

Timeline of relevant key publishing and other events relevant to Wolfgang Wüster and his gang of thieves.

- 1980** – Raymond Hoser publishes the first of over 100 scientific papers in a peer reviewed journal (*Herpetofauna*).
- 1987** – Richard Shine as “The President of the Australian Society of Herpetologists” publishes an application in the ICZN Journal *BZN* seeking formal suppression (for nomenclatural purposes) of three publications by Wells and Wellington (1983 and 1985), supported by more than 80 signatories in *BZN* the following year.
- 1988** – ICZN Journal *BZN*, publishes a statement indicating they are aware of the illegality of retrospectively suppressing legally made nomenclatural publications (Holthius 1988).
- 1989** – Hoser’s first major book, *Australian Reptiles and Frogs*, was published after delays spanning several years.
- 1991** – The ICZN Rule in favour of Wells and Wellington and do not suppress their works.
- 1991** – Hoser’s second major book, *Endangered Animals of Australia*, was published.
- 14 February 1994** – Several heavily armed Victorian Police raided the Hoser residence in a bid to stop impending publication of book about police corruption. They emptied dozens of filing cabinets of files, data, photos, etc, took all computer-related materials and so on. In spite of a court order the next day to return everything, most material was not.
- June 1994** – *The Hoser Files*, a 322 page book about police corruption in Victoria was published.
- 1993 and 1996** – Raymond Hoser publishes the best-selling books *Smuggled* and *Smuggled-2*, detailing wildlife smuggling and animal cruelty by snake handler, David John Williams.
- 1997** – As a result of activities disclosed in *Smuggled-2*, Williams was convicted and fined \$7,500 in Cairns Magistrates Court on charges of wildlife smuggling and animal cruelty.
- 1997** – Sprackland *et al.* publish a second application to the ICZN to suppress the works of Wells and Wellington for nomenclatural purposes (one taxon) so their patronym name can take priority.
- 1998** – Raymond Hoser publishes his first ever scientific descriptions of new species. These included five death adders and a species of dwarf Mulga snake from Queensland.
- 1998** – David Williams publishes online paper denouncing Hoser’s Dwarf Mulga Snake taxonomic description paper alleging it is not a valid species and merely a starved “*Pseudechis australis*”.
- 1998** – David Williams recruits friend Wolfgang Wüster, a Welsh university lecturer to his anti-Hoser campaign. Wüster soon becomes lead player and widely posts that none of the Hoser Death Adder species exist. This is a position maintained by him continually to mid 2014.
- August 1999** – Hoser publishes books, *Victoria Police Corruption* and *Victoria Police Corruption – 2*, totalling 1,536 pages and which led to the demise of the corrupt Kennett State Government in Victoria, Australia.
- 2000** – Hoser describes a second species of Dwarf Mulga Snake (this one from New Guinea) as well as several pythons, including the Black White-lipped Python (*Leiopython hoserae*). Both relevant journal editors were harassed by Wüster and Williams and told not to publish the relevant papers but stood firm against the threats.
- 2000** – In response to Hoser’s recent year 2000 publications, Williams reposts his 1998 paper and alters it to allege Hoser was acting outside the ethics of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (“the Code” or “Zoological Code”) (Ride *et al.* 1999) and stole his right to name the New Guinea species.
- 2000** – Hoser points out error in second draft of Williams paper, leading him to correct it and repost it.
- 2000** – Hoser points out fatal flaws in third version of online paper, still carrying a publication date of 1998, even though it was posted in year 2000. The errors were in the form of parts he forgot to alter to

make consistent with the altered parts. Hoser also reposted the three versions of the same paper before Williams could destroy the originals.

2001 – Wüster (first alone) and then with others listed as co-authors publishes widely a paper (including in the journal *Litteratura Serpentium*) alleging that none of Hoser's described species were valid. He uses the word "non-taxa" to describe them.

2001 – ICZN rules against Sprackland et al. and their attempt to steal a species "name authority" from Wells and Wellington.

