, including for example *Acanthophis wellsei* Hoser, 1998 or *Acanthophis cummingi* Hoser, 1998, both of which were deliberate names and spellings.

FURINA ORNATA TODDPATTERSONI SUBSP. NOV.

Holotype: A specimen at the Western Australian Museum, specimen number: R11338 from Marble Bar, Western Australia, 21.1833° S, 119.7000° E.

The Western Australian Museum is a government owned and managed facility that allows access to its collection by scientists.

Paratype: A specimen at the Western Australian Museum, specimen number: 39081 from Nullagine, Western Australia, 21.8833° S, 120.1000° E. The Western Australian Museum is a government owned and managed facility that allows access to its collection by scientists.

Diagnosis: *Furina ornata* is essentially similar in most respects to *Furina diadema* (Schlegel, 1837) from eastern Australia, better known as the Red-naped snake, from which it is most easily separated by the wide orange to red occipital bar completely separating dark brown head and nuchal blotches, whereas in *F. diadema* the black of the head and neck are usually continuous below the small orange crescent on the occiput.

The species *F. ornata* is easily separated from all other Australian elapid species by the following suite of characteristics. Smooth scales in 15-17 mid-body scale rows, (17-23 rows on the neck and 13-17 just before the vent) small to moderate size, to 508 mm (snout vent), with tail measuring 14-27 per cent of the s-v length, being sexually dimorphic in adults, the males having larger and longer tails, 163-235 ventrals, 40-65 all divided subcaudals; pale to dark orange or reddish brown dorsally, each body scale edged with darker brown to form dark reticulations over the body. The head is dark brown or blackish (and somewhat paler on the snout), except for the lips which are pale cream. The belly is cream. The rostral is 1.8-2.5 times as wide as high. The internasals are a lot smaller than the prefrontals. Frontal is 1.1-1.8 times as long as wide as supraoculars. Parietals are much longer than the frontal. The nasal is widely separated from the preocular, which is in contact with the frontal or narrowly separated from it, or rarely fused to it. There are two postoculars. There are two or three primary temporals and 2-3 secondary temporals. The lower primary usually doesn't reach the lip, but in some cases is in broad contact with it. 6-7 upper labials, the variability being due to an occasional split of the fifth.

Furina ornata toddpattersoni subsp. nov. is separated from the nominate subspecies (including other described forms since relegated to synonymy with *F. ornata*) by the following suite of characteristics, Lighter dorsal colouration than specimens from the tropical Kimberley and Northern Territory; 244-291 ventrals, versus 212-262 in all other areas (the nominate and other described forms), dorsal scale rows increase by 4-6 on the neck, versus 2-4 elsewhere (the nominate and other described forms), 17 mid-body rows versus 15 in all other subspecies, (the nominate and other described forms).

Distribution: Restricted to the Pilbara region of Western Australia, the nearby parts of inland Western Australia and the Northern Territory and potentially nearby regions of similar habitat.

Etymology: Named in honor of Todd Patterson of near Brisbane, Queensland in recognition of his excellent work as a private sector herpetologist as well his hitherto generally unrecognised work with wildlife conservation.

NOTOPSEUDONAJA MODESTA WELLSI SUBSP. NOV.

Holotype: A specimen R34076 at the Western Australian Museum, from Kalumburu, North Kimberley, Western Australia, Lat -14.3, Long. 126.6. The Western Australian Museum is a government owned and managed facility that allows access to its collection by scientists.

Paratype: A specimen R71205 at the Western Australian Museum, from Old Mount Elizabeth Homestead, North Kimberley, Western Australia, Lat -16.2, Long. 126.1. The Western Australian Museum is a government owned and managed facility that allows access to its collection by scientists.

Diagnosis: *Notopseudonaja modesta* are separated from all other snakes in the genus *Pseudonaja* as commonly recognized by the following suite of characters: 17 mid-body scale rows, 160-177 ventrals (versus over 190 in all other *Pseudonaja*), 35-45 all divided subcaudals. Young snakes are also distinguishable by the narrow, sharply defined black rings on the body and tail.

Notopseudonaja modesta wellsi subsp. nov. are separated from all other *Notopseudonaja modesta* by the presence of 9-12 bands on the body, versus 5-8 bands for all other *Notopseudonaja modesta*.

In aged specimens, these bands are generally indistinct and hard to detect. The main body colour is a dull olive brown. Juveniles are typically a bright orange brown with distinct bands that fade with age.

Distribution: Known only from the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Etymology: Named in honor of Richard Wells, herpetologist from NSW, Australia in recognition of his pioneering work on Australian reptile taxonomy.

PAILSUS HOSERAE SP. NOV.

Holotype: A specimen at the Northern Territory Museum, NTM R.27151, from the Adelaide River, NT. The Northern Territory Museum is a government owned and managed facility that allows access to its collection by scientists.

Diagnosis: Snakes of the genus *Pailsus* are known only from mainland locations in Australia and continental New Guinea in the region of Merauke.

They are most likely confused with Mulga Snakes (*Cannia australis*) on the basis of their brownish dorsal colouration and similar adult size (usually 0.8-2.8 metres).

As a rule they are separated from *Cannia australis* in the same areas by the following suite of characters: Most if not all subcaudals are single while in *Cannia australis,* about 20 posterior subcaudals are usually divided. Further separated from *Cannia australis* by the proportionately smaller and less broad head and generally more gracile build and the generally v-shaped rostral, as opposed to the horse-shoe shaped rostral in *Cannia australis*.

Pailsus species are separated from *Cannia* by their more elongate and angular head, widening at the rear of the skull, versus a somewhat more circular shape in *Cannia*.

These snakes are separated from *Oxyuranus* (and *Parademansia*), *Pseudonaja* (and *Notopseudonaja*) by the all or mainly single subcaudals versus the all or mainly paired subcaudals in *Pseudonaja* (and the other genera) and lack of orange or brown markings on the ventral surface in *Pailsus*. *Pailsus* is not likely to be confused with any other genus of snake.

Oxyuranus (and *Parademansia*), while superficially similar, have slight keeling on the neck scales, not seen in the other taxa named here. *Oxyuranus* (and *Parademansia*), also have strictly divided subcaudals.

Pailsus hoserae is only likely to be confused with the species *weigeli*, *rossignollii* and *pailsei.*

Pailsus rossignollii is separated from the other species in *Pailsus* by distribution, being found in New Guinea, while the others are Australia.

Pailsus rossignollii is separated from the other *Pailsus* species by the following trait, the subcaudal count *for P. rossignolii* observed is substantially less than for Australian *Pailus*, being 49-58 for New Guinea animals known versus 69-75 for Australian animals known.

The species *rossignollii* is also distinct in that the head has a distinct bluish hue to the colour. This is unknown in the species *pailsei*, but has been seen in the species *hoserae.*

Pailsus weigeli is separated from the other *Pailsus* species by it's dorsal pattern, having some scales lacking pigment to a limited extent, giving the snakes a flecked or reticulate appearance. Specimens of *weigeli* also have considerable dark head markings in the form of deep etchings between the scales on the head and neck, especially in the lower labials, giving each scale a distinctive thick dark boundary, this not being seen in the other *Pailsus* species.

The species *hoserae*, is similar in most respects to *pailsei*, to which it would key out until the present date.

In the species *Pailsei* the lower anterior temporal is much wider than the posterior adjoining supralabial. In the species *hoserae* the lower anterior temporal is either the same width as, or only marginally wider than the posterior adjoining supralabial. In the species *Pailsei*, the distinctive v-shaped rostral terminates above the level of the top of the nostril. This is not the case in the species *hoserae*, where the highest point of the rostral sits lower.

