

Two new Death Adders (Serpentes: Elapidae: *Acanthophis*) from the New Guinea region.

LSIDURN:LSID:ZOOBANK.ORG:PUB:C6B2980E-9CC3-4138-A910-7D8A8EBD1D01

RAYMOND T. HOSER

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:F9D74EB5-CFB5-49A0-8C7C-9F993B8504AE

488 Park Road, Park Orchards, Victoria, 3134, Australia.

Phone: +61 3 9812 3322 Fax: 9812 3355 E-mail: snakeman (at) snakeman.com.au

Received 1 May 2020, Accepted 20 July 2020, Published 6 August 2020.

ABSTRACT

The Death Adders, genus *Acanthophis* Daudin, 1803 are iconic viperine-like elapid snakes found in the Australasian region.

Two new taxa within the subgenus *Platyelapid* Hoser, 2016 from Northern New Guinea are formally named for the first time.

One species from the Bird's Head region of West Papua (Irian Jaya) is formally named as *Acanthophis oxyi* sp. nov.. Another form from Kar Kar Island, Papua New Guinea is formally named *Acanthophis crotalusei karkarensis* subsp. nov..

Both taxa are morphologically and reproductively isolated from nearest congeners.

Keywords: Herpetology; snake; death adder; elapid; *Acanthophis*; *Platyelapid*; New Guinea; Indonesia; PNG; venomous; *laevis*; *crotalusei*; *barnetti*; new species; *oxyi*; new subspecies; *karkarensis*.

INTRODUCTION

The Death Adders, genus *Acanthophis* Daudin, 1803 are iconic viperine-like elapid snakes found in the Australasian region.

I, Raymond Hoser, have been working on all aspects of the genus for more than 40 years (see for example earlier papers of Hoser 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984a, 1984b, 1985a, 1985b, 1985c, 1987). This included catching, keeping and breeding most forms, inspection of most forms both live and in the entire collections of this genus in most Museums in Australia and elsewhere that hold any numbers of specimens, this including specimens from all parts of the known range of these species.

Hoser (1998a) published the first full genus-wide revision of the genus.

Prior to that paper, most authors (e.g. Cogger *et al.* 1983) recognized just three species in the genus.

Hoser (1998), extended this number to include no less than 11 species and three additional subspecies for Australia and New Guinea (a position tacitly agreed with by Cogger 2014 as shown below).

While a gang of criminals known as the Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves have spent most of the 22 years since the publication of Hoser (1998a) trying to tell people not to recognize the species formally named by Hoser (1998a) (as well as all other relevant papers of Hoser, including for example Hoser (2000a, 2000b, 2003 and 2004), their lies, deception and unscientific methods as encapsulated in their non-peer reviewed rant of Wüster *et al.* (2001) can only hide the obvious truths for so long. Also in year 2000, under the directions and harassment of the Wolfgang Wüster gang, Cogger (2000), ignored the taxonomic works of Hoser (1998a, 1998b) and in his major work on Australian reptiles pretended these species did not exist.

This tactic of unscientific denial of the obvious continues even in 2020 as evidenced on the website of

Wüster's good mate Peter Uetz at:

<http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/>

[species?genus=Acanthophis&species=wellsi](http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/species?genus=Acanthophis&species=wellsi)

where Uetz has written of the Pilbara Death Adder, *Acanthophis wellsei* Hoser, 1998, "Synonymy: Not listed by COGGER 2000." in order to substantiate their ridiculous claim that the putative species is nothing more than a strange looking Desert Death Adder *Acanthophis pyrrhus* Boulenger, 1898.

However as other scientists independent of Hoser (1998a, 1998b) came to the same obvious conclusions as Hoser (1998a, 1998b), (e.g. Aplin and Donnellan 1989, Kuch *et al.* 2006), the taxa formally named by Hoser (1998a, 1998b) became widely accepted and the names generally used (e.g. Storr *et al.* 1992). So by year 2014, the relevant species appeared in all recently published books (e.g. Storr *et al.* 2002), including by that year's end in Cogger (2014) in Hal Cogger's most recently updated book covering all Australian reptiles.

This is a point that is deliberately ignored by the Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves, who even as of year 2020, were still claiming on the websites they control that, "Synonymy: Not listed by COGGER 2000.", (e.g. at <http://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/species?genus=Acanthophis&species=wellsi> and numerous duplicate and mirror sites) and refused to concede that in Cogger's more recent work he did in fact recognize and include the relevant Hoser species.

