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Before Australian Blind Snakes (Squamata: Serpentes: Scolecophidia) become extinct through bureaucratic indifference … The description of four new genera and seventy six new species.

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ABSTRACT

Two major papers published by Myself, Raymond Hoser in 2012 and 2013, dealt extensively with Australasian Blind Snakes. They provided a genus-level classification for all the Australasian Blind Snakes (Scolecophidia) with two genera recognized, including 12 other subgenera all named for the first time and all with deep divergences.

The 2013 paper also formally named five new Australian species and recognizing further unnamed species diversity.

In the intervening 12 years, a further six species have been formally named by others.

The genus-level taxonomy from 2013 has appeared to remain generally sound, but changes flagged in 2013 and other changes are made herein.

In 2013 I wrote:

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

All subgenera are formally elevated to full genera in this paper on the basis of recent molecular studies such as Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013), Pyron *et al.* (2013) and Tiatragul *et al*. (2023a-b, 2024).

Tiatragul *et al*. (2023a-b, 2024) confirmed calibrated divergences in excess of 20 MYA for all subgenera erected by Hoser in 2013.

Four new genera are also erected in this paper, all being more than or about 20 MYA divergent from nearest relatives, these being created by splitting of other genera, namely *Buckleytyphlops* Hoser, 2013, *Jackyhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013, *Ramphotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843 and *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013.

In hindsight, the relevant genera should have been split four extra ways in the original 2013 paper.

That paper was too conservative in the splitting of oversized paraphyletic genera.

In light of the more recent resurrection of the overlooked genus *Anilios* Gray, 1845, with a type species of *Anilios australis* Gray, 1845, by subsequent designation of Stejneger (1904) at page 683, *sensu* Eipper and Eipper (2024) and phylogenies cited herein, the taxonomy and nomenclature of Hoser in 2013 needs to be amended accordingly.

Subgenus *Adelynhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013, with a type species of *Ramphotyphlops pilbarensis* Aplin and Donnellan, 1993 is a subjective synonym of *Anilios*, representing the same species group and so, whilst still an available ICZN name, is in effect wholly synonymized with *Anilios* at all levels and unlikely to ever be used again as a correct genus name.

Genus diagnoses for all Australian genera are provided in this paper and some are obviously amended from those published in 2013.

As the title of this paper suggests, its main purpose is to describe seventy-six (76) obviously unnamed forms of Australian blind snakes, which when combined with those previously named is more than doubling the formally recognized number of Australian blind snake species. This is done noting that the general lack of interest in naming obvious species in this group by other herpetologists, combined with bureaucratic indifference from Australian governments at all levels, may otherwise lead to species expiring before they are even formally discovered!

Two typographical errors made in my 2012 paper and three errors in Zoobank registrations arising from the 2012 paper are formally clarified and are corrected herein.

This paper also has a list of duplicate Blind Snake genus names coined in acts of Taxonomic Vandalism by Wolfgang Wüster and his gang of thieves, rapists and sex perverts, along with the correct priority ICZN names.

Keywords: Snakes; Blind Snakes; taxonomy; Australia; nomenclature; reclassification; *Anilios*; synonyms; Australia; new genera; *aa*; *zzzzz*; *aaa*; *but*; new species; *aa*; *aaaaagh*; *fuknowhere*; *adept*; *ok*; *ye*; *mazing*; *nottobeignored*; *crypticspecies*; *goodcatch*; *greatfind*; *bulliardi*; *mirlirrtjarra*; *judyfergusonae*; *crottyi*; *oxyi*; *romani*; *okara*; *overlookedit*; *outofsight*; *mileii*; *paulwoolfi*; *euanedwardsi*; *gedyei*; *kamilaroi*; *corruptpoliceorum*; *datstink*; *fukdat*; *stinkey*; *anothersp*; *ick*; *wellswellingtonorum*; *snakebustersorum*; *britishbombedhere*; *fasciststateorum*; *dishonestpoliceorum*; *radiationzone*; *wow*; *yes*; *donteatit*; *flyingfoammassacre*; *timhudsoni*; *murderingpoliceorum*; *dhuae*; *fidesi*; *exy*; *johnpati*; *iancooki*; *cashcow;* *faarkinelle*; *ivebeenshaton*; *shittythingie*; *datsquirmy*; *antmuncha*; *murraybrucei*; *hawkeswoodi*; *jarrodbinghami*; *yetanotherone*; *shitbomb*; *leavemealone*; *tylertritti*; *leverorum*; *mariolisi*; *gambellae*; *ohno*; *toriswedoshae*; *timbukthree*; *gregswedoshi*; *haydnmcphiei*; *lachlandundasi*; *donothandlewithtongs*; *bennetti*; *sincerus*; *greatstinkofaustralia*; *altmani*; *graysoni*.

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Hoser in 2012 and 2013 being Hoser (2012d) and Hoser (2013a) provided a sound framework for the taxonomy and nomenclature of the Australasian Blind Snakes (AKA Blind Snakes) at the genus and subgeneric level.

The latter paper of Hoser (2013a) also named 5 species of Australian Blind Snake for the first time.

Following on from the papers of Hoser (2012d, 2013a) and the naming of 6 more putative Australian Blind Snake taxa in papers of Shea (2015), Venchi *et al.* (2015), Ellis (2016), Ellis and Doughty (2017) for two species and Ellis (2019), this paper seeks to provide an up-to-date classification of the Australian Blind Snakes at the genus and subgeneric level.

All newly named species are incorporated into the taxonomic framework of this paper, which is largely in line with that of Hoser (2013a).

However, as flagged in the abstract of this paper, the genus-level taxonomy is amended and corrected herein, to include four new named genera, each being formed by the splitting of other.

As mentioned in the abstract, all 12 subgenera erected by Hoser (2013a) are formally elevated to genera.

Four new genera are also erected, all being more than or about 20 MYA divergent from nearest relatives, these being created by splitting of other genera, namely *Buckleytyphlops* Hoser, 2013, *Jackyhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013, *Ramphotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843 and *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013.

A total of 76 species are formally named herein for the first time, which when combined with Hoser (2013a) have effectively raised the number of recognised species of Blind Snake in Australia from under 50 species to well over 100.

There probably remain further forms to formally name, these most likely to be found in the centre, west and north-west of Australia and within those species groups most heavily split herein (e.g. species within *Jackyhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013).

As a result, the Australian Blind Snakes are reclassified here to include subgenera as alluded to in the paper of Hoser (2012d) and formally named in Hoser (2013a), but instead as full genera for each and as a group, for the first time ever.

Pending papers by others in the post 2013 to 2025 period were also since been published, but with no taxonomic changes within at the genus level, save for the descriptions of another 6 species.

I note that the more recent publications of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) and Pyron *et al.* (2013) provided further molecular evidence to support the taxonomic judgements and nomenclature of Hoser (2012d) as have the even more recent papers of Tiatragul *et al*. (2023a-b, 2024).

Marin *et al.* 2012, 2013 gave evidence that supported the Hoser (2013a) position of splitting the Blind Snake groups based on divergence.

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

I note that *Indotyphlops* Hedges *et al*. (2014) and *Virgotyphlops* Wallach, 2020 and 2021 are invalid junior synonyms of *Maxhoserus* Hoser, 2012 and should therefore not be used as correct ICZN names for the relevant taxa (ICZN 2021).

Hoser (2013a) erected twelve new subgenera, as well as two already named, being *Libertadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1984, and *Sivadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1985, both redefined in Hoser (2013a).

These accommodated almost all Australian species groups of Blind Snakes, followed by the description of new species in a manner consistent with Hoser (2012d, 2013a).

Of brief mention was the improper and illegal (under the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*) use of the name *Austrotyphlops* Wallach, 2006 in numerous publications (especially online), when it is in fact a junior objective synonym of *Libertadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1984, complete with the same type species.

Refer to Hoser (2012d, 2013a) for the full detail.

In light of the more recent resurrection of the overlooked genus *Anilios* Gray, 1845, with a type species of *Anilios australis* Gray, 1845, by subsequent designation of Stejneger (1904) at page 683, *sensu* Eipper and Eipper (2024) and phylogenies of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) as well as those of Tiatragul *et al*. (2023a-b, 2024) the taxonomy and nomenclature of Hoser (2013a) needs to be amended accordingly.

Libertadictus Wells and Wellington, 1984, type species: *Onychocephalus bituberculatus* Peters, 1863 and *Sivadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1984, with a type species of *Anilios nigrescens* Gray, 1845 are both good valid genera.

They are not disturbed by anything published since those original descriptions in 1984.

In passing I note for the public record that the third edition of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* was published no earlier than 1987, meaning that the relevant Wells and Wellington (1984 and 1985) papers were published at a time that the second edition of the Code (Stoll *et al*. 1964) was in force.

The ISBN number for the third edition of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* was issued on 12 August 1987, meaning that the third edition of the Code (Cited herein as Ride *et al*. 1985 or 1987) with the relevant ISBN number printed inside its front cover could not have been published before that date (Wilson, 2023a-b).

Peta Wilson, ISBN Agency Advisor, UK and Ireland ISBN Agency, sent an email to Ross Wellington

(Australia) dated Sat, Jun 17, 2023 at 12:24 AM
She said:
"*Looking at the ISBN in question below it appears to be only 9 digits. After some detective work the original 10-digit ISBN was 0-85301-003-X. The prefix 978-0-85301 (containing 1000 ISBNs) was issued to International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature 12/08/1987*."
On 20 June at 2:04 AM.
she wrote:
"*If the ISBN prefix wasn't assigned until 12/08/1987, no, the title couldn't have been published before*."
This fact is important with respect to comments made against the papers of Wells and Wellington (1984, 1985) and their allegations as to the legal status of names proposed in those papers of Wells and Wellington (1984, 1985) by Shea and Sadlier (1999), including the two relevant Blind Snake genus names used herein.
Shea and Sadlier (1999) and their arguments against Wells and Wellington's works are fatally flawed and wrong, because they had incorrectly asserted that the third edition of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al*. 1985) was in force at the time those papers were first published.
It was the second edition of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* Stoll *et al.* (1964) that was in force.
Subgenus *Adelynhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013, with a type species of *Ramphotyphlops pilbarensis* Aplin and Donnellan, 1993 is a subjective synonym of *Anilios*, representing the same species group and so, whilst still an available name, is in effect wholly synonymized with *Anilios* at all levels. This means that *Adelynhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013 will probably never be used as a correct genus name again and based on the phylogenies of Tiatragul *et al*. (2023a-b, 2024) I am happy to effectively "sink" my name.
Science is based on fact, not egos and emotion, so while I may have an attachment to the name I proposed in the form of *Adelynhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013, I cannot unpublish John Edward Gray's much earlier paper and so his name must have ICZN priority.
The name *Pseudotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843 as a genus name for the taxon *polygrammicus* is not available as it was pre-occupied for another taxon in the family Uropeltidae, namely *Pseudotyphlops philippinus* Müller, 1832, the genus name first proposed by Schlegel in 1839.
The illegally coined name *Sundatyphlops* Hedges *et al.* 2014 is a junior objective synonym for *Ackytyphlops* Hoser, 2013, with the exact same type species and therefore should never be used as correct.
Sundatyphlops Hedges *et al.* 2014 is in effect even more dead than *Adelynhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013!
Problem here is that Hedges *et al.* (2014) are thieves and not scientists.
Peter Uetz, controlled as a sidekick of notorious criminal Wolfgang Wüster has been aware of this fact since 2013 and 2014 and yet as of 2025 persists in falsely claiming on his website that he calls "The Reptile Database" that *Sundatyphlops* Hedges *et al.* 2014 is the first and only available ICZN name for the *Typhlops polygrammicus* Schlegel, 1839, species group.
Put simply, Peter Uetz and his cohort are not scientists, but rather they are compulsive liars.
They censor the works of others they take a hatred of, including going so far as to DELETE from their alleged scientific records over 1,000 works of Russian scientists after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022.
Uetz described this as "collateral damage" in the hope that Russian herpetologists, most of whom were not even still alive, would somehow be upset with this ban from his "The Reptile Database" and be able to exert pressure on the Russian leader Vladimir Putin to withdraw all his troops from Ukraine.
Hoser (2013a) also wrote:
"*I also mention that if the divergence limits for Blind Snake genera are brought into line with higher snakes as classified at present, by later authors, all subgenera defined by Hoser (2012b) and this paper, would need to be elevated to full genera as they tend to be well in excess of 10 MYA divergence between groups based on the calibrated molecular evidence published to date*."
That remains true as of 2025.
So that the current status of Australian Blind Snake taxonomy is properly understood by readers, this paper more-or-less maintains most of the genus-level of taxonomy of Hoser (2013a) save for the changes already indicated, the main one being elevation of the subgeneric groups to full genera.
These are amended accordingly in the classification that follows the formal descriptions in this paper and including all species, including those named before this paper's publication and named within this paper.
However, the four (4) newly named genera are formally described before the relevant formal species descriptions of species in those genera, while the other genus-level descriptions (amended from Hoser 2013a) are published herein following the other new species descriptions.
The four newly named genera, have in their species lists all species, including those formally named in this paper for the first time.
So too do all other defined genera listed and detailed in this paper, completing an inventory of all known Blindsnake species on the mainland of Australia.
The five species formally named by Hoser (2013a) and included in that paper were written as follows:
A. (*Suewitttyphlops*) *sloppi* Hoser, 2013, which is closely related to *A.* (*Suewitttyphlops*) *ligatus* (Peters,