In *Pailsus hoserae* the bottom lines of the rostral flare outwards, which is not seen in *Pailsus pailsei.*

In the species *pailsei*, the lower postocular tends to curl beneath the eye. This is not the case in *hoserae.* In the species *pailsei*, the preocular is distinctly longer than wide. This is not the case in *hoserae* where width and length are quite obviously about the same.

Pailsus hoserae has a distinct demarcation line along the lower parts of the upper labials, where the dark dorsal colour lightens to the lighter ventral colouration, giving the appearance of a whitish upper lip. In the species *pailsei*, lightening commences on the upper parts of the upper labials and is more gradual, so that there is not a moderately defined demarcation line between the darker dorsal colour and lighter venter. In the species *pailsei* the internasals are of irregular shape, while in the species *hoserae*, there are more or less squareish in shape, being wider at the posterior side.

In the species *pailsei*, only the very tip of each dorsal scale has any darkening of colour and this is very slight. By contrast in the species *hoserae*, a third of each dorsal scale noticeably darkens posteriorly.

A trait only seen in *Pailsus weigeli* (the holotype) is the fusion of the lower preocular with the adjacent upper labial.

Pailsus weigeli also has a frontal shield that is almost as wide as long. In the other three *Pailsus* species, it is distinctly longer than wide.

Distribution: Known only from the Adelaide River region of the western Northern Territory.

Etymology: Named in honour of Shireen Hoser, my long suffering wife, for myriad contributions to herpetology globally.

BLIND SNAKES, FAMILY TYPHLOPIDAE MERRUM, 1820.

On page 21 of Hoser (2012b) I made reference to a potential revision of the Australian Blind Snakes by Richard Wells, which had ostensibly been pending since early 2012. This revision was supposedly due to be published at end 2012, on the end date of an ancient Mayan calendar and as of end February 2013 there was no indication of if and when any such publication would come out. As a result, the Australian Blindsnakes are reclassified here to include subgenera as alluded to in the paper of Hoser (2012b) and also some well-known but as yet formally undescribed species.

Pending papers by others have also since been published, but with no taxonomic changes within.

The classification of these Australian Blindsnakes fits within the wider classification of Hoser (2012b), which otherwise requires no new modification.

I do however note that the more recent publications of Marin *et al.* of 23 November 2012 and Pyron *et al.* (2013) provide further molecular evidence to support the taxonomic judgements and nomenclature of Hoser (2012b).

In a rant running over 12,000 words, Kaiser *et al.* (2013) failed to provide a single shred of evidence in rebuttal for the taxonomy

and nomenclature of Hoser (2012b), other than the childish complaint that I had named too many species and genera and that I had apparently deprived them and others of the right to name taxa.

Marin *et al.* 2013 gives evidence that supports the Hoser (2012b) position of not further splitting *Libertadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1983 at the genus level on the basis of consistency with the other taxonomic judgements in Hoser 2012b.

Pyron *et al.* (2013) provides new molecular evidence in support of the erection of several genera to accommodate Asian Blindsnake species groups as done in Hoser (2012b), most notably *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012.

What follows below are the formal erection of ten new subgenera (as well as the nominate two, also defined herein) to accommodate various Australian species groups of Blindsnakes, followed by the description of new species in a manner consistent with Hoser (2012b).

One of the newly described and named subgenera is within *Sivadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1985 and the other ten are within the subgenus *Libertadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1983.

Of brief mention is the improper and illegal (under the Zoological Code) use of the name *Austrotyphlops* Wallach, 2006 in numerous publications (especially online), when it is in fact a junior synonym of *Libertadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1983, complete with the same type species. Refer to Hoser 2012b for the full detail.

I also mention that if the divergence limits for Blindsnake genera are brought into line with higher snakes as classified at present, by later authors, all subgenera defined by Hoser (2012b) and this paper, would need to be elevated to full genera as they tend to be well in excess of 10 MYA divergence between groups based on the calibrated molecular evidence published to date.

GENUS *LIBERTADICTUS* WELLS AND WELLINGTON, 1983

Type species: *Onychocephalus bituberculatus* Peters, 1863

Diagnosis: An Australian-New Guinean genus of Blindsnakes having retrocloacal sacs and solid eversible awned hemipenes that retract into the tail in a helical pattern, excluding the genera *Sivadictus* Wells and Wellington 1985, *Acutotyphlops* Wallach, 1995 and *Martinwellstyphlops* Hoser 2012, (the latter two being outside this tribe) which are defined as follows:

Sivadictus is separated from all other Blindsnakes by the following suite of characters: Purplish pink-brown to nearly black above, cream, yellow or pinkish below. Snout is rounded from above and in profile. Nasal cleft joining the second supralabial or the suture between the first and second labials, projecting forward and upwards to partially divide the nasal, visible from above. Rostral is large, oval or elliptical, much longer than broad. 22 mid body scale rows. Body diameter is 35-60 times in its length.

Acutotyphlops can be distinguished from all other Typhlopidae by any of the following characters: (1) Vshaped lower jaw; (2) short, narrow rostral; (3) an enlarged frontorostral shield; (4) occipital condyle formed solely from the basioccipital; and (5) acuminate contact of four braincase bones (parietal and basisphenoid, frontal and prootic) forming an X-shaped pattern.

Martinwellstyphlops would normally key out as *Acutotyphlops* as diagnosed above, but is separated from this genus by by the presence of (1) a single ocular and preocular shield (vs. fragmentation into 6-10 shields), (2) three infralabials (vs. 5-7 shields), (3) fourth supralabial as tall as long (vs. at least twice as long as tall), (4) uniformly light dorsum and venter with irregular dark dorsal spots (vs. dark dorsum and light venter separated by a sharp demarcation), and absence of (5) retrocloacal sacs, and (6) a solid, awned hemipenis with helical coils in tail when retracted.

Libertadictus species are further defined as follows: distinguished by the following combination of characters:

Snout trilobed dorsally, bilobed or single, angular in profile; nasal not divided by nasal cleft; nasal cleft not visible from above; rostral shield-shaped in an oval shape usually when viewed from a dorsal aspect; midbody scales in 18-22 rows; body diameter 30-90 times in its length, eyes visible, usually as black spots.

Distribution: The Australian region.

Content: *L. bituberculatus* (Peters, 1863) (Type species), *L. adelynhoserae sp. nov.* (this paper), *L. affinis* (Boulenger, 1889), *L. ammodytes* (Montague, 1914), *L. aspina* (Couper, Covacevich and Wilson, 1998), *L. australis* (Gray, 1845), *L. batillus* (Waite, 1894), *L. bicolor* (Jan, 1864), *L. broomi* (Boulenger, 1898), *L. centralis* (Storr, 1984), *L. chamodracaena* (Ingram and Covacevich, 1993), *L. cliffrosswellingtoni sp. nov.* (this paper), *L. diversus* (Waite, 1894), *L. endoterus* (Waite, 1918), *L. ganei* (Aplin, 1998), *L. grypus* (Waite, 1918), *L. guentheri* (Peters, 1865), *L. hamatus* (Storr, 1981), *L. howi* (Storr, 1983), *L. jackyhoserae sp. nov.* (this paper), *L. kimberleyensis* (Storr, 1981), *L. leptosomus* (Robb, 1972), *L. ligatus* (Peters, 1879), *L. longissimus* (Aplin, 1998), *L. margaretae* (Storr, 1981), *L. micrommus* (Storr, 1981), *L. minimus* (Kinghorn, 1929), *L. nema* (Shea and Horner, 1997), *L. nigroterminatus* (Parker, 1931), *L. pilbarensis* (Aplin and Donnellan, 1993), *L. pinguis* (Waite, 1897), *L. proximus* (Waite, 1893), *L. richardwellsi sp. nov.* (this paper), *L. robertsi* (Couper, Covacevich and Wilson, 1998), *L. silvia* (Ingram and Covacevich, 1993), *L. sloppi sp. nov.* (this paper), *L. splendidus* (Aplin, 1998), *L. tovelli* (Loveridge, 1945), *L. troglodytes* (Storr, 1981), *L. unguirostris* (Peters, 1867), *L. waitii* (Boulenger, 1895), *L. wiedii* (Peters, 1867), *L. yampiensis* (Storr, 1981), *L. yirrikalae* (Kinghorn, 1942).