Further papers formally naming species of *Acanthophis* were published by Hoser (2002) and Hoser (2014). Hoser (2016) also erected a subgenus for the main New Guinea lineage of the

genus.

Other papers of significance were Wells and Wellington (1985), that named three putative species level taxa as well as Wells (2002), that erected a putative genus for the *Acanthophis pyrrhus* Boulenger, 1898 species complex.

While largely agreeing with the papers of Wells (2002) and that of Wells and Wellington (1985), my papers Hoser (1998a, 2002, 2014 and 2016a), in summary agreed with two of their species, relegated two others to subspecies and accepted but downgraded their genus-level division to that of subgenus.

By 2013, after failing to raise enough lies and deception to discourage herpetologists from accepting the validity of species discovered and named by Hoser (e.g. Hoser 1998a, 1998b, 2000a, 2000b, 2003, 2004 and many other papers) or the names of Wells and Wellington (1985), the Wolfgang Wüster gang via Wolfgang Wüster himself wrote a blog in 2012, cited here as Kaiser (2002b), later published as Kaiser *et al.* (2013).

That document told their supporters and anyone else who was a like-minded thief, to steal works of Hoser, Wells and several others and to engage in the nefarious practice of taxonomic vandalism to steal these works and illegally rename the same taxa in direct breach of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999).

As of 2020, the number of species and genera illegally renamed by the Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves was approaching 100 taxa.

Of relevance to this paper is that in 2015, Wolfgang Wüster and others in his gang, published a so-called paper in an online PRINO (peer reviewed in name only) Journal *Zootaxa* that renamed *Acanthophis lancasteri* Wells and Wellington, 1985 as *Acanthophis cryptamydros* Maddock, Ellis, Doughty, Smith and Wüster, 2015.

As that illegally coined name is a junior synonym of the proper name *Acanthophis lancasteri* Wells and Wellington, 1985, it is the earlier name that must always be used (Hoser, 2016, Wellington 2016).

As far back as 1978 when inspecting Death Adders held at the Australian Museum in Sydney, I was aware that the specimens from Kar Kar Island, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea were morphologically distinct from those on the nearby mainland. However the classification of Hoser (1998) made a specific point of not considering insular island forms on the basis it was uncertain as to how long they had been separated from nearby mainland populations.

Hoser (2016b) formally named a subspecies of skink on Kar Kar Island and Hoser (2019c) formally described and named *Emoia karkarensis* Hoser, 2019 being known only from Kar Kar. Island. That taxon was also deemed a full species, separate from mainland forms on the basis morphological differences and a published molecular divergence indicating separation in excess of 1 MYA.

Hence it is clear that insular reptiles on Kar Kar Island may be sufficiently divergent to warrant taxonomic recognition at either subspecies or species level. Therefore the Death Adders on this island are herein formally named for the first time as a subspecies of their nearest relative. They are therefore described herein as *Acanthophis crotalusei karkarensis* subsp. nov..

Another species of Death Adder from the Bird's Head region of West Papua (Irian Jaya) was not named previously on the basis of a lack of available specimens.

Similar, but slightly different animals are also found on Biak and across the north of Irian Jaya to near the Papua New Guinea border and are herein tentatively treated as conspecific.

The Bird's head taxon is still only known from a tiny number of specimens, but due to the rate of accelerating habitat destruction in the relevant region, it is important that this species be formally named as soon as possible and before extinction becomes a more immediate threat as identified in the papers of Hoser (2019a, 2019b).

The snake is formally named as *Acanthophis oxyi* sp. nov..

The two new species fit within the New Guinea subgenus *Platyelapid* Hoser, 2016.

Both taxa are both morphologically and reproductively isolated from nearest congeners.

ZOOTAXA AND THE WOLFGANG WÜSTER GANG OF THIEVES

Overuse of illegally coined names of species and self-citation by the Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves in the online PRINO (Peer reviewed in name only) journal "*Zootaxa*" that they control, led to that journal being blackballed by Clarivate, the company behind the "Impact Factor", widely used by academics to measure credibility of scientific journals (Oransky, 2020).

The Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves have been at war against the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) for decades (see Hoser 2007).