1879).

A. (*Robinwitttyphlops*) *jackyhoserae* Hoser, 2013, which appears to be closely related to *A.* (*Robinwitttyphlops*) *unguirostris* (Peters, 1867), with a divergence of about 8 MYA according to Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013).

A. (*Slopptyphlops*) *richardwellsi* Hoser, 2013, which appears to be closely related to *A.* (*Slopptyphlops*) *ammodytes* (Montague, 1914).

A. (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *adelynhoserae* which was formerly regarded as a northwest Australian population of putative *A.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *grypus* (Waite, 1918).

A. (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *cliffrosswellingtoni* Hoser, 2013, which was formerly regarded as a south-west Queensland population of *A.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *grypus* (Waite, 1918).

I note here that putative *A.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *grypus* (Waite, 1918) and associated species from western and central Australia are not closely related to the type form of *A.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *grypus* (Waite, 1918) and associated species from Queensland and immediately adjacent parts of other states.

The West Australian species remain within *Jackyhosertyphlops*, while the Queensland forms are placed in a genus formally named for the first time in this paper, being *Zzzzz gen. nov*., with a type species of *Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *cliffrosswellingtoni* Hoser, 2013.

The six species formally named in the intervening 12 years by others are (within the Hoser 2013a classification) as follows:

A. (Pattersontyphlops) fossor (Shea, 2015) of central Australia which appears to be associated with *A.* (*Pattersontyphlops*) *wiedii* (Peters, 1867) from south-east Queensland and northwest New South Wales.

A. (*Pattersontyphlops*) *insperatus* (Venchi, Wilson and Borsbook, 2015) from south-east Queensland which is associated with *A.* (*Pattersontyphlops*) *affinis* (Boulenger, 1889) from east Queensland.

Zzzzz gen. nov. is formally named in this paper as a full genus to accommodate these and other related species divergent from the type group of *Pattersontyphlops* Hoser, 2013, with type species *Typhlops wiedii* Peters, 1867.

A. (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *obtusifrons* (Ellis and Doughty, 2017) which is associated with *A.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *leptosomus* (Robb, 1972) both from west, Western Australia.

A. (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *systenos* (Ellis and Doughty, 2017), which is associated with *A.* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *leptosomus* (Robb, 1972) both from west, Western Australia.

A. (*Suewitttyphlops*) *vagurima* (Ellis, 2019) which is associated with *A.* (*Suewitttyphlops*) *kimberleyensis* (Storr, 1981) both from the Kimberley district of Western Australia.

A. (*Mantyphlops*) *zonula* (Ellis, 2016) which is associated with *A.* (*Mantyphlops*) *yampiensis* (Storr, 1981) both from the Kimberley district of Western Australia.

The species "*Anilios splendidus* (Aplin, 1998)", has been suggested as a synonym of *A. pinguis* (Waite, 1897).

It is retained as valid until molecular evidence confirms the matter one way or other. This is done so noting that to date many putative taxa within the Cape Range area are locally endemic species.

Furthermore, this northern taxon is morphologically divergent from the more southern distributed *A. pinguis*.

It is also transferred to the subgenus *Bennetttyphlops* Hoser, 2013 (treated herein as a full genus).

The species *A. affinis* (Boulenger, 1889) was misplaced in Hoser, 2013a and is herein placed within the newly named genus *Zzzzz gen. nov*. with a type species of *Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *cliffrosswellingtoni* Hoser, 2013.

The *A. affinis* (Boulenger, 1889) group is about 15 MYA divergent from the other main clade in the genus and so may well be hived off to a separate genus or subgenus at a later date.

As already mentioned, there are four new genera erected for the first time in this paper, all being about or more than 20 MYA divergent from nearest relatives, these being created by splitting of other genera, namely *Buckleytyphlops* Hoser, 2013, *Jackyhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013, *Ramphotyphlops* Fitzinger, 1843 and *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013.

Further mention is made of the putative species originally described as "*Ramphotyphlops grypus* Waite, 1918" based on four specimens from various parts of Australia, treated as a composite of species by Hoser, 2013a.

The type form of *Ramphotyphlops grypus* Waite, 1918 is not from one of the main population areas of the putative species as is presently known, as in west Australia, central Australia or even inland eastern Australia. It appears to be from the Gulf of Carpentaria and was treated as such by Hoser (2013a) and again herein.

Waite did not specify the type locality for his type specimen at the National Museum of Victoria, but the ventral count of his holotype only fits the Gulf of Carpentaria population, which is a point made clear in Storr (1981) and agreed both by Hoser (2013a and herein), which is why the divergent but obviously related south west Queensland population of the species was formally named as "*Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *cliffrosswellingtoni* Hoser, 2013."

Both these taxa and the "*Ramphotyphlops affinis* Boulenger, 1889" group do in combination form a distinctive clade of species, separate from other members of *Jackyhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013, being

generally western Australian forms (as opposed to northeast Australian forms).

They diverged from *Jackyhosertyphlops* and all other nearest related forms by more than 20 MYA based on the various phylogenies published to date.

They are therefore placed in a new genus named *Zzzzz gen. nov*. herein, with "*Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *cliffrosswellingtoni sp. nov.*,." as the type species.

Another species synonymized with putative *Ramphotyphlops grypus* Waite, 1918 by most publishing authors since Cogger *et al*. (1983) was *Typhlops nigroterminatus* Parker, 1931 with a type locality of Roebuck, Western Australia.

That was treated by Hoser (2013a) as a species endemic to the South Kimberley district of Western Australia, generally north of the Edgar Ranges.

This remains the case.

The species described by Hoser (2013a) as *Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *adelynhoserae sp. nov.* now identified as *Jackyhosertyphlops adelynhoserae* and putatively occupying a large part of Western Australia is herein confined to the north Pilbara area, generally north of the Fortescue River basin and south of the mid part of the Great Sandy desert.

This paper names further related species from west and central Australia and all remain within the genus *Jackyhosertyphlops* as recognized herein.

The genus *Zzzzz gen. nov.* is most closely associated with *Buckleytyphlops* Hoser, 2013, based on most published phylogenies including those of Tiatragul *et al*. (2023a-b, 2024).

The species "*Typhlops kenti* Boulenger, 1914" was inadvertently omitted from Hoser (2013a), being a north Queensland taxon related to *Jackyhosertyphlops affinis* (Boulenger, 1889).

Now placed in *Jackyhosertyphlops*, *J. kenti* is separated from *J. affinis* by its blunt head, relatively small rostral and angular snout.

In passing, I mention that a sizeable proportion of reptile taxa named by Boulenger that have been synonymised by later authors have been incorrectly synonymised and as a group, all should be revisited critically in light of evidence obtained in the 100 odd years since these descriptions were first published.

Perhaps most importantly as already inferred, this paper names a total of 76 new species for the first time, with each placed in the relevant genera as indicated herein with the genus-level descriptions, essentially similar to those of Hoser (2013a), save for the four added genera, additions of taxa and rearrangements as already indicated.

Again, I note that separate to the previously named genera, the newly named genera are formally named first before the relevant species descriptions including those relevant to the named genera.

MATERIALS, METHODS AND RESULTS

Materials and methods and refences cited are as for Hoser (2012d) and Hoser (2013a) unless otherwise stated herein.

The relevant statements and references in those papers are not necessarily repeated herein or cited in full at the end of this paper.

In terms of results, the species formally named herein are indicated in the molecular results of the paper of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) and Tiatragul *et al*. (2023a-b, 2024) unless otherwise stated.

This paper does not by any means purport to represent all the previously undescribed Blind Snake taxa (species or subspecies) in Australia.

There probably remains more to be formally identified and named. It will be said by my detractors that I have merely taken the "low hanging fruit", but this is simply not the case.

Considerable time and effort was required to work out how to differentiate the various species level taxa, including the very meticulous inspection of countless live and dead specimens from all mainland states of Australia over some decades.

References relevant to the taxonomic and nomenclatural decisions herein include the following:

Annable (1995), Aplin (1998), Aplin and Donnellan (1993), Barbour (1912), Boulenger (1889, 1893, 1895a-b, 1897, 1898, 1914), Cogger (1975, 1979, 2000, 2014), Cogger *et al.* (1983), Couper *et al*. (1998), Covacevich (1971), Coventry (1970), Coventry and Robertson (1991), de Rooij (1917), De Vis (1889, 1905), Ehmann (1992), Eipper (2012), Eipper and Eipper (2024), Ellis (2016, 2019), Ellis *et al*. (2017), Fitzinger (1843), Garman (1901), Glauert (1950), Gray (1842, 1845), Greer (2017, 2025), Hedges *et al*. (2014), Hediger (1934), Hoser (1989, 2007, 2012d, 2013a), Houston (1976), ICZN (2012) in den Bosch and Ineich (1994), Ingram and Covacevich (1993), Jan (1863, 1864, 1865a-b), Jolly *et al.* (2013), Kinghorn (1929a, 1929b, 1942, 1956), Loveridge (1934, 1945, 1948), Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013), Maryan *et al.* (2024), McDiarmid *et al*. (1999), McDowell (1974), Mertens (1930), Methner (2002), Montague (1914), Müller (1932), Ogilby (1892), Parker (1931), Peters (1858, 1863, 1865, 1867a-b, 1879), Pyron and Wallach (2014), Pyron *et al.* (2011, 2013), Ride *et al.* (1999), Robb (1966a, 1966b, 1972), Schlegel (1839), Shea (1995, 1999, 2015), Shea and Horner (1997), Smith (1927), Stejneger (1904), Stimson *et al*. (1977), Storr (1981, 1983, 1984), Storr *et al*. (2022), Swan *et al.* (2017, 2022), Tiatragul *et al*. (2023a, 2023b, 2024), Tilbrook (1992), Venchi *et al*. (2015), Waite (1893, 1894, 1897a, 1897b, 1898, 1917, 1918a, 1918b), Wallach (1993, 2006, 2020, 2021), Wells (1979), Wells and Wellington (1984, 1985), Werner (1899, 1901), Wilson (2005, 2022), Wilson and Knowles (1988), Wilson and Swan (2010, 2021), Worrell (1963) and sources cited therein.

