

# **Best Practices in herpetology: Hinrich Kaiser's claims are unsubstantiated.**

**Raymond T. Hoser**

**Snakebusters, PO Box 599, Doncaster, Victoria, 3108, Australia.**  
**Phone: +61 3 9812 3322 Fax: 9812 3355 E-mail: snakeman@snakeman.com.au**  
**Received 2 July 2014, Accepted 1 May 2015, Published 25 May 2015.**

---

## **ABSTRACT**

In 2013, Kaiser *et al.* published in *Herpetological Review* a lengthy blog calling for other herpetologists not to use names formally proposed by myself (Raymond Hoser) and other herpetologists from the period 2000 onwards. This document (Kaiser *et al.* 2013), was a rehash of another, sent to herpetologists worldwide a year earlier (Kaiser 2012a and 2012b), which in 2012 Kaiser stated had been written by Wüster *et al.* (Kaiser 2012a).

Both blogs were discredited in succession by Hoser (2012) and Hoser (2013).

Kaiser *et al.* sought (and still seek) to step outside of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* ("The Code", "Zoological Rules" or "Zoological Code") (Ride *et al.* 1999) and breach the three most important rules being:

- 1/ Homonymy (Principal 5, Article 52 and elsewhere),
- 2/ Priority (Principal 3, Article 23 and elsewhere),
- 3/ Stability (Principal 4, Articles 23, 65 and elsewhere),

as well as the ethics of the Code (Appendix A) and numerous other sections of the document.

Notwithstanding this, Kaiser (2014a) repeated many of his false claims and for the purposes of rebuttal, one need look no further than Hoser (2013).

More recently Kaiser (2014b) proposed in an 11 page blog published in *Herpetological Review* that the ICZN should use their plenary powers to rule all Hoser names ever published (dating from 1998) as unavailable under the Zoological Code but in the absence of any proper formal submission.

Cogger (2013, 2014), Dubois (2014), Eipper (2013), Mutton (2014a), Shea (2013a-d), Thorpe (2013, 2014a, 2014b), Wellington (2013), Wells (2013), and many others had already condemned the Kaiser recommendations making a mockery of the claim by Kaiser (2014b) that he has broad agreement with his plans.

Of relevance is that names proposed by myself are widely used in thousands of other people's publications, easily ascertained by a "Google" search for the relevant names. To formally or informally suppress them (as being proposed by Kaiser and his gang) and in direct breach of the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* ("The Code", "Zoological Rules" or "Zoological Code") (Ride *et al.* 1999), would cause instability in herpetological nomenclature.

In terms of venomous species, Kaiser's actions would potentially put human lives at risk as detailed by Hoser (2013).

Because Kaiser *et al.* (2013) and the earlier documents have been discredited already, there is no need to do this here.

In summary, the allegations made against myself were found to be false. However the same charges were found to be true for Kaiser *et al.*, better known as the Wüster gang, including the following:

"evidence free taxonomy", fraud, "unscientific taxonomic publications", "taxonomic terrorism", plagiarism, "unscientific taxonomy", "unscientific practices", "unscientific incursions" and "deliberate acts of intellectual kleptoparasitism".

Furthermore the claims in Hoser (2013) that Kaiser *et al.* (2013) engaged in reckless taxonomic vandalism have been vindicated by others, most notably including the very conservative former ICZN Commissioner, Dr. Harold G. Cogger (Cogger 2014), Dr. Glenn Shea several times (Shea 2013a-d), Eipper (2013), Wells (2013), Wellington (2013), Dubois (2014), Thorpe (2013, 2014a, 2014b) and most recently "Dr." Hinrich Kaiser himself in his "Errata" published in Kaiser (2014b).

This paper addresses all new claims against Hoser papers by Kaiser (2014b) and finds all to lack a sound factual basis and having been made in violation of best scientific practices.

**Keywords:** Taxonomy; nomenclature; ICZN; rules; Zoological Code; Kaiser; Wüster; O'Shea; Schleip; fraud; taxonomic vandalism; theft.

## INTRODUCTION

In 2013, Kaiser *et al.* published in *Herpetological Review* a lengthy blog calling for other herpetologists not to use names formally proposed by myself (Raymond Hoser) from the period 2000 onwards. This document (Kaiser *et al.* 2013), was a rehash of another, sent to herpetologists worldwide in a SPAM email a year earlier (Kaiser 2012a and 2012b).

Both blogs were discredited in succession by Hoser (2012) and Hoser (2013) in detail. They were also discredited more briefly by others including Cogger (2013, 2014), Eipper (2013), Wellington (2013), Wells (2013), Thorpe (2013, 2014a, 2014b), Dubois (2014) and many others.

Kaiser sought (and still seeks) to step outside of the established *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* ("The Code", "Zoological Rules" or "Zoological Code") (Ride *et al.* 1999), and breach the three most important rules being:

- 1/ Homonymy (Principal 5, Article 52 and elsewhere),
- 2/ Priority (Principal 3, Article 23 and elsewhere),
- 3/ Stability (Principal 4, Articles 23, 65 and elsewhere),

as well as the ethics of the Code (Appendix A) and many other sections.

Notwithstanding this, Kaiser (2014a) repeated many of his false claims and for the purposes of rebuttal, one need look no further than Hoser (2013).

More recently Kaiser (2014b) proposed that the ICZN should use their plenary powers to rule all Hoser names (dating from 1998) as unavailable under the Zoological Code but in the absence of any proper formal submission.

This idea, or plan has already been executed by Schleip (2014), who overwrote the valid and widely accepted name *Leiopython hosei* Hoser, 2000, with his own coined synonym of 2014 in turn widely promoted by Kaiser and other members of the gang in the year post-dating that publication, both online and in other published "papers" (e.g. Barker *et al.* 2015 at page 9).

Cogger (2013, 2014), Dubois (2014), Eipper (2013), Mutton (2014a), Shea (2013a-d), Thorpe (2013, 2014a, 2014b), Wellington (2013), Wells (2013), and many others had already condemned the Kaiser recommendations making a mockery of the claim by Kaiser (2014b) that he has broad agreement within the scientific community with his plans.

He does not!

His lack of broad support is most recently confirmed by the group submission including himself, published by Rhodin *et al.* in March 2015 in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (BZN), which again was effectively confined to his narrow Kaiser *et al.* (2013) authorship.

Besides the fact that there is no precedent for blanket suppression of valid names by the ICZN, the rules of the code as (mis) quoted by Kaiser *et al.* (2013) do not allow such to happen.

However there are precedents based on proper administration of the code, for the ICZN to formally rule against the suppression by renegades like Kaiser *et al.* of properly formed code compliant names (e.g. ICZN 1991, 2001) and to condemn those who step outside the rules and ethics of the code to recklessly create instability or a dual nomenclature.

Of relevance is that names proposed by myself are widely used in thousands of other people's publications. To formally or informally suppress them (as being proposed and attempted by Kaiser and his gang) and in direct breach of the rules of the Zoological Code would cause immense instability in herpetological nomenclature.

In terms of venomous species, Kaiser's actions would potentially put human lives at risk as detailed by Hoser (2013).

Because Kaiser *et al.* (2013) and the earlier documents have been discredited already, there is no need to do this here.

In summary, the allegations made against myself were found to

be false. However the same charges were found to be true for Kaiser *et al.*, better known as the Wüster gang, including the following:

"evidence free taxonomy", fraud, "unscientific taxonomic publications", "taxonomic terrorism",

plagiarisation, "unscientific taxonomy", "unscientific practices", "unscientific incursions" and "deliberate acts of intellectual kleptoparasitism".

In terms of the "best practices" espoused by Kaiser *et al.* (2013), Hoser (2013) showed that the authors of Kaiser *et al.* (2013) notably failed in abiding by these practices themselves.

Furthermore they were shown to have repeatedly engaged in serious acts of taxonomic vandalism, scientific fraud, theft of other people's work and other serious misdemeanours.

I also take pleasure in noting that my claims in Hoser (2013) that Kaiser *et al.* (2013) engaged in reckless taxonomic vandalism have been vindicated by others, most notably including the very conservative former ICZN Commissioner, Dr. Harold G. Cogger (Cogger 2014), Dr. Glenn Shea several times (Shea 2013a-d), Dubois (2014), Thorpe (2013, 2014a, 2014b), Wells (2013), Wellington (2013) and most recently "Dr." Hinrich Kaiser himself in his "Errata" published in Kaiser (2014b).

On the internet list servers Taxacom and ICZN List, Kaiser's proposals have been widely condemned by taxonomists from various zoological fields (various authors 2012-14a, 2012-14b) and a number of ICZN Commissioners.

The Kaiser proposals have generally received no support from anyone except within the small group known as the Wüster gang (including their many aliases) and one Commissioner of the ICZN; namely Doug Yanega, who has been shown by others to have made quite outrageous and incorrect statements on the Taxacom and ICZN List forums.

For those unaware, *Herpetological Review* is a PRINO (peer reviewed in name only) journal edited by Mr. Robert Hansen, a close friend of Hinrich Kaiser, Wolfgang Wüster, Mark O'Shea and Wulf Schleip, better known as the Wüster gang, named in honour of their "leader".

Private conversations on the Facebook walls of Schleip and Hansen have included posts showing that they intended using *Herpetological Review* as a platform to launch attacks on myself (Hoser), other eminent herpetologists and the Zoological Code itself. They also have repeatedly stated that they will under no circumstances allow the publication of any material that in any way contradicts or dissents from their own warped view on things.

On another (closed) Facebook page set up by Kaiser's close friend Robert Twombly, called "Herpetological taxonomy" the group explicitly state that they have created a "watch" for any publications and webpages that may use "Hoser's taxonomy" with a view to harassing them not to do so.

Such action by the Wüster gang is an extremely serious breach of the Zoological Code (see the preamble of that document), which maintains the right for zoologists to have freedom of taxonomic judgement without any interference by others or the Zoological Code.

A point form rebuttal of 22 alleged errors in Hoser papers as published by Kaiser (2014b) was sent to Hansen for printing in his PRINO journal on 29 June 2014 and was rejected by him within seconds of receipt and clearly before he had read it.

Based on his private Facebook posts, which he was probably unaware of the fact I had accessed and read, this immediate rejection of properly submitted material was expected. However it was important that I observe correct procedure and protocols so that it would (in theory) prevent the claim being made that I had refused to submit material to them.

What follows is an expanded version of the (originally 4,000 word) document.

Of note is the following:

1/ All the anti-Hoser papers published by the Wüster gang are always reposted widely by them across the internet immediately upon publication. This is so they can maximize damage caused to my good reputation and as part of their wider attacks against science and the Zoological Code. They are all "open access" and in law freely allowed to be republished so long as not sold for profit.

2/ Members of the Wüster gang and others used Facebook and other internet sites as a launching pad for criminal attacks against myself, my young children, family business and others. As a result of this, I launched legal proceedings in 2012 and again in 2013 and got court orders against several people. As a part of the legal process, I gained access to Facebook pages and other internet properties that in the normal course of events I would either have been barred from by the Wüster gang (in line with their usual practice) or not had normal access to on the basis the sites were "closed" to "non-members".

This has included private Facebook walls of Schleip, Hansen, Wüster, O'Shea and others in the Wüster gang, list servers and forums under their control and similar sites from where they have planned and executed their often illegal attacks.

#### THE (ALLEGED) HOSER ERRORS

Kaiser (2014b) published an extended list of "Hoser names", that he says should not be used. These are names of taxa either allegedly omitted from his 2012 and 2013 lists or of taxa properly named by myself in the period post-dating Kaiser *et al.* (2013) and predating June 2014.

Note that no new Hoser papers were published from end 2013 to mid June 2014, although a number have been published in July 2014, these later names not yet being added to the Kaiser hit list (although Rhodin *et al.* 2015 added them without justification). Within the table and associated notes in Kaiser (2014b) he makes numerous demonstrably false allegations including that the names of myself were proposed in violation of the Zoological Code and are therefore unavailable.

But this is then rebutted by Kaiser himself at the end of the paper where he wrote:

"Hoser's most recent output is Code-compliant."

In his table of taxa he seeks people to rename with their own coined names, Kaiser also states:

"The footnotes list a variety of incongruities, including some with formal relevance."

To a naive reader this could be taken to imply there are formal code relevant reasons why my names should not be used and so it is important such inference be rebutted immediately.

To an unbiased reader, these footnotes should of course contain the real evidence of his claims to show that my papers have been reckless, unscientific and published outside of the Zoological Code, so it is necessary for each and every one of them to be addressed in detail as needed.

Now as my published material totals well over 2 million words and many dozens of code-compliant scientific descriptions there is no doubt that some errors of one form or other may have slipped through in the course of the publishing process.

While perfection is aimed for in scientific endeavour, it is not always achieved!

Of course had Kaiser *et al.* actually read these papers (or the detail of them) they would have found two serious and code-relevant errors that may have affected the potential availability of names proposed within. As it happens, they didn't ever find the errors and the historical record as encapsulated by Kaiser (2014b) proves this.

However, well before the publication of Kaiser (2014b) I did find the errors myself; notably immediately post-publication and a year later corrected the errors to stabilize the nomenclature in later publications actually cited by Kaiser (2014b),

As already mentioned, even at this late stage, Kaiser *et al.* were unaware of the errors.

That I know Kaiser *et al.* did not read the relevant papers (or do so in any proper way) was confirmed by posts on the internet by amateur snake handler, Mr. Wulf Schleip and also Wüster who said their group didn't bother reading my papers (Schleip 2013a-c, Wüster 2013a-c)..

Such conduct is clearly unscientific on their part and should be contrasted with my own conduct in relation to their group's papers. I have read them and scrutinized them in detail, regardless of how toxic their contents are!

More significantly the non-reading of the papers by myself that creationist "scientist" Mr. Hinrich Kaiser seeks to have formally suppressed by the ICZN (without a formal submission predating 2015) is seen in the various documents ostensibly authored by Kaiser, including most notably Kaiser (2014b).

That "paper" emphatically shows he never read several papers he cited and condemned in his footnotes.

In two of those cases material had been inadvertently deleted from descriptions in the formatting process making the names potentially unavailable under the Zoological Code; those papers cited by Kaiser *et al.* (2013), but the defects missed by them.

One of those descriptions was for the species

*Charlepiersonserpens* (*Macmillanus*) *jackyhoserae*, which Kaiser (2014b) in footnote 10 cites as being described by myself in 2012, rejected by him in his document Kaiser *et al.* (2013) as part of the blanket rejection of all Hoser names.

However there was no specific reason given to reject this particular species description and all his recommendations being admitted by himself as sitting outside the code (Kaiser *et al.* 2013).

Recall Kaiser *et al.* (2013) wrote:

"These recommendations are not formal nomenclatural proposals according to articles of the Code".

While he records in Kaiser (2014b) the exact same taxon being described by myself again in 2013, Kaiser and co-authors from Kaiser *et al.* (2013) remained as of June 2014 blissfully unaware as to why that particular taxon was redescribed in another near identical formal description!

Had Kaiser and any of his 8 listed co-authors from 2013 bothered to read the relevant 2012 paper, they'd have seen that the description of the relevant taxon was fatally flawed by the omission of holotype details as in the number of the specimen at the museum.

This sole piece of information (the specimen number) was inadvertently removed in the final publishing process thereby making the description almost certainly unavailable in terms of the code.

Therefore I had no choice but to republish it in 2013 as new and this time with the holotype number details included. This effectively preserved the nomenclature and only changed the reference date for the taxon name affected.

"formal relevance" is a term used by Kaiser (2014b) to attack my papers and imply that mine are somehow in breach of the code, but in terms of a direct cross-referencing of the relevant papers and the claims in his footnotes there is no such act performed.

This is notable as to do so would have taken minimal effort and space on his part.

Also as a matter of procedural fairness he should have cross-referenced my papers texts as quotes as required to substantiate his claims. But because his claims lacked merit, Kaiser chose not to engage in this simple and obvious intellectual and scientific exercise

However when I did just that; cross-referenced Kaiser's claims in his footnotes with the relevant papers and entries referred to, I found that none had any significance at all in terms of the nomenclatural availability of any of the names I had formally proposed.

If there had been serious flaws identified by him, I'd have dealt with them appropriately, just as I did for the species

*Charlepiersonserpens* (*Macmillanus*) *jackyhoserae* in 2013.

All names formally proposed remained available under the Zoological Code and all identified valid and defined taxa according to clear and defined scientific evidence in accordance with the best practices of peer review.

I might add however that if Kaiser, or anyone else for that matter identified genuine errors worthy of correction or change in terms of my original descriptions and the nomenclature that followed, I'd have adopted them without hesitation!

As Kaiser has chosen to list his "best" 22 claims against my papers in Kaiser (2014b) in the footnotes, I think it is only reasonable that I be allowed to give a simple cross-check of each herein and show that his claims against me in any proper measure lack merit and are frivolous at best.

It is also fortunate that all the relevant papers in their original form are posted online (Kaiser's and mine) so that anyone, from ICZN Commissioners to internet trolls and everyone in between can check the Kaiser claims and see that none have any significance in terms of arguing against either the science of my papers or their compliance with the Zoological Code (Ride *et al.* 1999).

The Hoser papers in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*, including all those cited by Kaiser (2014b) can be found on the internet via <http://www.herp.net>.

Other than the most relevant ones, they are not cited herein.

Kaiser, Wüster and O'Shea have posted their various hate blogs widely across the internet and these are most certainly not hard to find.

Were I not to do this, Wüster *et al.* would most certainly be howling that I was acting outside of the rules!

In terms of what follows, the comments on Kaiser's footnotes are numbered in the same order as the footnotes themselves. My comments are then followed by the prefix/header "A" for "Answer". I have taken the liberty of adding a "f" after each number and answers "A" in order to make it easier for readers to see which is which.

However before dealing with Kaiser's alleged errors in my papers, there are a few other statements within his "paper" that should be addressed and these are dealt with first.

#### **MISLEADING AND DECEPTIVE CONDUCT BY KAISER (2014b) AND THE WÜSTER GANG.**

1/ Kaiser (2014b) wrote: "I am pleased to report that authors (e.g., Bates *et al.* 2013; Reynolds *et al.* 2014) as well as editors (e.g., Measey 2013) are now applying the recommendations we (Kaiser *et al.* 2013) made."

This is a direct admission by Kaiser that he has recklessly caused instability by inducing others to deliberately step outside of the Zoological Code. These authors (Bates *et al.* 2013; Reynolds *et al.* 2014) knowingly created invalid junior synonyms of Hoser names in their papers ... in effect stealing the work of earlier Hoser papers. Those papers, published in PRINO (Peer reviewed in name only) journals are dealt with elsewhere (in a separate paper), published at the same time as this one.

Measey (2013), is a rant published by the editor of the *African Journal of Herpetology* online at: <http://www.africanherpetology.org/taxonomy.php> that can only be described as a vicious attack on myself.

However in terms of its writing and content, he made a mess of things.

John Measey states as fact that the taxa named by myself are valid and I only was able to name them because I had stolen the data for my papers from Wüster *et al.*

Measey (2013) cited Wallach *et al.* (2009) as the basis for his claim.