2001 – Wulf Schleip a German snake fancier creates a website *leiopython.de* recognizing the species *Leiopython hoserae*, Hoser, 2000.

Late 2001 – Under influence of Wüster, who becomes a close friend of Schleip, Schleip alters his website to allege *Leiopython hoserae* is merely a variant of *L. albertisi* (a view he ostensibly maintained to end 2008).

Mid 2001 – Hoser publishes rebuttal of Wüster's published claims in *Boydii* and *Crocodylian*. Williams emails editors of both publications and threatens to sue them if they do not recall all magazines, destroy them and formally renounce the Hoser papers. Both refused.

2001-2004 – Hoser continues to publish taxonomic papers naming species or subspecies at a steady pace, with the most significant being one in *Crocodylian* in 2003/2004 which named the genus *Broghammerus* for the Reticulated Pythons.

2003 – Wüster approached two more journal editors and told them not to publish Hoser papers. Both did publish the papers, but with hesitation and trepidation and only after considerable time spent lobbying by Hoser.

2004 – Wüster continues to denounce all Hoser-named taxon as non-existent (synonyms of others), including *Broghammerus*. He actively harasses others to do same and harasses website owners to not use any Hoser names being largely successful in his campaign in 2004.

2005 – Members of the Wüster gang were forced by the Federal Court of Australia to pay a total of \$39,500 in partial damages for the illegal usage of Hoser's registered trademark, "Snakebuster". This was not the first or the last time that the Wüster gang had illegally used or sought to steal Hoser's Intellectual property (IP). In two other cases Hoser got two \$10,000 court-sanctioned payouts when his IP was similarly improperly used.

2006 – Wüster and associates Mark O'Shea and Shane Hunter run an online campaign against Hoser's education business Snakebusters seeking it be shut down by the Victorian government. Included in the group were business competitors in Victoria who stood to gain significant amounts of customers and income should Snakebusters be shut down. The campaign included petition pages, direct harassment of government officials and Snakebusters clients. Wüster *et al.* created numerous hate webpages, Wikipedia hate pages and the like, which from 2006 to 2014 were regularly updated, edited and changed. Business rivals made numerous false complaints to Hoser clients, regulators and anywhere else they thought they'd benefit from. In 2008 and later, they also used Hoser-owned trademarks to steal clients online and elsewhere.

2007 – Following the hate campaign commenced the year earlier by Wüster and associates, including newly licensed business rival Sean McCarthy, Ron Waters of DSE (the State Wildlife Department), acted on their complaints and took steps to have outlawed Hoser's venomoid (devenomized) elapid snakes.

This was a direct attack on the unique business advantage of the Hoser Snakebusters business, as no one else had the said snakes.

Waters and the DSE then commenced criminal proceedings against Hoser for owning the venomoid snakes. These failed on the basis one could not make the legal act of acquiring venomoids illegal retrospectively. As a result, Hoser kept the venomoid snakes for his educational displays (which remains the case as of May 2015).

2007 – ICZN publish on their website details of IP value of scientific names, with both statements and links to relevant pages, citing an average value of over \$10,000 per name.

February 2008 – Wüster *et al.* outed for an unsuccessful attempt to defraud the Accor Hotels chain of an estimated \$US 20,000.00 by aggressively using online social media to generate bogus “votes” for David John Williams, as an “unsung hero”, including thousands of alleged votes from a single IP address.

2008 – Wüster campaign against Hoser-named species being accepted dealt several blows, including molecular studies using new technology upholding the validity of species and genera described to 2004, with an increasing number of authors accepting the obvious and using the Hoser names.

December 2008 – Without explanation, Schleip accepts validity of species *L. hosevae* (which until then he had campaigned strongly against) when publishing a paper in PRINO Journal, *Journal of Herpetology*. In the abstract of his paper posted widely he alleges DNA evidence for three more *Leiopython* species he names, but in fact does not have this evidence.

1 January 2009 – Hoser publishes the first issue of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology (AJH)*, controlled by Hoser and therefore out of reach of Wüster’s harassment of editors.