SUBGENUS *LIBERTADICTUS* WELLS AND WELLINGTON, 1983

Type species: *Onychocephalus bituberculatus* Peters, 1863.

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Libertadictus* as defined here is confined to species of Blindsnakes with the following suite of characters: A moderately dark, small, slender long-snouted blindsnake up to 35 cm long with 20 or rarely 18, mid body scale rows and a nasal cleft proceeding from the second labial; snout strongly or moderately strongly trilobed as seen from above and slightly angular in profile. Tail is 1.5-3.3 percent of the total length, 414-485 ventrals, 11-18 subcaudals. From above the rostral is very much longer than wide and almost two thirds as wide as the head. The nostril is inferior, markedly swollen, much nearer to the rostral than the preocular. The nasal cleft extends obliquely upwards and forwards from the nostril to about midway between the nostril and the rostral. The upper surface is dark purplish brown, gradually merging with the whitish lower surface.

Distribution: Dry parts of southern Australia only.

Etymology: See Wells and Wellington, 1983.

Content: *L. bituberculatus* (Peters, 1863) (Type species), *L. margaretae* (Storr, 1981).

SUBGENUS *SUEWITTTYPLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type species: *Typhlops ligatus* Peters, 1879.

Diagnosis: *Suewitttyphlops subgen. nov.* species are defined by the following suite of characters: The nasal cleft is joining the first or second supralabial or preocular, and smoothly rounded from above and in profile. It is visible from above, almost dividing the nasal and contacting the first or second labial below and in some cases completely dividing the nasal. The rostral is narrow and elongate from above, being longer than broad, or similar but ovoid in shape, sometimes distinctly broader anteriorly. 22-24 mid-body rows; body diameter 20-70 times in its length and with a maximum length of about 50 cm. The colour is brown above and whitish or creamish white below, with or without slight paling in colour on snout tip and/or the tail tip.

Distribution: Northern half of continental Australia.

Etymology: Named in honor of Sue Witt breeder of Great Dane dogs from Heathcote, Victoria, who as wife of Robin Witt, has supplied our family with two very loyal guard dogs, named Oxy (short for *Oxyuranus*) and Slop (sometimes spelt Slopp), in reflection of what he does with his tongue, both dogs of which have protected the Snakebusters facility from burglars and the like, for about a decade.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Suewitttyphlops*) *ligatus* (Peters, 1879)(Type species), *L.* (*Suewitttyphlops*) *ganei* (Aplin, 1998), *L.* (*Suewitttyphlops*) *kimberleyensis* (Storr, 1981), *L.* (*Suewitttyphlops*) *sloppi sp. nov.* (this paper), *L.* (*Suewitttyphlops*) *troglodytes* (Storr, 1981), *L.* (*Suewitttyphlops*) *yirrikalae* (Kinghorn, 1942).

LIBERTADICTUS* (*SUEWITTTYPHLOPS*) *SLOPPI SP. NOV.

Holotype: A specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), number: R12110 from the Kimberley Research Station, Wyndham East Kimberley, WA, Lat. -15.65, Long. 128.70.

The Western Australian Museum is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

Paratypes: Paratype one is a specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), number: R137952 from 35 km NNE of Kununurra, WA, Lat. 15.42, Long. 128.95.

Paratype two is a specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), number: R119307 from Gibb River Wyndham East Kimberley, WA, Lat. -16.43, Long. 126.43.

The Western Australian Museum is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

Diagnosis: This species was formerly treated as a variant of the species *L. ligatus* (Peters, 1879), from which it is most readily separated by its proportionately more-stout and robust body and lower ventral count, 296-355 in *L. sloppi sp. nov.*, versus over 355 in *L. ligatus*.

Further diagnostic features of *L. sloppi sp. nov.*, include: the fact that it is perhaps Australia's most stout and robust Blindsnake, attaining 50 cm as adults. The snout is rounded from above and in profile. There are 24 mid-body scale rows and the nasal cleft, visible from above, extends from the first labial to well on top of the head.

Dorsally the colouration is bark grayish or purplish brown and ventrally cream to dull pink, with the junction between the colours sharp and straight edged.

There are 11-17 subcaudals and the tail is 2.7-3.9 percent of the total length.

Distribution: *L. sloppi sp. nov.* is found in north-west Western Australia and the western side of the Northern Territory. The species *L. ligatus* is restricted to south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales (NSW), the centre of distribution, with outlier populations known from both states (NSW and Queensland).

Etymology: Named in honor of our Blue Merle, Great Dane dog, Slop (sometimes spelt Slopp), who at less than a year of age has done a sterling job of protecting the Snakebusters reptile education facility from thieves and other undesirables and also entertaining children as needed.

It is fitting that animals that make up such an important part of the human world, should be a part of our heritage in terms of the nomenclature for our biodiversity.

SUBGENUS *ROBINWITTTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type Species: *Typhlops* (*Onychocephalus*) *unguirostris* Peters, 1867

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Robinwitttyphlops subgen. nov.* are readily separated from all other *Libertadictus* by the following suite of characters: Brownish above, creamish-white below. The snout is slightly trilobed from above, sharply angular in profile. The nasal cleft is not, or scarcely visible from above, contacting the first labial below and sometimes completely dividing the nasal. Rostral is oval from above and longer than broad. Scales are 24 rows at mid body. Body diameter is 40-70 times in its length.

There is more than one species within the species *L. unguirostris* Peters, 1867 as currently recognized, this numbering at least three, with one formally described within this paper as *L.* (*Robinwitttyphlops*) *jackyhoserae sp. nov.*.

Distribution: Known from scattered locations across Eastern and Northern Australia.

Etymology: Named in honor of Robin Witt breeder of Great Dane dogs from Heathcote, Victoria, who as husband of Sue Witt, has supplied our family with two very loyal guard dogs, named Oxy (short for *Oxyuranus*) and Slop (sometimes spelt Slopp), in reflection of what he does with his tongue, both dogs of which have protected the Snakebusters facility from burglars and the like, for about a decade.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Robinwitttyphlops*) *unguirostris* (Peters, 1867), *L.* (*Robinwitttyphlops*) *jackyhoserae sp. nov.* (this paper).

LIBERTADICTUS* (*ROBINWITTTYPHLOPS*) *JACKYHOSERAE SP. NOV.

Holotype: A specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), number: R73513 from the Gibb River Homestead, Western Australia, Lat. -16.42, Long. 126.44.

The Western Australian Museum is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

Paratype: A specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), number: R73538 from the Gibb River Homestead, Western Australia, Lat. -16.42, Long. 126.44.