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.

In terms of the following formal descriptions, spelling of names 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 (Ride *et al.* 1999 and ICZN 2012).

Material downloaded from the internet and cited anywhere in this paper was downloaded and checked most recently as of 19 April 2025, unless otherwise stated and were accurate in terms of the context cited herein as of that date.

Unless otherwise stated explicitly, colour 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, excessive aging or abnormal skin reaction to chemical or other input.

This includes the descriptions of the snakes not including pre-sloughing snakes, which are often significantly different to the usual colouration for the specimen or species, being usually more whitish or dull.

Note that there is ordinarily some sexual dimorphism between adults of species within the relevant taxa and changes in colour often from young to adult.

While numerous texts and references were consulted prior to publication of this paper, the criteria used to separate the relevant species 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.

In the unlikely event any "first reviser" seeks to merge two or more newly named taxa into one, then the name to be retained is that which is first by page priority as listed in the abstract keywords.

Some material within descriptions may be repeated to ensure each fully complies with the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al*. 1999) and the 2012 amendments (ICZN 2012).

The "version of record" is the printed version and not pdf version. Both are identical in all materially relevant ways except for the fact that the images in the printed version may be in black and white, as opposed to colour as seen in the pdf version.

The people who assisted with provision of photos and other materials used within this paper or for research by me are also thanked for their assistances, for which they sought nothing in return.

The use of provocative and interesting etymologies is deliberate and designed to further public interest in the relevant species, which will aid conservation outcomes and/or to highlight other matters of public importance that may otherwise be overlooked.

CONSERVATION OF BLIND SNAKES IN AUSTRALIA

In terms of governments in Australia at all levels and even so-called herpetologists in Australia, there is almost zero concern for the conservation of the Australian Blind Snakes.

Quite a few of the species may be endangered due to alterations in supplies of food sources, such as ants in the competition between them and introduced species, the latter of which there are dozens of species.

However, due to the cryptic nature of most Blind Snake species, it is likely that severe declines in numbers will almost certainly be overlooked by herpetologists and governments alike.

At this stage herpetologists and governments don't even know all the species on the Australian continent.

In terms of those formally named before now, collectively herpetologists know very little about individual species including such basic facts as what they eat, how long they live for, number of offspring and effects of competing species or food sources on distributions and range expansion constraints. There are no published baseline figures on preferred habitats.

All we have is general distribution information, from which habitats and preferences can be inferred.

There is no baseline data on what is "normal" for any of the over 100 species of Blind Snake in Australia.

In terms of conservation of these species, all the preceding information should be known.

On page 11 of his 2045-page monograph published online (Greer, 2025), Dr. Allen E. Greer, the former herpetology curator at the Australian Museum of Sydney spoke of the reluctance of Australian governments and herpetologists to even bother to describe the full diversity of Australian Blind Snakes.

Greer (2025) said:

"*Whether the genetically indicated candidate species will ever be described in full is unclear, as there appears to be little enthusiasm/encouragement for such mundane follow-up*."

Allen Greer has even noted the contempt of his former employer, the Australian Museum to science and conservation.

Greer (2017) noted "*By 2007, I had become so disillusioned with the Museum's attitude to science that I resigned*."

Greer's mouth is largely tied by virtue of his New South Wales public service terms of employment.

If he speaks out against his former employer, the Australia Museum, he would immediately lose his

multi million dollar New South Wales government public service pension.

The purpose of this paper is to prove Allen Greer wrong in terms of his claim that no one would bother to take the immense amount of time to attempt to describe the full diversity of Australia's Blind Snakes.

This paper is the end result of over 50 years trampling through the Australian wilderness in search of blind snakes in all corners of the continent, often in nights of driving rain.

It is also the result of countless hours, often in full overnight stints reviewing specimen data, photos, publications and other evidence in order to sort out the facts and identify the relevant species, be they named and recognised, previously named and generally ignored (synonymised taxa), or actually unnamed and in need of a formal scientific description.

Some newly named species herein have been given unusual and "different" names for the express purpose of encouraging others to take a more active interest in these species and their long-term study and conservation, the latter (conservation) of which is only possible with the action of the former (study). I make no apologies for choosing scientific names that may at times be deemed humorous, shock, or even offend those who actively look for any excuse to be offended as seems fashionable in some places in year 2025.

However, as no reasonable person could possibly be offended by any of the names I have proposed herein or elsewhere, none of the names breach Recommendation 25 (C) of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999).

The relevant comments in Hoser (1989, 1991, 1993, 1998a, 2007, 2019a-b, 2024) and sources cited therein apply to the conservation of the species formally named within this paper.

THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF TAXONOMIC VANDALISM ON THE CONSERVATION OF BLIND SNAKES AND OTHER REPTILES

Human overpopulation and all its associated consequences are without doubt the greatest long-term threat to the relevant species as outlined in Hoser (1989, 1991, 1993 and 1996). Delays in recognition of these species could jeopardise the long-term survival of the taxa as outlined by Hoser (2019a, 2019b) and sources cited therein.

Therefore attempts by taxonomic vandals, paedophiles, serial rapists, animal abusers and wildlife traffickers like the members of the Adam Britton and Wolfgang Wüster gang via Wüster *et al*. (2001), Kaiser (2012a, 2012b, 2013, 2014a, 2014b) and Kaiser *et al.* (2013) (as frequently amended and embellished, e.g. Rhodin *et al.* 2015, Naish 2013, as regularly altered and amended, Thiele *et al.* 2020, Hammer and Thiele 2021, Wüster *et al*. 2021, Foley and Rutter 2020) to unlawfully suppress the recognition of these taxa on the basis they have a personal dislike for the person who formally named it/them should be resisted (e.g. Ceriaco *et al*. 2023, Cogger 2014, Dubois *et al*. 2019, Hoser 2001a, Mosyakin 2022 and Wellington 2015).

Claims by the Adam Britton / Wolfgang Wüster gang against this paper and the descriptions herein will no doubt be no different to those the gang have made previously, including for instance against Wells and Wellington (1984, 1985), (see for example Shine 1987, Shea 1987, Shea and Sadlier 1999), all of which were discredited long ago as outlined by Ceraico *et al*. (2023), Cogger (2014), Cotton (2014), Dubois *et al*. (2019), Hawkeswood (2021), Hołyński (1994, 2020), Hoser, (2001, 2007, 2009, 2012a-c, 2013, 2015a-f, 2019a-b, 2020a-b, 2021a-b, 2023, 2024a-b), ICZN (1991, 2001, 2021), Jiménez-Mejías *et al*. (2024), Kok (2023), Mosyakin (2022), Pethigayoda (2023), Wellington (2015), Winkler (2024), Zheng and Gold (2020) and sources cited therein.

Attempts to engage in acts of scientific fraud to try to rename any of these newly named taxa should be exposed and dealt with appropriately, as was done with David Williams, when in 2001 he attempted to rename and/or claim name authority for the species *Pailsus rossignolii* Hoser, 2000a.

He did this in the first instance in 2001, by altering versions of his online "paper" (as seen in Williams and Starkey 1999a, 1999b and 1999c), all of which were different and changed versions of a single paper originally published in the first form in 1999, claiming (without any evidence) to refute the existence of the species *Pailsus pailsei* Hoser, 1998 (see Hoser 1998b and Hoser 2001a for details).

Claims by Shea and Sadlier (1999) and similar elsewhere by the Wüster gang to the effect that earlier published names are unavailable for zoological nomenclature are patently false and the making of these false claims is seriously counter to wildlife conservation (Hoser, 2007, Ceriaco *et al*. 2023, Cogger 2014, Cotton 2014, and so on).

GENUS *AA GEN. NOV.*

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:8C869A1E-12CE-4D98-B1C6-2F7A4FEF5A9F

Type Species: *Typhlops broomi* Boulenger, 1898.

Diagnosis: The genus *Aa gen. nov.* are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Pink, purple, light brown, brown, blackish above, becoming vaguely whitish or yellowish-white below. The flanks are coloured same as the dorsum and these is no obvious demarcation between the dorsal colour and the venter as one moves to the very underneath of the snake.

The dark dorsal colour forms into obvious or semi-distinct longitudinal streaks formed by dark patches on the anterior part of each dorsal scale (in contrast to the related genus *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013

where such longitudinal streaks are not seen in adults). The snout is entirely rounded from above and in profile, ranging from being somewhat blunt to slightly angular. The nasal cleft which may or may not be visible from above (if it is, then only just), joins the preocular, continuing in front of the nostril and often dividing the nasal. The rostral is oval in the genus *Aa gen. nov.* versus relatively narrow and constricted from above in the genus *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013, being longer than broad. 20 midbody scale rows. Body diameter 30-70 times in its length. Average adult maximum length is 25 cm and doesn't exceed 35 cm.

Distribution: Restricted to the very top end of the Northern Territory and north parts of Cape York, Queensland, in far north Australia.

Etymology: Late at night in 2019 when I asked Paul Woolf, the president of the Herpetological Society of Queensland Incorporated, what the genus name for these snakes should be called he simply went "aa", and hence the genus name.

Content: *Aa aa* (type species) (this paper), *A. aaaaagh sp. nov.* (this paper), *A. broomi* (Boulenger, 1898), *A. chamodracaena* (Ingram and Covacevich, 1993), *A. tovelli* (Loveridge, 1945).

GENUS *ZZZZZ GEN. NOV.*

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:2FC46082-38A0-40B8-A0B1-80DC3471A79F

Type Species: *Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *cliffrosswellingtoni* Hoser, 2013.

Diagnosis: *Jackyhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013 and *Zzzzz gen. nov*. are separated from other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Elongate and slender build. Purplish-brown or pinkish brown above, grey-white below. The head and tail or just tail may have blackening. The snout is rounded and sometimes slightly trilobed from above, bluntly angular in profile, sometimes with a strongly hooked, recurved "beak" in profile. Nasal cleft completely divides the nasal, not visible from above, contacting the preocular, extending slightly beyond the nostril. The rostral is large and subcircular, about as long as wide, slightly longer than wide ranging up to being noticeably longer than broad. 16-18 midbody rows. Body diameter is 70-80 times in its length.

Average adult length is about 25-30 cm and not exceeding 45 cm.

Zzzzz gen. nov. are separated from *Jackyhosertyphlops* by lacking a sharp transverse keel forming a distinct cutting edge to the snout (or is reduced in intensity), separating this genus from the morphologically similar genus *Jackyhosertyphlops* which has this character in an extreme form. *Zzzzz gen. nov*. have more than 700 ventrals, versus less than 700 in *Jackyhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013.

Distribution: Most parts of Queensland, Australia and the immediately adjacent parts of New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Etymology: In 2019 after catching a specimen of *Z. affinis* in east Queensland, I was discussing with Paul Woolf, the president of the Herpetological Society of Queensland Incorporated, what the genus name for these snakes should be called.