3 February 2009 – Hoser publishes a large paper exposing Schleip’s scientific frauds to date.

7 February 2009 – Major bushfire kills 172 people in Victoria (Black Saturday). State Wildlife department officials culpable (later paying out \$103 million in partial damages).

9 March 2009 – Hoser publishes in *AJH* a major reclassification of the world’s rattlesnakes naming numerous new genera.

23 March 2009 – Hoser publishes in *AJH* a major reclassification of the world’s cobras naming two new genera (out of a total of four).

29 March 2009 – Wüster posts at online chat forums stating that one Hoser Cobra genus *Wellsus* is not valid as it is a junior synonym of *Uraeus*, Wagler, 1830. He also reaffirms his view that all true Cobras should be in a single genus (contrary to the Hoser view of four).

29 March 2009 – Hoser corrects the error immediately and renounces *Wellsus* online and formally retracts it in a later issue of *AJH*. Hoser maintains four genera configuration is correct.

21 September 2009 – Wüster and friends publish paper in PRINO (peer reviewed in name only) *Journal Zootaxa* reversing his view of 29 March 2009 and earlier and now agreeing with Hoser’s 9 March 2009 taxonomy. However Wüster, Wallach and Broadley go further and allege Hoser had stolen their work and on that basis renamed the Hoser genus *Spracklandus*, with their own coined name *Afronaja*. They also falsely alleged that *AJH* was not validly published as a print journal under the zoological code and that everything else named there (e.g. Rattlesnake genera) should be renamed by others.

February 2010 – In *AJH* issue 8, Hoser publishes expose of Victorian State Wildlife department corruption in terms of the Black Saturday bushfires a year earlier and the associated case of a fraud involving a pet Koala.

2009-2012 – No one else heeded Wüster’s repeated calls to rename Hoser-named taxa. Wüster actively promoted his invalid name *Afronaja*.

May 2011 – Raymond Hoser successfully closed down over 800 bogus websites using his registered trademarks to divert clients to rivals.

May 2011 – Wüster gang and Hoser business rivals ramp up campaign against Hoser, including via creation of “Ray Hoser – Melbourne’s biggest wanker” Facebook page (closed down in July 2011). Numerous similar ones have been set up by Wüster and Hoser business rivals since.

17 August 2011 – Wüster gang and Hoser business rivals, claimed success immediately after the Hoser family was subjected to an illegal 9 hour raid by 11 heavily armed police and wildlife officers.

They loaded a truck and trailer with research files and data from the previous 40 years, computers, photos and pretty much anything else of value or use that they could gather up in the frenzied raid.

The raid was also in response to the publication of *AJH* issue 8, which exposed corruption in the State Wildlife Department, at which time all copies of *AJH* were seized as seen in the video the officers created at the time.

Snakebusters was also shut down immediately, with the wildlife officers themselves, having taken all diaries, computers and the like contacting clients and telling them to book elsewhere.

Several deaths from snakebites in the period postdating this raid occurred as a direct result of Snakebusters clients being forced to seek less experienced providers.

22 August 2011 – Snakebusters obtain VCAT order, confirming actions of the wildlife officers and police had been illegal and the business re-opens.

9 March 2012 – Hoser's education business, Snakebusters, was shut down illegally at gunpoint (again) and Hoser effectively put under house arrest. An appeal to the Supreme Court was delayed by months.

March-July 2012 – As a result of not working for an income and effectively house-bound Hoser was able to complete a long-running review of the snake genera of the world. Published numerous papers in *AJH* naming many dozens of species, genera and tribes of snakes. Also published a rebuttal of Wüster's 2009 claims against *AJH* with evidence and then went to the ICZN to formally renounce Wüster's name *Afronaja*.

5 June 2012 – Wüster associate Hinrich Kaiser, sent a SPAM email to the world's herpetologists seeking support for a Wüster campaign to start "working outside acceptable rules of science and taxonomy" and overwrite all "Hoser names" with their own coined names. They produced a list of Hoser-named taxa to overwrite.