The Western Australian Museum is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

Diagnosis: The species *Libertadictus* (*Robinwitttyphlops*) *jackyhoserae sp. nov.* has until now been confused with *L. unguirostris* (Peters, 1867), with which it is similar and closely related to within the same subgenus. In the normal course of identification, this species would be identified as *L. unguirostris* (Peters, 1867), but can be readily separated from that species (herein restricted to Queensland) by the position of the eyes and the adjoining scales. In *L. jackyhoserae sp. nov.* the line of the head shield touches the anterior edge of the eye. By contrast in *L. unguirostris* the anterior part of the eye spot eye sits back from the line of the head shield, meaning it sits completely within the boundaries of the shield.

In *L. jackyhoserae sp. nov.* each scale has a whitish edge producing a netted or sometimes spotted appearance on the upper surfaces. This is not the case for *L. unguirostris* or if so, then it is relatively indistinct and barely noticeable.

Other diagnostic traits of *L. jackyhoserae sp. nov.* include the following: The species is a moderately slender blindsnake up to 50 cm long, with a snout hooked in profile, 24 midbody scale rows, 387-474 ventrals,11-16 subcaudals, the tail is 1.2-2.7 percent of the total length and nasal cleft proceeding from the first labial.

The rostral from above is elliptic, longer than wide and about two thirds as wide as the head. The cutting edge at the tip of the snout extends back through the nasal scale as a ridge. Nostril inferior, much nearer to rostral than to preocular. Nasal cleft proceeds from the first upper labial, curves upwards and forwards from nostril to or towards rostral.

The dorsal surface is a dark olive brown in adults, which is well demarcated from the whitish venter.

The species *L. pilbaraensis* (Aplin and Donnellan, 1993), sometimes confused with this taxon (*L. jackyhoserae sp. nov.*) is readily separated from both *L. jackyhoserae sp. nov.* and *L. unguirostris* by having just 22 midbody scale rows and that the nasal cleft proceeds from the preocular.

Distribution: Known only from the Kimberley region of North-west Western Australia.

Etymology: Named in honor of my daughter Jacky Hoser in recognition of over ten years of extremely valuable work in wildlife conservation, research and education.

SUBGENUS *PATTERSONTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type Species: *Typhlops wiedii* Peters, 1867

Diagnosis: *Pattersontyphlops subgen. nov.* are separated from

all other *Libertadictus* by the following unique suite of characters: Blackish-brown or brown dorsally, sometimes with slight lightening at the snout or alternatively a dark streak on the snout, creamish-white or yellowish cream below, sometimes with a pinkish hue. Dorsally there are sometimes 16-18 narrow dark stripes and occasionally blackening of the tail. The snout is bluntly rounded from above and in profile, or bluntly angular. The nasal cleft does not divide the nasal, which may or not be visible from above and joins the second labial below. The rostral is either broadly oval to nearly circular from above. 18-20 midbody scale rows. Body diameter is 30-80 times in its length and doesn't exceed 30 cm maximum, usually attaining about two thirds this as adults.

Distribution: Northern two thirds of continental Australia, except for the driest parts, including most of the relevant parts of the Western Australia, Northern Territory and South Australia.

Etymology: Named in honor of Sandee Patterson of near Brisbane, Queensland in recognition of her excellent work as a private sector herpetologist, in particular with the Herpetological Society of Queensland, her immense skills at breeding *Morelia* pythons, passed on to many others as well her hitherto generally unrecognised work with wildlife conservation, including through the Herpetological Society of Queensland Incorporated (HSQI).

The spelling of the subgenus name is deliberate and should not be changed unless required under the zoological rules of the time, notwithstanding possible gender confusion.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Pattersontyphlops*) *wiedii* (Peters, 1867)(Type species), *L.* (*Pattersontyphlops*) *chamodracaena* (Ingram and Covacevich, 1993), *L.* (*Pattersontyphlops*) *affinis* (Boulenger, 1889).

SUBGENUS *SLOPPTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type Species: *Typhlops ammodytes* Montague, 1914.

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Slopptyphlops subgen. nov.* are separated from all other *Libertadictus* by the following suite of characters: Light brown, brown or blackish above, whitish below. The dark brown centered dorsal scales in some specimens results in a series of reddish-brown longitudinal streaks. The snout is entirely rounded from above and in profile, ranging from being somewhat blunt to slightly angular. The nasal cleft which may or may not be visible from above (if it is, then only just), joins the preocular, continuing in front of the nostril and often dividing the nasal. The rostral is elliptical from above, longer than broad and relatively narrow and sometimes constricted anteriorly. 20 midbody scale rows. Body diameter 30-70 times in its length. Average adult maximum length is 25 cm and doesn't exceed 35 cm.

Distribution: Northern half of continental Australia, extending further south in the eastern third of Australia.

Etymology: Named in honor of our Great Dane dog, Slop (sometimes spelt Slopp), who at less than a year of age has done a sterling job of protecting the Snakebusters reptile education facility from thieves and other undesireables and also entertaining children as needed.

It is fitting that animals that make up such an important part of the human world, should be a part of our heritage in terms of the nomenclature for our biodiversity.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Slopptyphlops*) *ammodytes* (Montague, 1914) (Type species), *L.* (*Slopptyphlops*) *broomi* (Boulenger, 1898), *L.* (*Slopptyphlops*) *diversus* (Waite, 1894), *L.* (*Slopptyphlops*) *richardwellsi sp. nov.* (this paper), *L.* (*Slopptyphlops*) *tovelli* (Loveridge, 1945).

LIBERTADICTUS* (*SLOPPTYPHLOPS*) *RICHARDWELLSI SP. NOV.

Holotype: A specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), number: R100453

from about 80 km south of Telfer, Little Sandy Desert, Western Australia, Lat. -22.33, Long. 122.06.

The Western Australian Museum is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

Paratypes: Paratype one is a specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), number: R111958 from 36 km northwest of Balfour Downs Homestead, Western Australia, Lat. 22.52, Long. 120.68.

Paratype two is a specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), number: R111995 from 25 km northwest of Balfour Downs Homestead, Western Australia, Lat. 22.61, Long. 120.72.

The Western Australian Museum is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

Diagnosis: *Libertadictus* (*Slopptyphlops*) *richardwellsi sp. nov.* is closely related to *L. ammodytes* (Montague, 1914), with which it has been confused. The two species are most readily separated by tail length, being 1.4 to 2 percent of the total length with 8 to 12 subcaudals in *L. ammodytes* (Montague, 1914) versus 2.5 to 4 percent of the total length with 13 to 18 subcaudals in *L. richardwellsi sp. nov.*. In observation in the field, for *L. ammodytes* (Montague, 1914) the tail is roughly the same length as broad, or only marginally longer, whereas in *L. richardwellsi sp. nov.* it is noticeably longer than broad.

Both *L. richardwellsi sp. nov.* and *L. ammodytes* (Montague, 1914) have in the past been treated as subspecies of *L. diversus* (Waite, 1894).

Further features diagnostic of *L. richardwellsi sp. nov.* are the following characteristics: a small and moderately slender blindsnake getting to a maximum of 35 cm in length. The snout is rounded in profile with 20 midbody scale rows. The nasal cleft proceeding from the preocular and passing a short distance upwards and forwards of the nostril on to the top of the head. This species is separated from the similar *L. diversus* (Waite, 1894) of the Kimberley region by the shape of the rostral, being narrower and concave-sided in *L. richardwellsi sp. nov.* and *L. ammodytes* (Montague, 1914) versus straight-sided from above in *L. diversus* (Waite, 1894).

L. richardwellsi sp. nov. and *L. ammodytes* (Montague, 1914) have a more vertical orientation of the nasal cleft as opposed to extending forward to approximate rostral in *L. diversus* (Waite, 1894).