I think he was trying to sleep and all I got from him was a "Zzzzz" sound and hence the genus name.

Content: *Zzzzz cliffrosswellingtoni* (Hoser, 2013) (type species), *Z. affinis* (Boulenger, 1889), *Z. grypus* (Waite, 1918), *Z. insperatus* Venchi, Wilson and Borsbook, 2015, *Z. kenti* (Boulenger, 1914), *Zzzzzz zzzzz sp. nov*. (this paper).

GENUS *AAA GEN. NOV.*

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:EA9C45D6-3EEC-4EB4-A36C-50F7245819BF

Type species: *Typhlops leucoproctus* Boulenger, 1889.

Diagnosis: With the type species formerly included in a number of other genera, the genus *Aaa gen. nov.* as defined herein is monotypic for this species.

The species within *Aaa gen. nov.* is separated from all other Australasian Blind Snakes by the following unique combination of characters:
Rounded snout from above, moderate in profile and with lateral nostrils. Rostral about a third of the width of the head, extending to the level of the eyes, nasal nearly completely divided, the cleft proceeding from the second labial; preocular present, a little narrower than the nasal or the ocular, in contact with the second and third labials; numerous tiny tubercles on the head scales; whitish glands in the sutures between the head scales; eye distinguishable; upper head scales moderately enlarged; four upper labials. Diameter of the body is 40-65 times in the total length; tail is 1.5 to 2 times as long as broad and ending in a spine. 20 midbody scale rows. Small in size and slender in build. Dark purplish brown on top and lighter but of similar colour ventrally. Labial and anal regions are yellowish (modified from Boulenger, 1889 with updates).

Distribution: Torres Strait, including nearby mainlands of Cape York, Australia and southern New Guinea.

Etymology: It was in 2019, when after discussing with Paul Woolf, the president of the Herpetological Society of Queensland Incorporated the potential names for the genus containing the *Typhlops broomi* Boulenger, 1898 group of species, attention turned to the generic placement of *Typhlops leucoproctus* Boulenger, 1889, which led to Paul Woolf simply making the noise "aaa", and hence the genus name for this taxon.

Content: *Aaa leucoproctus* (Boulenger, 1889) (monotypic).

GENUS *BUT GEN. NOV.*

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:7464D082-9933-4935-B4D0-05BD151F9872

Type Species: *Ramphotyphlops howi* Storr, 1983.

Diagnosis: The two genera *Mantyphlops* Hoser,

2013 and *But gen. nov*. are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Brown to almost black above, merging on the lower flanks with the pale brown to creamish venter. The tail is blackish, as is often the snout or head. The snout is bluntly rounded from above and in profile or sometimes slightly angular or truncate. The nasal cleft isn't visible from above, or if so, only just, contacting the second labial below. Rostral is subcircular from above, scarcely to much longer than broad. 18 midbody rows. Body diameter 40-90 times in length. Adults average 25 cm and not over 40 cm.

But gen. nov. is separated from *Mantyphlops* Hoser, 2013 by usually having less than 500 ventrals (excluding the species *But fuknowhere sp. nov*.) versus always from 500-600 in *Mantyphlops* and a barely visible eye spot, versus one that is tiny and obvious in *Mantyphlops*

But gen. nov. has grading from dark dorsum to light undersides effectively under the very lowest part of the flank and not visible from dorsal view. There is no obvious demarcation line. By contrast in *Mantyphlops* the dark dorsal colour turns light on the visible lower flank and with a well-defined boundary between upper dark and lower white.

Tiatragul *et al*. (2023a-b, 2024) showed a divergence between *Mantyphlops* Hoser, 2013 and *But gen. nov*. of just under 20 MYA from one another and as a pair over 20 MYA from all other Australian Blind Snakes.

Distribution: Western part of the Kimberley District in Western Australia only, including west-flowing drainage basins.

Mantyphlops Hoser, 2013 is herein confined to the East Kimberley district, in the Ord River basin, extending north-east to include the Victoria River, Daly and Alligator River systems in the Northern Territory. In both genera, the relevant species appear to have evolved in an allopatric manner in the relevant drainage basins.

Etymology: When I caught a specimen of this genus in the west Kimberley in 1983, I tried to pass it to my associate Charles Acheson. Not wanting to be defecated on, he pushed me back with his hand and said "but", giving the genus name.

Content: *But howi* (Storr, 1983) (type species), *B. fuknowhere sp. nov.* (this paper), *B. micrommus* (Storr, 1981), *B. yampiensis* (Storr, 1981), *B. zonula* Ellis, 2016.

AA AA SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:8A1678AE-F5AB-4BD7-BC65-B1F0E45D02AE

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Reptile Collection, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R36155 collected from Mallison Island, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -12.18 S., Longitude 136.11017 E. This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Reptile Collection, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R.40917 collected from (presumed) Elcho Island, Latitude -11.9768 S., Longitude 135.6953 E. (The specimen record includes Lake Evella, a location on the adjacent mainland, which is from where it was presumably flown from, being the main airport in the area).

Diagnosis: Until now, all specimens of putative *Aa tovelli* (Loveridge, 1945), originally described as "*Ramphotyphlops tovelli* Loveridge, 1945", from the top end of the Northern Territory have been treated as a single species.

It is now treated herein as three well separated allopatric species all from the Northern Territory.

These are the type form of *Aa tovelli* from Darwin, The Tiwi Islands and nearby Cobourg Peninsula. *Aa aaaaagh sp. nov*. from the west Arnhem Land escarpment area and *Aa aa sp. nov*. from the sandstone country and adjacent islands of far east Arnhem Land, generally east of the Wessell Islands and along the adjacent coast. The three species are readily separated from one another by the following consistent characters and differences.

Aa tovelli is a pinkish purple species, even as adults with a strong purplish tinge; the anterior edge of each scale is slightly darker than the rest of the scale, but this is not bold or distinct.

Aa aaaaagh sp. nov. by contrast as an adult is a medium wood brown coloured snake on top, with the dark at the anterior edge of each scale being black in colour, well-defined and expanded to be about half the scale width.

Aa aa sp. nov. is a lighter yellowish purple brown colour, with the anterior edge of each scale a dark brownish black, well-defined but not as big as half a scale width. In adults of both *Aa aaaaagh sp. nov*. and *Aa aa sp. nov*. the lighter colour at the back of the head and top of neck that occupies about three times the distance from snout to back of eyes is well-defined and obvious, versus poorly defined and not obvious in adult *Aa tovelli.*

In *Aa tovelli* and *Aa aa sp. nov*. there is a poorly defined patch of darker pigment along the medial line of the rostral near the snout. In *Aa aaaaagh sp. nov*. this is in the form of a well-defined elongate black patch or stripe running down the medial line of the rostral from between front of eyes to the snout

The two North Queensland species in the genus *Aa sp. nov*. being *A. broomi* (Boulenger, 1898) and *A. chamodracaena* (Ingram and Covacevich, 1993) are readily separated from *Aa tovelli*, *Aa aa sp. nov*. and *Aa aaaaagh sp. nov*. by having well-defined and obvious continuous or near continuous stripes running along the entire length of the dorsum.

The genus *Aa gen. nov.* (being the five species mentioned in the preceding paragraph) are separated

from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Pink, purple, light brown, brown, blackish above, becoming vaguely whitish or yellowish white below. The flanks are coloured same as the dorsum and these is no obvious demarcation between the dorsal colour and the venter as one moves the very underneath of the snake.
The dark dorsal colour forms into obvious or semi-distinct longitudinal streaks formed by dark patches on the anterior part of each dorsal scale (in contrast to the related genus *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013 where such longitudinal streaks are not seen in adults). The snout is entirely rounded from above and in profile, ranging from being somewhat blunt to slightly angular. The nasal cleft which may or may not be visible from above (if it is, then only just), joins the preocular, continuing in front of the nostril and often dividing the nasal. The rostral is oval in the genus *Aa gen. nov.* versus relatively narrow and constricted from above in the genus *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013, being longer than broad. 20 midbody scale rows. Body diameter 30-70 times in its length. Average adult maximum length is 25 cm and doesn't exceed 35 cm.

Aa aaaaagh sp. nov. is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 811, top right, from South Alligator River, NT, Australia, photographed by John Wombey.

Aa tovelli is depicted in life in Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 541 at top right.

Distribution: *Aa aa sp. nov*. is a range-restricted endemic found in the sandstone country and adjacent islands of far east Arnhem Land, generally east of the Wessell Islands and along the adjacent coast.

Etymology: Late at night in 2019 when I asked Paul Woolf, the president of the Herpetological Society of Queensland Incorporated, what the species name for these snakes should be called he simply went "aa", and hence the species name matches the genus name.

AA AAAAAGH SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:692DBB0D-5A40-45DA-A15F-985D8852D598

Holotype: A preserved male specimen at the Australian National Wildlife Collection AKA ANWC (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation AKA CSIRO), Canberra, ACT, Australia, specimen number R03371 collected from a creek north of Obiri Rock, Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -12.4 S., Longitude 132.9583 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Four preserved specimens at the Australian National Wildlife Collection AKA ANWC (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation AKA CSIRO), Canberra, ACT, Australia, being specimen numbers R03369 (female) and R03372 (male) both collected from a creek north of Obiri Rock, Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -12.4 S., Longitude 132.9583 E. and specimen numbers R03366 (male) and R05948 both collected from the Cannon Hill / East Alligator River area, Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -12.2944 S., Longitude 132.9306 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, all specimens of putative *Aa tovelli* (Loveridge, 1945), originally described as "*Ramphotyphlops tovelli* Loveridge, 1945", from the top end of the Northern Territory have been treated as a single species.

It is now treated herein as three well separated allopatric species all from the Northern Territory.

These are the type form of *Aa tovelli* from Darwin, The Tiwi Islands and nearby Cobourg Peninsula. *Aa aaaaagh sp. nov*. from the west Arnhem Land escarpment area and *Aa aa sp. nov*. from the sandstone country and adjacent islands of far east Arnhem Land, generally east of the Wessell Islands and along the adjacent coast.

The three species are readily separated from one another by the following consistent characters and differences.

Aa tovelli is a pinkish purple species, even as adults with a strong purplish tinge; the anterior edge of each scale is slightly darker than the rest of the scale, but this is not bold or distinct.

Aa aaaaagh sp. nov. by contrast as an adult is a medium wood brown coloured snake on top, with the dark at the anterior edge of each scale being black in colour, well-defined and expanded to be about half the scale width.

Aa aa sp. nov. is a lighter yellowish purple brown colour, with the anterior edge of each scale a dark brownish black, well-defined but not as big as half a scale width. In adults of both *Aa aaaaagh sp. nov*. and *Aa aa sp. nov*. the lighter colour at the back of the head and top of neck that occupies about three times the distance from snout to back of eyes is well-defined and obvious, versus poorly defined and not obvious in adult *Aa tovelli.*

In *Aa tovelli* and *Aa aa sp. nov*. there is a poorly defined patch of darker pigment along the medial line of the rostral near the snout. In *Aa aaaaagh sp. nov*. this is in the form of a well-defined elongate black patch or stripe running down the medial line of the rostral from between front of eyes to the snout

The two North Queensland species in the genus *Aa sp. nov*. being *A. broomi* (Boulenger, 1898) and *A. chamodracaena* (Ingram and Covacevich, 1993) are readily separated from *Aa tovelli*, *Aa aa sp. nov*. and *Aa aaaaagh sp. nov*. by having well-defined and obvious continuous or near continuous stripes running along the entire length of the dorsum.