8 June 2012 – Hoser wins in Supreme Court of Appeal of Victoria and his damaged education business Snakebusters reopens.

8 June 2012 – State Wildlife Department vows to fight Snakebusters all the way to the full bench of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

18 June 2012 – Hoser obtained a copy of the SPAM email and associated document known as "Kaiser *et al.* 2012", scheduled to be published in a friend's journal, *Herpetological Review*, although in the SPAM email, Kaiser stated that he did not write it!

30 June 2012 – Hoser publishes the SPAM email, the associated document and a detailed rebuttal in *AJH*. Numerous herpetologists globally express outrage at the Wüster plan.

Early 2013 – ICZN refuse to act on *Spracklandus/Afronaja* matter as the date priority of *Spracklandus* was obvious and Wüster's claims, while ridiculous, had not been published in any prominent journal.

March 2013 – Document known as Kaiser *et al.* from 2012 appears in altered form in friend Rob Hansen's journal, *Herpetological Review*, with Kaiser now listed as lead author (of nine, including Schleich, Wüster and Mark O'Shea).

29 April 2013 – Hoser publishes in *AJH* a detailed rebuttal of Kaiser *et al.* (2013). 2013 also sees a significant number of new species of snakes, lizards and turtles named by Hoser in *AJH*.

June 2013 – On the basis of the publication of Kaiser *et al.* (2013) in a well-known print journal, the ICZN decides to act on the *Spracklandus/Afronaja* matter with a view to validating the first name in order to stop Wüster campaign destabilizing zoology.

July 2013-July 2014 – Wüster gang step outside the 2 century old zoological rules to improperly rename over twenty species and genera previously named by Hoser and other herpetologists Richard Wells, Ross Wellington and even John Edward Gray, formerly of the British Museum in the 1800's. This includes widely recognized and used names like *Broghammerus*.

July 2013-July 2014 – Wüster gang ramp up hate campaign in all social media and the like, including print journals they control.

July 2013-July 2014 – Hoser continues to publish descriptions of new taxa in *AJH*, albeit at a slower pace, effectively completing a wide-ranging review of the snakes at the genus level.

December 2013 – The ICZN publish in *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature (BZN)*, "Case 3601: *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" with a call for submissions for or against. They receive numerous submissions both in favour and the predictable ones from the Wüster gang against.

March 2014 – Dr. Hal Cogger, himself a former commissioner of the ICZN condemns Kaiser *et al.* in his definitive 1,064 page book *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*, and uses the correct names of Hoser, Wells and Wellington and other authors attacked by Kaiser and the Wüster gang. Cogger is just one of many scientific authors taking this position.

July 2014 – Schleip renames *Leiopython hoseerae* and another Hoser-named taxon from 2000 in his own paper. The significance in renaming *L. hoseerae* is that Schleip as co-author of Kaiser *et al.* (2013) had identified that as one species his gang were NOT going to rename. Schleip, with the open support of the rest of the Wüster gang also calls on others to rename all Hoser-named taxa in spite of their long recognition as valid and use in most major contemporary books.

5 September 2014 – Supreme Court of Appeal of Victoria rules emphatically in favour of Hoser and his business Snakebusters. All previous criminal charges and convictions from 2009-2011 and matters arising after 2011, were found to have no basis in law. Two previous judgements were formally set aside. Full costs were awarded in favour of Hoser, meaning that the State Wildlife Department faced a multi-million dollar payout.

25 October 2014 – Another 23 criminal charges laid against Hoser improperly by the wildlife department were thrown out of the Melbourne Magistrates Court, meaning no charges were upheld against Hoser as a result of the decade long campaign by the Wüster gang and business rivals.

16 January 2015 – ICZN Commissioner Doug Yanega confirms on the ICZN List that being a “name authority” for taxa confers intellectual property rights on the describer. With retrospectivity not allowed in law, as per the Supreme Court of Appeal of Victoria judgement dated 5 September 2014, legal advice in January 2015 confirmed that no one, including the ICZN has a legal right to transfer legally obtained IP rights by retrospective decree or order and to do so would leave the perpetrator liable to be sued for damages.