For *L. richardwellsi sp. nov.* the rostral from above is moderately narrow, with sides slightly concave, about twice as long as wide, and about one-third to half as wide as the head. Nostril is lateral or slightly inferior, a little nearer to the rostral than to preocular. Nasal cleft contacts preocular to rear, running forwards and upwards from nostril to terminate on top of the head.

Coloration is purplish brown dorsally, being darkest on the head, gradually merging with a paler lower surface.

The upper nasal is as broad as the rostral in *L. richardwellsi sp. nov.*. This is not quite the case in *L. ammodytes* (Montague, 1914).

Attains up to 35 cm total length, with 389-498 ventrals.

Distribution: Known only from the East Pilbara of Western Australia.

Etymology: Named in honor of Richard Wells, mainly of NSW, including from Cowra, NSW and more recently of Lismore, NSW, in recognition of his extensive work on reptile taxonomy, nomenclature and systematics in general. This honor is with further specific reference to his foresight with respect to Australian Blindsnakes in his then regarded as outrageous removal of Australian species from the genera *Ramphotyphlops* and/or *Typhlops* in his then controversial papers co-authored with Cliff Ross Wellington in 1983 and 1985, now regarded as landmark publications in Australian herpetology (Wells and Wellington 1983, 1985).

SUBGENUS *MANTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type Species: *Typhlops* (*Onychocephalus*) *güntheri* Peters, 1865.

Diagnosis: *Mantyphlops subgen. nov.* are separated from all other *Libertadictus* by the following suite of characters: Brown to almost black above, merging on the lower flanks with the pale

brown to creamish venter. The tail is blackish, as is often the snout or head. The snout is bluntly rounded from above and in profile. The nasal cleft isn't visible from above, or if so, only just, contacting the second labial below. Rostral is subcircular from above, scarcely to much longer than broad. 18 midbody rows. Body diameter 40-90 times in its length. Adults average 25 cm and don't exceed 40 cm.

Distribution: Western Australia and adjoining parts of the northern Territory, including Arnhemland.

Etymology: Named in honor of Daniel Man, of Mitcham, Victoria, Australia for services to accounting in Australia as well as unrecognized work in wildlife conservation by doing considerable "back office" work for the leading wildlife conservation business Snakebusters: Australia's best reptiles shows (including as previously known as "Death Adder Services"), for more than 20 years.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Mantyphlops guentheri*) (Peters, 1865)(Type species), *L.* (*Mantyphlops guentheri*) *howi* (Storr, 1983), *L.* (*Mantyphlops guentheri*) *micrommus* (Storr, 1981), *L.* (*Mantyphlops guentheri*) *yampiensis* (Storr, 1981).

SUBGENUS *JACKYHOSERTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type Species: *Ramphotyphlops longissimus* Aplin, 1998

Diagnosis: *Jackyhosertyphlops subgen. nov.* are separated from other *Libertadictus* by the following suite of characters: Elongate and slender build. Purplish-brown or pinkish brown above, grey-white below. The head and tail or just tail may have blackening. The snout is rounded and sometimes slightly trilobed from above, bluntly angular in profile, sometimes with a strongly hooked, recurved "beak" in profile. Nasal cleft completely divides the nasal, not visible from above, contacting the second supralabial, extending slightly beyond the nostril. The rostral is large and subcircular, about as long as wide, slightly longer than wide ranging up to being noticeably longer than broad. 16-18 midbody rows. Body diameter is 70-80 times in its length. Average adult length is about 25-30 cm and not exceeding 45 cm.

Distribution: Most parts of Australia except the south-east.

Etymology: Named in honor of my daughter Jacky Hoser in recognition of over ten years of valuable work in wildlife conservation, research and education.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *longissimus* (Aplin, 1998) (Type species), *L.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *adelynhoserae sp. nov.* (this paper), *L.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *cliffrosswellingtoni sp. nov.* (this paper), *L.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *grypus* (Waite, 1918), *L.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *leptosomus* (Robb, 1972), *L.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *minimus* (Kinghorn, 1929), *L.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *nema* (Shea and Horner, 1997), *L.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *nigroterminatus* (Parker, 1931).

LIBERTADICTUS* (*JACKYHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *ADELYNHOSERAE SP. NOV.

Holotype: A specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), number: R22887

from Marble Bar, Western Australia, Lat -21.18, Long. 119.70.

The Western Australian Museum is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

Paratypes: The first paratype is a specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), number: R51041 from Whim Creek, Western Australia, Lat. -20.83, Long. 117.83.

The Western Australian Museum is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

The second paratype is a specimen at the National Museum of Victoria, Australia (NMV), original number: R7200 (now listed as D12358) from Marble Bar, Western Australia, Lat -21.18, Long. 119.70.

The National Museum of Victoria, Australia is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

Diagnosis: Formerly regarded as West Australian *L. grypus* (Waite, 1918), the species *Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *adelynhoserae sp. nov.* is readily separated from *L. grypus* by its lower ventral count, 525-677 in *L. adelynhoserae sp. nov.*, versus 790 in *L. grypus*, and 700-770 in *L. cliffrosswellingtoni sp. nov.* (see description below) the 790 number being the only reported number for *L. grypus.*

L. adelynhoserae sp. nov. is further diagnosed by the following suite of characters: It is a moderately large (to 42 cm total length), very slender, black-tailed blind-snake with snout beaked in profile, 18 midbody scale rows and nasal cleft usually proceeding from the second labial.

The tail is 1.4-4.4 percent of the total length.

The rostral (from above) is much longer than wide, about three-quarters as wide as the head and extending back to level of eyes or nearly so. Nasals narrowly separated behind rostral. Frontal smaller than prefrontal. The snout is angular from above, weakly or strongly beaked in profile. Nostrils inferior, very slightly or not swollen and much nearer to rostral than preocular. Nasal cleft proceeding from second labial or preocular, or junction between preocular and second labial or first labial to nostril, where it occasionally terminates, but mostly it proceeds for varying distances obliquely upwards and forwards towards the rostral or reaches it.

13-36 subcaudals.

Snout white; rest of head and neck blackish. Tail is sometimes wholly, but usually only for the distal 30-90 percent blackish. The rest of the dorsal and lateral surfaces pinkish-brown to moderately dark brown, gradually merging with greyish-white ventral surfaces.

Distribution: Believed to occur throughout most of Western Australia, with distribution centered in the Pilbara and adjacent areas, but not including the south and most of the Kimberley.

LIBERTADICTUS* (*JACKYHOSERTYPHLOPS*) *CLIFFROSSWELLINGTONI SP. NOV.

Holotype: A specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, NSW, Australia, specimen number: R110535, from Scott's Tank, Diamantina Lakes, North West of Windorah in Western Queensland, Lat. -23.97, Long. 141.53.

The Australian Museum in Sydney, NSW, Australia is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

Paratypes: The first paratype is a specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, NSW, Australia, specimen number: R65957, from Middleton, near Winton in Western Queensland, Lat. -22.35, Long. 141.55.

The second paratype is a specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, NSW, Australia, specimen number: R51471, from Rodney Downs, 31 miles north east of Ilfracombe in Western Queensland, Lat. -23.183, Long. 144.85.

The Australian Museum in Sydney, NSW, Australia is a government owned facility that allows scientists access to their collection for research purposes.

Diagnosis: *Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *cliffrosswellingtoni sp. nov.* is readily separated from both *Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *adelynhoserae sp. nov.* and *L. grypus* (Waite, 1918) by the intermediate ventral scale count.