Their more recent war cry manifesto known as "Kaiser *et al.* (2013)", although in fact written by Wolfgang Wüster (see Kaiser 2012a) as frequently amended (see also Kaiser 2012, 2012b, 2013, 2014a and 2014b) and the claims within it, have been discredited numerous times (e.g. Cogger (2014), Dubois (2014), Dubois *et al.* (2019), Eipper (2013), Hoser (2007, 2009, 2012a, 2012b, 2015a-f, 2019a-b), Mutton (2014a, 2014b), Shea (2013a-d), Thorpe (2013, 2014a, 2014b), Wellington (2013, 2014a, 2014b), Wells (2013, 2014) and sources cited therein).

Notwithstanding these setbacks the Wolfgang Wüster gang remain undeterred and continue to commit acts of internet trolling, running countless fake accounts online for peddling hatred and lies, as well as engaging in overt scientific fraud, property theft, assault, vandalism, money fraud, money scams, rapes, child sex offences, trafficking of amphetamines, animal abuse and cruelty, wildlife smuggling, shooting people (yes, two of the group have been convicted of this) and other serious crimes (Supreme Court of Western Australia 2009, Hobbs 2010, Goodman 2019).

Some members of the group have been charged and jailed for various crimes, including for example David John Williams, convicted and fined \$7,500 for animal cruelty and wildlife smuggling at the Cairns Magistrates Court, Damien Mark Harding jailed for child sex offences, Seth Pywell fined for his role in the shooting two people, Matthew Gatt fined \$8,000 for the theft of a rare snake and Andrew Browne jailed for child sex offences, but the group ring leaders Wolfgang Wüster, Mark O'Shea and Wulf Schleip have managed to avoid criminal sanctions to date.

Wolfgang Wüster and Mark O'Shea even post images of themselves committing crimes online, but have somehow managed to avoid criminal charges.

As of 2020, members of the Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves had plagiarised works of other scientists and in breach of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* illegally renamed nearly 100 species and genera previously formally named by other ethical scientists.

Keeping count of their acts of taxonomic vandalism and theft is an extremely difficult task, but lists of these acts are regularly published!

The gang have then by use of countless false accounts and false identities, created a false veneer online that their illegal names are the correct names and that the earlier proper names should not be used.

Noting that Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves have already tried to rename at least one species of Death Adder, people should be mindful of almost certain further acts of taxonomic vandalism by this gang of thieves in PRINO journals they control, including the PRINO Online "journal" *Zootaxa*, in terms of the new names erected in this paper.

PRINO is an acronym for "Peer reviewed in name only" which is the term best described for the online journals that that Wolfgang Wüster gang of thieves members publish their

fraudulent papers in.

The journals such as the predatory PRINO journal "*Zootaxa*" have near zero respect for the principles of science, or ethics and significantly papers published in them are either not peer reviewed in any way, or alternatively the process is so shambolic as to be non-existent in any meaningful way. See also Oransky (2020).

While peer review is not a mandatory requirement of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, it is regarded as the gold standard in scientific publishing and is therefore generally expected in such publications.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

While these have been inferred already, I shall briefly state what they were.

Specimens of all known species Death Adders (Genus *Acanthophis* Daudin, 1803) were inspected either live or dead over a period spanning more than 40 years as was all relevant and available literature. This included all previous descriptions of taxa, including known synonyms as cited in previous papers of myself including Hoser (1998a, 2002, 2014 and 2016) and synonyms published in Cogger *et al.* (1983).

Of particular relevance to this review, were phylogenetic and morphological studies of reptiles that helped identify biogeographical barriers for species similarly eco-constrained as Death Adders as well as geological studies that helped identify potential barriers to dispersion of populations.

Included in the audit were photos of species with good locality data and distribution maps from State Museums, based on specimens in their collections, noting that for relevant species, the historical distributions may be very different to the extant distributions.

Where available and applicable, fossil specimens and records were also reviewed.

Past descriptions and synonymies were reviewed with a view to using available names for species groups if they had been properly proposed in the past but in the case of the two relevant taxa in this paper, no names were available.