The genus *Aa gen. nov.* (being the five species mentioned in the preceding paragraph) are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Pink, purple, light brown, brown,

blackish above, becoming vaguely whitish or yellowish white below. The flanks are coloured same as the dorsum and these is no obvious demarcation between the dorsal colour and the venter as one moves the very underneath of the snake.

The dark dorsal colour forms into obvious or semi-distinct longitudinal streaks formed by dark patches on the anterior part of each dorsal scale (in contrast to the related genus *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013 where such longitudinal streaks are not seen in adults). The snout is entirely rounded from above and in profile, ranging from being somewhat blunt to slightly angular. The nasal cleft which may or may not be visible from above (if it is, then only just), joins the preocular, continuing in front of the nostril and often dividing the nasal. The rostral is oval in the genus *Aa gen. nov.* versus relatively narrow and constricted from above in the genus *Slopptyphlops* Hoser, 2013, being longer than broad. 20 midbody scale rows. Body diameter 30-70 times in its length. Average adult maximum length is 25 cm and doesn't exceed 35 cm.

Aa aaaaagh sp. nov. is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 811, top right, from South Alligator River, NT, Australia, photographed by John Wombey.

Aa tovelli is depicted in life in Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 541 at top right.

Distribution: *Aa aaaaagh sp. nov*. appears to be confined to the west Arnhem Land escarpment area of the Northern Territory including flat areas adjacent to it. It appears to be absent from the continuous flatter areas surrounding this escarpment and away from it, including in particular the extended floodplains to the north, west and east, which appear to form a barrier to dispersal of this taxon.

Etymology: In early 2012, while searching for reptiles in Arnhem Land, three men I was with lifted a huge slab of rock to yield one of these Blind Snakes. As they heaved up the rock, they collectively groaned "aaaaagh" and hence the species name *Aa aaaaagh sp. nov*..

ZZZZZ ZZZZZ SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C5EE3D38-1CBA-46FD-8EA1-D9076F0D641A

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Queensland Museum Amphibians and Reptiles collection in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J74125 collected from Ashton Station, 35 km south of Prairie, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -21.241111 S., Longitude 144.599167 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: Until now, *Zzzzz zzzzz sp. nov.* has been treated as a population of putative "*Typhlops grypus* Waite, 1918" with a type locality of Lawn Hill, Gulf of Carpentaria region, north-west Queensland, of alternatively *Zzzzz cliffrosswellingtoni* (Hoser, 2013), a species originally described as "*Libertadictus* (*Jackyhosertyphlops*) *cliffrosswellingtoni* Hoser, 2013".

Z. cliffrosswellingtoni was described from a holotype specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, NSW, Australia, specimen number: R110535, from Scott's Tank, Diamantina Lakes, Northwest of Windorah in Western Queensland, Latitude -23.97, Longitude 141.53 and believed to be distributed throughout south-west Queensland, generally south of the main Selwyn Range and well west of the Great Dividing Range.

It is herein restricted to the black soil plains habitat of the Diamantina River drainage basin

Zzzzz zzzzz sp. nov. occurs in the Cooper's Creek Drainage system, being an area of the black soil channel country that separates elevated parts of East Queensland from the west, but east of the Diamantina System.

There is no evidence of either *Z. cliffrosswellingtoni* or *Z. zzzzz sp. nov.* anywhere near the vicinity of Lake Eyre in South Australia, which is where the two river systems end up.

Z. zzzzz sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *Z. cliffrosswellingtoni* but separated from that species by having a strong yellowish brown colour to the posterior body and tail upper surfaces, versus weak in *Z. cliffrosswellingtoni* and a purplish pink dorsum, versus flesh pink in *Z. cliffrosswellingtoni.*

Both *Z. cliffrosswellingtoni* and *Z. zzzzz sp. nov.* are readily separated from all other west Australian species within the genus *Jackyhosertyphlops* Hoser, 2013 that were formally treated as populations of "*Typhlops grypus* Waite, 1918" by their higher ventral scale count, being 700-770, versus 525-677 in the western species. Gulf of Carpentaria *Z, grypus* of the type form has around 790 ventrals, separating it from the other species.

Both *Z. cliffrosswellingtoni* and *Z. zzzzz sp. nov.* are further diagnosed by the following suite of characters: It is a moderately large (to 42 cm total length), very slender, sometimes black-tailed blind-snake with snout strongly beaked in profile that is light yellowish-tipped and not darker tipped, 18 midbody scale rows and nasal cleft usually proceeding from the second labial.

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

The rostral (from above) is much longer than wide, about three-quarters as wide as the head and extending back to level of eyes or nearly so. Nasals narrowly separated behind rostral. Frontal smaller than prefrontal.

The snout is angular from above and very strongly beaked in profile.

Nostrils inferior, very slightly or not swollen and much nearer to rostral than preocular. Nasal cleft proceeding from second labial or preocular, or junction between preocular and second labial or first labial to nostril, where it occasionally terminates, but mostly it proceeds for varying distances obliquely

upwards and forwards towards the rostral or reaches it.

13-36 subcaudals.

Snout tip is not white although it is slightly paler than the darker region posterior to it, as opposed to a distinctively white snout tip or dark snout tip in western and central Australian populations of putative "*Typhlops grypus* Waite, 1918".

The dorsal and lateral surfaces are pinkish to pinkish brown to moderately purple pink, gradually merging with greyish-white ventral surfaces.

Distribution: *Zzzzz zzzzz sp. nov.* occurs in a small area generally east of the black soil channel country that separates elevated parts of East Queensland from the west, being known only from around Hughenden in mid north Queensland.

Etymology: When in Queensland with Paul Woolf in 2019 searching for Blind Snakes at night by torch light, I checked to see how he was going. He was on the ground sleeping, making the "zzzzz" noise and hence the etymology.

BUT FUKNOWHERE SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:81B2D098-8AC1-45C5-9EDD-9272FA374011

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, specimen number R53885 collected from 40 km south of Tunnel Creek Gorge, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -17.8275 S., Longitude 125.3744 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: *But fuknowhere sp. nov*. has until now been treated as a divergent population of *Mantyphlops guentheri* (Peters, 1865).

It is separated from that species and all others in the subgenus *Mantyphlops* Hoser 2013 by its relatively smaller eye spot, which in turn is larger than that seen in all other species of *But gen. nov.* with all having tiny and barely distinct eye spots.

Unlike all other species in the genus *But gen. nov.*, the species *But fuknowhere sp. nov*. has over 580 ventrals, versus under 578 in the others.

All other species in the genus *But gen. nov.* have a strong yellowish tinge dorsally. This is not the case in *But fuknowhere sp. nov*..

But fuknowhere sp. nov. is further diagnosed as a species with a pinkish brown dorsum, being more pinkish anteriorly.

The tip of the snout is whitish brown and the top of the head a light brownish beige colour.

Approximately the last fifteen dorsal rows of the tail are blackish in colour.

But fuknowhere sp. nov. is separated from the apparently sympatric species *But micromomma* (Storr, 1981), by the features outlined already including the following: More than 500 ventrals (versus 480), absence of a strong yellowish tinge dorsally and a relatively larger eye spot.

The two genera *Mantyphlops* Hoser, 2013 and *But gen. nov*. are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Brown to almost black above, merging on the lower flanks with the pale brown to creamish or white venter.

The tail is blackish, as is often the snout or head.

The snout is bluntly rounded from above and in profile, or sometimes slightly angular or truncate (in three *Mantyphlops* species).

The nasal cleft isn't visible from above, or if so, only just, contacting the second labial below.

Rostral is subcircular from above, scarcely to much longer than broad. 18 midbody rows.

Body diameter 40-90 times in its length. Adults average 25 cm and don't exceed 40 cm.

But gen. nov. is separated from *Mantyphlops* Hoser, 2013 by usually having less than 500 ventrals (excluding the species *But fuknowhere sp. nov*.) versus always from 500-600 in *Mantyphlops* and a barely visible or near barely visible eye spot, versus one that is tiny and obvious in *Mantyphlops*

But gen. nov. species including *But fuknowhere sp. nov*. has grading from dark dorsum to light undersides effectively under the very lowest part of the flank and not visible from dorsal view. There is no obvious demarcation line.

By contrast in *Mantyphlops* the dark dorsal colour turns light on the visible lower flank and with a well-defined boundary between upper dark and lower white along the lower flank.

Tiatragul *et al*. (2023a-b, 2024) showed a divergence between *Mantyphlops* Hoser, 2013 and *But gen. nov*. of just under 20 MYA from one another and as a pair over 20 MYA from all other Australian Blind Snakes.

But fuknowhere sp. nov. is depicted in life online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/194274402@N06/51649551033/

with the specimen from Mornington Station, Western Australia, photographed by Melissa Bruton.

But fuknowhere sp. nov. did according to the phylogeny of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) diverge from *B. howi* (Storr, 1983) in the Miocene (more than 5.3 MYA).

B. howi is both morphologically closer to and distributionally closer to all other members of the genus *But gen. nov.* than *But fuknowhere sp. nov*..

Distribution: *But fuknowhere sp. nov*. is known only from the type locality and nearby places in the inland south Kimberley district, of Western Australia, Australia.

Etymology: In 1983 I was with herpetologist Charles Acheson in the south Kimberley district of Western Australia down a bush road at night, spotlighting for reptiles crossing the road.

When I asked him exactly we were, he said "But fuk nowhere", giving this species its etymology.

ANILIOS ADEPT SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:984A71C7-CE2D-4E70-8010-004EE7616F09

Holotype: A preserved adult female specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R165824 collected from East Wallabi Island, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -28.433333 S., Longitude 113.716667 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Five preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, being specimen numbers R154969 (a juvenile) and R163183 (an adult male), both from East Wallabi Island, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -28.433333 S., Longitude 113.716667 E. and specimen numbers R146401, R146402 and R146453 all collected from 23 km south of Kalbarri, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -27.9 S., Longitude 114.15 E.

Diagnosis: *Anilios adept sp. nov*. has until now been treated as a northern population of *A. australis* Gray, 1845 from the south-west corner of Western Australia.

A. adept sp. nov. is separated from *A. australis* by being a brownish coloured Blind Snake as opposed to purplish brown to pink on the dorsum.

A. adept sp. nov. also has a relatively large eye and a noticeable but thin brown iris, versus slightly smaller eye size in *A. australis* and with reddish, pink or orange iris barely visible.

The white etchings of the body scales in *A. adept sp. nov*. are prominent, versus only moderately so in *A. australis*.

The transition from dark upper body colour to light venter commences about midway on the flank in *A. adept sp. nov*. versus near the bottom in *A. australis*. The section of changed colour on the dorsum behind the eyes is usually prominent in *A. adept sp. nov*. versus usually not prominent, but barely visible in *A. australis*. The white of the upper part of the snout extends to the front of the eye in *A. adept sp. nov*. versus not so in *A. australis.*

A. adept sp. nov. is a proportionately more stout and thick-set snake than *A. australis* with less than 285 ventrals, versus over 290 in *A. australis.*

The two species *A. adept sp. nov*. and *A. australis* are separated from all other Australian species of Blind Snake by the following unique combination of characters:

A moderately large and stout blind-snake. Snout rounded in profile. Rostral (from above) is elliptic, a little longer than wide, about two-thirds as wide as head and extending back to well short of level of eyes; nostrils inferior. Nasals narrowly separated behind the rostral. Frontal smaller than prefrontal. Nasal cleft usually proceeding from second labial and extending up to about midway between the nostril and the rostral, the top of cleft curving forwards. Nostrils inferior, slightly to much nearer to rostral than preocular. Nasal cleft usually, but not always proceeding from the second labial, and extending vertically from nostril and terminating about midway between the nostril and rostral after curving forwards for a short distance.