Interestingly Wallach *et al.* (2014) makes the claim that all my descriptions of taxa to that date were based on clade shopping and data stolen from everyone else.

Rhodin *et al.* 2015, did much the same when they accused me of basing my descriptions on "data mining" the works of others, contradicting the same groups earlier claims that my descriptions were "evidence free" descriptions of "non-taxa" as stated in Wüster 2001 and Wüster *et al.* 2001.

Wüster (2009), published by Wolfgang Wüster just six days after Hoser (2009) shatters the claim of theft, as in that document he claimed none of my named taxa, including those published in Hoser (2009) were valid.

In terms of Hoser (2009), the paper where I formally named the Cobra genus *Spracklandus*, Wüster (2009) said:

"The case for keeping it (*Naja*) as a single genus was made by Wüster *et al.* 2007."

However the significance of Measey (2013) (and Wallach *et al.* 2014 and Rhodin *et al.* 2015) is that it/they is/are a full-blown admissions from the Wüster side that all taxa named by myself to mid 2013 (and beyond) are valid in terms of the Zoological Code and based on robust scientific evidence!

In effect the allegation of taxonomic vandalism against myself is removed and all we are left with is one of theft that Wüster (2009) had already removed as well.

The context of the outburst of Measey (2013) is that I had recently named a large number of Vipers Cobras and other African species in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (AJH) Issues 19 and 20, published on 10 July that year, followed by descriptions of yet more African taxa in AJH issue 21 published on 20 October that year, totalling dozens of species and genera.

Clearly hostile to the idea that he would be bound by the rules of Zoological Nomenclature to use the Hoser names for a number of prominent local species, thereby in his view removing the hegemony of his group in Africa, Measey published his rant in December of the same year (with a claimed date of November).

Kaiser (2014b) added what was at the time an apparently unpublished paper by Schleip cited as Schleip (2014) as a basis to give his ridiculous claims credibility.

Based on its title, this paper apparently renamed *Leiopython hoserae* Hoser, 2000, a species recognized by virtually all herpetologists, including Schleip himself in 2008 (Schleip 2008)!

An email to the two listed editors of the "*Journal of Herpetology*" on 22 June 2014 resulted in the reckless paper being removed from their website due to the obvious errors in it; as related by one of the editors in a recorded phone call some days after receiving the email.

My hope that the paper would not be published, because if the content were based on the title, it could only be taxonomic vandalism was shattered on 5 July 2014.

That morning, I was alerted to hundreds of posts on the internet from Schleip and Wüster announcing the publication of the paper.

The online paper (Schleip 2014) renamed *Leiopython hoserae* Hoser, 2000, with his own coined name "*L. meridionalis*" and also renamed the Hoser (2000) subspecies, *L. albertisi bennetti*. Schleip made the false claim Hoser (2000) did not comply with Article 8.1.1 of the Zoological Code (invoking Kaiser *et al.* 2013 and Kaiser 2014b), described by Eipper (2013) as the Kaiser *et al.* "veto".

Significantly, Schleip (2014b) was published in the face of advice by two separate expert reviewers that his paper's claims against Hoser (2000) were false and that he would be acting in contempt of the Zoological Code (Shea 2014, Raw, 2014). Shea formally recommended REJECTION of the Schleip paper to the editors of *Journal of Herpetology*. Raw did likewise in direct correspondence to Schleip where Schleip was then trying to raise the claim that the words in the Hoser (2000) descriptions themselves were not code-compliant, which was a proposition also rejected by Raw (Raw 2014).

The publication of Schleip (2014b) was also condemned by former ICZN Commissioner Hal Cogger within hours of its

appearance online (Cogger 2014b).

In spite of this, within 24 hours of online publication of Schleip (2014b), Wüster and Schleip had according to Google managed to cross-post links to the paper on Facebook and elsewhere online more than 200 times!

Notable also is that Kaiser *et al.* (2013) when itemising their alleged "line in the sand" to delineate which Hoser names they were to overwrite with their own coined names, specifically excluded *Leiopython hoseerae* Hoser, 2000 from their hit list on the basis that Schleip had recognized it as valid and used the name previously in a 2008 paper he'd published (Schleip 2008).

Noting that Schleip was a signed co-author of Kaiser *et al.* (2013) it is significant that a year later he has overstepped his own arbitrary "line in the sand".

This "line in the sand" was further muddied in 2015, when Rhodin *et al.* (with Schleip as listed co-author) confined it to *AJH* (Hoser 2009-2014) only (no Hoser papers predating 2008) stating further:

"These requests supersede those contained in three prior comments published by our co-authors (Thomson, BZN 71: 133; Wüster *et al.*, BZN 71: 37-38; Kaiser, BZN 71: 30-35).

Of course, such a new "line in the sand" contradicted that of Kaiser *et al.* (2013), Kaiser (2014) and Schleip (2014). I further note that since the publication of Rhodin *et al.* in March 2015, no one in the Wüster gang have sought to reverse their usage of Schleip's new *Leiopython* names or the invalid *Malayopython* coined by Reynolds in 2013 to replace the proper *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004, which are not covered by this newly defined "line in the sand".

The significance of all this is that the Kaiser "veto" as employed by the Wüster gang to declare a paper outside of Article 8.1.1 of the Zoological Code (invoking Kaiser *et al.* 2013 and Kaiser 2014b), can now (as far as the Wüster gang are concerned) be applied by anyone to any paper by any author that they see fit to steal the work from!

2/ To Kaiser's credit under the heading "Errata" he openly admits to committing numerous instances of evidence-free taxonomic and nomenclatural vandalism in Kaiser *et al.* (2013), thereby requiring correction in Kaiser (2014b).

These errors had already been publicly admitted by his co-author Wüster.

Wüster noted the:

"errors that slipped through in that paper"

(Wüster 2013d) and that:

"mistakes slipped into the Kaiser *et al.* paper - big deal, that was hardly the point of the paper."

(Wüster 2013e).

Notwithstanding these open admissions of evidence free taxonomic decisions, Kaiser (2014b) in his new taxonomic judgements (that he called "corrections") are also made without evidence and therefore constitute yet more taxonomic vandalism!

It is also scandalous that Kaiser (2014b) fails to cite the means by which he was first made aware of the many gross factual errors in his earlier publication (Kaiser *et al.* 2013). The source of information was none other than my own detailed rebuttal of his document in the form of Hoser (2013), corrections of which he has lifted and used in Kaiser (2014b) without correct attribution as to the source of his corrections.

This of course is the morally repugnant crime of plagiarisation, something regarded as one of the most serious crimes a so-called scientist can commit.

3/ Kaiser's statement "there must be sound scientific principles underlying the creation of any new taxon name." is agreed with. I note that this has always been the case for Hoser papers. However I also note that Kaiser (2014b) openly admits that he departed from this fundamental principle in Kaiser *et al.* (2013).

4/ Kaiser (2014b) wrote: "Following the publication of Kaiser *et al.* (2013) in March of 2013, Hoser worked the online social media circuit to discredit the authors and supporters of that paper, along with the journal and its editor, as well as the scientific societies that voted in support of the presented ideas (e.g., Hoser 2013n)."

The statement is an obvious lie.

If one turns to Kaiser's own cited references, you see that the document "Hoser 2013n" is cited as follows:

"2013n. The science of herpetology is built on evidence, ethics, quality publications and strict compliance with the rules of nomenclature. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 18:2-79."

That is in fact a hard-copy printed journal and not anything online or evidence of having "worked the online social media circuit".

It goes without saying that Kaiser has deliberately printed a false statement in the hope his readers look no look further than the words as presented there and then, and hoping that they don't even do the simple exercise of cross-matching cited references with text, due to the excessive verbosity of his rant.

The hard copy paper (Hoser 2013) does however discredit Kaiser *et al.* (2013).

Kaiser's statement "His department is in clear violation of the Code of Ethics of the Code," in fact applies to Kaiser *et al.* as demonstrated in examples provided by Hoser (2013).

I note that in my case, the pointing out of the Wüster gang's lies, frauds and other deceptive conduct is part of the scientific process and well within the Zoological Code, which expressly encourages this in the preamble.

As for working out who in fact are the people busily working the social media circuit and everywhere else to promote their warped views, one needs look no further than Facebook or the various online herpetological forums.

It would be hard to find any major reptile-related Facebook page or online reptile-related chat forum that has not been posted on by Kaiser *et al.* for the purposes of making claims against me.

This is invariably done in a very inflammatory way and designed to incite personal hatred against me. O'Shea regularly makes the false claims of myself "ripping out the fangs" of snakes, which is something I have never in fact done.

He has also made numerous false and defamatory outbursts on list servers like Taxacom and ICZN list leading to him being forced to apologise for one such rant by the moderators.

I need not refer to the Wüster and O'Shea edited "Raymond Hoser" Wikipedia page that among other gems reports the obvious lie:

"Hoser allowed his 10-year-old daughter to be bitten five times by two species of highly venomous snakes, an inland taipan and a common death adder to demonstrate that his "venomoid" snakes were harmless; however she died from envenomation shortly after.[42] The manager of the shopping center where Hoser performed claimed that Hoser's performance was not consistent with his act description and said that Hoser would not be allowed back. Hoser avoided being charged with manslaughter as he described the death of his daughter as an accident.[43] Following this incident, the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) suspended Hoser's commercial wildlife demonstrator license and his authorisation to hold snake-handling courses and use of wildlife in film and television citing this and five other deaths arising from the use of venomoid snakes that had regenerated their venom glands.[44]" (Wüster, O'Shea *et al.* 2014); authors identities being substantiated by Wikipedia (2014).

For what it's worth, my daughter (actually aged 12 at the time) voluntarily took bites in July 2011 in front of a public audience from venomoid snakes, filmed at the time by my staff to shatter a deliberate lie by Wüster side-kick Mark O'Shea (O'Shea 2004) and others to the effect that the snakes had regenerated venom and were a serious public risk. They had not regenerated

venom and she remains alive and well as of May 2015!

No one else has ever died from a venomoid snake bite either. The video was legally made pursuant to a permit issued by the DSE for that express purpose and at the direct invitation of DSE lawyer Samuel Bird!

A series of criminal charges alleging I had broken the law at this display were thrown out in totality by a magistrate on 25 October 2014.

Of note is that a photo of her holding newly printed issues of *AJH* Issue 22 in one hand and the relevant venomoid snakes in the other were posted on the Snakebusters Facebook wall on 24 June 2014 (cover date 1 July 2014), further indicating the child was still alive as of that date.

However the deliberately false claims made on the page edited by Wüster and O'Shea were clearly made and protected from correction (by a so-called "bot" they had placed on the page) in order to incite hatred against myself.

The alleged references cited by number on the Wikipedia page did not make the false claims of Wüster and O'Shea either. In other words the use of effectively bogus references was also fraudulent.

This attack against my business, my good name and everything else to do with myself, including my wife and young children by the Wüster gang on Wikipedia is even more insidious when one realises that the Wüster gang have also created dozens of so-called "backlinks" to the site for Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) purposes.

SEO by the gang ensures that their collection of hate and lies is the first link shown when my name "Raymond Hoser" is typed into the Google search engine.

These recent actions by the Wüster gang to attack myself is not their first coordinated assault on the truth for improper purposes either.

Wüster *et al.* attempted to defraud the Accor Hotels chain of \$US 20,000.00 in 2008 by aggressively using online social media to generate "votes" for David John Williams, a man with serious smuggling and animal cruelty convictions (Wüster 2008, Coritz, 2008, Williams 2008).

The scheme fell apart and they were outed when the hotel chain detected many thousands of "votes" for Williams, ostensibly from many different individuals coming from a single IP address (Williams 2008).

In 2006 an online petition sponsored by the same group of animal-hating pseudoscientists including Wolfgang Wüster, Mark O'Shea, David John Williams, Bryan Fry and others posted at: <http://www.aussiereptileclassifieds.com/phpPETITION> (Hunter *et al.* 2006) called for my successful wildlife education business and all my other herpetological activity to be shut down by the government of Victoria, Australia.

It is notable that this group ultimately had success in that in 2011 and again in 2012 my lawful wildlife education business was shut down at gunpoint.

Both times this required expensive and time-wasting legal proceedings to reverse the illegal actions of the recklessly misguided government officers. These officials had erroneously believed the online lies and misinformation from the Wüster gang that had been tendered in those proceedings by the government wildlife officers (Supreme Court of Appeal, Victoria 2012).

In a lengthy judgement dated 5 September 2015, three judges at the Victorian Court of Criminal Appeal completely exonerated myself in terms of the various lies and reversed all previous actions against me, allowing our business to trade again as normal (Supreme Court of Victoria - Court of Appeal 2015).

As a result of our illegal closure in 2011, Andrew Smith of Emerald in Queensland died on 17 November 2011 from an avoidable snakebite after being forced to seek another snake handling course provider instead of the most experienced

provider in Australia, Snakebusters.

The provider that taught Smith was a man who had recently purchased a \$75 business name. He had no meaningful experience with venomous snakes and was therefore both inexperienced and unsafe. He also taught the unsafe handling method (use of metal tongs to pick up snakes) that was ultimately the direct cause of Smith's death. He died attempting to catch a Brown Snake (*Pseudonaja textilis*) with tongs (Scheffe 2011).

In other words it is clear that the threat posed by individuals in the Wüster gang go way beyond their attempt to rename various Hoser named species. It involves matters of public safety as well.

Misinformation and actions by the Wüster gang has also been shown to be directly responsible for the snakebite deaths of Aleta Stacey in the United States (Various authors 2011a) and Luke Yeomans in the UK (Hoser 2013, Dolan 2011) and several deaths in Australia (including Bradley Hicks and Karl Berry in 2013 and Shane Tatty in 2014) (Adams, 2013, Betts 2013, Jarbour 2013, Various authors 2014).

By contrast to the Wüster gang, I have generally stayed away from online forums, due to time commitments as much as anything else. However I note that people who post in favour of my taxonomy on most herpetological chat forums are immediately "flamed" by the Wüster gang and often falsely accused of being "one of Hoser's aliases".

This situation is evidenced by an email received from Nick Mutton on 30 May 2014, asking me to appear on his online radio show (Mutton 2014a). In that email he wrote: "their side of this debate gets a great deal of coverage and I thought it would be more interested (sic) to hear your side of things."

That statement alone confirmed that it was Kaiser and the Wüster gang "working" the social media circuit and not myself.

A series of later emails by Mutton talked extensively of the overt censorship of dissenting opinions by the Wüster gang (Mutton 2014b).

Notable is that Mutton was then stopped by the Wüster gang from interviewing me on the basis of threats (Mutton 2014b). I need not mention the overt Nazi-style censorship of dissenting views being practiced by Kaiser *et al.* elsewhere including refusal by themselves to print dissenting views in journals they despotically control.

This is in order to give their side the veneer of widespread support from other herpetologists when the undercurrent is in the opposite direction as well as prevent exposure of both their lies and untenable often contradictory and inconsistent arguments.

In the face of the Wüster gang's Nazi-style tactics of censorship and ruthless attacks against those who breach it, people who have spoken out against their reckless taxonomic vandalism and breaching of the Zoological Code include Cogger (2013, 2014), Dubois (2014), Eipper (2013), Mutton (2014a), Shea (2013a-d), Thorpe (2013, 2014a, 2014b), Wellington (2013), Wells (2013), and many other eminent herpetologists.

Finally, while talking about working the online circuit, one needs look no further than 5 July 2014, where within the period 3 AM and 11 AM, Australian Eastern time, Schleip and associates made more than 200 separate posts on Facebook promoting the online publication of his new name "*Leiopython meridionalis*", that he coined in an online paper published at the same time in "*Journal of Herpetology*".

That name is an invalid junior synonym of the 14-year-old *Leiopython hoseerae*, recognized by everyone including Schleip himself (see Schleip 2008 or Schleip and O'Shea 2010).

Svhleip's new name was justified on a bogus assertion that the original 2000 description was invalid according to Article 8.1.1 of the code, a point Eipper had shown to be false previously (see Eipper 2013) and again confirmed as false by numerous

correspondents, including two who reviewed and condemned his very paper before it was published (Raw 2014, Shea 2014).

Simultaneous to this, Schleip and the rest of the Wüster gang had altered dozens of online databases to substitute the correct name with their own coined name.

5/ Kaiser's statement that follows is a reversal of the actual reality:

"Those interested in this issue can comment on Case 3601 filed by Hoser (2013ai) to preserve the genus name *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009 (published in the *AJH*) over *Afronaja* Wallach *et al.* 2009 (published in *Zootaxa*). This could prove to be a landmark case insofar as it pits the value of the scientific process against pseudoscience in nomenclature (Kaiser 2013, 2014)."

Thorpe (2014) a taxonomist outside herpetology wrote in an email to the ICZN and to the ICZN list:

**"As dreadful as Hoser might be, the comments submitted by his enemies (Case 3601) are absolutely laughable in terms of the Code! ... Kaiser rants on and on, misinterpreting other Code articles .... The rest of Kaiser's rant is even more far fetched and lacking defined meaning. It is however a standard rhetorical strategy for someone who is perceived to be an authority of some kind to win an argument by simply writing enough quantity of verbage to look convincing, however lacking it might be in meaning! The more I read, the more my sympathy goes to Hoser ..."**

I should also note that at the time I published the description of the genus *Spracklandus* in 2009, it took just six days for Wüster and the rest of the gang to post to a global audience that my taxonomy was wrong and that "The case for keeping it (*Naja*) as a single genus was made by Wüster *et al.* 2007." (Wüster 2009) and Fry (2009) who repeated this on the same day.

It was only after reconsidering the data, that several months later Wüster changed his mind and he then decided to steal the naming rights over the genus.

In that paper (Wallach *et al.* 2009), Wüster and two coauthors lied and alleged I had tried to scoop their attempt to name the taxon. Fortunately the digital trail left by Wüster (2009) still online as of end June 2014, showed the lie in the later paper. In doing so, he and his co-authors rehashed old and previously published data, which they masqueraded as "new" in the form of their "new" paper and then violated the three most important rules in the Zoological Code being:

- 1/ Homonymy (Principal 5, Article 52 and elsewhere),
  - 2/ Priority (Principal 3, Article 23 and elsewhere),
  - 3/ Stability (Principal 4, Articles 23, 65 and elsewhere),
- as well as the ethics of the Code (Appendix A), to recklessly create an invalid junior synonym and to promote it at the expense of the proper name (Hoser 2013).

Hence the actual position is that it is my science is hereby pitted against the ever-changing pseudoscience of the Wüster gang.

**(ALLEGED) HOSER ERRORS: ITEMIZED**

"1/ Fig. 4 in Vidal and Hedges (2009) shows that Malagasy boine snakes are part of an unresolved polytomy."

A/ This claim is made by Kaiser (2014b) in order to rebut my 2013 tribal arrangement and provide a veneer that another potentially better scientist had provided evidence to contradict my position as put in the 2013 paper. However papers by Pyron *et al.* (2011 and 2013) both cited by me regularly following the publication of each, provided a robust molecular basis to support my classification.

These later papers were published on the basis of evidence far superior to that of Vidal and Hedges (2009) in that it was considerably more extensive.