Publications relevant to the taxonomic and nomenclatural conclusions in terms of the genus *Acanthophis sensu lato* including all descriptions of all known species, including all known synonyms, and specifically relevant to the taxonomic decisions in terms of the two newly named forms include the following: Aplin and Donnellan (1999), Boulenger (1896, 1898), Cogger (2000, 2014), Cogger *et al.* (1983), Daudin (1803), de Rooij (1917), Günther (1863), Hoser (1989, 1991, 1995a, 1998a, 2002, 2014, 2016a, 2016b, 2019c), Kuch *et al.* (1986), Macleay (1877), Maddock *et al.* (2016), McDowall (1984), Ramsay (1877), Ride *et al.* (1999), Shaw and Nodder (1802), Storr (1981), Wellington (2016), Wells (2002), Wells and Wellington (1985), and sources cited therein.

RESULTS

As already stated in the abstract, two hitherto unnamed forms have been identified, these being that from the Bird's Head region of Indonesian New Guinea and other from Kar Kar Island, Madang, Papua New Guinea. Both are formally named as new taxa for the first time, in accordance with the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999).

INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE FORMAL DESCRIPTIONS THAT FOLLOW

There is no conflict of interest in terms of this paper or the conclusions arrived at herein.

Several people including anonymous peer reviewers who revised the manuscript prior to publication are also thanked as are relevant staff at museums who made specimens and records available in line with international obligations over a period spanning more than 40 years.

All necessary government issued wildlife licenses, permits and authorities were obtained as needed.

In terms of the following formal descriptions, spellings should not be altered in any way for any purpose unless expressly and exclusively called for by the rules governing Zoological Nomenclature as administered by the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN).

In the unlikely event two or more newly named taxa are deemed to be the same by a first reviser, then the name to be used and retained is that which first appears in this paper by way of page priority and as listed in the abstract keywords.

Some material in descriptions for taxa may be repeated for other taxa in this paper and this is necessary to ensure each fully complies with the provisions of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Fourth edition) (Ride *et al.* 1999) as amended online since.

Material downloaded from the internet and cited anywhere in this paper was downloaded and checked most recently as of 20 June 2020 (e.g. the Peter Uetz website) (including if also viewed prior), unless otherwise stated and was accurate in terms of the content cited herein as of that date.

Unless otherwise stated explicitly, colour and other descriptions apply to living adult specimens of generally good health and not under any form of stress by means such as excessive cool, heat, dehydration or abnormal skin or reaction to chemical or other input.

While numerous texts and references were consulted prior to publication of this paper, the criteria used to separate the relevant species or subspecies has already been spelt out and/or is done so within each formal description and does not rely on material within publications not explicitly cited herein.

CONSERVATION

In terms of conservation of each population of each newly described taxon, the relevant comments in Hoser (1989, 1991, 1993, 1995b, 1996, 2019a and 2019b) apply.

Wildlife laws as currently enforced in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, are not in a materially significant way enhancing the long-term survival prospects of any of the relevant species.

Over breeding of humans and the environmental problems associated with this overpopulation are by far the greatest long term threat to each and every relevant species, noting that already liberated feral pest species continue to cause ongoing stress and decline of the relevant species as explicitly detailed in Hoser (1991).

ACANTHOPHIS (PLATYELAPID) OXYI SP. NOV.

LSIDURN:LSID:ZOOBANK.ORG:ACT:811A7CA7-DB9E-4E5D-B9D9-DBD80C72423C

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, specimen number MCZ Herp R-7565, collected from Manokwari, West Papua Province, Indonesia, Latitude -0.8667 S., Longitude 134.0833 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: *Acanthophis oxyi sp. nov.* is readily separated from all other species of *Acanthophis* by the following unique combination of characters: Anterior two upper labials and rostral, wholly grey brown and without any white, rear two upper labials ivory white, each with a large black spot on the upper margin of anterior labial and upper rear of posterior labial; on flanks, each of lower two rows of scales are as follows: brown edged but with most of scale, including centres, being large black spots, these running the length of the body, with blotches in upper row being as large or larger than those in the lower row (in contrast to a similar arrangement in all other species that may be similar), black markings on chin do not reach the lower lip; unique to this species is a well defined fold of skin or ridge running from the mid-section of the back of the eye, in a diagonal downward direction to run along the upper margin of the two rear upper labials (those being the white ones, with black near the upper margin). The ridge line dissolves above end of the second last upper labial. A lesser ridge runs anterior to the eye from mid-

section to nostril. Scale above the eye is moderately raised in adults.

Acanthophis laevis Macleay, 1877 and other related taxa from south of the main central cordillera, being the species morphologically most similar to *A. oxyi* sp. nov. do not have the well defined rows of black spots running the entire length of the lower flanks or the well-defined fold of skin or ridge posterior to the eye.