278-357 ventrals, 22 midbody scale rows, 10-18 subcaudals.

Dorsal and upper dorsolateral surfaces purplish black to brownish or pinkish in adults and generally lighter and more pink in colour in juveniles.

Venter whitish; with the boundary between dark and pale coloration jagged, owing to lateral scales being either wholly dark or wholly pale (modified from Storr 1981).

A. adept sp. nov. is depicted in life online at: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/228008330

Being a specimen from Kalbarri, Western Australia, Australia photographed by Bryce van der Heide.

A. australis is depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 101 at top right as well as in Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 527 at top and online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/114192916@N07/53886510911/

from the Perth region, Western Australia, Australia photographed by Justin Wright, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/jaricornelis/51774519640/

from the Perth region, Western Australia, Australia photographed by Jari Cornelis, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/110716728@N03/51923831481/

from the Perth Hills region, Western Australia, Australia photographed by Simon Taylor.

The phylogenies of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) indicate a divergence between the two species *A. adept sp. nov*. and *A. australis* that occurred in the early Pliocene Epoch about 4 MYA.

Distribution: *Anilios adept sp. nov*. is only known from the type localities, including immediately north of Kalbarri at Edel Land and is presumed to be range restricted and vulnerable.

Etymology: The English word “adept” means “being good at” or “proficient”, which matches the ability of this species to avoid detection by humans and presumably other potential predators.

ANILIOS OK SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B9EE173F-798A-4FF1-8341-F249988B4255

Holotype: A preserved female specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R114998 collected from 8 km west south-west of the Yamaha Homestead, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -28.016667 S., Longitude 123.616667 E. This

government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen numbers R114999 (female) and R115000 (male) both collected from 38 km east Northeast of Laverton, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -28.55 S., Longitude 1227.7 E.

Diagnosis: Until now *Anilios ok sp. nov*. has been treated as a Goldfields, Western Australia population of the widespread putative taxon, *A. endoterus* (Waite, 1918), with a type locality of Hermannsburg, Northern Territory, Australia.

Based on the results of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) *A. endoterus* is herein confined to the far east of Western Australia, extending across the southern half of the northern Territory and arid South Australia (most of that state) to northwest New South Wales and south-west Queensland.

The species *Anilios ye sp. nov*. is a taxon confined to the Little Sandy Desert area of central Western Australia and *Anilios mazing sp. nov*. is restricted to a relatively small section of the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Both *A. ye sp. nov*. and *A. mazing sp. nov*. have also been treated as putative *A. endoterus* until now.

While all are morphologically similar to one another, they can be separated as follows:

Anilios ok sp. nov. has an obviously trilobed snout from above, versus weakly trilobed in *A. ye sp. nov*. and *A. mazing sp. nov*. and rounded in profile in *A. endoterus.*

A. mazing sp. nov. has a more-or-less rectangular-shaped nasal cleft versus triangular in shape in *A. endoterus* and *A. ok sp. nov*. and teardrop shaped in *A. ye sp. nov*..

A. mazing sp. nov. and *A. endoterus* have strong whitening towards the snout versus weak in *A. ok sp. nov*. and *A. ye sp. nov*..

The four preceding species are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following unique combination of characters:

Nasal cleft joins preocular, not extending forward beyond the nostril. Nasals narrowly separated behind rostral. Frontal smaller than prefrontal. Rostral is more-or-less oval, being slightly wider than long, being about three quarters as wide as the head. Snout, slightly angular in profile, being either rounded on the outer edge or tricuspid with a weak transverse cutting edge. Nostrils inferior, slightly swollen and much nearer to rostral than preocular. Nasal cleft proceeding from preocular to nostril, thence forwards towards the rostral but not always all the way; nasal cleft does not cross the slight ridge above nostril and is therefore not visible from above.

22 midbody rows, 406-438 ventrals, 9-16 subcaudals (males average more than females); length 40-60 times body diameter, not more than 40 cm in total length, and averaging about 25 cm total length. Colour is reddish brown to brown or purplish brown above, being whitish or cream ventrally.

In line with some other species in the subgenus *Anilios* Gray, 1845 the junction between the upper surfaces and pale lower surfaces is jagged

Anilios ok sp. nov. is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 800 from Officer Basin, Western Australia in a photo by Brad Maryan and also in another photo online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353929366/

photographed at Ilkurlka, Western Australia by Brian Bush.

A. mazing sp. nov. is depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 101 at bottom right from Telfer, Western Australia.

The nominate form of *A. endoterus* is depicted in life on the front cover of this journal (*Australasian Journal of Herpetology*) issue 77 from south of Coober Pedy, South Australia. On the back cover of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* issue 77 is a photo of the habitat adjacent to where the specimen was found in a pit trap as part of a South Australian Museum sponsored field trip in November 2013.

The nominate form of *A. endoterus* is also depicted in life in Wilson and Knowles (1988) on page 349 in image 830 and online at

https://www.flickr.com/photos/stephenmahony/11227572845/

and

https://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?seq_num=750236&one=T

Distribution: *Anilios ok sp. nov*. appears to be confined to the Goldfields region of Western Australia, Australia. It is known currently from near Laverton in the south-west to the Officer Basin near the South Australian border in the east.

Etymology: *Anilios ok sp. nov*. is a little-known species of little interest to most people and their governments alike. There is no evidence of cultural significance of this species with native Aboriginals over the past 40 thousand years or white people in the past 200 years either. I am not going to become part of the fake woke, virtue signalling “wankerism” infesting science publications (or so-called ones) in Australia over the past few years, claiming some amazing indigenous Australian Aboriginal kinship with a species they really had no interest in whatsoever, and realistically most would be blissfully unaware even existed!.

Just as Anglo-Australians have had little interest in differentiating one kind of Blind Snake from another, there remains absolutely zero evidence at all that any Aboriginal tribes had any form of naming or classification system for the dozens of Australian species of extant Blind Snakes or actually had anything to do with them, save for perhaps treading

on one at night occasionally.

But that fact that the species can and does survive in the Australian wilderness in spite of human activity is in some ways significant. The species is doing just "A OK", and hence the scientific name!

The pronunciation of the species name is "*oh-kay*".

ANILIOS YE SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:E3A19B10-668B-4FEB-BE96-CFD97C7E276E

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R102627 collected from the Little Sandy Desert, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude - 24.104722 S., Longitude 120.325 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Six preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen numbers R102628, R102629, R102696, R102698, R102725 and R102784 all collected from the Little Sandy Desert, Western Australia, Australia in the general vicinity of Latitude - 24.104722 S., Longitude 120.325 E.

Diagnosis: Until now *Anilios ok sp. nov*. has been treated as a Goldfields, Western Australia population of the widespread putative taxon, *A. endoterus* (Waite, 1918), with a type locality of Hermannsburg, Northern Territory, Australia.

Based on the results of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) *A. endoterus* is herein confined to the far east of Western Australia, extending across the southern half of the northern Territory and arid South Australia (most of that state) to northwest New South Wales and south-west Queensland.

The species *Anilios ye sp. nov*. is a taxon confined to the Little Sandy Desert area of central Western Australia and *Anilios mazing sp. nov*. is restricted to a relatively small section of the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Both *A. ye sp. nov*. and *A. mazing sp. nov*. have also been treated as putative *A. endoterus* until now.

While all are morphologically similar to one another, they can be separated as follows:

Anilios ok sp. nov. has an obviously trilobed snout from above, versus weakly trilobed in *A. ye sp. nov*. and *A. mazing sp. nov*. and rounded in profile in *A. endoterus.*

A. mazing sp. nov. has a more-or-less rectangular-shaped nasal cleft versus triangular in shape in *A. endoterus* and *A. ok sp. nov*. and teardrop shaped in *A. ye sp. nov*..

A. mazing sp. nov. and *A. endoterus* have strong whitening towards the snout versus weak in *A. ok sp. nov*. and *A. ye sp. nov*..

The four preceding species are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following unique combination of characters:

Nasal cleft joins preocular, not extending forward beyond the nostril.

Nasals narrowly separated behind rostral.

Frontal smaller than prefrontal. Rostral is more-or-less oval, being slightly wider than long, being about three quarters as wide as the head. Snout, slightly angular in profile, being either rounded on the outer edge or tricuspid with a weak transverse cutting edge.

Nostrils inferior, slightly swollen and much nearer to rostral than preocular. Nasal cleft proceeding from preocular to nostril, thence forwards towards the rostral but not always all the way; nasal cleft does not cross the slight ridge above nostril and is therefore not visible from above.

22 midbody rows, 406-438 ventrals, 9-16 subcaudals (males average more than females); length 40-60 times body diameter, not more than 40 cm in total length, and averaging about 25 cm total length. Colour is reddish brown to brown or purplish brown above, being whitish or cream ventrally.

In line with some other species in the subgenus *Anilios* Gray, 1845 the junction between the upper surfaces and pale lower surfaces is jagged

Anilios ok sp. nov. is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 800 from Officer Basin, Western Australia in a photo by Brad Maryan and also in another photo online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353929366/

photographed at Ilkurlka, Western Australia by Brian Bush.

A. mazing sp. nov. is depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 101 at bottom right from Telfer, Western Australia.

The nominate form of *A. endoterus* is depicted in life on the front cover of this journal (*Australasian Journal of Herpetology*) issue 77 from south of Coober Pedy, South Australia.

On the back cover of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* issue 77 is a photo of the habitat adjacent to where the specimen was found in a pit trap as part of a South Australian Museum sponsored field trip in November 2013.

The nominate form of *A. endoterus* is also depicted in life in Wilson and Knowles (1988) on page 349 in image 830 and online at

https://www.flickr.com/photos/stephenmahony/11227572845/

and

https://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?seq_num=750236&one=T

Distribution: *Anilios ye sp. nov*. appears to be confined to the Little Desert area of Western Australia. It may be a relatively range restricted endemic.

Etymology: *Anilios ye sp. nov*. is a little-known species of little interest to most people and their governments alike. The nomen "*ye*" is easy to

remember and for those in search of the species, they will exclaim "*aye*" when they find one after perhaps hunting for many hours.

The abbreviation of "*Anilios ye*", is "*A. ye*" or "aye", a common exclamation in outback Australia.

ANILIOS MAZING SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:D03A7A30-FB6E-4ED2-A1E4-B2503DFA1813

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number 137920 collected from Telfer, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -21.761111 S., Longitude 122.223333 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Eight preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen numbers R102870, R102873, R119925, R127044, R127045, R127173, R127182 and R127183 all collected from the Nifty Mine, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -21.666667 S., Longitude 121.583333 E.

Diagnosis: Until now *Anilios ok sp. nov*. has been treated as a Goldfields, Western Australia population of the widespread putative taxon, *A. endoterus* (Waite, 1918), with a type locality of Hermannsburg, Northern Territory, Australia.

Based on the results of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) *A. endoterus* is herein confined to the far east of Western Australia, extending across the southern half of the northern Territory and arid South Australia (most of that state) to northwest New South Wales and south-west Queensland.

The species *Anilios ye sp. nov*. is a taxon confined to the Little Sandy Desert area of central Western Australia and *Anilios mazing sp. nov*. is restricted to a relatively small section of the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Both *A. ye sp. nov*. and *A. mazing sp. nov*. have also been treated as putative *A. endoterus* until now.