More significantly, Kaiser's own good friends Reynolds *et al.* in 2014 published a paper with a rehashed tree using old data (Pyron's) supporting all my python and boa taxonomy in a paper (Reynolds *et al.* 2014), which Kaiser allegedly read, as he cited it in Kaiser (2014b).

As for the Pyron *et al.* (2013) paper, it is likely that Kaiser was unaware of it or the earlier 2011 version of the paper adding support to my position (Pyron *et al.* 2011). This is because of his failure to read my papers. Both the Pyron *et al.* papers are widely cited in my papers in the period 2012 and 2013, the last papers of which cite the 2013 paper and the earlier ones the 2011 paper.

In other words the method of use of Kaiser's statement in "1" is a reckless ploy to imply my taxonomy and nomenclature had no evidentiary basis (or was "pseudoscience" as he claims repeatedly), when the reverse was in fact the case. My taxonomy was science based and the nomenclature that followed from this was obvious and completely within the code (Ride *et al.* 1999). See also Rhodin *et al.* (2015), of which Kaiser is listed as a co-author, who proves the evidentiary basis of my papers by (correctly) accusing me of "data mining" other people's published works according to the scientific method.

"2/ Hoser (2013ad) includes in this group the species *Hypsilurus spinipes* and the genus *Tiaris* Duméril and Bibron 1837 (now known as *H. dilophus*). In the original description of their species *Lophyrus dilophus*, Duméril and Bibron (1837:421) list in their observation section that the name "*Tiare dilophe*" applies to the specimen figured on Plate 46 of their Atlas. There, it is denoted as *Tiaris dilophus*.

However, the genus name *Tiaris* Duméril and Bibron 1837 was preoccupied by the genus *Tiaris* Swainson 1827, a taxon erected for a genus of songbirds in the tanager family (Thraupidae). The use of this genus in the definition of a tribe is incorrect."

A/ Kaiser's comment has no nomenclatural implications in terms of the tribe Adelynhosersaurini Hoser, 2013, as the type genus for the tribe is *Adelynhosersaur* Hoser, 2013 which is another taxon. The tribe is defined on the basis of the type genus and morphological characteristics as defined, both of which are in accordance with the rules of the code..

On that basis alone his comments about *Tiaris* Duméril and Bibron 1837 is both irrelevant and unnecessary.

Furthermore and far more scandalous is that even a veneer that Kaiser appears to have a legitimate grievance in terms of what genera should be included in the tribe is shown to be false if one actually reads the tribe description and that of another tribe described on the same page of the same paper, that being *Hypsilurini* *tribe* *nov.*

Based on the descriptions of each tribe and the morphological characteristics defining each, it is clear that the two genera within Adelynhosersaurini are in fact *Adelynhosersaur* Hoser, 2013 and *Tikris* Macleay, 1884, with the species *Lophura* (*Hypsilurus*) *godeffroyi* Peters, 1867 being listed as the type species for the other properly defined tribe *Hypsilurini*.

This is unavoidably evident if one actually read the relevant parts of the two tribe descriptions, or for that matter the rest of the Hoser paper.

What Kaiser had in fact identified (and without realising it) was that I had inadvertently made a (so far undetected) error in listing "*Tiaris*" instead of the one-letter different "*Tikris*" in the "content" field of the tribe Adelynhosersaurini in the paper. That this was an inadvertent error is confirmed via the fact that the type species for the genus *Tiaris* Duméril and Bibron 1837 was listed as the type species for the other tribe *Hypsilurini* (under the correct generic name *Hypsilurus* Peters, 1867) and also on the basis of the morphological characters defining each tribe.

As to why Kaiser was unaware of the fact he had stumbled upon a one letter "typo" (inadvertently cited by him here) as opposed to anything else is because he clearly has absolutely no experience with, or knowledge of the relevant agamid taxa. He probably wouldn't recognize a *Tiaris* or a *Tikris* if he squashed the head of one in his set of Mark O'Shea's heavy-duty metal reptile handling tongs!

Yet in spite of this total lack of expertise on these reptiles, he

seeks to force others as to what taxonomy and nomenclature they must use, via his own contrived "Taxon Filter"!

What Kaiser is not entitled to do under the rules of the Zoological Code is to rename any of the relevant genera or tribes using his own or his friends alternative junior synonyms, and this is his stated objective (Kaiser 2012a, 2012b, 2013, 2014a, 2014b), Kaiser *et al.* (2013) and Rhodin *et al.* (2015).

"3/ The taxon listed here was previously described by Hoser (2012b) and rejected by Kaiser *et al.* (2013)."

A/ The remark is plainly stupid because Kaiser *et al.* (2013) said of their own wacky taxonomic and nomenclatural proposals that: "These recommendations are not formal nomenclatural proposals according to articles of the Code".

Of greater relevance to the specific taxon *Bothropina* is that Kaiser has failed to work out why the subtribe *Bothropina* was redescribed in 2013 (cited by Kaiser 2014b as Hoser 2013m).

That can only be because he failed to read the relevant papers! The same applies for some other redescribed taxa he has listed in his footnotes and the same applies in each and every case! Had he or any of his other 8 alleged co-authors read the 2012 papers that first named the tribe (or the other affected taxa), he would have found errors that potentially made each of the descriptions potentially non-compliant under the Zoological Code. This could have actually given their ambit claims against me some basis, at least in terms of the said taxa in as much as a generalized statement that descriptions were not fully code compliant. As it happens, neither Kaiser *et al.* or any of their other fellow nomenclatural thugs got that far!

Had Kaiser managed to read so much as the abstract of the 2013 paper, he'd have realised why the tribe was being redescribed.

Just so there is no ambiguity, I shall cut and paste the entire abstract here:

**"Abstract:**

Some recently published papers in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* issues 10-15 contained descriptions that in the publishing process contained errors that made the descriptions potentially invalid under the Zoological Code (Ride *et al.* 1999).

This included for descriptions at tribe, subtribe and species levels.

As a result descriptions of the same taxa are published herein that are fully compliant with the Zoological Code as new descriptions, in order to establish available names for the relevant taxon groups and including two relevant species taxa. This will stabilize the nomenclature for the taxa making the names available for other scientists.

**Keywords:** Taxonomy; Nomenclature; Zoological Code; new tribe; new subtribe; new species; Hoser;

Viperini; Maxhoserviperina; Montiviperina; Viperina; Calloselasmiini; Adelynhoserserpenini; Porthidiumina; Cerrophodionina; Adelynhoserserpenina; Crotalina; Piersonina; Jackyhoserini; Bothropina; Bothropoidina; Rhinocerophiina; Jackyhoserina; Bothrocophiina; Hulimkini; *Charlespiersonserpens*; *Macmillanus*; *jackyhoserae*; *Gerrhopilus*; *carolinehoserae*."

The paper then corrects the omissions in terms of relevant descriptions and publishes them as new to stabilize the nomenclature.

In other words some genuine (and on my part unintentional) errors in my papers were identified and fixed before any of the truth haters in Kaiser *et al.* even read the original papers to find them as confirmed by the comments in Kaiser (2014b).

"4/ The taxon was also described as *Antaresia maculosus brentonoloughlini* by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser *et al.* (2013)."

A/ The remark is plainly stupid because Kaiser *et al.* (2013) said of their own wacky taxonomic and nomenclatural proposals that: "These recommendations are not formal nomenclatural proposals according to articles of the Code".

Of greater relevance to the specific taxon, the paper cited by Kaiser (2014b) was Hoser (2003), predating the much larger Hoser (2004 paper).

In terms of this taxon, Wüster had in 2003 claimed that the 2003 description wasn't code compliant because he said the hard copies were produced with the aid of a computer disk. He then argued that because a disk is not a publication under the code, the hard copies couldn't be either!

Of course such a ridiculous argument if accepted and applied to other zoologists as well, would render virtually all publications post 2000 outside the code if applied to other papers.

After all, using the same logic, every paper printed must be generated by a printer and no printing machine is a publication under the code!

It was something I was prepared to argue as neither myself or anyone else I spoke to agreed with Wüster's warped interpretation of the code.

But having decided that Wüster was not prepared to listen to common sense and instead Wüster was fuelled by lies, hatred and twisted arguments, I decided a better and less time consuming option was to have the descriptions republished as new as part of a new paper to stabilize the names (see Hoser 2009 for details).

That my strategy was correct was seen by Kaiser (2012a, 2012b) and Kaiser *et al.* (2013), where the same group this time around admitted that the 2004 paper was validly published according to the Zoological Code.

Hence in terms of the validity of the names via code-compliance of (re) publication, I had stabilized the nomenclature for the affected taxa.

This was even though their group was still trying to squash all things Hoser by whatever means they could invent.

It is also notable that after years of falsely alleging my publications were outside the Code (from 2000 to 2009), Wüster *et al.* subsequently reversed their false claims to complain that my publications were bad because they in fact complied with the code (Kaiser 2012a, 2012b) and again in Kaiser (2014b).

Of course, Kaiser *et al.* have now realised that the ICZN and others will not tolerate people stepping outside the code and so have now mounted their bogus arguments again to allege that the Hoser publications sit outside of the code according to their own warped and hypocritical interpretations of it.

By the way, this method of stabilizing names (republishing as new) when claims of invalid first publication are made has been done by scientists since the 1800's and is nothing new or unique to Raymond Hoser.

Of course because Kaiser never read the original 2003 descriptions (Hoser 2003) or the newer ones for the same taxa in 2004 (Hoser 2004), he had no idea why the same taxon was formally described twice.

However Kaiser's failure to read these or other Hoser papers has not stopped him from declaring them "unscientific", "pseudoscience" or "taxonomic vandalism".

However the evidence as shown here clearly indicates that these words ("unscientific", "pseudoscience" or "taxonomic vandalism") are best applied to Kaiser himself and the rest of the Wüster gang.

"5/ The definition of this subgenus by Hoser (2013o) is confusing because of poor grammar, and no species content is formally presented. While the author states that the type species for the subgenus is *Bitis parviocula*, the later text appears to confound the subgenera *Macrocerastes* and "*Kuekus*."

A/ Clearly Kaiser never actually read the paper!

The description is quite lengthy but relevant material from the



paper includes the following text:

"The species *Bitis parviocula* Böhme, 1977, divergent from others within *Macrocerastes* is placed in its own monotypic subgenus *Kuekus subgen. nov.*"

So Kaiser has lied to readers of his blog in *Herpetological Review* by claiming I never formally identified the content of the subgenus!

As for Kaiser's claim "the later text appears to confound the subgenera *Macrocerastes* and "*Kuekus*" clearly shows he never read the description and/or hasn't a clue about these morphologically similar snakes.

For the benefit of Kaiser and others, I should note that when providing a diagnosis of a new taxon, it is prudent to explain both similarities to and differences from similar species.

This is exactly what I did in the relevant science-based and code-compliant description. As for the alleged confusion between the subgenera, just a part of my detailed description read as follows:

"This subgenus (*Kuekus subgen. nov.*) is separated from *Macrocerastes* by the absence of crossbands on the tail. It is further separated by an absence of prominent spines on the snout. In *Macrocerastes* (as defined herein) the nasal is separated from the first supralabials by four or more scales, as opposed to 3-4 in *Kuekus subgen. nov.*

*Kuekus subgen. nov.* is further separated from *Macrocerastes* by the following suite of characters: The head is long, flat, triangular and covered with small, strongly keeled scales. Both the eyes and the nostrils are large, with the latter set well forward. The head is distinct from the thin neck and the snake is large for a Viper (up to a meter in length) and stoutly built. The body is cylindrical with a slight vertebral ridge, while the tail is short. The dorsal scales are keeled and number 37-39 at midbody. The color pattern consists of a light brown to dark brown ground color overlaid with a series of black hexagons or diamonds that run down the center of the back. The black hexagons may have paler crossbars, while being separated from each other by a chain of yellow butterfly shapes. A series of black triangular or subtriangular spots, each with a white center, run down the upper flanks. The lower flanks have a series of greenish-gray triangles, pointing upwards, with yellow edges, especially the tips. The flanks between these triangles are a mottled green color. The head is brown with a dark triangle between the eyes and a dark hammer shape just behind it that extends onto the nape of the neck. The iris is brown. The side of the head is dark, but with a pale stripe that runs from the eye down to the labials. The upper labial scales are white. The chin and throat are white with black speckling. The belly is greenish gray and may be clear, or with black speckling."

So clearly there is no confusion between the subgenera, the newly described one is described in a scientific and code-compliant manner and all Kaiser's claims are shown to be lies and baseless!

"6/ The entire first paragraph of the putative diagnosis for *Bothrops "mexicoiensis"* is a verbatim copy of the diagnosis for *B. "lenhoseri."* This is also the case for the diagnosis of *B. m. "maccartneyi."* Furthermore, to indicate a Mexican origin, the proper form for the name would be *mexicoensis.*

To create a patronym for an individual with last name McCartney, as stated in the etymology, the proper form is *mccartneyi."*

A/ "The entire first paragraph of the putative diagnosis for *Bothrops "mexicoiensis"* is a verbatim copy of the diagnosis for *B. "lenhoseri."* This is also the case for the diagnosis of *B. m. "maccartneyi."*"

This statement is correct. However there is nothing wrong with this!

The three taxa are similar to one another and the descriptions are based on a formal separation of them. Thus for each description to be of highest quality in the scientific method, the

taxa need to be formally defined and separated. While it would perhaps have been expedient to have reduced the word count by providing the relevant information just once in the paper, Kaiser *et al.* would have seized on such an alleged "defect" to claim that two of the descriptions were inadequate in the same way his co-author Wulf Schleip has done for earlier Hoser papers (see for example Schleip and O'Shea 2010). In the form the material was presented no such claim could credibly be made and none has been so far!

"Furthermore, to indicate a Mexican origin, the proper form for the name would be *mexicoensis.* To create a patronym for an individual with last name McCartney, as stated in the etymology, the proper form is

*mccartneyi."*

Kaiser's claims carry no weight according to the code (Ride *et al.* 1999) in terms of availability or potential to be rejected, suppressed by way of ruling, emended (changed) and so on. Refer to article 32 of the code and elsewhere in the same document.

Just to confirm the lack of merit in Kaiser's claims, the most relevant parts of the code reads as follows:

"32.1. Definition. The "original spelling" of a name is the spelling used in the work in which the name was established.

32.2. Correct original spelling. The original spelling of a name is the "correct original spelling" and

"32.5.1. If there is in the original publication itself, without recourse to any external source of information, clear evidence of an inadvertent error, such as a lapsus calami or a copyist's or printer's error, it must be corrected. Incorrect transliteration or latinization, or use of an inappropriate connecting vowel, are not to be considered inadvertent errors."

"7/ The subspecies of *Malayopython reticulatus* listed here were previously described by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser *et al.* (2013)."

A/ The remark is plainly stupid because Kaiser *et al.* (2013) said of their own wacky taxonomic and nomenclatural proposals that: "These recommendations are not formal nomenclatural proposals according to articles of the Code".

Most seriously Kaiser has again demonstrated a failure to have read the relevant papers he has cited. Schleip and O'Shea (2010) and others in the Wüster gang alleged that the Hoser (2004) descriptions referred to by Kaiser (2014b) were not valid according to the code due to alleged omissions in the descriptions text. While not agreeing with their arguments, the best way to deal with their complaints to stabilize the nomenclature was by the means of redescribing the relevant taxa as new in 2013 with added relevant data in order to neutralize the claims by Schleip and O'Shea (2010) and others in the Wüster gang.

Also scandalously, Kaiser deliberately uses the following misleading phrase "*Malayopython reticulatus* listed here were previously described by Hoser (2004)".

Kaiser's statement is a lie. *Malayopython* is a bogus name first coined by the Wüster gang at end of 2013. It did not exist in 2004!

It had not yet been coined and invented by the Wüster gang and therefore I could not have described anything attributable to it! It is hardly necessary for me to state that the correct name for the relevant species is *Broghammerus reticulatus*, the name *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004 being properly established by myself in a paper published in 2004 based on solid scientific data including that published by Samuel B. McDowell (McDowell, 1975) and others, whom Kaiser *et al.* clearly also allege are "unscientific" and engaged in "pseudoscience".

I might also mention that the Reynolds *et al.* paper that coined the invalid name *Malayopython* was published in no less than

three different forms from end 2013 to early 2014 (Reynolds *et al.* 2013a, 2013b, 2014) and therefore is not even a valid code compliant paper. The code says:

"to be available, names must be published in multiple, identical, and durable copies."

Also I have only counted the three online versions. One presumes one or more other versions have been produced as "hard copy".

More importantly Kaiser (2014b) deliberately used the generic name *Malayopython* Reynolds *et al.* (2014), which Kaiser also said he knew was a junior synonym of *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2014 (see Kaiser 2012, 2012b and Kaiser *et al.* 2014) and was happy to see it being used in contempt of the Zoological Code as stated by himself in both Kaiser (2014b) and Kaiser (2012b).

"8/ According to Vidal and Hedges (2009:Fig. 4), "the phylogenetic position of the Pacific Island endemic genus *Candoia* remains uncertain."

A/ See for "1"

"9/ This taxon was previously described by Hoser (2012b), without the lapsus in spelling. It was rejected by Kaiser *et al.* (2013)."

A/ See for "3" ... republished to correct spelling errors. While talking corrections, Kaiser *et al.* (2013) and Kaiser (2014) failed to pick up an error in the tribe description for a tribe *Tribe Calloselasma Tribe Nov.* published by Hoser, 2012. As you cannot have a tribe name the same as a genus, the description was clearly invalid. Hence the tribe was properly described as *Tribe Calloselasmiiini Tribe nov.* in Hoser (2013).

I note also that the original mistake in 2012 was an error of omission as all other tribes in the same paper were properly formed and described in terms of naming.

"10/ The taxon listed here was already described by Hoser (2012d) and rejected by Kaiser *et al.* (2013)."

A/ See for "3". As Kaiser never actually read the detail of either paper, he was never aware of the inadvertent non-inclusion of the holotype specimen number in the first description necessitating the description to be redone as new.

"11/ Also described as *Chondropython viridis shirenae* by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser *et al.* (2013)."

A/ See for "4" ... first publication allegedly not valid (according to Wüster) as it was generated by computer disk.

"12/ Given that the name derives from an individual named George Konstantinou, a proper spelling for such a group would be *Georgekonstantinous*."

A/ See for "6", the claim by Kaiser has no weight or merit according to article 32 of the Zoological Code.

"13/ This is the second description of a species named *Gerrhopilus carolinehoserae*. The first was by Hoser (2012a), which was rejected by Kaiser *et al.* (2013)."

A/ See for "3" ... Kaiser failed to read the detail of either paper. The second corrected an error of the first to stabilize the nomenclature.

"14/ Given that the name derives from an individual named Lachlan McConchie, a proper spelling for such a group would be *mconchiei*."

A/ See for "6", the claim by Kaiser has no weight or merit according to article 32 of the Zoological Code.

"15/ The taxon listed here was already described by Hoser (2012c) and rejected by Kaiser *et al.* (2013)."

A/ See for "3" ... Kaiser failed to read the detail of either paper. The second corrected an error of the first to stabilize the nomenclature.