The species *Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *adelynhoserae sp. nov.* is readily separated from *L. grypus* by its lower ventral count, 525-677 in *L. adelynhoserae sp. nov.*, versus 790 in *L. grypus*, and 700-770 in *L. cliffrosswellingtoni sp. nov.* this number not being seen in either other species.

L. cliffrosswellingtoni sp. nov. is further diagnosed by the following suite of characters: It is a moderately large (to 42 cm total length), very slender, usually black-tailed blind-snake with snout strongly beaked in profile, 18 midbody scale rows and nasal cleft usually proceeding from the second labial.

The tail is 1.4-4.4 percent of the total length.

The rostral (from above) is much longer than wide, about three-

quarters as wide as the head and extending back to level of eyes or nearly so. Nasals narrowly separated behind rostral. Frontal smaller than prefrontal. The snout is angular from above and very strongly beaked in profile. Nostrils inferior, very slightly or not swollen and much nearer to rostral than preocular. Nasal cleft proceeding from second labial or preocular, or junction between preocular and second labial or first labial to nostril, where it occasionally terminates, but mostly it proceeds for varying distances obliquely upwards and forwards towards the rostral or reaches it.

13-36 subcaudals.

Snout tip is not white although may be slightly paler than the darker region posterior to it, as opposed to a distinctively white snout tip in *L. grypus* and *L. adelynhoserae sp. nov.*; rest of head and neck blackish. Tail is sometimes wholly, but usually only for the distal 30-90 percent blackish. The rest of the dorsal and lateral surfaces pinkish-brown to moderately dark brown, gradually merging with greyish-white ventral surfaces.

Distribution: Believed to be restricted to the arid zone of inland central Queenland in a region generally bound in the north by the Dajarra range, or more broadly the road between Townsville and Camooweal, namely the Flinders Highway west from Townsville and the continuation westwards from Cloncurry to the NT Border.

Etymology: Named in honor of Cliff Ross Wellington, mainly of NSW, Australia, including now living at Woy Woy on the NSW central coast, in recognition of his extensive work on reptile taxonomy, nomenclature and systematics in general. This honor is with further specific reference to his foresight with respect to Australian Blindsnakes in his then regarded as outrageous removal of Australian species from the genera *Ramphotyphlops* and/or *Typhlops* in his then controversial papers co-authored with Richard Wells (Wells being listed as the senior author) in 1983 and 1985, now regarded as landmark publications in Australian herpetology (Wells and Wellington 1983, 1985).

The role in creating these publications by Wellington has been largely underestimated by other herpetologists and it is fitting that Cliff Ross Wellington be afforded further recognition.

SUBGENUS *KERRTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type Species: *Typhlops proximus* Waite, 1893.

Diagnosis: *Kerrtyphlops subgen. nov.* Separated from all other Australian Blindsnakes by the following suite of characters: Rich dark brown above, fading to creamish-white below, sometimes with a small dark patch on either side of the vent. The snout is very bluntly tri-lobed from above, angular in profile. The nasal cleft is visible from above, joining the first labial below. Rostral is subcircular from above, about as long as broad. 20 mid body scale rows, body diameter is 20-40 times its length, with an average adult length of 50 cm, but known to attain nearly 75 cm on some occasions.

Kerrtyphlops subgen. nov. is monotypic for the type species.

Distribution: Eastern Australia, including north Queensland and Victoria.

Etymology: Named in honor of Robert (Bob) Kerr of Mirboo North, Victoria, Australia for his valuable work in exposing police and judicial corruption. For this, he was wrongly charged by one of many of the ever corrupt Victorian Police in Australia with a rape that he never committed and has since been in jail for more than ten years, being shunted from one maximum security jail to another. At over 70 years of age at the time of writing this paper, it is likely he will die behind bars for a crime he never did.

This is not an unusual result in Australia or elsewhere including the United States, where corruption is endemic in the police, legal and judicial systems as well as the political systems that supposedly oversee the others. It is fitting that a subgenus be named in honor and memory of such a courageous and long suffering human being.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Kerrtyphlops*) *proximus* (Waite, 1893).

SUBGENUS *ADELYNHOSERTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type Species: *Ramphotyphlops pilbarensis* Aplin and Donnellan, 1993

Diagnosis: *Adelynhosertyphlops* are separated from all other *Libertadictus* by the following suite of characters: Brownish-black or reddish-brown above, whitish to cream below. Snout weakly to strongly trilobed from above, although when weakly trilobed this is sometimes only seen on very close inspection, meaning it is sometimes viewed mistakenly as being smoothly rounded. The snout is angular and with a slightly recurved 'beak' when look at in profile. Nasal cleft usually contacting the second labial and extending to the nostril, coming either slightly before it or after it, but not visible from above, sometimes not completely dividing the nasal. Rostral is large, oval and longer than wide, sometimes broader anteriorly. 20-22 Midbody scale rows. Body diameter is 40-80 times its length. Averages about 25 cm as adults and rarely exceeds 40 cm.

Distribution: Most drier parts of continental Australia.

Etymology: Named in honor of my daughter Adelyn (Adder-Lyn) Hoser in recognition of over twelve years of valuable work in wildlife conservation, research and education.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Adelynhosertyphlops*) *pilbarensis* (Aplin and Donnellan, 1993) (Type species), *L.* (*Adelynhosertyphlops*) *australis* (Gray, 1845), *L.* (*Adelynhosertyphlops*) *centralis* (Storr, 1984), *L.* (*Adelynhosertyphlops*) *endoterus* (Waite, 1918), *L.* (*Adelynhosertyphlops*) *hamatus* (Storr, 1981), *L.* (*Adelynhosertyphlops*) *splendidus* (Aplin, 1998), *L.* (*Adelynhosertyphlops*) *waitii* (Boulenger, 1895).

SUBGENUS *BENNETTTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type Species: *Typhlops pinguis* Waite, 1897

Diagnosis: *Bennetttyphlops subgen. nov.* are separated from all other *Libertadictus* by the following suite of characters: Large, very stout build and dark in colour, usually purplish-grey to blackish, attaining up to 50 cm total length. The snout is slightly angular in profile. There are 20-22 midbody scale rows and the nasal cleft proceeds from the second labial. The snout is subrectangular when viewed from above, weakly trilobed in appearance due to the slight swelling above the nostrils and it is short and angular in profile, sometimes with a distinct hook at the end. From above the rostral is slightly to much longer than wide and about half as wide as the head. The nostril is inferior, slightly swollen and about midway between the rostral and preocular. Attains up to 50 cm in total length and the tail is 2.6-5.7 per cent of the total length. 278-377 ventrals, 10-19 subcaudals.

Distribution: Drier parts of southern Australia.

Etymology: Named in honor of Steve Bennett of Narre Warren South, Victoria, Australia, formerly of Newcastle, NSW and Rowville, NSW, in recognition for valuable work and contributions to the hands-on conservation of reptiles in Australia and globally in the period spanning the late 1980's to the present (year 2012). Also recognized is his mentoring role in personal training, physical fitness and other personal development activities for countless people in Victoria and NSW, as well as his own remarkable achievements in the sport of bodybuilding.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Bennetttyphlops*) *pinguis* (Waite, 1897)(Type species), *L.* (*Bennetttyphlops*) *bicolor* (Jan, 1864).

SUBGENUS *SILVATYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type Species: *Ramphotyphlops silvia* Ingram and Covacevich, 1993.