While all are morphologically similar to one another, they can be separated as follows:

Anilios ok sp. nov. has an obviously trilobed snout from above, versus weakly trilobed in *A. ye sp. nov*. and *A. mazing sp. nov*. and rounded in profile in *A. endoterus.*

A. mazing sp. nov. has a more-or-less rectangular-shaped nasal cleft versus triangular in shape in *A. endoterus* and *A. ok sp. nov*. and teardrop shaped in *A. ye sp. nov*..

A. mazing sp. nov. and *A. endoterus* have strong whitening towards the snout versus weak in *A. ok sp. nov*. and *A. ye sp. nov*..

The four preceding species are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following unique combination of characters:

Nasal cleft joins preocular, not extending forward beyond the nostril. Nasals narrowly separated behind rostral. Frontal smaller than prefrontal. Rostral is more-or-less oval, being slightly wider than long, being about three quarters as wide as the head. Snout, slightly angular in profile, being either rounded on the outer edge or tricuspid with a weak transverse cutting edge. Nostrils inferior, slightly swollen and much nearer to rostral than preocular. Nasal cleft proceeding from preocular to nostril, thence forwards towards the rostral but not always all the way; nasal cleft does not cross the slight ridge above nostril and is therefore not visible from above.

22 midbody rows, 406-438 ventrals, 9-16 subcaudals (males average more than females); length 40-60 times body diameter, not more than 40 cm in total length, and averaging about 25 cm total length. Colour is reddish brown to brown or purplish brown above, being whitish or cream ventrally.

In line with some other species in the subgenus *Anilios* Gray, 1845 the junction between the upper surfaces and pale lower surfaces is jagged

Anilios ok sp. nov. is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 800 from Officer Basin, Western Australia in a photo by Brad Maryan and also in another photo online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353929366/

photographed at Ilkurlka, Western Australia by Brian Bush.

A. mazing sp. nov. is depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 101 at bottom right from Telfer, Western Australia.

The nominate form of *A. endoterus* is depicted in life on the front cover of this journal (*Australasian Journal of Herpetology*) issue 77 from south of Coober Pedy, South Australia. On the back cover of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* issue 77 is a photo of the habitat adjacent to where the specimen was found in a pit trap as part of a South Australian Museum sponsored field trip in November 2013.

The nominate form of *A. endoterus* is also depicted in life in Wilson and Knowles (1988) on page 349 in image 830 and online at

https://www.flickr.com/photos/stephenmahony/11227572845/

and

https://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?seq_num=750236&one=T

Distribution: *Anilios mazing nov*. appears to be confined to the East Pilbara region of Western Australia, Australia, away from coast and near ranges.

Etymology: *Anilios mazing sp. nov*. is a barely-known species of little interest to most people and their governments alike. The nomen "*mazing*" is play on words, as the abbreviation "*A. mazing*" can extrapolate to "*amazing*", which is one way to highlight a species that until now has been of minor interest to people.

ANILIOS NOTTOBEIGNORED SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:9E6B0FF4-1878-4A1D-9D68-92EF7FDC3238

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R131753 collected from West Angelas, Mount Robinson, Pilbara region, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -22.955278 S., Longitude 118.770556 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R162241 collected from 3 km southwest of Weeli Wollie Spring, Pilbara region, Western Australia, Latitude -22.931111 S., Longitude 119.184444 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, putative "*Ramphotyphlops hamatus* Storr, 1981" now placed in the genus *Anilios* Gray, 1845, with a type species of *Anilios australis* Gray, 1845 has been treated as a single species endemic to the Pilbara region and elevated areas to the south, extending to occupy much of the interior and coastal zone of the south-west part of Western Australia.

Phylogenies published by Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) identified what they called seven species lineages within putative "*Ramphotyphlops hamatus* Storr, 1981".

With two pairs of lineages showing splits at between 1-2 MYA, they have each been treated herein as single species.

This leads to five morphologically divergent and allopatric populations recognized herein as divergent species. As pairs, two each had species that diverged from one another over 2 MYA and these two pairs of species in turn diverged from one another about 3 MYA. One of these four species includes the nominate form of *A. hamatus*, with a type locality of Marandoo, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -22.38 S., Longitude 118.06 E., with the other three forms formally named herein as new species.

A fifth lineage is about 4.5 MYA divergent from the others, also until now unnamed and is herein formally named as *Anilios nottobeignored sp. nov.*.

The distributions of each of the five morphologically similar species are dictated by well-known landform biogeographical barriers that affect other reptile species in the same region, including the interplay of range areas where species live and major river basins that stop the spread to other areas of suitable habitat. Based on the molecular evidence, the clade of species originated in the central Pilbara and have expanded beyond this area in more recent geological times.

The nominate form of *A. hamatus* is herein confined to the Hamersley Ranges, of the Pilbara district in Western Australia, bounded by the Turee Creek east branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the east, Fortescue River to the north, Ashburton River to the south and the coastal flats to the west.

A. nottobeignored sp. nov. is by far the most divergent of the five species both genetically and morphologically and it is astounding that no one has bothered to formally describe the species before now.

It is a range-restricted endemic, effectively confined to the Opthalmia Range, being bound by Turee Creek east branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the west, the Fortescue River to the North and east, and the upper Ashburton River basin to the south. An overview of the relevant area gives a range of about 5,000 square km for the species, obviously not all of which is inhabitable to it, making this a very range restricted endemic of high importance.

A. crypticspecies sp. nov. is a taxon only presently known from the hills east of the Fortescue River and the town of Newman in Western Australia in an area of hilly country effectively bound by Wheelarra Hill Mine, Western Australia, Latitude -23.412778 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., in the west and Jiggalong Mission, Western Australia, Latitude -23.366667 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., although this taxon almost certainly occurs in a far wider area, to include hilly areas extending north to the De Gray River, with three recorded specimens in this area being referred to *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*.

A. goodcatch sp. nov. is a taxon from the Onslow / Cape Range area on the Western Australian coast, extending in distribution in a line south-east to include a significant area of the southern interior of the west of Western Australia.

A. greatfind sp. nov. is another in a list of species of reptile that is apparently endemic to the Shark Bay region of Western Australia, only known from within a 100 km radius of the bay and an estimated distribution in terms of this species being no more than 15,000 square km, obviously not all of which is inhabitable to it, making it another a range-restricted endemic.

The five relevant species, being *A. nottobeignored sp. nov.*, *A. hamatus*, *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*, *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* are all separated from one another by the following combinations of characters:

A. nottobeignored sp. nov. is separated from all the other four species by having a dorsum that is purplish brown in colour and starting at the back of the neck each scale on the upper surfaces of dorsum and flanks has a bold smallish white spot at the centre, this spotting remaining prominent to the latter third of the body, where it becomes both faded and scattered (as in not on each scale).

The white spots just mentioned are not of any particular shape as one moves down the body, being generally irregular in shape.

Juveniles of the other species also have this spotting

in various forms, but in all except *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* this obvious white spotting is not seen in adults.

The outer edge of the rostral scale bulges out slightly midway down the snout, curling in moderately at the jaw line from the dorsal view, before widening out in lateral or ventral view. The demarcation between dark upper flank and white under body is jagged, being caused by the interplay of different coloured scales (this demarcation is seen in all species). There is also some scattered darker scales infusing into the otherwise white lower flank, these being widely spaced and irregular. The reverse in terms of white infusions up is not seen in this species.

Prefrontal and frontal are of similar size.

A. hamatus has a complete absence of bold white spotting in the centre of scales on the dorsum, instead being a more-or-less unicolor purplish brown snake on top. The rostral is U-shaped with outer edge of the rostral curving inwards slightly midway down the snout, flaring out slightly at the jawline from above, before widening out further in lateral or ventral view. The demarcation between dark upper flank and white under body is jagged, being caused by the interplay of different coloured scales. There are also closely spaced but irregular scattered darker scales infusing into the otherwise white lower flank and also white scales infusing the darker ones on higher rows. Prefrontal is noticeably larger than the frontal.

A. crypticspecies sp. nov. a dark purplish-brown snake. For the first third of the upper body and flanks there are white patches in the centre of each scale, each being in the shape of a tiny rectangle. The latter two thirds of the body lack any such white marks or spotting. It has a horseshoe shaped rostral when viewed from above. The dark of the dorsum is also expanded so that the light (white) of the belly is barely visible when the snake is viewed side on, being in contrast to all the other species, where the lower white is obviously visible due its higher positioning up the lower flank. This situation is further exaggerated by there being significantly more dark infusions downwards rather than light ones up.

Prefrontal is slightly larger than the frontal.

A. goodcatch sp. nov. is a lighter sandy brown on the dorsum with a weak purplish/pink tinge, also infusing the white underparts. the jagged colour change on the mid flank caused by the interplay of coloured scales is consistent along each side, except for about ten irregularly placed single scale light infusions up on the first two thirds of the body length and another ten irregularly placed single scale dark infusions down on the first two thirds of the body length. The posterior third of the body has numerous infusions up and down.

The rostral is square shaped with outer edges of the rostral being in straight lines up when viewed from above. The prefrontal is much larger than the frontal.

A. greatfind sp. nov. is a dark pinkish grey above. Starting at the back of the neck each scale on the upper surfaces of dorsum and flanks has a bold white spot at the centre, this spotting remaining prominent to the end of the body and onto the tail.

On the posterior third of the body, some scattered scales do not have the white centres, but these are limited. Viewed from above the rostral is V-shaped and slightly shortened, the expansion being taken up by the enlarged prefrontal. The frontal is tiny.

The five preceding species, being *A. nottobeignored sp. nov.*, *A. hamatus*, *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*, *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following combination of characters:

A moderately large (up to 42 cm total length), tail being 1.8-4.1 percent of total length (males much longer than females), moderately stout, blind-snake of variable colour on the dorsum dependent on both age and species (in addition to things like shedding cycles).

An obviously beaked snout, 22 midbody scale rows and a nasal cleft usually proceeding from the second labial.

Rostral (from above) is variable in shape but always much longer than wide, about two-thirds as

wide as the head and extending back to well short of level of eyes where it always meets the prefrontal. Nasals are narrowly separated behind the rostral. Frontal may be larger or smaller than the prefrontal, but mostly slightly smaller.

Tip of snout has a weak to moderately strong, transverse cutting edge (depending on species). Nostrils inferior, slightly swollen, slightly to much nearer to the rostral than the preocular. Nasal cleft usually proceeds from the second labial to the nostril or a little forward past it but never crossing the obtuse ridge above the nostril.

22 midbody scale rows, 338-394 ventrals 338-394, 11-22 subcaudals (males have the higher counts) (modified and adapted from Storr, 1981).

Distinguishable from the morphologically similar *A. australis* and the closely related *A. adept sp. nov.* (previously treated as a north-west population of *A. australis*) by having a transverse cutting edge on the tip of the snout, nasal cleft not extending on to top of the head, widely separated nasals as opposed to narrowly separated and more than 338 ventrals (versus usually less than 340 in *A. australis* and *A. adept sp. nov*.).

Anilios nottobeignored sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimny_anders/52444811993/

from the Newman area, Western Australia in a photo by Anders Zimmy.

Anilios hamatus is depicted in life online at:

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showing a specimen from the Karijini region, Western Australia in a photo by Brendan Schembri.