"16/ Also described as *Katrinus fuscus jackyae* by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser *et al.* (2013)."

A/ See for "4" ... first publication allegedly not valid according to Wüster as it was generated by computer disk (see Hoser 2009 for details).

"17/ A proper name indicating a Bornean origin would be *borneensis*."

A/ See for "6", the claim by Kaiser has no weight or merit according to article 32 of the Zoological Code.

"18/ A proper name indicating Philippine origin would be *philippinensis*."

A/ See for "6", the claim by Kaiser has no weight or merit according to article 32 of the Zoological Code.

"19/ The name *Macrochelidae* is preoccupied by a group of mites."

A/ An irrelevant comment and designed to cast doubt on a different Hoser name's validity. Hoser used a different name (*Macrochelyiini*) to assign to the tribe as given by Kaiser in the same blog paper, thereby avoiding any conflict with the rule of homonymy. The Hoser name *Macrochelyiini* is therefore both taxonomically and nomenclaturally available and correct according to the code rules (Ride *et al.* 1999).

"20/ Also described by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser *et al.* (2013)."

A/ See for "4" ... the first publication was allegedly not valid according to Wüster as it was generated by a computer disk (see Hoser 2009 for details).

"21/ Hoser (2013ac) lists this as "Subtribe *Tracheloptychina tribe nov.*" The subtribe ending -ina conflicts with the designation of this name as a tribe."

A/ Hinrich Kaiser has found a typographical error!  
Well done!

The third word in the sequence should read "subtribe". However with the first word in the string as "Subtribe", the name itself is conformed as a subtribe (ending in "ina" as opposed to "ini" for the tribe described immediately above) and every other part of the paper correctly identifying the subtribe, the third word in the string is in fact incorrect. While this is perhaps Kaiser's greatest achievement in terms of finding fault with any of the Hoser publications which total over 2 million words, or equal to more than 20 very large books, it gets his cause nowhere in terms of finding against the paper in any significant way.

Firstly, if he were to have read the rest of the paper or the description itself he would see that the correct spelling, designation and use for the subtribe is throughout the paper. It is clear from the description that a subtribe is being described. The code deals with typographical errors (see 32.5.1) meaning that the section quoted by Kaiser would in fact be taken to read as "Subtribe *Tracheloptychina subtribe nov.*"

By the way Kaiser's claim "The subtribe ending -ina conflicts with the designation of this name as a tribe." is in error.

Every taxonomist knows that tribes end in "ini"! Alternatively Kaiser could try reading the Zoological Code (Ride *et al.* 1999) to find this out from the rule makers themselves! Also see below.

"22/ Hoser (2013ac) lists this as "Subtribe *Zonosaurina tribe nov.*" The subtribe ending -ina conflicts with the designation of this name as a tribe."

A/ As for "21". The typographical error is a repeat of "21" in the same paper and like "21" is a one off.

Just so there is no doubt as to the insignificance of the typographical error identified, I cut and paste below the section of the relevant paper with the two typographical errors identified by Kaiser underlined:

**"TRIBE ZONOSAURINI TRIBE NOV.**

**Diagnosis:** Ventral plates not forming straight transverse series; nostril pierced between 2 nasals, first labial and the rostral.

Otherwise as for the family *Gerrhosauridae*, (adapted from Loveridge 1943).

**Distribution:** Madagascar.

**Content:** (Genera): *Zonosaurus* Boulenger, 1887 (type

genus); *Hawkeswoodsaurus gen. nov.*; *Tracheloptychus* Peters, 1854; *Wellingtonsaurus gen. nov.*; *Wellssaurus gen. nov.*

#### SUBTRIBE ZONOSAURINA *TRIBE NOV.*

**Diagnosis:** Ventral plates not forming straight transverse series; nostril pierced between 2 nasals, first labial and the rostral.

Otherwise as for the family Gerrhosauridae, (adapted from Loveridge 1943).

Separated from the subtribe *Tracheloptychina subtribe nov.* by the absence of the following suite of characters: Nostril pierced between the rostral, the first labial, and two nasals. Prefrontal and frontoparietal shields present. Lower eyelid scaly. No lateral fold on the body. Dorsal and ventral scales arranged quincuncially, laterals forming straight longitudinal and transverse series. Subdigital scales keeled. Tongue entirely covered with rhomboidal papillae.

**Distribution:** Madagascar.

**Content:** (Genera): *Zonosaurus* Boulenger, 1887 (type genus); *Hawkeswoodsaurus gen. nov.*; *Wellingtonsaurus gen. nov.*; *Wellssaurus gen. nov.*

#### SUBTRIBE TRACHELOPTYCHINA *TRIBE NOV.*

**Diagnosis:** Separated from the subtribe *Zonosaurina subtribe nov.* by the following suite of characters: Nostril pierced between the rostral, the first labial, and two nasals. Prefrontal and frontoparietal shields present. Lower eyelid scaly. No lateral fold on the body. Dorsal and ventral scales arranged quincuncially,

laterals forming straight longitudinal and transverse series. Subdigital scales keeled. Tongue entirely covered with rhomboidal papillae.

In common with all *Zonosaurini* *tribe nov.* species within this subtribe have the following characters: Ventral plates not forming straight transverse series; nostril pierced between 2 nasals, first labial and the rostral. Otherwise as for the family Gerrhosauridae, (adapted from Loveridge 1943).

**Distribution:** Madagascar.

**Content: (Genus):** *Tracheloptychus* Peters, 1854 (monotypic for the type genus)."

#### CONCLUSIONS

In summary, Kaiser has managed to identify three typographical errors in documents totalling over 2 million words. He has not managed to find a single factual error, error of judgement or anything that in any way places a single paper, name description or the like outside of the Zoological Code, be they the mandatory or the voluntary provisions.

Kaiser has also been unwilling or unable to discredit any of the research forming the basis of the Hoser papers, be they my own data or those properly cited in each paper (data that was "data mined" from the papers of others according to Rhodin *et al.* 2015) according to scientific principles.

As a result, Kaiser and others in the Wüster gang have in effect shown that 1/ Raymond Hoser's methods have been of the "Best Practices in Herpetological Taxonomy" and Zoological Code compliant.

The reverse has been true for their own "team".

Kaiser and others in the Wüster gang have also shown the merit of myself not including members of their own group in the peer review process for my own papers.

This fact clearly irks them!

I need not also mention that the earlier document, Kaiser *et al.* (2013), cited by Kaiser (2014) as having authority in science and nomenclature was demonstrated to be unscientific taxonomic vandalism by Hoser (2013).

This is in fact confirmed by Kaiser himself in his numerous

"Errata" published in Kaiser (2014). In terms of the first "paper", Kaiser *et al.* (2013) said of their own wacky taxonomic and nomenclatural proposals that:

"These recommendations are not formal nomenclatural proposals according to articles of the Code".

As a result of both this statement in Kaiser *et al.* (2013) and the numerous "Errata" published in Kaiser (2014), on top of the inability to show any scientific or nomenclatural misconduct on the part of myself (Hoser) via Kaiser's 22 footnotes as demonstrated here, all the attacks on the Zoological Code by Kaiser, Wüster and others in the gang should not be supported by any scientists.

Likewise for other users of taxonomy and nomenclature.

Of wider relevance is that Kaiser, Wüster and others in the gang have made it clear that they are enemies of herpetology and science at all levels and it is this that makes these men particularly dangerous.

I won't even bother to detail the numerous allegations made against Wüster and O'Shea of sexual assaults of vulnerable young women.

Wüster and the gang have regularly badgered government wildlife officers to conduct what have later been found by the courts to be highly illegal armed raids on private keepers, seize wildlife and engage in other similar acts in the UK, USA and Australia.

Their actions are designed to stamp out anyone they see as a potential competitor to their desired hegemony in herpetology at all levels.

In my own case, Wüster and others used a Facebook hate page called "Ray Hoser, Melbourne's biggest wanker" in 2011 (Various authors 2011b) to call for a media hate campaign to be launched against myself and my wildlife education business. The actions of the gang have included illegal use of my registered trademarks and other intellectual property to undermine myself and my business as well as other unlawful attacks (see Hoser 2013 for details).

After our family home was hit with an illegal 9 hour, 11 man armed raid in August 2011, Wüster and O'Shea made numerous posts in support of the actions by government employed wildlife officers and state police. These actions included my two vulnerable young daughters being viciously assaulted at gunpoint, theft of computers and research files spanning decades of full-time scientific studies, killing of supposedly "protected" snakes and other reckless actions, all confirmed in a series of subsequent legal proceedings.

Later the raid was found to be illegal by a number of courts (Supreme Court of Victoria - Court of Appeal Victoria, Victoria 2012 and Supreme Court of Victoria - Court of Appeal Victoria, Victoria 2014)!

Charges laid after the raid as an excuse to justify it, were later thrown out of the magistrates court on 25 October 2014 for lack of evidence!

Now just so there is no doubt that this hatred for herpetology and the rights of private keepers goes way beyond a personal hatred of myself in my obvious role as the world's leading advocate for the rights of private keepers (e.g. Hoser, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1996) as confirmed by Ramus (1997), one need look no further than the website of close Wüster friend Peter Uetz, trading as "The Reptile Database".

On the webpage that is backlinked across the internet and titled "reptiles as pets" (url at: [http://www.reptile-database.org/db-info/snakes\\_as\\_pets.html](http://www.reptile-database.org/db-info/snakes_as_pets.html)), the page opening reads:

**"SHOULD I KEEP A SNAKE [or any other reptile] AS A PET? ... We do not believe any amphibian or reptile should be kept as a pet."**

before detailing all their alleged reasons to support their anti-herpetology position.

This includes such ridiculously radical statements as:

**“It endangers your life and the lives of family, friends, and neighbours.”**

In fact the stand taken by the Wüster gang against private (as opposed to government) herpetologists is even more extreme than that of radical animal rights groups like PETA and HSUS. Wüster himself has personally lobbied government wildlife departments across the globe to stamp out private herpetology and herpetoculture, as evidenced by his own posts admitting the same on the Facebook hate page “Ray Hoser, Melbourne’s biggest wanker” in the period May-July 2011 (Various authors 2011b).

In terms of legislative actions against privately funded herpetologists, such as ongoing constrictor bans in the United States and elsewhere, the actions of the Wüster gang are far more damaging than anything done by fringe “animal rights” groups.

This is because their pressure on authorities to ban privately owned reptiles comes from a position of (alleged) expertise on the reptiles themselves, rather than just from some known ratbag fringe group.

Wüster and Kaiser regularly identify themselves as representing herpetology as a whole and market their outrageous demands as part of a “unanimous, agreement on the part of herpetologists” which while untrue has had considerable success in enticing government authorities to introduce ever tighter laws governing reptile keepers on three continents.

So whether you are in the United States of America, the UK, or Australia, when your rights to keep live reptiles as pets, for study or similar are squashed, you can thank the Wüster gang for this.

#### REFERENCES CITED

- Adams, C. 2013. Man Killed by Stephen’s Banded Snake. Post at: [http://www.sssafe.com.au/\\_blog/Snake\\_Safety/post/Man\\_Killed\\_by\\_Stephen’s\\_Banded\\_Snake/](http://www.sssafe.com.au/_blog/Snake_Safety/post/Man_Killed_by_Stephen’s_Banded_Snake/) dated 15 March.
- Barker, D. G., Barker, T. M., Davis, M. A. and Schuett, G. W. A review of the systematics and taxonomy of Pythonidae: an ancient serpent lineage. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 2015. Published as a pdf online: 19 pp.
- Bates, M. F. *et al.* 2013. A molecular phylogeny of the African plated lizards, genus *Gerrhosaurus* Wiegmann, 1828 (Squamata: Gerrhosauridae), with the description of two new genera. *Zootaxa* 3750 (5): 465-493 (23 December).
- Betts, A. 2013. Hockey player dies after snake bite at training. News report at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-04-26/hockey-player-dies-after-on-field-snake-bite/4653048> posted on 29 April.
- Cogger, H. G. 2013. Email to Raymond Hoser. Dated 17 Aug 2013 14:09:26 +1000.
- Cogger, H. G. 2014a. *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*, Seventh Edition, CSIRO Publishing, Sydney, NSW, Australia.
- Cogger, H. G. 2014b. Email to Raymond Hoser, 5 July.
- Coritz, A. 2008. Youtube video placed online at: <http://au.youtube.com/watch?v=QzgluS-tIKc> (Downloaded 1 Dec 2008).
- Dolan, A. (*Daily Mail* Reporter) 2011. Snake breeder’s partner made desperate attempt to save him after fatal King Cobra attack. *Daily Mail* (UK) 6 July, online at: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2011564/Snake-breeders-partner-desperate-attempt-save-fatal-King-Cobra-attack.html>
- Dubois, A. 2014. Email to Raymond Hoser, 14 May.
- Eipper, S. 2013. Post on Facebook 16 December 2013.
- Fry, B. G. 2009. Re: Yikes, yikes, yikes, Naja nuked! Post on 29 March at: <http://www.venomousreptiles.org/forums/Experts/42293?page=2>
- Hoser, R. T. 1989. *Australian Reptiles and Frogs*. Pierson and Co. 238 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1991. *Endangered Animals of Australia*. Pierson Publishing, 240 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1993. *Smuggled: The Underground Trade in Australian Wildlife*. Apollo, Moss Vale: 160 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1996. *Smuggled-2: Wildlife trafficking, crime and corruption in Australia*. Kotabi, Doncaster, Victoria, Australia:280 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 2003. Five new pythons. *Macarthur Herpetological Society Newsletter* 40:4-9.
- Hoser, R. T. 2004. A reclassification of the Pythoninae including the description of two new genera, two new species and nine new subspecies. *Crocodylian: Journal of the Victorian Association of Amateur Herpetologists* 4(3):31-37 and 4(4):21-40.
- Hoser, R. T. 2012. Robust taxonomy and nomenclature based on good science escapes harsh fact-based criticism, but remains unable to escape an attack of lies and deception. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 14:37-64.
- Hoser, R. T. 2013. The science of herpetology is built on evidence, ethics, quality publications and strict compliance with the rules of nomenclature. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 18:2-79.
- Hoser, R. T. 2009-2014. All papers within Issues 1-24. Issues 1-24 *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*. Kotabi Pty Ltd: Doncaster, Victoria, Australia.
- Hunter, S. *et al.* 2006. Online petition to shut down Raymond Hoser, published at: <http://www.aussiereptileclassifieds.com/phpPETITION>
- ICZN 1991. Case 2531, Decision of the Commission: Three works by Richard W. Wells and C. Ross Wellington: proposed suppression for nomenclatural purposes. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 48(4):337-338.
- ICZN 2001. Opinion 1970 *Odatia keithornei* Wells & Wellington, 1985 (Reptilia, Squamata): specific name placed on the Official List. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 58(1):74.
- Jarbour, B. 2013. Hockey player dies after snake bite, two-kilometre run. Post at: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/hockey-player-dies-after-snake-bite-two-kilometre-run> posted on 26 April.
- Kaiser, H. 2012a. SPAM email sent out to numerous recipients on 5 June 2012.
- Kaiser, H. 2012b. Point of view. Hate article sent as attachment with SPAM email sent out on 5 June 2012.
- Kaiser, H. 2013. The Taxon Filter, a novel mechanism designed to facilitate the relationship between taxonomy and nomenclature, vis-à-vis the utility of the Code’s Article 81 (the Commission’s plenary power). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 70(4) December 2013:293-302.
- Kaiser, H. 2014a. Comments on *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (Reptilia, Serpentes, ELAPIDAE): request for confirmation of the availability of the generic name and for the nomenclatural validation of the journal in which it was published. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, 71(1):30-35.
- Kaiser H. 2014b. Best Practices in Herpetological Taxonomy: Errata and Addenda. *Herpetological Review*, 45(2):257-268.
- Kaiser, H., Crother, B. L., Kelly, C. M. R., Luiselli, L., O’Shea, M., Ota, H., Passos, P., Schleip, W. D. and Wüster, W. 2013. Best practices: In the 21st Century, Taxonomic Decisions in Herpetology are Acceptable Only When supported by a body of Evidence and Published via Peer-Review. *Herpetological Review* 44(1):8-23.
- McDowell, S. B. 1975. A catalogue of the snakes of New Guinea and the Solomons, with special reference to those in the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. Part II. Anilloidea and Pythoninae. *Journal of Herpetology* 9 (1):1-79.
- Measey, J. 2013. Taxonomic vandalism: Taxonomic publishing, vandalism and best practices: African Journal of Herpetology makes changes that will safeguard authors. Online blog posted at: <http://www.africanherpetology.org/taxonomy.php> (downloaded on 2 July 2014)