Acanthophis barnetti Hoser, 1998, of the nominate form, from the Sepik River region and potentially east of there in Papua New Guinea is readily separated from *A. oxyi* sp. nov. by having black on the chin running up the lower labials as well formed bars and clearly entering the lip. Dark spots on the two rear upper labials are not well-defined as they are bordered at the upper margins with grey or grey peppering. Furthermore in *A. barnetti* upper anterior labials are whitish at the lower margins. These same characters separate the morphologically similar *A. crotalusei* Hoser, 1998, save for the fact that the black on the lower labials does not quite enter the lower lip and black spotting on the anterior upper labials is relatively prominent. Other less similar species within *Acanthophis* including the highly rugose southern New Guinea *Acanthophis rugosus* (Loveridge, 1948) and the other Australian species, are separated from the preceding taxa on the basis of the original descriptions in Hoser (1998a and 2002),

Distribution: *A. oxyi* sp. nov. is only definitively known from the upper birds head region of Irian Jaya, Indonesia, being the type locality. However morphologically similar specimens from Biak and north of the central cordillera in Irian Jaya, as far east as at least Jayapura are tentatively assigned to this species. *A. barnetti* Hoser, 1998 is found in the Sepik River region of PNG, this being presumably an eastern limit for putative *A. oxyi* sp. nov..

Etymology: *A. oxyi* sp. nov. is named in honour of a Great Dane dog, Oxyuranus, AKA "Oxy" (now deceased) who for 8 years guarded the research facility of this author from attacks and thefts. *Oxyuranus* Kinghorn, 1923 is the genus name for a well-known group of highly venomous elapid snakes.

ACANTHOPHIS (PLATYELAPID) CROTALUSEI KARKARENSIS SUBSP. NOV.

LSIDDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:30CAF45A-E182-4E7E-B64D-C629B8D88271

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.121443 collected from Kukul Plantation, Karkar Island, Madang District, Papua New Guinea, Latitude -4.37 S., Longitude 145.54 E. This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen numbers R122103 and R122104 collected from Karkar Island, Madang District, Papua New Guinea, Latitude -4.37 S., Longitude 145.54 E.

Diagnosis: *Acanthophis crotalusei karkarensis* subsp. nov. is the taxon of Death Adder (Genus *Acanthophis* Daudin, 1803) from Kar Kar Island, Madang District, Papua New Guinea. It would normally key out as *A. crotalusei* Hoser, 1998 as diagnosed by Hoser (1998a), being the most proximally close species, but is separated from nominate *A. crotalusei* by having well defined black spots in the centres of the middle and rear upper labials, which are otherwise purely white, versus middle and rear upper labials that are otherwise peppered in nominate *A. crotalusei* (and *A. barnetti* Hoser, 1998). As seen in nominate *A. crotalusei* and *A. barnetti* the two rows of scales of the lower flanks are not prominently spotted with black in the centre of each scale as seen in *A. oxyi* sp. nov.. Dorsal light bands in *A. crotalusei karkarensis* subsp. nov. are distinct, being at least one scale in width along most of the body, versus indistinct and/or less than this in both nominate *A. crotalusei* and *A. barnetti*.

The brown stripe at the rear of the head is thin in nominate *A. crotalusei* and *A. barnetti* and wide in *A. crotalusei karkarensis* subsp. nov.

Distribution: *A. crotalusei karkarensis* subsp. nov. is known only from Kar Kar Island, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea.

Etymology: The new subspecies is named in reflection of where it is known to occur.