Diagnosis: *Silvatyphlops subgen. nov.* is separated from all other Australian blindsnakes by the following suite of characters: 20 mid body scale rows; nasal cleft visible from above, the nasal cleft does not completely divide the nasal scale, extending from near the rostral scale to the second upper labial scale; snout is rounded from above and in profile. The snake is of very small size and slender build, being very thread like and perhaps Australia's smallest species, the subgenus being monotypic for

the species taxon *L.* (*Silvatyphlops*) *silvia.* Colouration is shiny black above, white below, with jagged, very sharply delineated junction between upper and lower colours. In some specimens the lateral edges of the scales appear pale, creating 11 broad black stripes.

Distribution: Known only from a narrow band of white coastal sands between Fraser Island and Noosa in south-east Queensland. They are known to inhabit rainforests, woodlands, heaths, sheltering in sand under logs and leaf litter (Wilson, 2005).

Etymology: Named in honor of Tony Silva an expert in aviculture and parrots in particular in recognition for his largely unrecognized work in captive breeding birds and conservation in general. He did a long prison term after blowing the whistle on corruption within the USA government and sections of aviculture in the USA, having faced a series of trumped up charges.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Silvatyphlops*) *silvia* (Ingram and Covacevich, 1993).

SUBGENUS *BUCKLEYTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type species: *Ramphotyphlops aspina* Couper, Covacevich and Wilson, 1998.

Diagnosis: This subgenus is monotypic for the type species.

Buckleytyphlops subgen. nov. is readily separated from all other *Libertadictus* by the following suite of characters: Most notably a lack of a caudal spine. It is further distinguished from other members of the genus *Libertadictus* by the following characters combined: 18 midbody scale rows; 403-428 ventrals; the snout is bluntly-rounded from above, rounded and flattened laterally; rostral elongate from above; nasal not completely divided by nasal cleft, clearly visible from above and joining second supralabial below.

Distribution: Only two specimens are recorded, both from near Barcaldine in central Queensland, Australia, on the boundary of open forest on heavy red soils of desert uplands and treeless grasslands of Mitchell Grass downs.

Etymology: Named in honor of Robert (Bob) Buckley a well-known herpetologist of Herberton in North Queensland, who was one of the first people in Australia to breed large numbers of Green Pythons (*Chondropython viridis*). At the behest of a man named Steve Irwin, in 1994 Buckley was raided by Irwin's close friends who worked for the Queensland Wildlife department.

Buckley had all 33 of his Green Pythons taken from him. Irwin kept the seized specimens for himself at his private zoo, at Beerwah in Queensland.

Eventually Buckley won the case, which went through more than one set of hearings. Irwin and others with the Queensland government were shown to have committed perjury in the various court hearings. One such example was a claim by Irwin that it was not possible to breed Green Pythons in captivity, recorded for posterity on the official transcript, a claim rebutted by expert witness Trooper Walsh of the Washington Zoo in America who had been successfully breeding the species for more than 20 years.

It was alleged that most of Buckley's snakes had died at the Irwin zoo.

In another set of proceedings against a Niagra Park, NSW-based private zoo owner, Bob Withey, Irwin and his friends at the Queensland government got the NSW NPWS to prosecute Withey in relation to reptiles he held, with yet another claim it was not possible to breed them in captivity. This time the claim was that it was impossible to breed Spiny Tailed Monitors ("*Varanus acanthurus*") in captivity.

Irwin was concerned at the heavy inroads Withey was making in a market he had wanted to have sole rights over, namely the Brisbane schools education market. The problem was with Withey's school wildlife incursions being a cost effective alternative to bussing kids to Irwin's Zoo an hour out of Brisbane.

Irwin gave false evidence against Withey, as mentioned above, easily shown to be false and the case fell over. Withey was acquitted. However Irwin effectively won the battle as Withey then agreed not to market his business in Brisbane as part of a long-term peace deal.

Subsequent to these cases in the early and mid 1990's, Irwin aggressively marketed himself as the "Crocodile Hunter". He did this by quietly registering the trademark and then after the opposition period expired, he stopped another man, fellow Queenslander Mick Pittman, from calling himself this name, even though he'd been known as "The Crocodile Hunter" for considerably longer and had established a wide following as "The Crocodile Hunter".

Irwin subsequently used "The Crocodile Hunter" trademark as his own brand and made many millions of dollars making TV shows featuring himself tormenting reptiles and wildlife in general, in unspeakable acts of on-screen animal cruelty.

The well-connected Irwin successfully evaded prosecution for numerous breaches of the various Australian wildlife laws and animal cruelty laws due to his close friendship with powerful wildlife officers and others in positions of power.

He also successfully marketed himself and his business as a wildlife charity, gaining significant government hand-outs, including cash payments and vast property holdings. His fund-raising exercises were so successful that other wildlife charities missed out on funds they were formerly awarded on an annual basis and as a result were forced to close down.

Included among the casualties was the Gould League a charity that had operated for 100 years and had educated hundreds of thousands of school children.

Irwin's income and hand-outs ostensibly for wildlife conservation, a claim repeated often in TV interviews, was regularly diverted to shameless self promotion, including massive billboards of himself and his family on Australian State Highways and the like.

His various websites are little more than money trees, actively calling for donations and selling junk merchandise, with staff at his business regularly trawling the web engaging in "reputation management" to keep dirt on his business from all parts of the web.

Records of serious safety breaches at his private zoo, including several near fatal snakebites involving staff that were reported in the tabloid media and later on the internet have been removed following threats by staff of the family business.

On 4 September 2006 Irwin was killed while being filmed tormenting a Stingray.

It had retaliated by stabbing him with its spine. It was a result many people described as karma. Not surprisingly the video footage of him tormenting the stingray was never shown to the public.

Meanwhile, Buckey's life and that of several other Queensland based herpetologists and private zoo owners had been destroyed by wildlife officers who had attacked them at Irwin's behest in order that Irwin's potential rivals in the "wildlife business" could be either removed or distracted so that they would not compete with him.

Receipt of seized reptiles, such as 33 Green Pythons, in 1994 worth about $30,000 each was a secondary benefit for him.

Irwin repaid the favors from the government officers by publicly commending the government to the media, actively lobbying against private herpetologists and other people he viewed as "competitors" being allowed to keep live reptiles and as a "rent-a-witness" in legal proceedings against others. This he did by alleging he had expertise in all things reptile, even though he had no formal training and had never published any meaningful papers in the scientific literature, until shortly before his death when a handful of non-descript articles appeared under his name as either author or co-author.

Details of the tragic Bob Buckley case are in Hoser (1996).

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Buckleytyphlops*) *aspina* (Couper, Covacevich and Wilson, 1998).

SUBGENUS *SHEATYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.*

Type species: *Typhlops batillus* Waite, 1894.

Diagnosis: *Sheatyphlops subgen. nov.* is separated from all other Australian Blindsnakes by the following suite of characters: 24 midbody scale rows, with a bullet-shaped head, the nasal cleft is contacting the second labial.

The subgenus is monotypic for the species *Libertadictus* (*Sheatyphlops*) *batillus* Waite, 1894.

Distribution: Known only from the holotype of the type species collected at Wagga Wagga, NSW in the 1800's, since registered at the Australian Museum Sydney with the specimen number R42756.

Comment: There is a possibility the taxon may be extinct, due to the intense habitat degradation in the area over the past 200 years. While I would recommend that the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), do an audit of the region in order to find any specimens, I note that as an entity, the department has no interest in wildlife conservation whatsoever and so, the conservation status of the taxon is likely to never be known!

In fact if the department were abolished, private individuals may take up the search for the species, which is something no one will attempt at present for fear of prosecution or jail for the heinous crime of "interfere with wildlife" a criminal charge only ever laid in Australia on people with a genuine interest in wildlife and who conduct valuable research, rather than being enforced on the ratbag individuals who go out and kill wildlife in cold blood.