- Mutton, N. 2014a. Private email (via Facebook) to Raymond Hoser. 6.31 AM, 30 May.
- Mutton, N. 2014b. Two emails to Raymond Hoser, 9 June.
- O'Shea, M. 2004. The case against venomoid snakes. *The Herptile* 29(2):74-83 and widely posted online including at: [http://www.markoshea.info/blog\\_venomoid1.php](http://www.markoshea.info/blog_venomoid1.php) (as of 29 June 2014)
- Pyron, R. A., Burbrink, F. T., Colli, G. R., de Oca, A. N., Vitt, L. J., Kuczynski, C. A. and Weins, J. J. 2011. The phylogeny of advanced snakes (Colubroidea), with discovery of a new subfamily and comparison of support methods for likelihood trees. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 58:329-342.
- Pyron, R. A., Burbrink, F. T. and Wiens, J. J. 2013. A phylogeny and revised classification of Squamata, including 4151 species of lizards and snakes. *BMC Evolutionary Biology* 13:93. [doi:10.1186/1471-2148-13-93].
- Ramus, E. 1997. Australia's blanket policy restricts amateur contributions. *Reptile and Amphibian Magazine*, March/April:110.
- Raw, L. 2014. Email to Raymond Hoser, 5 July.
- Reynolds, R. G., Niemiller, M. L. and Revella, L. J. 2013a. Toward a Tree-of-Life for the boas and pythons: Multilocus species-level phylogeny with unprecedented taxon sampling. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, Uncorrected proof uploaded on 6 December 2013 to <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1055790313004284>
- Reynolds, R. G., Niemiller, M. L. and Revella, L. J. 2013b. Toward a Tree-of-Life for the boas and pythons: Multilocus species-level phylogeny with unprecedented taxon sampling. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, Uncorrected proof uploaded on 6 December 2013 to [http://www.venomdoc.com/downloads/MPE\\_pythons.pdf](http://www.venomdoc.com/downloads/MPE_pythons.pdf)
- Reynolds, R. G., Niemiller, M. L. and Revella, L. J. 2014. Toward a Tree-of-Life for the boas and pythons: Multilocus species-level phylogeny with unprecedented taxon sampling. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 71:201-203 (posted online at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1055790313004284>).
- Rhodin, A. *et al.* 2015. Comment on *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (Reptilia, Serpentes, ELAPIDAE): request for confirmation of the availability of the generic name and for the nomenclatural validation of the journal in which it was published (Case 3601; see *BZN* 70: 234-237; 71: 30-38, 133-135, 181-182, 252-253). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 72(1):65-78.
- Ride, W. D. L. (*ed.*) *et al.* (on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature) 1999. International code of Zoological Nomenclature. The Natural History Museum - Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK (also commonly cited as "The Code", "Zoological Rules" or "ICZN 1999").
- Scheffe, Y. 2011. Emerald local hero killed by deadly brown snake. *Courier Mail* (Brisbane), 22 November, online at: <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/local-hero-killed-by-brown-snake/story-e6freoof-1226201898702?nk=fc1a21c2d156fd632762057ed4e882c2>
- Schleip, W. D. 2008. Revision of the Genus *Leiopython* Hubrecht 1879 (Serpentes: Pythonidae) with the Redescription of Taxa Recently Described by Hoser (2000) and the Description of New Species. *Journal of Herpetology* 42(4):645-667.
- Schleip, W. D. 2013a. Posts on internet chat forum at: <http://www.pure-reptiles.de/index.php?page=Thread&threadID=1290> dated 19 March 2013-7 April 2013.
- Schleip, W. D. 2013b. Post dated 24 December 2013 at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/29038532220/>
- Schleip, W. D. 2013c. Post dated 24 December 2013 at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/559830307415249/>
- Schleip, W. D. 2014. Two new species of *Leiopython* Hubrecht, 1879 (Pythonidae: Serpentes): Non-compliance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature leads to unavailable names in zoological nomenclature. *Journal of Herpetology* 48(2):272-275.
- Schleip, W. D. and O'Shea, M. 2010. Annotated checklist of the recent and extinct pythons (Serpentes, Pythonidae), with notes on nomenclature, taxonomy, and distribution. *ZooKeys* 66:29-79.
- Shea, G. 2013a. Email to Raymond Hoser dated Fri, 8 Mar 2013 04:29:39 +0000.
- Shea, G. 2013b. Post on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/glenn.shea.73?ref=ts&fref=ts> on 8 March at 7.51 AM.
- Shea, G. 2013c. Post on Facebook on 20 March at: <http://www.facebook.com/glenn.shea.73?ref=ts&fref=ts#!/bryangrieg.fry?fref=ts>
- Shea, G. 2013d. Post on Facebook on 20 March at: <http://www.facebook.com/glenn.shea.73?ref=ts&fref=ts#!/bryangrieg.fry?fref=ts>
- Shea, G. 2014. Email to Raymond Hoser, 5 July.
- Supreme Court of Victoria - Court of Appeal Victoria, Victoria 2012. Transcript and Judgement, Raymond Hoser versus the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria. 8 June.
- Supreme Court of Victoria - Court of Appeal Victoria 2014. Judgement, Raymond Hoser versus the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria. 5 September.
- Thorpe, S. 2013. Post to the Taxacom listserver, 21 May 2014.
- Thorpe, S. 2014a. Post on Taxacom forum dated 13 April.
- Thorpe, S. 2014b. Email to ICZN, 29 April.
- Uetz, P. 2014. Snakes as pets. Url at: [http://www.reptile-database.org/db-info/snakes\\_as\\_pets.html](http://www.reptile-database.org/db-info/snakes_as_pets.html) (downloaded on 29 June).
- Various authors 2011a. "Ray Hoser Melbourne's biggest wanker" Facebook page, May-July 2011 inclusive.
- Various authors 2011b. NY Woman dead from snake bite? Post at: <http://www.venomousreptiles.org/forums/Experts/51290>, June 2011.
- Various authors 2012-14a. Taxacom archives. Downloaded from <http://mailman.nhm.ku.edu/mailman/listinfo/taxacom> (on 29 June 2014).
- Various authors 2012-14b. ICZN list archives. Downloaded from <http://list.afriherp.org/mailman/listinfo/iczn-list> (on 29 June 2014).
- Various authors 2014. "Snakes . . . I hate snakes." Posts at: <http://bushwalk.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=17915&start=90>
- Vidal, N., and Hedges, S. B. 2009. The molecular evolutionary tree of lizards, snakes, and amphisbaenians. *C. R. Biol.* 332:129-139.
- Wallach, V., Wüster, W. and Broadley, D. 2009. In praise of subgenera: taxonomic status of Cobras of the genus *Naja* Laurenti (Serpentes: Elapidae). *Zootaxa* 2236:26-36 (online paper).
- Wallach, V., Williams, K. L. and Boundy, J. 2014. *Snakes of the world: A catalogue of living and extinct species*. CRC Press, Raylor and Francis Group.
- Wellington, C. R. 2013. Post on Facebook 26 December 2013.
- Wells, R. W. 2013. Post on Facebook 18 December 2013.
- Wikipedia 2004-2014. Edit history of Wikipedia page "Raymond Hoser" downloaded 8 June 2014.
- Williams, D. J. 2008. Two posts dated 14 February 2008 at: <http://www.reptileforums.co.uk/snakes/87176-support-new-guinea-snakebite-research-2.html> and also posted at the same time at "aussiepythons.com" and numerous

other internet chat forums.

Wüster, W. 2001. Post on Kingsnake.com at: January 22, 2001 at 11:29:07 (same document as Wüster, W., Bush, B., Scott Keogh, J., O'Shea, M. and Shine, R. 2001. Cited below except Wüster was listed here as the sole author).

Wüster, W., Bush, B., Scott Keogh, J., O'Shea, M. and Shine, R. 2001. Taxonomic contributions in the "amateur" literature: comments on recent descriptions of new genera and species by Raymond Hoser. *Litteratura Serpenti* 21(3):67-91.

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

Wüster, W. 2009. Posts on internet chat forum at: <http://www.venomlist.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=24325&st=20>, 29 March 2009.

Wüster, W. 2013a. Posts on Facebook wall of Bryan Grieg Fry on 20 March 2013.

Wüster, W. 2013b. Posts on Facebook wall of Wulf Schleich from 20 March 2013 to 6 April 2013.

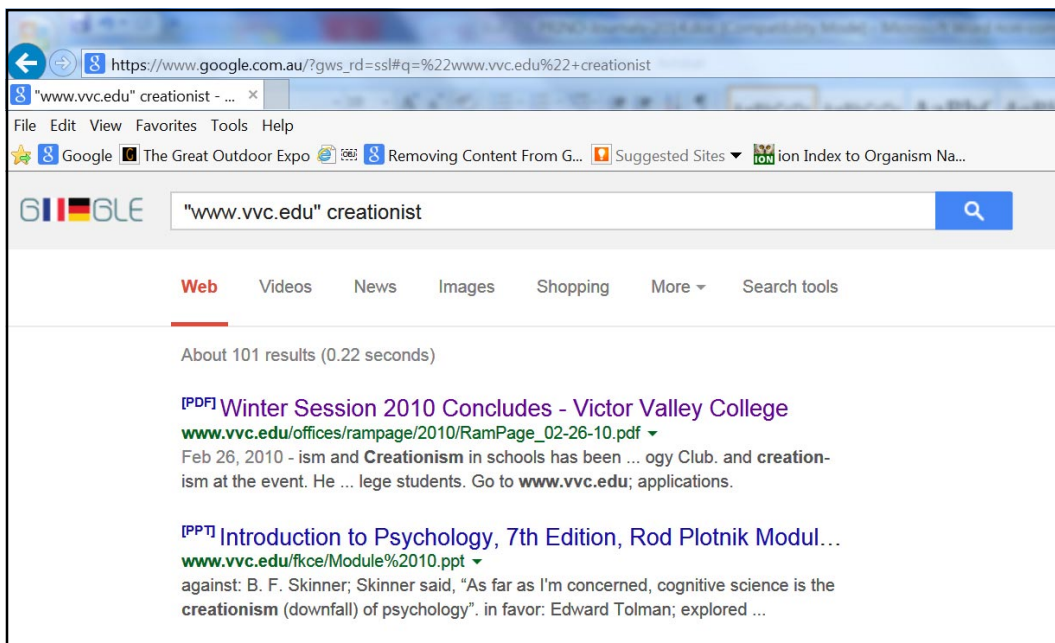
Wüster, W. 2013c. Post on Reptile Forum UK (RFUK) at: <http://www.reptileforums.co.uk/forums/snakes/946483-snake-man-hoser-29.html> on 9 April at 4.30 PM.

Wüster, W. 2013d. Post at <http://pleiotropy.fieldofscience.com/2009/03/taxonomic-war.html> dated 9 May 2013.

Wüster, W. 2013e. Post at <http://www.fieldherpforum.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=15823&p=190713> on 27 April 2013 at 9:08 pm.

Wüster, W. *et al.* 2008. Facebook hate page "Ray Hoser, Melbourne's biggest wanker" (entire download for period May-July 2011, being the full history of that page).

Wüster, W., O'Shea, M. *et al.* (2004-2014) Wikipedia page "Raymond Hoser" downloaded 8 June 2014.



**Notice:** The *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* does not in any way support "evidence-free" taxonomy, lies, misrepresentations or breaking the established rules of Zoological Nomenclature as stated in the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* openly advocated in material presented as "evidence" in this paper. That material is reprinted here for the purposes of procedural fairness and cross-checking purposes and under fair use provisions of the law for public comment.

### *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*

Publishes original research in printed form in relation to reptiles, other fauna and related matters in a peer reviewed journal for permanent public scientific record, and has a global audience.

Full details at: <http://www.herp.net>

Online journals (this issue) appear a month after hard copy publication.

Minimum print run of first printings is always at least fifty hard copies.

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

*Herpetological Review*, 2014, 45(2), 257–268.  
© 2014 by Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

## Best Practices in Herpetological Taxonomy: Errata and Addenda

In a recent issue of *Herpetological Review*, my co-authors and I published a *Point of View* article outlining a set of best practices for workers in the field of herpetological taxonomy (Kaiser et al. 2013). The goal of that article was to defend modern herpetology from “taxonomic vandalism” (see Jäch 2007), and it has generated considerable discussion among zoological taxonomists (e.g., in the online listserv *Taxacom*). There is broad, although not unanimous, agreement on the part of herpetologists with our proposed solutions for how to handle taxonomic vandalism, and there is widespread recognition amongst zoological taxonomists in general that (1) taxonomic vandalism in zoology occurs and can pose a problem for users, (2) that the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN 1999; hereafter, the *Code*) in its function as an accounting system outside of the scientific method cannot safeguard scientific output from interference by authors who do not conform to scientific principles (see Kaiser 2013), and (3) that the adjudication of taxonomic decisions ultimately remains in the hands of authors, editors, and, in terms of the resulting nomenclature but not the taxonomic decisions, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (hereafter, ICZN). I am pleased to report that authors (e.g., Bates et al. 2013; Reynolds et al. 2014) as well as editors (e.g., Measey 2013) are now applying the recommendations we made. It is the purpose of this follow-up paper to correct four minor errors made in the earlier paper’s list of taxonomic recommendations (Kaiser et al. 2013: Table 1), augment that list with a new set of recommendations for 255 unscientific names presented by Hoser (2013a–ag<sup>[1]</sup>), and provide some clarification of the earlier paper regarding the relationship between scientific taxonomy and the *Code*.

### ERRATA

**Recommendation for *Costinisauria couperi* Wells 2009.**—Kaiser et al. (2013) erroneously recommended the use of *Lampropholis couperi* in place of *Costinisauria couperi*. Instead, they should have listed *Eulamprus kosciuskoi* as the correct recommendation. The original listing of *C. couperi* in Wells (2009) shows that the author intended to separate his purported species from *C. worrelli* Wells and Wellington 1985, a name in the synonymy of *E. kosciuskoi* (see Shea and Sadler 1999).

**Recommendation for *Cyrtodactylus abrae* Wells 2002.**—Kaiser et al. (2013) erroneously recommended the use of *Cyrtodactylus tuberculatus* in place of *C. abrae*. Instead, they should have listed *C. pulchellus* as the correct recommendation. The authors overlooked an important recent paper, in which Shea et al. (2011) investigated the status of *C. abrae*. By designating the lectotype of *C. pulchellus* as the neotype of *C. abrae* (a poorly described taxon based on a photograph, and for which the nominal holotype did not exist), Shea et al. (2011)

permanently relegated the name *C. abrae* to the status of junior synonym of *C. pulchellus*.

**Recommendation for *Zeusius sternfeldi* Wells 2007.**—Kaiser et al. (2013) erroneously recommended the use of *Cyclodomorphus casuarinae* in place of *Zeusius sternfeldi*. *Zeusius sternfeldi* is, in fact, a synonym of *C. venustus*. In his description of *Z. sternfeldi* Wells (2007) listed, without attribution, diagnostic characters from Shea and Miller (1995) for a population these authors considered conspecific with *C. venustus*.

**Typographical error.**—In Table 1, Kaiser et al. (2013) list the name *Calloselasma*, without italic lettering, as a new tribe presented by Hoser (2012b). This name should have been listed as *Calloselasmii*. Hoser (2013m) described this putative tribe as new for the second time, both times in violation of the Principle of Coordination (Article 36 of the *Code*).

### ADDENDA

In the course of writing the recent *Point of View* paper, my co-authors and I fully anticipated the production of additional taxon names by Raymond Hoser, but we were nevertheless dumbfounded by the sheer number of new names he created in five recent issues of his self-published *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* (hereafter *AJH*). In these issues, Hoser proposes a globe-spanning series of 255 new names for snakes and turtles at the family, subfamily, tribe, subtribe, genus, subgenus, species, and subspecies level. Following the standard of Kaiser et al. (2013), I here list these new names with recommendations for scientifically valid names (Table 1). In this list I also identify taxa violating Article 29 (proper formation of family-group names) and Article 36 (Principle of Coordination) of the *Code* and present corrections. I wish to note that, contrary to the exclamations by Hoser (2013n), the recommendations by Kaiser et al. (2013), and the ones presented herein are not formal taxonomic decisions underpinned by new evidence, but simply the most appropriate names to be used in place of dubious taxon names presented by Hoser since the year 2000; I consider Hoser’s post-2000 names non-existent for the purposes of taxonomy and nomenclature. The names coined by Hoser (2003), inadvertently omitted by Kaiser et al. (2013), are included in this new listing.

### BEST PRACTICES REVISITED AND REAFFIRMED

There are two fundamental issues when dealing with non-peer-reviewed, unscientific contributions in taxonomy. The first of these is to clearly define the line separating taxonomy and nomenclature, as defined and differentiated by Pyle and Michel

#### HINRICH KAISER

Department of Biology, Victor Valley College,  
18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, California 92395, USA  
Department of Vertebrate Zoology,  
National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington, D.C. 20013, USA; e-mail: hinrich.kaiser@vvc.edu

[1] As for the year 2012 (see Kaiser et al. 2013), due to the large number of works produced by Raymond Hoser in 2013 (N = 33), I continued the enumeration of citations by beginning the alphabet anew. Thus, in addition to Hoser (2013a–z), nine additional references exist (Hoser 2013aa–ai).

## 258 POINTS OF VIEW

TABLE 1. List of 255 herpetofaunal taxa published as new by Raymond Hoser from April–September 2013, plus one set of names from Hoser (2003) that was inadvertently omitted by Kaiser et al. (2013). I follow Kaiser et al. (2013) in considering the manner in which these names were produced unscientific, in violation of Articles 8.1.1, 29, 36 and the *Code of Ethics of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN 1999); these dubious names therefore have no standing in taxonomy and nomenclature. Readers *should not use these names* but instead revert to those listed in the column titled “Recommendation,” where nomenclaturally available and taxonomically suitable scientific names are provided. For clarification, the Recommendation column shows subgenera in parentheses with their corresponding genus name, according to standard nomenclatural usage. The Recommendation column may include several scientifically valid names when a non-scientific higher group taxon (e.g., tribe, subtribe) encompasses multiple lower ranked taxa. All other capitalized and italicized names are genera or subgenera. These recommendations do not constitute synonymies under the rules of the *Code*, but serve as substitutes for Hoser’s names until a formal, scientific treatment for the groups under consideration is published. A name formed incorrectly according to Article 29 of the *Code* is identified by the superscript A29. A name, whose description as new violates the Principle of Coordination of the *Code* (Article 36) and therefore is not new, is identified by the superscript A36. In these cases, a corrected version of the name and/or the proper authorship is provided after the taxon name. The footnotes list a variety of incongruities, including some with formal relevance.

Taxon	Taxon Rank	Citation	Recommendation
Acrantophiidae <sup>A29, A36</sup>	fam. nov.	Hoser 2013a	Boidae (part)
Acrantophini <sup>A29, A36</sup>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013a	<i>Acrantophis</i> <sup>1</sup>
<i>Acrantophis stoppi</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013a	<i>Acrantophis dumerilii</i>
<i>Adelynhoserboa</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis</i> (part)
<i>Adelynhoserboa</i> ( <i>Adelynhoserboa</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis tazanowskyi</i>
<i>Adelynhoserboa</i> ( <i>Meretcaboa</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis paucisquamis</i>
<i>Adelynhoserboa</i> ( <i>Pattersonboa</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis battersbyi</i>
<i>Adelynhoserboa</i> ( <i>Adelynhoserboaina</i> )	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis</i>
<i>Adelynhosersaur</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ad	<i>Hypsilurus spinipes</i>
<i>Adelynhosersaurini</i> <sup>2</sup>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ad	<i>Hypsilurus spinipes</i> , <i>H. aliphopus</i>
<i>Adelynhoserserpentiae walsli</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013e	<i>Atropoides occiduus</i>
<i>Adelynhoserserpentini</i> <sup>3</sup>	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Atropoides</i> (part)
<i>Adelynhoserserpentini</i>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Atropoides</i> , <i>Cerrophidion</i> , <i>Porthidium</i>
<i>Ahaetullini</i> <sup>A29, A36</sup>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013i	<i>Ahaetulla</i> , <i>Chrysopaia</i>
<i>Amphibolurini</i> <sup>A36</sup>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ad	<i>Amphibolurinae</i> (part)
<i>Anomochilus martensvillae</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013f	<i>Anomochilus leonardi</i>
<i>Antaresia brentonoloughlini</i> <sup>4</sup>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2003	<i>Antaresia maculosa</i>
<i>Atractaspis</i> ( <i>Benjaminisvilleus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013v	<i>Atractaspis bouleengeri</i>
<i>Atractaspis</i> ( <i>Lowryus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013v	<i>Atractaspis duerdeni</i>
<i>Bennetsaurini</i>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Platysaurus mitchelli</i> , <i>P. maculatus</i>
<i>Bennetsaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Platysaurus mitchelli</i> , <i>P. maculatus</i>
<i>Bennetsaurus</i> ( <i>Bennetsaurus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Platysaurus maculatus</i>
<i>Bittis</i> ( <i>Kloseipera</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013o	<i>Bittis caudalis</i> , <i>B. peringuey</i> , <i>B. schneideri</i>
<i>Bittis</i> ( <i>Kloseipera</i> ) ( <i>caudalis tajerikbuliardii</i> )	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013o	<i>Bittis caudalis</i>
<i>Bittis</i> ( <i>Kloseipera</i> ) ( <i>caudalis svilae</i> )	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013o	<i>Bittis caudalis</i>
<i>Bittis</i> ( <i>Kuekus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013o	<i>Bittis parvirostris</i> <sup>5</sup>
<i>Bittis brianvallacei</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013o	<i>Bittis arietans</i>
<i>Bittis funki</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013p	<i>Bittis gabonica</i>
<i>Bittis hoseriae</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013p	<i>Bittis nasicornis</i>
<i>Bittis lourenceklosei</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013p	<i>Bittis arietans</i>
<i>Bittis matrocae</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013o	<i>Bittis atropos</i>
<i>Bittis oflahertyae</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013o	<i>Bittis arietans</i>
<i>Bittis pintaudii</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013o	<i>Bittis arietans</i>