REFERENCES CITED

- Aplin, K. P. and Donnellan, S. C. 1999. An extended description of the Pilbara Death Adder, *Acanthophis wellsii* Hoser (Serpentes: Elapidae), with notes on the desert death adder, *A. pyrrhus* Boulenger and identification of a possible hybrid zone. *Records of the Western Australian Museum*, 19:277-298.
- Boulenger, G. A. 1896. *Catalogue of the snakes in the British Museum, Vol. 3*. London (Taylor and Francis), xiv+727 pp.
- Boulenger, G. A. 1898. Description of a new death adder (*Acanthophis*) from central Australia. *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (7)2:75.
- Cogger, H. G. 2000. *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*, 6th ed. Ralph Curtis Publishing, Sanibel Island, 808 pp.
- Cogger, H. G. 2014. *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*, 7th ed. CSIRO Publishing, xxx+1033 pp.
- Cogger, H. G., Cameron, E. E. and Cogger, H. M. 1983. *Zoological Catalogue of Australia (1) Amphibia and Reptilia*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, ACT, Australia:319 pp.
- de Rooij, N. 1917. *The Reptiles of the Indo-Australian Archipelago. II. Ophidia*. Leiden (E. J. Brill), xiv+334 S.
- Daudin, F. M. 1803. *Histoire Naturelle, Générale et Particulière des Reptiles, Vol. 5*. F. Dufart, Paris, 365 pp.
- Dubois, A. 2014. Email to Raymond Hoser, 14 May.
- Dubois, A., Bauer, A. M., Ceriaco, L. M. P., Dusoulier, F., Fretey, T., Lobl, I., Lorvelec, O., Ohler, A., Stopiglia, R. and Aesch, E. 2019. The Linz Zoocode project: a set of new proposals regarding the terminology, the Principles and Rules of zoological nomenclature. First report of activities (2014-2019). *Bionomina* (online), 17:1-111.
- Eipper, S. 2013. Post on Facebook, 16 December.
- Goodman, R. 2019. Snake snatcher cops hefty fine for taking python. Age, 21 March 2019, posted online at: <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/snake-snatcher-cops-hefty-fine-for-taking-the-python-20190321-p51696.html>
- Günther, A. 1863. Contribution to the herpetology of Ceram. *Proc. Zool. Soc. London* 1863:58-60.
- Hobbs, K. 2010. Truckie jailed for having sex with 14 year old girl. *Geelong Advertiser*, 7 August, posted online at: http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2010/08/07/198431_news.html
- Hoser, R. T. 1981. Note on an unsuitable food item taken by a Death Adder (*Acanthophis antarcticus*) (Shaw) *Herpetofauna* (Australia) 13 (1):31.
- Hoser, R. T. 1982. Frequency of sloughing in captive *Morelia*, *Liasis* and *Acanthophis* (Serpentes), *Herptile* (UK) 7(3):20-26.
- Hoser, R. T. 1983. Mating behaviour in Australian Death Adders, Genus *Acanthophis* (Serpentes Elapidae), *Herptile* (UK) (8)1:25-33.
- Hoser, R. T. 1984a. Search for the Death Adder, *Notes From NOAA*, 11(9):12-14.
- Hoser, R. T. 1984b. Preferred activity temperatures of Nocturnal reptiles in the Sydney area, *Herptile* (UK) 9 (1):12-13.
- Hoser, R. T. 1985a. Genetic composition of Death Adders (*Acanthophis antarcticus*: Serpentes: Elapidae) in the West Head area, *Herptile* (UK) 10(3):96.
- Hoser, R. T. 1985b. On Melanistic tendencies in Death Adders *Acanthophis antarcticus* (Shaw). *Litteratura Serpenti* (English Edition), 5(4):157-159.
- Hoser, R. T. 1985c. On the question of immunity of snakes,