March 2015 – Wüster gang publishes another of several submissions against Hoser in the *BZN*, this one co-signed by about 70 (alleged) authors most being the same group who co-signed “Kaiser *et al.* 2013” and including many who petitioned against Wells and Wellington to the ICZN from 1987 to 1989. Not disclosed in this document, known as Rhodin *et al.* 2015 was the fact that dozens of signatories were a party to renaming species in breach of the rules of the code as listed co-authors in the relevant papers (e.g. Georges, Schleip, Sprackland, Thomson, Wüster, etc) (see synonyms list published) and that they were in fact seeking the rules be broken to allow them to steal name rights from Raymond Hoser, Richard Wells, Ross Wellington, John Edward Gray and others whose taxa they had chosen to coin their own names for.

Hinrich Kaiser also earned himself the dubious distinction of having made the most published submissions to the *BZN* in opposition to a single case, these being largely “bluster” according to Stephen Thorpe on Taxacom and ICZN list. At the same time, numerous submissions in favour of the Hoser case were not being published, leading to numerous complaints about the integrity of the editorial process at the journal (Wellington 2015).

In summary such an attack on the zoological nomenclature is unprecedented in the over 200 year history of the zoological code and one hopes that the ICZN see it for what it is and acts appropriately.

Nomen furtum synonyms.

Names coined or used in acts of attempted theft.