Herpetological Review 45(2), 2014



TABLE 1. Continued

Taxon	Taxon rank	Citation	Recommendation
<i>Bitis tomcotoni</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013o	<i>Bitis arietans</i>
<i>Bitis wellingtoni</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013p	<i>Bitis gabonica</i>
<i>Bitis wellsii</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013p	<i>Bitis gabonica</i>
Boigaini <sup>1,23, A36</sup> [Boigaini; Boiga Fitzinger 1826]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013b	Boiga (part), <i>Dipsadomorphus</i> , <i>Toxicodryas</i>
<i>Bothrocophias</i> ( <i>Pugwipera</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Bothrocophias</i>
<i>Bothrocophina</i> <sup>3, A36</sup> [ <i>Bothrocophias</i> Gutberlet and Campbell 2001]	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Bothrops</i> (part)
<i>Bothropina</i> <sup>3, A36</sup> [ <i>Bothrops</i> Wagler, 1824]	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Bothrops</i> (part)
<i>Bothropodina</i> <sup>4,36</sup> [ <i>Bothropoides</i> Fenwick et al. 2009]	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Bothrops asper</i>
<i>Bothrops lenhoseri</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013r	<i>Bothrops asper</i>
<i>Bothrops mexicotensis</i> (sic) <sup>5</sup>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013r	<i>Bothrops asper</i>
<i>Bothrops mexicotensis macartneyi</i> (sic) <sup>6</sup>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013t	<i>Naja</i> ( <i>Boulengerina</i> ) <i>melanoleuca</i>
<i>Boulengerina adeyinhoserae</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013t	<i>Naja</i> ( <i>Boulengerina</i> ) <i>melanoleuca</i>
<i>Boulengerina jacksoserae</i>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Brachyophidium</i>
Brachyphidini <sup>4,36</sup> [ <i>Brachyophidium</i> Wall 1921]	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013d	<i>Malayopython timoriensis</i>
<i>Brogammerus</i> ( <i>Wellspython</i> )	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013d	<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i>
<i>Brogammerus reticulatus dalegibbonsi</i> <sup>7</sup>	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013d	<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i>
<i>Brogammerus reticulatus euaneudwardsi</i> <sup>7</sup>	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013d	<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i>
<i>Brogammerus reticulatus haydnmacphieii</i> <sup>7</sup>	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013d	<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i>
<i>Brogammerus reticulatus neilsommanni</i> <sup>7</sup>	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013d	<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i>
<i>Brogammerus reticulatus patrickcouperi</i> <sup>7</sup>	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013d	<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i>
<i>Brogammerus reticulatus stuartbigmorei</i> <sup>7</sup>	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013d	<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i>
<i>Brucegowius</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013aa	<i>Dendelaphis caudolineolatus</i>
<i>Calliophis</i> ( <i>Benmooreus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013k	<i>Calliophis bibroni</i> , <i>C. haematoeiron</i> , <i>C. melanurus</i>
<i>Calliophis</i> ( <i>Paulstokesus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013k	<i>Calliophis beddomei</i> , <i>C. castoe</i> , <i>C. nigrescens</i>
<i>Calliophis</i> ( <i>Svilela</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013k	<i>Calliophis maculiceps</i>
Calloselasminae <sup>4,23, A36</sup> [Calloselasmninae; <i>Calloselasma</i> Cope 1860]	subfam. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Calloselasma hypnale</i>
Calloselasmini <sup>23, A36</sup> [Calloselasmnini; <i>Calloselasma</i> Cope 1860]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Calloselasma hypnale</i>
<i>Candoia</i> ( <i>Erebophis</i> ) <i>asper iansimpsoni</i>	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013a	<i>Candoia aspera schmidti</i>
<i>Candoidini</i> <sup>4,23, A36</sup> [Candolini; <i>Candoia</i> Gray 1842]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013a	<i>Candoia</i> <sup>8</sup>
Candoididae <sup>4,23, A36</sup> [Candolidae; <i>Candoia</i> Gray 1842]	fam. nov.	Hoser 2013a	Boidae (part)
<i>Carstensius</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013y	<i>Atractus clarki</i>
<i>Causus perkinsi</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013q	<i>Causus lichtensteini</i>
<i>Ceratimeresurus</i> ( <i>Lowrypiperia</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Protobothrops cornutus</i> , <i>P. jerdonii</i> , <i>P. xiangchengensis</i>
<i>Cerrophodionina</i> (sic) <sup>9</sup>	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Atropoides</i> (part), <i>Cerrophidion</i>
<i>Chamaeocypselus euaneudwardsi</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013w	<i>Chamaeocypselus fasciatus</i>
Charlespersonserpenitidae <sup>4,33</sup> [Charlespersonserpenidae]	fam. nov.	Hoser 2013i	<i>Ahaetulla</i> , <i>Dendrelaphis</i> , <i>Chrysopelea</i>
Charlespersonserpeninae <sup>4,33</sup> [Charlespersonserpeninae]	subfam. nov.	Hoser 2013i	<i>Ahaetulla</i> , <i>Dendrelaphis</i> , <i>Chrysopelea</i>
Charlespersonserpenini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013i	<i>Dendrelaphis</i>
<i>Charlespersonserpens</i> ( <i>Macmillanus</i> ) <i>jacksoserae</i> <sup>10</sup>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Dendrelaphis lorentzi</i>
<i>Chondropython shirenae</i> <sup>11</sup>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2003	<i>Morelia viridis</i>
Chrismaxwellini <sup>4,23</sup> [Chrismaxwellini]	tribe nov.	Hoser 2013x	<i>Coluber zebrinus</i> , <i>Bamanophis</i> , <i>Macroprotodon</i>
<i>Chrismaxwellius</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013x	<i>Coluber zebrinus</i>

Herpetological Review 45(2), 2014

## 260 POINTS OF VIEW

TABLE 1. Continued

Taxon	Taxon Rank	Citation	Recommendation
<i>Chrysopelea</i> (Wellserpens)	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013b	<i>Chrysopelea taprobanica</i>
<i>Conantivipera</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Gloydia</i> (part)
<i>Corlylus</i> ( <i>Hilimikacordylus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Corlylus</i> (part)
Cottonsaurini	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonurus</i> (part), <i>Chamaesaura</i> , <i>Pseudocordylus</i> , <i>Smaug</i>
<i>Cottonsaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurus</i> (part)
<i>Cottonivipera</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Quoplis zayuensis</i> , <i>O. tonkinensis</i>
<i>Craspedocephalus</i> ( <i>Borneovipera</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Trimeresurus</i> ( <i>Craspedocephalus</i> ) (part)
<i>Crotalina</i> <sup>45</sup> ( <i>Crotalus</i> Linnaeus 1758)	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	Crotalidae (part)
<i>Crotyserpens</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Rhinophis fergusonianus</i> , <i>R. sanguineus</i> , <i>R. travancoricus</i>
<i>Crotyserpens</i> ( <i>Ackyserpens</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Rhinophis fergusonianus</i> , <i>R. sanguineus</i>
<i>Crotyserpens</i> ( <i>Crotyserpens</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Rhinophis travancoricus</i>
<i>Crotyvipera</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Protobothrops mucrosquamatus</i> , <i>P. elegans</i>
Ctenophorini <sup>46</sup> [ <i>Ctenophorus</i> Fitzinger 1843]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ad	<i>Ctenophorus</i>
<i>Cummingivipera</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Protobothrops kaulbacki</i> , <i>P. himalayanus</i>
<i>Cylindrophis</i> ( <i>Cylindrophis</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013f	<i>Cylindrophis</i> (part)
<i>Cylindrophis</i> ( <i>Macgoldrichia</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013f	<i>Cylindrophis maculatus</i>
<i>Cylindrophis</i> ( <i>Motteramus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013f	<i>Cylindrophis</i> (part)
<i>Cylindrophis</i> ( <i>Motteramus</i> ) <i>wilsoni</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013f	<i>Cylindrophis boulengeri</i>
<i>Dannycoleus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013aa	<i>Dendrelaphis bifrenalis</i> , <i>D. giri</i>
<i>Dasytelis saezadi</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013ag	<i>Dasytelis scabra</i>
<i>Drewwilliamsus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013y	<i>Atractus zadoki</i>
<i>Drysdalia</i> ( <i>Stazeuskis</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ab	<i>Drysdalia rhodogaster</i>
<i>Drysdalia mastersii andrewlowry</i>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013ab	<i>Drysdalia mastersii</i>
<i>Drysdalia mastersii robwatsoni</i>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013ab	<i>Drysdalia mastersii</i>
<i>Eduardssaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Platysaurus maculatus</i>
<i>Eduardssaurus</i> ( <i>Eduardssaurus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Platysaurus</i> (part)
<i>Eduardssaurus</i> ( <i>Macgoldrichisaurus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Platysaurus</i> (part)
<i>Eduardssaurus</i> ( <i>Vrijjesaurus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Platysaurus ocellatus</i>
<i>Empugusia</i> ( <i>Dendrovaranus</i> ) <i>salvator woolfi</i>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus</i> ( <i>Soterisaurus</i> ) <i>salvator hinitatus</i>
<i>Empugusini</i> <sup>43, 45</sup> [ <i>Empagusini</i> ; <i>Empagusia</i> Gray 1838]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus</i> ( <i>Empagusia</i> )
<i>Euprepiosaurus indicus wellingtoni</i>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus indicus</i>
<i>Euprepiosaurus indicus wellsii</i>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus indicus</i>
<i>Eriteswilsoni</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013f	<i>Anomochilus monticola</i>
<i>Funkisaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Broadleysaurus major</i>
<i>Funkisaurusini</i> <sup>43</sup> [ <i>Funkisaurusini</i> ]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Broadleysaurus major</i>
<i>Furina ornata toddpattersoni</i>	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Furina ornata</i>
Georgekonstandinouini <sup>43</sup> [ <i>Georgekonstandinouini</i> ]	tribe nov.	Hoser 2013v	<i>Atractaspis</i> (part)
<i>Georgekonstandinouus</i> [ <i>sic</i> ] <sup>12</sup>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013v	<i>Atractaspis</i> (part)
<i>Georgekonstandinouus</i> ( <i>Georgekonstandinouus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013v	<i>Atractaspis irregularis</i>
<i>Georgekonstandinouus</i> ( <i>Slateryaspus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013v	<i>Atractaspis congica</i> , <i>A. reticulata</i>
<i>Georgekonstandinouus</i> ( <i>Wellingtonaspus</i> )	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013v	<i>Atractaspis engdahl</i>
<i>Gerrhopilus carolinehoserae</i> <sup>43</sup>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Gerrhopilus hedraeus</i>

Herpetological Review 45(2), 2014

TABLE 1. Continued

Taxon	Taxon Rank	Citation	Recommendation
<i>Gerrosaurina</i> <sup>423,455</sup> [ <i>Gerrosaurina</i> ; <i>Gerrosaurus</i> Wiegmann 1828]	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	Gerrosaurinae (part)
<i>Gerrosaurini</i> <sup>423,455</sup> [ <i>Gerrosaurini</i> ; <i>Gerrosaurus</i> Wiegmann 1828]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	Gerrosaurinae (part)
<i>Gongylosoma (Aonolovelius)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013z	<i>Gongylosoma nicobariensis</i>
<i>Gongylosoma (Pauliellotus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013z	<i>Gongylosoma longicauda</i> , <i>G. mukutense</i>
<i>Hallibysaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurus trilineatus</i> , <i>Z. quadrilineatus</i>
<i>Hapsidophrys daraini</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013w	<i>Hapsidophrys lineatus</i>
<i>Hapsidophrys pintauidi</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013w	<i>Hapsidophrys smaragdina</i>
<i>Hawkeswoodelapidus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ab	<i>Elapognathus</i>
<i>Hawkeswoodosaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	Zonosaurinae (part)
<i>Hawkeswoodosaurus (Hawkeswoodosaurus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	Zonosaurinae (part)
<i>Hawkeswoodosaurus (Nussbaumsaurus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurus tsingy</i>
<i>Hawkeswoodosaurus (Raselmanasaurus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurus aeneus</i>
<i>Hawkeswoodosaurus (Raxworthysaurus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurus brygooi</i>
<i>Helodermini</i> <sup>65</sup> [ <i>Heloderma</i> Wiegmann 1829]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ae	<i>Heloderma</i>
<i>Hemachatus haemachatus macconchei</i> [sic] <sup>14</sup>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013u	<i>Hemachatus haemachatus</i>
<i>Hulminki</i> <sup>15</sup>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Suta</i>
<i>Hydrophis (Crotytydrophis)</i>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013c	<i>Hydrophis donaldi</i>
<i>Hypsilurini</i> <sup>456</sup> [ <i>Hypsilurus</i> Peters 1867]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ad	<i>Hypsilurus</i> (part)
<i>Intellagami</i> <sup>456</sup> [ <i>Intellagama</i> Wells and Wellington 1985]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ad	<i>Intellagama</i>
<i>Jackyhoseboa</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis greenwayi</i> , <i>T. haetianus</i>
<i>Jackyhoserina</i> <sup>3</sup>	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Bothrops</i> (part)
<i>Jackyhoserini</i> <sup>3</sup>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Bothrops</i> , <i>Bothrocophias</i>
<i>Jackyhoserisaur</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ad	<i>Diporiphora superba</i>
<i>Karusasaurini</i>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Karusasaurus</i> , <i>Ouroborus</i>
<i>Katrinahoservipera</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Gloydia</i> (part)
<i>Katrinus jackye</i> <sup>6</sup>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2003	<i>Liasis fuscus</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Adelynhosertypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios</i> (part)
<i>Libertadictus (Bennetttypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios pinguis</i> , <i>A. bicolor</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Buckleytypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios aspinus</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Jackyhosertypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios</i> (part)
<i>Libertadictus (Jackyhosertypilops) adelynhoserae</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios grypus</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Jackyhosertypilops) cliffrosswellingtoni</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios proximus</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Kerrytypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios</i> (part)
<i>Libertadictus (Mantypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios</i> (part)
<i>Libertadictus (Pattersontypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios unguistrois</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Robinwitttypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios unguistrois</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Robinwitttypilops) jackyhoserae</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios batillus</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Sheatypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios silvia</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Silvatypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios</i> (part)
<i>Libertadictus (Stoppypilops)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios ammodytes</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Stoppypilops) richardwellsi</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilios ligatus</i>
<i>Libertadictus (Suewitttypilops) stoppi</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013g	

Herpetological Review 45(2), 2014

## 262 POINTS OF VIEW

TABLE 1. Continued

Taxon	Taxon Rank	Citation	Recommendation
<i>Libertadictus (Suevittiplops)</i> [sic]	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Anilius</i> (part)
<i>Liopeltis tricolor borneoensis</i> [sic] <sup>17</sup>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013z	<i>Liopeltis tricolor</i>
<i>Liopeltis tricolor brummeri</i>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013z	<i>Liopeltis tricolor</i>
<i>Liopeltis tricolor philippinensis</i> [sic] <sup>18</sup>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013z	<i>Liopeltis tricolor</i>
<i>Liophidium (Matrborgus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013k	<i>Liophidium pattoni</i> , <i>L. rhodogaster</i>
<i>Liopholidophis (Christneumanus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013k	<i>Liopholidophis dimorphus</i> , <i>L. rhadinaea</i>
<i>Lycophidion wolffi</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013w	<i>Lycophidion ironatum</i>
<i>Macrochelyini</i> <sup>423, 456</sup> [Macrochelysini <sup>19</sup> , <i>Macrochelys</i> Gray 1856]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013h	<i>Macrochelys</i>
<i>Macrochelys maxhoseri</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013h	<i>Macrochelys temmincki</i>
<i>Macrochelys temmincki muscati</i>	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013h	<i>Macrochelys temmincki</i>
<i>Manserpens</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013f	<i>Cylindrophis engkarensis</i>
<i>Maxhosersaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ae	<i>Heloderma suspectum</i>
<i>Maxhoserviperina</i> <sup>3</sup>	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Daboia</i>
<i>Melanophidini</i> <sup>423, 456</sup> [Melanophidini; <i>Melanophidium</i> Günther 1864]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Melanophidium</i>
<i>Micrelapidae</i> <sup>423, 456</sup> [Micrelapidae; <i>Micrelaps</i> Boettger 1880]	fam. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Micrelaps</i>
<i>Micrelapinae</i> <sup>423, 456</sup> [Micrelapinae; <i>Micrelaps</i> Boettger 1880]	subfam. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Micrelaps</i>
<i>Molochini</i> <sup>423</sup> [Moloch Gray 1841]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ad	<i>Moloch</i> , <i>Chelosania</i>
<i>Montiviperina</i> <sup>423</sup> [ <i>Montiviper</i> Nilson et al. 1999]	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Macrovipera</i> , <i>Montivipera</i>
<i>Morelia macburniei</i> <sup>20</sup>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2003	<i>Morelia spilota imbricata</i>
<i>Morelia nippughae</i> <sup>20</sup>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2003	<i>Morelia spilota</i>
<i>Namazonurini</i> <sup>423</sup> [ <i>Namazonurus</i> Stanley et al. 2011]	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Namazonurus</i>
<i>Namazonurus (Atikaa)</i>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Namazonurus laurenci</i> , <i>N. peersi</i>
<i>Namazonurus (Slattersaurus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Namazonurus namaquensis</i>
<i>Ninivipera</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Gloydus himalayanus</i>
<i>Ninsaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Ninsaurus langi</i>
<i>Notopseudonaja modesta wellsi</i>	ssp. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Pseudonaja modesta</i>
<i>Odatria honlami</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus semiremex</i>
<i>Odatria hoserae</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus glauerti</i>
<i>Odatria (Odatria) trisris nini</i>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus tristis orientalis</i>
<i>Oxyrhabdiumiidae</i> <sup>423, 456</sup> [ <i>Oxyrhabdiumidae</i> ; <i>Oxyrhabdium</i> Boulenger 1893]	fam. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Oxyrhabdium</i>
<i>Oxyrhabdiumiinae</i> <sup>423, 456</sup> [ <i>Oxyrhabdiuminae</i> ; <i>Oxyrhabdium</i> Boulenger 1893]	subfam. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Oxyrhabdium</i>
<i>Oysasaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus spinulosus</i>
<i>Oxyserpenini</i> <sup>423</sup> [ <i>Oxyserpenini</i> ]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Uropeltis</i> (part)
<i>Oxyserpens</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Uropeltis</i> (part)
<i>Oxyserpens (lealousserpens)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Uropeltis broughami</i> , <i>U. grandis</i>
<i>Oxyserpens (Oxyserpens)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Uropeltis</i> (part)
<i>Peilsus hoserae</i>	sp. nov.	Hoser 2013g	<i>Pseudechis australis</i>
<i>Physignathini</i> <sup>426</sup> [ <i>Physignathus</i> Cuvier 1829]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ad	<i>Physignathus</i>
<i>Piersonina</i> <sup>3</sup>	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013m	<i>Crotalus rarus</i>
<i>Platysaurini</i> <sup>426, 456</sup> [ <i>Platysaurus</i> Smith 1844]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Platysaurus</i> (part)
<i>Plectrurini</i> <sup>423, 456</sup> [ <i>Plectrurini</i> ; <i>Plectrurus</i> Duméril 1851]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013l	<i>Uropeltidae</i> (part)
<i>Polydaedalini</i> <sup>423, 456</sup> [ <i>Polydaedalini</i> ; <i>Polydaedalus</i> Wagler 1830]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus</i> (part)