- Litteratura Serpenti* (English Edition), 5(6):219-232.
- Hoser, R. T. 1987. Notes on the Breeding of Death Adders (*Acanthophis antarcticus*). *Herpetile* (UK) 12(2):56-61.
- Hoser, R. T. 1989. *Australian Reptiles and Frogs*. Pierson and Co., Sydney, NSW, Australia:238 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1991. *Endangered Animals of Australia*. Pierson and Co., Mosman, NSW, 240 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1993. *Smuggled: The Underground Trade in Australia's Wildlife*. Apollo Publishing, Moss Vale, NSW. 160 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1996. *Smuggled-2: Wildlife Trafficking, Crime and Corruption in Australia*. Kotabi Publishing, Doncaster, Victoria, 3108, Australia:280 pp.
- Hoser, R. T. 1995a. Australia's Death Adders, Genus *Acanthophis*, *The Reptilian* 3(4)7-21 and cover, 3 (5):27-34.
- Hoser, R. T. 1995b. Release into hell. *Monitor:Journal of the Victorian Herpetological Society Incorporated* 7(2):77-88.
- Hoser, R. T. 1998a. Death Adders (Genus *Acanthophis*): An overview, including descriptions of Five new species and One subspecies. *Monitor: Journal of the Victorian Herpetological Society* 9(2):20-41 and covers.
- Hoser, R. T. 1998b. A new snake from Queensland, Australia (Serpentes: Elapidae). *Monitor: Journal of the Victorian Herpetological Society Incorporated* 10(1):5-9 and front cover.
- Hoser, R. T. 2000a. A New Species of Snake (Serpentes: Elapidae) from Irian Jaya. *Litteratura Serpenti* 20(6):178-186.
- Hoser, R. T. 2000b. A Revision of the Australasian pythons. *Ophidia Review* 1:7-27.
- Hoser, R. T. 2002. Death Adders (Genus *Acanthophis*): An Updated overview, including descriptions of 3 New Island species and 2 New Australian subspecies. *Crocodylian:Journal of the Victorian Association of Amateur Herpetologists* September 2002:5-11,16-22,24-30, front and back covers.
- Hoser, R. 2003. A reclassification of the pythoninae including the descriptions of two new genera, two new species and nine new subspecies. Part I. *Crocodylian* 4(3) (November 2003):31-37.
- Hoser, R. 2004. A reclassification of the pythoninae including the descriptions of two new genera, two new species and nine new subspecies. Part II. *Crocodylian* 4(4) (June 2004):21-40.
- Hoser, R. T. 2007. Wells and Wellington - It's time to bury the hatchet. *Calodema* Supplementary Paper 1:1-9.
- Hoser, R. T. 2009. Creationism and contrived science: A review of recent python systematics papers and the resolution of issues of taxonomy and nomenclature. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 2:1-34. (3 February).
- Hoser, R. T. 2012a. Exposing a fraud! *Afronaja* Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009, is a junior synonym of *Spracklandus* Hoser 2009! *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 9 (3 April 2012):1-64.
- Hoser, R. T. 2012b. 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 Journ. of Herp.* 18:2-79.
- Hoser, R. T. 2014. Tidying up Death Adder taxonomy (Serpentes: Elapidae: *Acanthophis*): including descriptions of new subspecies and the first ever key to identify all recognized species and subspecies within the genus. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 23:22-34.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015a. Dealing with the "truth haters" ... a summary! Introduction to Issues 25 and 26 of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*. Including "A timeline of relevant key publishing and other events relevant to Wolfgang Wüster and his gang of thieves." and a "Synonyms list". *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 25:3-13.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015b. The Wüster gang and their proposed "Taxon Filter": How they are knowingly publishing false information, recklessly engaging in taxonomic vandalism and directly attacking the rules and stability of zoological nomenclature. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 25:14-38.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015c. Best Practices in herpetology: Hinrich Kaiser's claims are unsubstantiated. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 25:39-52.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015d. PRINO (Peer reviewed in name only) journals: When quality control in scientific publication fails. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 26:3-64.
- Hoser, R. T. 2015e. Rhodin *et al.* 2015, Yet more lies, misrepresentations and falsehoods by a band of thieves intent on stealing credit for the scientific works of others. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 27:3-36.
- Hoser, R. T, 2015f. 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 (Case 3601; see *BZN* 70: 234-237; comments *BZN* 71:30-38, 133-135). (unedited version) *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 27:37-42.
- Hoser, R. T. 2016a. *Acanthophis lancasteri* Wells and Wellington, 1985 gets hit with a dose of Crypto! ... this is not the last word on Death Adder taxonomy and nomenclature. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 31:3-11.
- Hoser, R. T. 2016b. A re-evaluation of the Crocodile Skinks, genus *Tribolonotus* Duméril and Bibron, 1839 *sensu lato* including the division of the genus into three, description of three new species, a new subspecies and the placement of all within a new tribe. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 32:33-39.
- Hoser, R. T. 2019a. 11 new species, 4 new subspecies and a subgenus of Australian Dragon Lizard in the genus *Tympanocryptis* Peters, 1863, with a warning on the conservation status and long-term survival prospects of some newly named taxa. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 39:23-52.
- Hoser, R. T. 2019b. Richard Shine *et al.* (1987), Hinrich Kaiser *et al.* (2013), Jane Melville *et al.* (2018 and 2019): Australian Agamids and how rule breakers, liars, thieves, taxonomic vandals and law breaking copyright infringers are causing reptile species to become extinct. *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 39:53-63.
- Hoser, R. T. 2019c. Eight new skink genera and 45 newly named species associated with *Emoia* Gray, 1845 *sensu lato* that reflects ancient divergence and recent speciation within the assemblage (Reptilia: Squamata). *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* 40:3-49.
- 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.
- Kuch, U., McGuire, J. A. and Yuwono, F. B. 2006. Death adders