Non code-compliant name coined by associates of the Wüster gang and widely promoted by them.	Comments (reasons given of author for creating new name in breach of the Zoological Code).	Correct taxon name according to scientific ethics and the established rules of the Zoological Code.
<i>Afronaja</i> Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009.	Falsely alleged earlier Hoser paper not published according to Article 8 of Zoological Code.	<i>Spracklandus</i> Hoser, 2009.
<i>Amerotyphlops</i> Hedges <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Author was a signatory to Kaiser <i>et al.</i> documents of 2012/2013.	<i>Altmantyphlops</i> Hoser, 2012
<i>Antaresia stimsoni</i> (Smith, 1985)	Name published after Wells and Wellington, 1985, (date priority) but improperly not renounced.	<i>Antaresia saxacola</i> Wells and Wellington, 1985. Note: <i>Nomen nudem</i> claim on Wikipedia is false.
<i>Antillytyphlops</i> Hedges <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Author was a signatory to Kaiser <i>et al.</i> documents of 2012/2013.	<i>Mosestyphlops</i> Hoser, 2012
<i>Asiatyphylops</i> Hedges <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Author was a signatory to Kaiser <i>et al.</i> documents of 2012/2013.	<i>Argyrophis</i> Gray, 1845
<i>Bartleia</i> Hutchinson <i>et al.</i> 1990	Deliberately ignored name authority to rename taxon (<i>nomen furtum</i>).	<i>Techmarscincus</i> Wells and Wellington, 1985
<i>Bassiana</i> Hutchinson <i>et al.</i> 1990	Deliberately ignored name authority to rename taxon (<i>nomen furtum</i>).	<i>Acritoscincus</i> Wells and Wellington, 1985
<i>Broadleysaurus</i> Bates <i>et al.</i> , 2013	Invoked Kaiser "veto".	<i>Funkisaurus</i> Hoser, 2013
<i>Candoiidae</i> Pyron <i>et al.</i> , 2014	No reason given, but authors and stated reviewers have attacked Hoser for years and over-written Hoser names previously.	<i>Candoiidae</i> Hoser, 2013
<i>Cartula</i> Hutchinson <i>et al.</i> 1990	Deliberately ignored name authority to rename taxon (<i>nomen furtum</i>).	<i>Harrisoniascincus</i> Wells and Wellington, 1984
<i>Chelodina burrungandjii</i> Thomson, Kennett and Georges, 2000	Alleged Wells and Wellington, 1985 not code compliant when it was.	<i>Chelodina billabong</i> (Wells and Wellington, 1985)
<i>Chelodina canni</i> McCord and Thomson, 2002	Falsely claimed Wells and Wellington, 1985 name was a <i>nomen nudem</i> .	<i>Chelodina rankini</i> Wells and Wellington, 1985
<i>Cubatyphlops</i> Hedges <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Author was a signatory to Kaiser <i>et al.</i> documents of 2012/2013.	<i>Dannytyphlops</i> Hoser, 2012
<i>Emydura macquarii dharra</i> Cann 1998	Alleged Wells and Wellington, 1985 not code compliant when it was.	<i>Emydura cooki</i> (Wells and Wellington, 1985)
<i>Emydura macquarii emmotti</i> Cann, McCord and Joseph-Ouni, 2003	Alleged Wells and Wellington, 1985 not code compliant when it was.	<i>Emydura macquarii windorah</i> (Wells and Wellington, 1985)
<i>Indotyphlops</i> Hedges <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Author was a signatory to Kaiser <i>et al.</i> documents of 2012/2013.	<i>Maxhoserus</i> Hoser, 2012
<i>Leiopython meridionalis</i> Schleip, 2014	Invoked Kaiser "veto".	<i>Leiopython hoserae</i> Hoser, 2000
<i>Leiopython montanus</i> Schleip, 2014	Invoked Kaiser "veto"	<i>Leiopython albertisi bennetti</i> Hoser, 2000
<i>Lemuriatyphlops</i> Pyron and Wallach, 2014	Invoked Kaiser "veto"	<i>Elliotttyphlopa</i> Hoser, 2012
<i>Macrochelys apalachicola</i> Thomas <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Falsely claimed no holotype ever existed. Claim rebutted by co-author.	<i>Macrochelys muscati</i> Hoser, 2013.
<i>Macrochelys suwanniensis</i> Thomas <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Falsely claimed no holotype ever existed. Claim rebutted by co-author.	<i>Macrochelys maxhoseri</i> Hoser, 2013.
<i>Madatyphlops</i> Hedges <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Author was a signatory to Kaiser <i>et al.</i> documents of 2012/2013.	<i>Ronhoserus</i> Hoser, 2012
<i>Malayopython</i> Reynolds <i>et al.</i> , 2013a, 2013b, 2014	Invoked Kaiser veto; also falsely claimed <i>Broghammerus</i> a <i>nomen nudum</i>	<i>Broghammerus</i> Hoser, 2004
<i>Malayotyphlops</i> Hedges <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Author was a signatory to Kaiser <i>et al.</i> documents of 2012/2013.	<i>Katrinahosertyphlops</i> Hoser, 2012
<i>Matobosaurus</i> Bates <i>et al.</i> , 2013	Invoked Kaiser "veto"	<i>Swilesaurus</i> Hoser, 2013
<i>Myuchelys</i> Thomson and Georges, 2009	Falsely claimed Wells 2007 breached article 8 of Zoological Code.	<i>Wollumbinia</i> Wells, 2007
<i>Niveoscincus</i> Hutchinson <i>et al.</i> 1990	Deliberately ignored name authority to rename taxon (<i>nomen furtum</i>).	<i>Litotescincus</i> Wells and Wellington, 1985
<i>Paralaudakia</i> Baig <i>et al.</i> , 2012	Author was a signatory to Kaiser <i>et al.</i> documents of 2012/2013.	<i>Adelynkimberlea</i> Hoser, 2012
<i>Sundatyphlops</i> Hedges <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Author was a signatory to Kaiser <i>et al.</i> documents of 2012/2013.	<i>Sivadictus</i> Wells and Wellington, 1985, (Note: <i>Anilios</i> Gray, 1845, is a different genus: Type sp. <i>australis</i>)
<i>Varanus teriae</i> Sprackland, 1991	Allegedly overlooked name authority and then refused to renounce synonym.	<i>Varanus keithornei</i> (Wells and Wellington, 1985). (Note: genus assignment is in flux).
<i>Xerotyphlops</i> Hedges <i>et al.</i> , 2014	Author was a signatory to Kaiser <i>et al.</i> documents of 2012/2013.	<i>Lenhosertyphlops</i> Hoser, 2012