Herpetological Review 45(2), 2014

TABLE 1. Continued

Taxon	Citation	Taxon Rank	Recommendation
<i>Porthidium (Davivipera)</i>			
<i>Porthidium</i> <sup>458</sup> [ <i>Porthidium</i> Cope 1871]	Hoser 2013s	subgen. nov.	<i>Porthidium dunnii</i> , <i>P. ophryomegas</i>
<i>Psammodynastidae</i> <sup>453, 456</sup> [ <i>Psammodynastidae</i> ; <i>Psammodynastes</i> Boie 1827]	Hoser 2013m	subtrib. nov.	<i>Porthidium</i>
<i>Psammodynastinae</i> <sup>453, 456</sup> [ <i>Psammodynastidae</i> ; <i>Psammodynastes</i> Boie 1827]	Hoser 2013i	fam. nov.	<i>Psammodynastes</i>
<i>Rhinocerophiina</i> <sup>456</sup> [ <i>Rhinocerophis</i> Garman 1881]	Hoser 2013i	subfam. nov.	<i>Psammodynastes</i>
<i>Rhinocerophis (Blackeyvipera)</i>	Hoser 2013m	subtrib. nov.	<i>Bothrops</i> (part)
<i>Rhinophiini</i> <sup>456</sup> [ <i>Rhinophis</i> Hemprich 1820]	Hoser 2013s	subgen. nov.	<i>Bothrops</i> (part)
<i>Rossolanini</i> <sup>459</sup> [ <i>Rossolanini</i> ]	Hoser 2013z	trib. nov.	<i>Rhinophis</i> , <i>Uropeltis</i>
<i>Rossolanus</i>	Hoser 2013z	tribe nov.	<i>Cyclophiops</i> , <i>Liopeltis</i> , <i>Gongylosoma</i> , <i>Oreocryptophis</i>
<i>Rykyvipera</i>	Hoser 2013s	gen. nov.	<i>Liopeltis rappi</i>
<i>Shaneblackus</i>	Hoser 2013aa	gen. nov.	<i>Dendrelaphis</i> (part)
<i>Shanekingus</i>	Hoser 2013y	gen. nov.	<i>Atractus wagleri</i> , <i>A. attenuatus</i> , <i>A. sanguineus</i>
<i>Shireenhosersaurini</i> <sup>453</sup> [ <i>Shireenhosersaurini</i> ]	Hoser 2013af	gen. nov.	<i>Varanus (Euprepiosaurus)</i> (part)
<i>Sivadictus (Achythiops)</i>	Hoser 2013af	gen. nov.	<i>Varanus</i> (part)
<i>Slopboiga</i>	Hoser 2013g	trib. nov.	<i>Anilius</i> (part)
<i>Slopputera</i>	Hoser 2013b	gen. nov.	<i>Boiga kraepelini</i>
<i>Swilesaurina</i> <sup>453</sup> [ <i>Swilesaurina</i> ]	Hoser 2013s	gen. nov.	<i>Tropidolaemus huttoni</i>
<i>Swilesaurus</i>	Hoser 2013b	gen. nov.	<i>Tropidolaemus validus</i>
<i>Swileserpeniidae</i> <sup>453</sup> [ <i>Swileserpenidae</i> ]	Hoser 2013ac	subtrib. nov.	<i>Matobosaurus validus</i>
<i>Swileserpeninae</i> <sup>453</sup> [ <i>Swileserpeninae</i> ]	Hoser 2013ac	gen. nov.	<i>Matobosaurus validus</i>
<i>Swilevipera</i>	Hoser 2013i	fam. nov.	<i>Bufo</i>
<i>Tetradactylusini</i> <sup>453, 456</sup> [ <i>Tetradactylusini</i> ; <i>Tetradactylus</i> Gray 1838]	Hoser 2013i	subfam. nov.	<i>Bufo</i>
<i>Thermophiidae</i> <sup>453, 456</sup> [ <i>Thermophidae</i> ; <i>Thermophis</i> Malnate 1953]	Hoser 2013s	gen. nov.	<i>Trimeresurus (Paria) hageni</i>
<i>Thermophiinae</i> <sup>453, 456</sup> [ <i>Thermophidae</i> ; <i>Thermophis</i> Malnate 1953]	Hoser 2013c	trib. nov.	<i>Tetradactylus</i> , <i>Cordylusaurus</i>
<i>Trachelopterychina</i> <sup>21</sup>	Hoser 2013i	fam. nov.	<i>Thermophis</i>
<i>Tropidolaemusini</i> <sup>453, 456</sup> [ <i>Trachyboaini</i> ; <i>Trachyboa</i> Peters 1860]	Hoser 2013i	subfam. nov.	<i>Thermophis</i>
<i>Tropidolaemusinae</i> <sup>453, 456</sup> [ <i>Tropidolaemusinae</i> ; <i>Tropidolaemus</i> Wagler 1830]	Hoser 2013ac	trib. nov.	<i>Trachelopterychus</i>
<i>Tropidophiina</i> <sup>453, 456</sup> [ <i>Tropidophiina</i> ; <i>Tropidophis</i> Bibron 1843]	Hoser 2013j	subfam. nov.	<i>Trachyboa</i>
<i>Tropidophiini</i> <sup>453, 456</sup> [ <i>Tropidophiini</i> ; <i>Tropidophis</i> Bibron 1843]	Hoser 2013j	subtrib. nov.	<i>Deinagkistrodon</i> , <i>Garthius</i> , <i>Tropidolaemus</i>
<i>Tropidophis (Eseraboa)</i>	Hoser 2013j	trib. nov.	<i>Tropidophis</i> (part)
<i>Tropidophis (Robertbullboa)</i>	Hoser 2013j	trib. nov.	<i>Tropidophis</i>
<i>Tropidophis (Roduwellboa)</i>	Hoser 2013j	subgen. nov.	<i>Tropidophis canus</i>
<i>Ungaliophis panamensis lonelinyi</i>	Hoser 2013j	subgen. nov.	<i>Tropidophis caymanensis</i>
<i>Varaniini</i> <sup>453, 456</sup> [ <i>Varanini</i> ; <i>Varanus</i> Merrem 1820]	Hoser 2013j	subgen. nov.	<i>Tropidophis melanurus</i>
<i>Varanus (Aquiavaranus)</i>	Hoser 2013j	ssp. nov.	<i>Ungaliophis panamensis</i>
<i>Varanus (Arborhabitatorisaurus)</i>	Hoser 2013af	trib. nov.	<i>Varanus</i> (part)
<i>Varanus (Honlamus)</i>	Hoser 2013af	subgen. nov.	<i>Varanus (Varanus) mertensi</i>
<i>Varanus (Honlamus) mitchelli hawkeswoodi</i>	Hoser 2013af	subsp. nov.	<i>Varanus (Odatria) gilleni</i> , <i>V. (O.) bushi</i> , <i>V. (O.) caudolineatus</i>
<i>Varanus (Kimberleyvaranus)</i>	Hoser 2013af	subgen. nov.	<i>Varanus (Odatria) semiremex</i> , <i>V. (O.) mitchelli</i>
<i>Varanus (Parivaranus)</i>	Hoser 2013af	subgen. nov.	<i>Varanus (Odatria) glebopalma</i>
			<i>Varanus (Odatria) brevicauda</i> , <i>V. (O.) eremius</i>

Herpetological Review 45(2), 2014

TABLE 1. Continued

Taxon	Taxon Rank	Citation	Recommendation
<i>Varanus (Pilbaravaranus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus (Odatria) pilbarensis</i>
<i>Viridovipera (Simpsonvipera)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Trimeresurus (Viridovipera) medoensis</i>
<i>Viridovipera (Yunnanvipera)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013s	<i>Trimeresurus (Viridovipera) yunnanensis</i>
<i>Wellingtonboa</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis haectanus</i>
<i>Wellingtonsaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurinae</i> (part)
<i>Wellsboa</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis</i> (part)
<i>Wellsboa (Tonyshivaboa)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis hendersoni</i>
<i>Wellsboa (Wellsboa)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis</i> (part)
<i>Wellsboa (Wittboa)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013j	<i>Tropidophis fascus, T. pilsbryi, T. wrightii</i>
<i>Wellsaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurus boettgeri, Z. maramaitso, Z. maximus</i>
<i>Wellsaurus (Wellsaurus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurus boettgeri, Z. maramaitso</i>
<i>Wellsaurus (Lukefabasaurus)</i>	subgen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurus maximus</i>
<i>Woolosaurini</i>	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Platysaurus pungweensis</i>
<i>Woolfsaurus</i>	gen. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Platysaurus pungweensis</i>
<i>Worrellisaurus storri makhani</i>	subsp. nov.	Hoser 2013af	<i>Varanus storri</i>
<i>Zonosaurina</i> <sup>23,26</sup> [ <i>Zonosaurus</i> Boulenger 1887]	subtrib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurus</i>
<i>Zonosaurini</i> <sup>26</sup> [ <i>Zonosaurus</i> Boulenger 1887]	trib. nov.	Hoser 2013ac	<i>Zonosaurus, Trachelophychus</i>

<sup>1</sup> Fig. 4 in Vidal and Hedges (2009) shows that Malagasy boine snakes are part of an unresolved polytomy. Hoser (2013ad) includes in this group the species *Hypsibatus spitzi* and the genus *Tiaris* Duméril and Bibron 1837 (now known as *H. ditlophi*). In the original description of their species *Lophyrus ditlophi*, Duméril and Bibron (1837:421) list in their observation section that the name "*Tiare ditlophi*" applies to the specimen figured on Plate 46 of their *Atlas*. There, it is denoted as *Tiaris ditlophi*. However, the genus name *Tiaris* Duméril and Bibron 1837 was preoccupied by the genus *Tiaris* Swainson 1827, a taxon erected for a genus of songbirds in the tanager family (Thraupidae). The use of this genus in the definition of a tribe is incorrect.

<sup>2</sup> The taxon listed here was previously described by Hoser (2012b) and rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>3</sup> The taxon was also described as *Antaresia maculosa brentonoloughini* by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>4</sup> The definition of this subgenus by Hoser (2013c) is confusing because of poor grammar, and no species content is formally presented. While the author states that the type species for the subgenus is *Bittis parvicula*, the later text appears to confound the subgenera *Macrocerastes* and "*Kiaekus*."

<sup>5</sup> The entire first paragraph of the putative diagnosis for *Bothrops "mexicoensis"* is a verbatim copy of the diagnosis for *B. "lethoseri"*. This is also the case for the diagnosis of *B. m. "maccartneyi"*. Furthermore, to indicate a Mexican origin, the proper form for the name would be *mexicoensis*. To create a patronym for an individual with last name McCartney, as stated in the etymology, the proper form is *mccartneyi*.

<sup>6</sup> The subspecies of *Malayopython reticulatus* listed here were previously described by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>7</sup> According to Vidal and Hedges (2009:Fig. 4), "the phylogenetic position of the Pacific Island endemic genus *Candidia* remains uncertain."

<sup>8</sup> This taxon was previously described by Hoser (2012b), without the lapsus in spelling. It was rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>9</sup> The taxon listed here was already described by Hoser (2012d) and rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>10</sup> Also described as *Chondropython viridis shirenae* by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>11</sup> Given that the name derives from an individual named George Konstantinou, a proper spelling for such a group would be *Georgetonstantinouus*.

<sup>12</sup> This is the second description of a species named *Gerrhopilus carolinahoserae*. The first was by Hoser (2012a), which was rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>13</sup> Given that the name derives from an individual named Lachlan McConchie, a proper spelling for such a group would be *mcconchiei*.

<sup>14</sup> The taxon listed here was already described by Hoser (2012c) and rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>15</sup> Also described as *Karrius fascus jacksonae* by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>16</sup> A proper name indicating a Bornean origin would be *borneensis*.

<sup>17</sup> A proper name indicating Philippine origin would be *philippinensis*.

<sup>18</sup> The name Macrocheilidae is preoccupied by a group of mites.

<sup>19</sup> Also described by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>20</sup> Also described by Hoser (2004) and rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013).

<sup>21</sup> Hoser (2013ac) lists this as "Subtribe Trachelophychina trib. nov." The subtribe ending -ina conflicts with the designation of this name as a tribe.

<sup>22</sup> Hoser (2013ac) lists this as "Subtribe Zonosaurina trib. nov." The subtribe ending -ina conflicts with the designation of this name as a tribe.

(2008), to determine which aspects of a body of work are in the purview of science and which are not. Taxonomy is based on data and argument (a scientific process), and if a disagreement occurs over evidence or its interpretation, then alternative taxonomies may coexist. Nomenclature, in contrast, is a system of rules based on general principles, through which the application of taxon names is regulated. It is not based on science, but for the system to be meaningful *there must be sound scientific principles underlying the creation of any new taxon name*. Thus, the workflow for proposing new taxon names automatically and invariably involves first science, using an explicit and transparent scientific process (i.e., a peer-reviewed publication), and then accounting, with all subsequent information regarding the status of a taxon name derived from accounting (Kaiser 2013). While it is true that the *Code* applies only to nomenclature, given its overall presentation (including its *Preamble*, *Introduction*, and *Code of Ethics*), it seems reasonable to assume that reliable scientific processes ought to underlie nomenclature.

The *Code* states that its application will be subservient to the "promotion of stability and universality in the scientific names of animals" (*Preamble* of the *Code*; ICZN, 1999). I interpret this as an attempt by the original authors of the *Code* to ascertain that scientific processes must govern the interactions between taxonomy and the *Code*. In my opinion, that is how Article 8.1.1 must be understood. If it can be shown that scientific principles are violated (i.e., data and argument for the specific case are not merely poorly interpreted, but missing, erroneously or deliberately misrepresented, or entirely outside of acceptable scientific principles), then the taxonomy and names produced by such means are unscientific. Names produced in this manner should therefore be considered nomenclaturally void, and should neither be permitted to receive approval via the *Code*, nor be able to subsequently re-enter the realm of science after having been "laundered" by the *Code* (Kaiser 2013).

The best practices presented by Kaiser et al. (2013) were designed to help taxonomic herpetologists and users of herpetological taxonomy recognize and sort post-2000 taxon names, and the publications in which they appeared, into acceptable and unacceptable columns. These recommendations are universally applicable: a user can take any article and check it against the listed criteria, then make a determination regarding the validity of any taxonomic decision it might contain. Using this approach, Kaiser et al. (2013) were able to declare the post-2000 output by the Australian snake aficionado Raymond Hoser void for nomenclatural purposes and provided a corresponding list of taxon names with nomenclatural validity. The particular issue with Hoser's output is not only the proposal of taxonomically unfounded and superfluous reptile names (more than 200 in 2013 alone; Hoser 2013a-ag), it includes attacks on professional and non-academic herpetologists who disagree with Hoser's concept of taxonomy, something I perceive to consist of little more than a competitive naming game to him. Following the publication of Kaiser et al. (2013) in March of 2013, Hoser worked the online social media circuit to discredit the authors and supporters of that paper, along with the journal and its editor, as well as the scientific societies that voted in support of the presented ideas (e.g., Hoser 2013n). His department is in clear violation of the *Code of Ethics* of the *Code*, as has frequently been stated in online venues. This is perhaps most significantly demonstrated by an exchange between Hoser and ICZN Commissioner Douglas Yanega in the listserv *Taxacom* (Hoser 2013ah). These exchanges are the source of gross misinformation about the relevant issues

and scientific processes, and they have caused significant discontentment among taxonomists.

A key issue emerging in this discussion is the position of the *Code* and the ICZN. At their root, the rules and their governing body provide zoological taxonomists with a mechanism for the accounting of taxon names and for resolving disputes arising from the publication of available names. Alas, this mechanism is by design not scientific, and it is perhaps better likened to a system of legal oversight (Kaiser 2013). These entities were not established to influence the scientific processes by which taxonomic decisions are made. While this has fostered the independence of two important regulatory aspects of taxonomy, it has also created a problem: although the nonscientific component is strictly governed, the scientific one is not. I therefore feel I must preface the discussion of the *Code*'s specifics by stating that I am a firm proponent of the scientific process, a grand, yet imperfect human endeavor by which we produce knowledge. If the *Code*, a tool created by scientists for use by scientists to sort out nomenclature, does not unequivocally support this scientific process (which is the ultimate reason for the *Code*'s very existence), then the *Code* becomes irrelevant to science. While the *Code* provides a very valuable service, its application must always be congruent with scientific principles, and not for the protection of the *Code* in and of itself. The *Code* has adapted (e.g., ICZN 2012), and must continue to adapt, to the realities and demands of modern science, and it must do so as the situation demands it (see Harvey and Yanega 2013). The broader issue, therefore, is the use of the scientific method for creating knowledge, and the relevance of the *Code* to that goal.

Article 8.1.1 of the *Code* exemplifies how working within the framework of the *Code* and the ICZN creates challenges for those contending with names produced by taxonomic vandals. This article states that for a work to be considered published for the purposes of zoological nomenclature, "it must be issued for the purpose of providing a public and permanent scientific record" (ICZN 1999). Kaiser et al. (2013) and Schleip (2014) discuss this article in relation to Hoser's output in the *AJH*. Based on the online discussions that have followed (e.g., on *Facebook* pages and in *Taxacom*), as well as the presentation of *AJH* issues 16–18, it is instructive to revisit the ramifications of this article.

On the surface, glossy presentation and overall production of pseudoscientific<sup>[2]</sup> materials, such as the *AJH*, may closely mimic a scientific journal and can lead to confusion on the part of users, particularly in an applied setting where taxonomic minutiae may not be verified (e.g., Wüster and Bernils 2011). On the back pages of the two most recent issues of the *AJH*, it is even stated that articles are published "in a peer reviewed journal for permanent public scientific record" (grammar and spelling as in original). However, presentation and proclamation alone do not a scientific journal make. Even statements touting compliance with scientific rules cannot compensate for a lack of rigor in data presentation. For example, Hoser states multiple times in each issue of the *AJH* that his articles are designed to be "in accordance with the Zoological Code" (e.g., Hoser 2013ac:18), yet they fail scientific principles in even the most basic aspects

[2] Pseudoscience is an attempt to clothe nonscientific fact in scientific attire to validate fictional, non-reproducible information. Pseudoscience does not pose a question and seek an explanation; it begins with the explanation and then seeks supportive data. Pseudoscientific statements are generally easy to recognize by the vocal defense that typically accompanies their presentation, unlike science, where the evidence can speak for itself. In contrast to science, there is no knowledge gained through pseudoscience.

of reproducibility and data disclosure. While Hoser indeed works hard to make the *AJH* a public and permanent record, it is the term “scientific” where he fails the test of Article 8.1.1. In light of this, it is highly questionable whether the *AJH*, in the absence of the *Code*, would ever obtain permanence in the Scientific Record (see Dayrat 2005; Minelli 2005).