Etymology: *Sheatyphlops subgen. nov.* is named in honor of Glenn Shea of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, the current editor of the reptile journal *Herpetofauna* in recognition of his lifelong interest in reptiles, most notably skinks of the genus *Tiliqua* and his many valuable publications about reptile taxonomy. I also mention here that I have not always agreed with every judgment he's made (including for example his synonymization of, "*Cannia weigeli*" with "*Pseudechis australis*") (see Shea *et al.* 1988). However, he is still more than worthy enough to have one or more taxa named in his honor.

Content: *Libertadictus* (*Sheatyphlops*) *batillus* (Waite, 1894).

GENUS *SIVADICTUS* WELLS AND WELLINGTON, 1985

Type species: *Anilios nigrescens* Gray, 1845.

Diagnosis: *Sivadictus* is separated from all other Blindsnakes by the following suite of characters: Purplish pink-brown to nearly black above, cream, yellow or pinkish below. Snout is rounded from above and in profile. Nasal cleft is long, joining the second supralabial or the suture between the first and second labials, projecting forward and upwards to partially divide the nasal, visible from above. In *Sivadictus* there is often a dark patch on either side of the vent. Rostral is large, oval or elliptical, much longer than broad. 22 mid body scale rows. Body diameter is 35-60 times in its length; tail terminates in a spine.

Distribution: Australia, New Guinea and Indonesia.

Content: *Sivadictus nigrescens* (Gray, 1845) (Type species), *S. brongersmai* (Hahn, 1980), *S. elberti* (Roux, 1911), *S. erycinus* (Werner, 1901), *S. florensis* (Boulenger, 1887), *S. polygrammicus* (Schlegel, 1839), *S. robertsi* (Couper, Covacevich and Wilson, 1998), *S. torresianus* (Boulenger, 1889), *S. undecimlineatus* (Hahn, 1980).

SUBGENUS *SIVADICTUS* WELLS AND WELLINGTON, 1985

Type species: *Anilios nigrescens* Gray, 1845

Diagnosis: *Sivadictus* as a genus is separated from all other Blindsnakes by the following suite of characters: Purplish pink-brown to nearly black above, cream, yellow or pinkish below. Snout is rounded from above and in profile. Nasal cleft is long, joining the second supralabial or the suture between the first and second labials, projecting forward and upwards to partially divide the nasal, visible from above. Rostral is large, oval or elliptical, much longer than broad. 22 mid body scale rows. Body diameter is 35-60 times in its length; the tail terminates in a spine.

The subgenus *Sivadictus* is separated from the subgenus *Ackytyphlops subgen. nov.* by the fact that the nasal cleft does not completely divide the nasal scale, extending from near the rostral scale to the first upper labial scale; as opposed to the second upper labial scale or suture between the first and second in subgenus *Ackytyphlops subgen. nov.*. Adults of the subgenus *Sivadictus* are purplish brown as opposed to greyish brown in *Ackytyphlops subgen. nov.*. In the subgenus *Sivadictus* the ventral surfaces are pinkish white with a weak ragged junction between the upper and lower colours as opposed to evenly merging darker upper and lighter lower colouration in *Ackytyphlops subgen. nov.*.

Distribution: Australia, New Guinea and Indonesia.

Content: *Sivadictus* (*Sivadictus*) *nigrescens* (Gray, 1845) (Type species).

ACKYTYPHLOPS SUBGEN. NOV.

Type species: *Typhlops polygrammicus* Schlegel, 1839.

Diagnosis: *Sivadictus* is as a genus is separated from all other Blindsnakes by the following suite of characters: Purplish pink-brown to nearly black above, cream, yellow or pinkish below. Snout is rounded from above and in profile. Nasal cleft is long, joining the second supralabial or the suture between the first and second labials, projecting forward and upwards to partially divide the nasal, visible from above. Rostral is large, oval or elliptical, much longer than broad. 22 mid body scale rows. Body diameter is 35-60 times in its length; the tail terminates in a spine.

The diagnosis of the genus *Ackytyphlops subgen. nov.* is done below by the separation of the subgenus *Sivadictus* from this one.

Sivadictus is separated from the other subgenus *Ackytyphlops subgen. nov.* by the fact that the nasal cleft does not completely divide the nasal scale, extending from near the rostral scale to the first upper labial scale; as opposed to the second upper labial scale or suture between the first and second in subgenus *Ackytyphlops subgen. nov.*. Adults of the subgenus *Sivadictus* are purplish brown as opposed to greyish brown in *Ackytyphlops subgen. nov.*. In the subgenus *Sivadictus* the ventral surfaces are pinkish white with a weak ragged junction between the upper and lower colours as opposed to an evenly merging darker upper and lighter lower colouration in *Ackytyphlops subgen. nov.*.

Comment: The name *Pseudotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843 as a genus name for the taxon *polygrammicus* is not available as it was pre-occupied for another taxon in the family Uropeltidae, namely *Pseudotyphlops philippinus* Müller, 1832, the genus name first proposed by Schlegel in 1839.

Etymology: Named in honor of a family pet dog, an Akita, named *Acanthophis* (in recognition of the elapid snake), whom we called Acky for short. The dog successfully guarded the Snakebusters facility for about two years before an illegal theft by officers of Manningham council, who unlawfully entered our locked property, where they then kidnapped the dog in 2004. This theft of the dog in revenge for their dog control and bylaws officer, Mike Clark being named as corrupt in the book *Victoria Police Corruption-2*, (Hoser, 2009), in a case where he committed perjury in legal proceedings in 1994, where he made a written statement in the form of a sworn court document, later proven to be false by the Optus Phone company.

It should be noted also, that I had never had prior adverse dealings with this man, Mike Clark and had merely detailed his dishonesty and corruption in the book in the public interest.

At the Manningham Council dog pound and works depot in Blackburn Road North, corrupt council officers had the dog tied to a pole and then bashed with another metal pole, resulting in permanent and irreparable head and brain damage as well as injuries on most other parts of the dog's body. A council officer outraged at the extreme act of cruelty contacted our family and

advised us that the dog had been kidnapped by council officers and after a series of denials by the officers that they had illegally taken the dog or even had the dog, the council officers admitted that they had taken the dog and injured it.

The injuries to the dog were so severe that the dog did not recover and so had to be euthanized.

I make no apologies for naming a reptile subgenus in honor of a loyal animal.

Content: *Sivadictus* (*Ackytyphlops*) *polygrammicus* (Schlegel, 1839) (Type species), *S.* (*Ackytyphlops*) *brongersmai* (Hahn, 1980), *S.* (*Ackytyphlops*) *elberti* (Roux, 1911), *S.* (*Ackytyphlops*) *erycinus* (Werner, 1901), *S.* (*Ackytyphlops*) *florensis* (Boulenger, 1887), *S.* (*Ackytyphlops*) *robertsi* (Couper, Covacevich and Wilson, 1998), *S.* (*Ackytyphlops*) *torresianus* (Boulenger, 1889), *S.* (*Ackytyphlops*) *undecimlineatus* (Hahn, 1980).

FIRST REVISOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

In the unlikely event that a future worker decides that two named genus, subgenus, species or subspecies groups or entities described within this paper should be merged into a single entity and wishes to make a taxonomic and nomenclatural decision to do so, then the name to be used shall be that for which the formal description appears first in terms of position on page or page priority as in those described first take priority over those later within the same paper, if and when a conflict is deemed to take place.

Unless mandatory under the Zoological Rules of the time, no names are to have spellings altered in any way.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author has no conflicts of interest in terms of this paper or conclusions within.