- (*Acanthophis laevis* complex) from the island of Ambon). *Herpetozoa* 19(1/2):81-82.
- Loveridge, A. 1948. New Guinean Reptiles and Amphibians in the Museum of Comparative Zoology and United States National Museum. *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology* 101:303-340.
- Macleay, W. 1877. The ophidians of the Chevert Expedition. *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*, 2:33-41.
- Maddock S. T., Ellis, R. J., Doughty, P., Smith, L. A. and Wüster, W. 2015. A new species of death adder (*Acanthophis*: Serpentes: Elapidae) from north-western Australia. *Zootaxa* (PRINO) online 4007(3):301-326.
- McDowall, S. B. 1984. Results of the Archbold Expeditions. No. 112. The Snakes of the Huon Peninsula, Papua New Guinea, *American Museum Novitates*, 2775:1-28.
- 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.
- Oransky, I. 2020. Major indexing service sounds alarm on self-citations by nearly 50 journals. Media release at: <https://retractionwatch.com/2020/06/29/major-indexing-service-sounds-alarm-on-self-citations-by-nearly-50-journals/>
- Ramsay, E. P. 1877. Description of a supposed new species of *Acanthophis* from North Australia. *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*, 2:72-74.
- Ride, W. D. L. (ed.) et al. (on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature) 1999. *International code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Fourth edition). The Natural History Museum - Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK.
- Shaw, G. and Nodder, E. (Eds.) 1802. The Naturalist's Miscellany [...], Vol XIII. London, Nodder and Co., plates 493-540, 178 unnumbered pages, [published in monthly issues between August 1, 1801, and July 1, 1802].
- Shea, G. 2013a. Email to Raymond Hoser dated Fri, 8 Mar 2013 04:29:39 +0000.
- Shea, G. 2013b. Post on facebook on 8 March at 7.51 AM at: <http://www.facebook.com/glenn.shea.73?ref=ts&fref=ts>
- 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. Second post on facebook on 20 March at: <http://www.facebook.com/glenn.shea.73?ref=ts&fref=ts#!/bryangrieg.fry?fref=ts>
- Storr, G. M. 1981. The genus *Acanthophis* (Serpentes: Elapidae) in Western Australia. *Records of the Western Australian Museum*, 9:203-210.
- Storr, G. M., Smith, L. A. and Johnstone, R. E. 2002. *Snakes of Western Australia*. Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia:309 pp.
- Supreme Court of Western Australia 2009. Thomas V Mallard [2009] WASC 95.
- Thorpe, S. 2013. Post to the Taxacom listserver, 21 May.
- Thorpe, S. 2014a. Post on the Taxacom listserver dated 13 April.
- Thorpe, S. 2014b. Email to ICZN. 29 April.
- Wellington, C. R. 2013. Post on Facebook, 26 December.
- Wellington, C. R. 2014a. Post on Facebook wall of Scott Eipper 6 April.
- Wellington, C. R. 2014b. Email to ICZN listserver and others on 9 July.
- Wellington, C. R. 2016. *Acanthophis cryptamydros* Maddock, Ellis, Doughty, Smith and Wüster, 2015 is an invalid junior synonym of *Acanthophis lancesteri* Wells and Wellington, 1985 (Squamata, Elapidae). *Bionomina*:10:74-75.
- Wells, R. W. 2002. Taxonomy of the Genus *Acanthophis* (Reptilia: Elapidae) in Australia. *Australian Biodiversity Record* 2002(5)(March):18.
- Wells, R. W. 2013. Post on Facebook dated 18 December.
- Wells, R. W. 2014. Post on Facebook wall of Scott Eipper 6 April.
- Wells, R. W. and Wellington, C. R. 1985. A classification of the Amphibia and Reptilia in Australia. *Australian Journal of Herpetology*, (Supplementary Series), 1:1-61.
- 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 Serpentina* 21(3):86-91.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

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.

Proudly Supported by Snakebusters ® Australia's best reptiles ®

Snakebusters are Australia's only hands-on reptiles shows
that let people hold the animals.



Relevant trademarks registered