Following the best practices of Kaiser et al. (2013), the contents of the *AJH* are clearly noncompliant with broadly accepted scientific standards. From an administrative or oversight perspective, both an editorial board and associate editors are lacking. Hoser's role as the only contributor creates a conflict of interest for the peer-review process given his role as the *AJH*'s Editor. In terms of editorial quality, a reading of any article in the *AJH* demonstrates that there is no peer review despite Hoser's attestations to the contrary: no person upholding scientific principles and standards of collegial discourse (not to mention familiarity with English grammar, paragraph structure, or scientific writing) would accept *AJH* contributions (Carraway 2009). A scientific journal is not created by proclamation, but by the consistent production of quality, demonstrably peer-reviewed scientific output.

Regarding the taxonomic details of the articles in *AJH* issues 16–21, Hoser provides ample evidence that the names he proposes are not based on the scientific study of specimens or offered out of scientific necessity, which violates the scientific tenets of taxonomy and eliminates the utility of any resulting names. The main interest of Hoser is to have his proposed names endure, with the help of the *Code*. They are not the products of the scientific process, but generated “for completeness” (e.g., Hoser 2013a:3), which results in names for ranks that are not informative or useful. Indeed, most appear to be named for the sake of naming them: (1) naming clades for which molecular data from peer-reviewed publications may be preliminary or provide weak support, (2) names proposed from holotypes and paratypes that Hoser designates, yet has never examined himself, or (3) listing long strings of in-text citations rather than critically reviewing the relevant data from such papers (invariably ending with the phrase “and sources cited therein;” this occurs 38 times in the 33 papers comprising *AJH* issues 16–21). Hoser even states periodically that he does not want to rehash prior work (e.g., Hoser 2013a:4, 2013z:34, 2013ae:38), even when such work would support his taxonomic proposals.

Some may consider it impossible to differentiate scientific from nonscientific works so that it can be objectively determined which taxonomic decisions should have nomenclatural impact. I disagree. Based on the fundamental processes of science accepted today, developed and refined over centuries, it is a simple task to separate poorly executed science from pseudoscience. These are not matters of free speech or freedom of expression, which in science are restricted by evidence (Kaiser 2013). If it is not science, then it shall not be known as such. This has been amply and successfully demonstrated as evolutionary science defended itself against Intelligent Design, and it is certainly possible and appropriate in applications to taxonomy. This is not just a question of publishing outlet, but more specifically a question of whether basic scientific principles are followed or not.

Perhaps Hoser's most recent output is *Code*-compliant when it comes to the “public” or “permanent” aspects of Article 8.1.1. After all, the issues of the *AJH* are bound, available for purchase, and are distributed to some public libraries. But the output is by no measure “scientific” and clearly in violation of Appendix A of the *Code* (the *Code of Ethics*).

I have encountered the argument that Hoser's output merely represents exceptionally poor taxonomy, like that of some taxonomic vandals outside of herpetology, but with the addition of the many slanderous interpersonal transgressions and name-calling, and that over time scientists will correct the record. However, Hoser's prolific output, which as of this writing includes well over 600 new taxon names since 2000 (the exact number would require close scrutiny because the author tends to describe taxa as new more than once, and he calls higher taxon names “new” even when their authorship was already established according to Article 36 of the *Code*), creates significant instability for users of taxonomy in the herpetological community. Thus, the *Code*, whose explicit mandate includes the oversight of stability of scientific zoological nomenclature, is being co-opted by Hoser as a tool to create confusion in herpetological taxonomy<sup>[3]</sup>. The issue of taxonomic vandalism therefore is not merely a matter of working within the *Code* and exploiting its loopholes; it amounts to an example of treasonous conduct in the framework of zoological science.

A significant segment of the herpetological community is on record as rejecting the post-2000 names coined by Hoser (Kaiser et al. 2013), and given that these recommendations are being implemented in recent papers (e.g., Bates et al. 2013; Reynolds et al. 2014; Schleip 2014) and by editors (e.g., Measey 2013), this is likely to become the *status quo* for reptile taxonomy: science forges ahead as nonsense is overwritten. Despite this trend, the position of the *Code* and the ICZN vis-à-vis Hoser's nomenclature remains unresolved. Those interested in this issue can comment on Case 3601 filed by Hoser (2013ai) to preserve the genus name *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009 (published in the *AJH*) over *Afronaja* Wallach et al. 2009 (published in *Zootaxa*). This could prove to be a landmark case insofar as it pits the value of the scientific process against pseudoscience in nomenclature (Kaiser 2013, 2014).

I assert that one of the best options to resolve the issue of taxonomic vandalism in general, and of the situation described herein in particular, is for the ICZN to use its plenary powers under the *Code* to declare names proposed by Raymond Hoser unavailable for the purposes of nomenclature (Kaiser 2013). To resolve the problem in herpetology, it would suffice to do so with names proposed in the *AJH*, because that is where the most egregious offenses against scientific taxonomy have occurred. While this would not prevent Hoser from launching another outlet, it would set the precedent that the ICZN will not stand by as the system it safeguards is subverted and compromised.

*Acknowledgments.*—I thank G. Shea for his many insightful and helpful comments on the manuscript and for clarifying the status of the three lizard species for which Kaiser et al. (2013) made incorrect recommendations. I am also very grateful to S. Nikolaeva for her help in clarifying the issues relating to Articles 29 and 36 of the *Code*. I thank A. Koch, M. O'Shea, W. Schleip, V. Wallach, and W. Wüster for their assistance in streamlining my ideas and for checking the recommendations in Table 1.

*Note to the reader:* In the following list, publications by Raymond Hoser have all errors in punctuation or spelling preserved.

[3] The most recent example for such confusion is listed in the newest edition of *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia* (Cogger 2014). The author highlights in the account for the genus *Silvascincus* that readers will likely encounter two names for these lizards, of which the earlier name was rejected by Kaiser et al. (2013); in the account, the older name is nevertheless only listed second and in parentheses.



## LITERATURE CITED

- BATES, M. F., K. A. TOLLEY, S. EDWARDS, Z. DAVID, J. M. DA SILVA, AND W. R. BRANCH. 2013. A molecular phylogeny of the African plated lizards, genus *Gerrhosaurus* Wiegmann, 1828 (Squamata: Gerrhosauridae), with the description of two new genera. *Zootaxa* 3750:465–493.
- CARRAWAY, L. N. 2009. Ethics for and responsibilities of authors, reviewers and editors in science. *American Midland Naturalist* 161:146–164.
- COGGER, H. G. 2014. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Australia*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia.
- DAYRAT, B. 2005. Towards integrative taxonomy. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 85:407–415.
- HARVEY, M., AND D. YANEGA. 2013. Call for comments: taxonomic practice and the *Code*. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 70:216–217.
- HOSER, R. T. 2003. Five new pythons. *Macarthur Herpetol. Soc. Newslett.* 40:4–9.
- . 2004. A reclassification of the Pythoninae including the description of two new genera, two new species and nine new subspecies. *Crocodylian - J. Victorian Assoc. Amat. Herpetol.* 4(3):31–37 and 4(4):21–40.
- . 2012a. A review of the extant scolecophidians (“blindsnakes”) including the formal naming and diagnosis of new tribes, genera, subgenera, species and subspecies for divergent taxa. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 15:1–64.
- . 2012b. A reassessment of the higher taxonomy of the Viperidae. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 10:35–48.
- . 2012c. A reassessment of the higher taxonomy of the Elapidae. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 10:49–63.
- . 2012d. Divisions of the Asian colubrid snake genera *Xenochrophis*, *Dendrelaphis* and *Boiga* (Serpentes: Colubridae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 12:65–76.
- . 2013a. Tidying up the taxonomy of the extant Booidea, including the erection and naming of two new families, the description of *Acrantophis sloppi* sp. nov., a new species of ground boa from Madagascar and *Candoia aspera iansimpsoni*, subsp. nov., a new subspecies of boa from Papua New Guinea. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 16:3–8.
- . 2013b. Further division of the genera *Boiga* Fitzinger, 1826 and *Chrysopylea* Boie, 1826, with the creation of a new tribe, a new genus and a new subgenus. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 16:9–14.
- . 2013c. Making sense of the mess ... A new and workable sea-snake taxonomy with nomenclature to match! *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 16:15–18.
- . 2013d. The taxonomy of the snake genus *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004 revisited, including the creation of a new subgenus for *Broghammerus timoriensis* (Peters, 1876). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 16:19–26.
- . 2013e. *Adelynhoserserpentae wellsii*, a new species of jumping pitviper from Mexico (Serpentes: Viperidae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 16:27–30.
- . 2013f. Divisions within the snake genera *Cylindrophis* Wagler, 1828 (Cylindrophidiidae Fitzinger, 1843) and *Anomochilus* Berg, 1901 (Anomochilidae Cundall, Wallach and Rossman, 1993). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 16:31–38.
- . 2013g. The description of new snake subgenera, species and subspecies from Australia (Squamata: Serpentes). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 16:39–52.
- . 2013h. An updated taxonomy of the living alligator snapping turtles (*Macrochelys* Gray, 1856), with descriptions of a new tribe, new species and new subspecies. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 16:53–63.
- . 2013i. Stopping the shuffle between families: six new colubroid snake families named. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 17:3–21.
- . 2013j. A reassessment of the Tropidophiidae, including the creation of two new tribes and the division of *Tropidophis* Bibron, 1840 into six genera, and a revisiting of the Ungaliophiinae to create two subspecies within *Ungaliophis panamensis* Schmidt, 1933. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 17:22–34.
- . 2013k. In praise of subgenera, with ethics and within the rules of zoology: taxonomic status of the snake genera *Calliophis* Gray, 1835, *Liophidium* Boulenger, 1896 and *Liopholidophis* Mocquard, 1904 (Serpentes). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 17:35–50.
- . 2013l. An overdue new taxonomy for the Rhinophiidae (Uropeltidae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 17:51–57.
- . 2013m. New tribes and sub-tribes of vipers and elapid snakes and two new species of snake (Squamata: Serpentes). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 17:58–63.
- . 2013n. The science of herpetology is built on evidence, ethics, quality publications and strict compliance with the rules of nomenclature. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 18:2–79.
- . 2013o. African adders (*Bitis* Gray, 1842), reviewed, including, two new subgenera, five new species of puff adder, all formerly *Bitis arietans* (Merrem, 1820) subspecific division of *Bitis caudalis* (Smith, 1839) and division of the berg adders *Bitis atropos* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Serpentes: Viperidae: Bitisini). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 19:3–24.
- . 2013p. A formal five-way division of the Gaboon viper species complex: *Bitis (Macrocerastes) gabonica* (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854) and a two-way division of the nose-horned viper species complex *Bitis (Macrocerastes) nasicornis* (Shaw, 1802) (Serpentes: Viperidae: Bitisini). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 19:25–31.
- . 2013q. A new species of night adder (Serpentes: Viperidae) from central Africa. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 19:32–35.
- . 2013r. Two new species of pitviper from Middle America (Serpentes: Viperidae: Crotalinae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 19:36–42.
- . 2013s. A review and rearrangement of pitviper genera (Serpentes: Viperidae: Crotalinae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 19:43–63.
- . 2013t. Two new species of true cobra in the genus *Boulengeria* Dollo, 1886 from West Africa and South Africa (Serpentes: Elapidae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 20:3–7.
- . 2013u. A new subspecies of rinkhals *Hemachatus haemachatus* (Bonnaterre, 1790) from Southern Africa. (Serpentes: Elapidae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 20:8–10.
- . 2013v. A further division of the African burrowing asps, *Atractaspis* Smith 1849 with the erection of a new genus and two new subgenera. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 20:11–19.
- . 2013w. Four new species of snake from Central Africa (Serpentes: Colubridae) and (Serpentes: Lamprophiidae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 20:20–25.
- . 2013x. *Chrismaxwellius*: A new genus of colubrid snake from south-west Africa. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 20:26–29.
- . 2013y. Three new genera of ground snakes from Middle and South America (Serpentes: Dipsadidae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 20:30–32.
- . 2013z. Division of the Asian snake genera *Liopeltis* Fitzinger, 1843 and *Gongylosoma* Fitzinger, 1843 (Serpentes: Colubridae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 20:33–40.
- . 2013aa. Further division of the tree snake genus *Dendrelaphis* Boulenger, 1890, including the erection of three new genera to accommodate divergent species groups (Serpentes: Charlespersen-serpeniidae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 20:41–46.
- . 2013ab. Revisiting the Australian “white-lipped snakes” of the genus *Drysdalia* Worrell, 1961, (*sensu lato*) including two new subgenera and two new subspecies (Serpentes: Elapidae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 20:47–51.
- . 2013ac. A revised taxonomy for the lizard families Gerrhosauridae and Cordylidae. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 21:2–32.
- . 2013ad. A seven way division of the Amphibolurinae (Squamata: Sauria: Agamidae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 21:33–36.
- . 2013ae. Not in *Heloderma* ... A revised taxonomy and new genus for the Gila Monster. *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 21:37–40.
- . 2013af. Monitor lizards reclassified with some common sense (Squamata: Sauria: Varanidae). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 21:41–58.

- . 2013ag. A new egg-eating snake from the southern Arabian Peninsula (Squamata: Serpentes: Colubridae: Colubrinae: Boigini). *Australasian J. Herpetol.* 21:59–63.
- . 2013ah. The Doug Yanega Opinion. Taxacom Discussion Thread dated 8 October 2013. URL: <http://markmail.org/message/at3cgsjo4go4wzir>. Accessed on 27 December 2013. Archived by WebCite at <http://www.webcitation.org/6MC2zN3LK>.
- . 2013ai. *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (Reptilia, Serpentes, Elapidae): request for confirmation of the availability of the generic name and for the nomenclatural validation of the journal in which it was published. *Bull. Zool. Nomen.* 70:234–237.
- ICZN. 1999. International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London, United Kingdom. Online version accessed at <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted-sites/iczn/code>.
- . 2012. Amendment of Articles 8, 9, 10, 21 and 78 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* to expand and refine methods of publication. *ZooKeys* 219:1–10.
- JACH, M. A. 2007. Vandalism in taxonomy. *Koleopterol. Rundschau* 77:38, 146.
- KAISER, H. 2013. The Taxon Filter, a novel mechanism designed to facilitate the relationship between taxonomy and nomenclature, vis-à-vis the utility of the *Code's* Article 81 (the Commission's plenary power). *Bull. Zool. Nomen.* 70:293–302.
- . 2014. Comment on *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 (Reptilia, Serpentes, Elapidae): request for confirmation of the availability of the generic name and for the nomenclatural validation of the journal in which it was published. *Bull. Zool. Nomen.* 71:30–35.
- , B. I. CROTHER, C. M. R. KELLY, L. LUISSELLI, M. O'SHEA, H. OTA, P. PASSOS, W. D. SCHLEIP, AND W. WÜSTER. 2013. Best practices: In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, taxonomic decisions in herpetology are acceptable only when supported by a body of evidence and published via peer-review. *Herpetol. Rev.* 44:8–23.
- MEASEY, J. 2013. Taxonomic publishing, vandalism and best practice: *African Journal of Herpetology* makes changes that will safeguard authors. *African Herp News* 60:2–4.
- MINELLI, A. 2005. Publications in taxonomy as scientific papers and legal documents. *Proc. California Acad. Sci.* 56, Suppl. 1:225–231.
- PYLE, R. L., AND E. MICHEL. 2008. ZooBank: Developing a nomenclatural tool for unifying 250 years of biological information. *Zootaxa* 1950:39–50.
- REYNOLDS, G. R., M. L. NIEMILLER, AND L. J. REVELL. 2014. Toward a Tree-of-Life for the boas and pythons: Multilocus species-level phylogeny with unprecedented taxon sampling. *Mol. Phylog. Evol.* 71:201–213.
- SCHLEIP, W. D. 2014. Two new species of *Leiopython* Hubrecht, 1879 (Pythonidae: Serpentes): Non-compliance with the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* leads to unavailable names in zoological nomenclature. *J. Herpetol.* In press.
- SHEA, G., P. COUPER, J. W. WILMER, AND A. AMEY. 2011. Revision of the genus *Cyrtodactylus* Gray, 1827 (Squamata: Gekkonidae) in Australia. *Zootaxa* 3146:1–63.
- SHEA, G. M., AND B. MILLER. 1995. A taxonomic revision of the *Cyclodomorphus branchialis* species group (Squamata: Scincidae). *Rec. Austral. Mus.* 47:265–325.
- , AND R. A. SADLER. 1999. A catalogue of the non-fossil amphibian and reptile type specimens in the collection of the Australian Museum: Types currently, previously and purportedly present. *Tech. Rep. Austral. Mus.* 15:1–91.
- VIDAL, N., AND S. B. HEDGES. 2009. The molecular evolutionary tree of lizards, snakes, and amphisbaenians. *C. R. Biol.* 332:129–139.
- WELLS, R. W. 2002. Taxonomic notes on the genus *Cyrtodactylus* (Reptilia: Gekkonidae) in Australia. *Austral. Biodiv. Rec.* 2002(3):1–8.
- . 2007b. Some taxonomic and nomenclatural considerations on the class Reptilia in Australia. The genus *Cyclodomorphus* Fitzinger, 1843 with a new interpretation of the *Cyclodomorphus branchialis* species-group. *Austral. Biodiv. Rec.* 2007(4):1–23.
- . 2009. Some taxonomic and nomenclatural considerations on the class Reptilia in Australia. A review of the genera *Eulamprus* and *Glaphyromorphus* (Scincidae), including the description of new genera and species. *Austral. Biodiv. Rec.* 2009(3):1–96.
- WÜSTER, W., AND R. S. BERNILS. 2011. On the generic classification of the rattlesnakes, with special reference to the Neotropical *Crotalus durissus* complex (Squamata: Viperidae). *Zoologia* 28:417–419.

The preceding document published online and open access is known as: Kaiser, H. 2014b. Best Practices in Herpetological Taxonomy: Errata and Addenda. *Herpetological Review*, 45(2):257-268.

It is reproduced herein for the purposes of fair comment and so that quotes taken from it can be seen in full and proper context, as a matter of fairness to the author.

### *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*

Publishes original research in printed form in relation to reptiles, other fauna and related matters in a peer reviewed journal for permanent public scientific record, and has a global audience.

Full details at: <http://www.herp.net>

Online journals (this issue) appear a month after hard copy publication.

Minimum print run of first printings is always at least fifty hard copies.

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