Anilios goodcatch sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
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depicting a specimen from the North-west Cape, Western Australia photographed by Bryce van der Heide, and
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Anilios greatfind sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
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depicting a specimen from Hamelin Pool, Western Australia, photographed by Jari Cornelis and
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depicting a specimen from Hamelin Pool, Western Australia, photographed by Damian Lettoof and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/201283849@N06/53939907976/
depicting a specimen from Shark Bay, Western Australia.

Distribution: *A. nottobeignored sp. nov.* is a range-restricted endemic, effectively confined to the Opthalmia Range, being bound by Turee Creek east branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the west, the Fortescue River to the North and east, and the upper Ashburton River basin to the south. An overview of the relevant area gives a range of about 5,000 square km for the species, obviously not all of which is inhabitable to it, making this a very range restricted endemic of high conservation importance.

Etymology: *A. nottobeignored sp. nov.* has its name taken directly from the English words "not to be ignored". This reflects both in terms of the science of taxonomy and nomenclature as well as the conservation of the species. If it is ignored and evil people and their corrupt mates in government pretend the species does not exist, as has been done quite a lot lately in herpetology in Australia, then the species may well become extinct while people in positions of power are busy forcibly ignoring its existence. Refer to the papers of Hoser (2019a, 2019b) and sources cited therein for more details.

ANILIOS CRYPTICSPECIES SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:AB33FFD1-D53C-4195-8493-18749058BF87

Holotype: A preserved male specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R111719 collected from 20 km east southeast of Wheelarra Hill, Pilbara District, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -23.412778 S., Longitude 120.316667 E.
This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R111718 collected from 20 km east southeast of Wheelarra Hill, Pilbara District, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -23.412778 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., 2/ A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R111862 collected from 26 km southeast of Wheelarra Hill, Pilbara District, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -23.535556 S., Longitude 120.326111 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, putative "*Ramphotyphlops hamatus* Storr, 1981" now placed in the genus *Anilios* Gray, 1845, with a type species of *Anilios australis* Gray, 1845 has been treated as a single species endemic to the Pilbara region and elevated areas to the south, extending to occupy much of the interior and coastal zone of the south-west part of Western Australia.

Phylogenies published by Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) identified what they called seven species lineages within putative "*Ramphotyphlops hamatus* Storr, 1981".

With two pairs of lineages showing splits at between 1-2 MYA, they have each been treated herein as single species. This leads to five morphologically divergent and allopatric populations recognized herein as divergent species. As pairs, two each had species that diverged from one another over 2 MYA and these two pairs of species in turn diverged from one another about 3 MYA. One of these four species includes the nominate form of *A. hamatus*, with a type locality of Marandoo, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -22.38 S., Longitude 118.06 E., with the other three forms formally named herein as new species.

A fifth lineage is about 4.5 MYA divergent from the others, also until now unnamed and is herein formally named as *Anilios nottobeignored sp. nov.*.

The distributions of each of the five morphologically similar species are dictated by well-known landform biogeographical barriers that affect other reptile species in the same region, including the interplay of range areas where species live and major river basins that stop the spread to other areas of suitable habitat. Based on the molecular evidence, the clade of species originated in the central Pilbara and have expanded beyond this area in more recent geological times.

The nominate form of *A. hamatus* is herein confined to the Hamersley Ranges, of the Pilbara district in Western Australia, bounded by the Turee Creek east branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the east, Fortescue River to the north, Ashburton River to the south and the coastal flats to the west.

A. nottobeignored sp. nov. is by far the most divergent of the five species both genetically and morphologically and it is astounding that no one has

bothered to formally describe the species before now.

It is a range-restricted endemic, effectively confined to the Opthalmia Range, being bound by Turee Creek east branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the west, the Fortescue River to the North and east, and the upper Ashburton River basin to the south. An overview of the relevant area gives a range of about 5,000 square km for the species, obviously not all of which is inhabitable to it, making this a very range restricted endemic of high importance.

A. crypticspecies sp. nov. is a taxon only presently known from the hills east of the Fortescue River and the town of Newman in Western Australia in an area of hilly country effectively bound by Wheelarra Hill Mine, Western Australia, Latitude -23.412778 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., in the west and Jiggalong Mission, Western Australia, Latitude -23.366667 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., although this taxon almost certainly occurs in a far wider area, to include hilly areas extending north to the De Gray River, with three recorded specimens in this area being referred to *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*.

A. goodcatch sp. nov. is a taxon from the Onslow / Cape Range area on the Western Australian coast, extending in distribution in a line south-east to include a significant area of the southern interior of the west of Western Australia.

A. greatfind sp. nov. is another in a list of species of reptile that is apparently endemic to the Shark Bay region of Western Australia, only known from within a 100 km radius of the bay and an estimated distribution in terms of this species being no more than 15,000 square km, obviously not all of which is inhabitable to it, making it another a range-restricted endemic.

The five relevant species, being *A. nottobeignored sp. nov.*, *A. hamatus*, *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*, *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* are all separated from one another by the following combinations of characters:

A. nottobeignored sp. nov. is separated from all the other four species by having a dorsum that is purplish brown in colour and starting at the back of the neck each scale on the upper surfaces of dorsum and flanks has a bold smallish white spot at the centre, this spotting remaining prominent to the latter third of the body, where it becomes both faded and scattered (as in not on each scale).

The white spots just mentioned are not of any particular shape as one moves down the body, being generally irregular in shape.

Juveniles of the other species also have this spotting in various forms, but in all except *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* this obvious white spotting is not seen in adults.

The outer edge of the rostral scale bulges out slightly midway down the snout, curling in moderately at the jaw line from the dorsal view, before widening out in lateral or ventral view. The demarcation between dark upper flank and white under body is jagged, being caused by the interplay of different coloured scales (this demarcation is seen in all species). There is also some scattered darker scales infusing into the otherwise white lower flank, these being widely spaced and irregular. The reverse in terms of white infusions up is not seen in this species.

Prefrontal and frontal are of similar size.

A. hamatus has a complete absence of bold white spotting in the centre of scales on the dorsum, instead being a more-or-less unicolor purplish brown snake on top. The rostral is U-shaped with outer edge of the rostral curving inwards slightly midway down the snout, flaring out slightly at the jawline from above, before widening out further in lateral or ventral view. The demarcation between dark upper flank and white under body is jagged, being caused by the interplay of different coloured scales. There are also closely spaced but irregular scattered darker scales infusing into the otherwise white lower flank and also white scales infusing the darker ones on higher rows. Prefrontal is noticeably larger than the frontal.

A. crypticspecies sp. nov. a dark purplish-brown snake. For the first third of the upper body and flanks there are white patches in the centre of each scale, each being in the shape of a tiny rectangle. The latter two thirds of the body lack any such white marks or spotting. It has a horseshoe shaped rostral when viewed from above. The dark of the dorsum is also expanded so that the light (white) of the belly is barely visible when the snake is viewed side on, being in contrast to all the other species, where the lower white is obviously visible due its higher positioning up the lower flank. This situation is further exaggerated by there being significantly more dark infusions downwards rather than light ones up.

Prefrontal is slightly larger than the frontal.

A. goodcatch sp. nov. is a lighter sandy brown on the dorsum with a weak purplish/pink tinge, also infusing the white underparts. the jagged colour change on the mid flank caused by the interplay of coloured scales is consistent along each side, except for about ten irregularly placed single scale light infusions up on the first two thirds of the body length and another ten irregularly placed single scale dark infusions down on the first two thirds of the body length. The posterior third of the body has numerous infusions up and down.

The rostral is square shaped with outer edges of the rostral being in straight lines up when viewed from above. The prefrontal is much larger than the frontal.

A. greatfind sp. nov. is a dark pinkish grey above. Starting at the back of the neck each scale on the upper surfaces of dorsum and flanks has a bold white spot at the centre, this spotting remaining prominent to the end of the body and onto the tail.

On the posterior third of the body, some scattered

Hoser 2025 - Australasian Journal of Herpetology 76-78:1-192.

scales do not have the white centres, but these are limited. Viewed from above the rostral is V-shaped and slightly shortened, the expansion being taken up by the enlarged prefrontal. The frontal is tiny.

The five preceding species, being *A. nottobeignored sp. nov.*, *A. hamatus*, *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*, *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following combination of characters:

A moderately large (up to 42 cm total length), tail being 1.8-4.1 percent of total length (males much longer than females), moderately stout, blind-snake of variable colour on the dorsum dependent on both age and species (in addition to things like shedding cycles).

An obviously beaked snout, 22 midbody scale rows and a nasal cleft usually proceeding from the second labial.

Rostral (from above) is variable in shape but always much longer than wide, about two-thirds as

wide as the head and extending back to well short of level of eyes where it always meets the prefrontal. Nasals are narrowly separated behind the rostral. Frontal may be larger or smaller than the prefrontal, but mostly slightly smaller.

Tip of snout has a weak to moderately strong, transverse cutting edge (depending on species). Nostrils inferior, slightly swollen, slightly to much nearer to the rostral than the preocular. Nasal cleft usually proceeds from the second labial to the nostril or a little forward past it but never crossing the obtuse ridge above the nostril.

22 midbody scale rows, 338-394 ventrals 338-394, 11-22 subcaudals (males have the higher counts) (modified and adapted from Storr, 1981).

Distinguishable from the morphologically similar *A. australis* and the closely related *A. adept sp. nov*. (previously treated as a north-west population of *A. australis*) by having a transverse cutting edge on the tip of the snout, nasal cleft not extending on to top of the head, widely separated nasals as opposed to narrowly separated and more than 338 ventrals (versus usually less than 340 in *A. australis* and *A. adept sp. nov*.).

Anilios nottobeignored sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimny_anders/52444811993/

from the Newman area, Western Australia in a photo by Anders Zimmy.

Anilios hamatus is depicted in life online at:

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showing a specimen from the Karijini region, Western Australia in a photo by Brendan Schembri.

Anilios goodcatch sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

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depicting a specimen from the North-west Cape, Western Australia photographed by Bryce van der Heide, and

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depicting another specimen from the North-west Cape, Western Australia.

Anilios greatfind sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/jaricornelis/50813037496/

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https://www.flickr.com/photos/136643623@N03/45772809072/

depicting a specimen from Hamelin Pool, Western Australia, photographed by Damian Lettoof and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/201283849@N06/53939907976/

depicting a specimen from Shark Bay, Western Australia.

Distribution: *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.* is a taxon only presently known from the hills east of the Fortescue River and the town of Newman in Western Australia in an area of hilly country effectively bound by Wheelarra Hill Mine, Western Australia, Latitude -23.412778 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., in the west and Jiggalong Mission, Western Australia, Latitude -23.366667 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., although this taxon almost certainly occurs in a far wider area, to include hilly areas extending north to the De Gray River, with three recorded specimens in this area being referred to *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*.

Etymology: *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.* has its name taken directly from the English words “cryptic species”. This reflects the fact that it remained effectively hidden from science as a new species until year 2025 in spite of extensive herpetological fieldwork in the Pilbara region of western Australia by numerous paid herpetologists in the period between the early 1980’s to the present date.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

ANILIOS GOODCATCH SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:98C70FF1-EACA-45DF-ADF1-A072F5DB7D43

Holotype: A preserved adult male specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R110678 collected from North West Cape, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -21.851389 S., Longitude 114.105833 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Seven preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, being specimen numbers R110669 (adult female), R142177, R157986 (adult male), R157987, all from North West Cape, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -21.851389 S., Longitude

114.105833 E. and specimen numbers R112181, R112182 and R108348 (adult female) all collected from the Onslow area of Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -21.740833 S., Longitude 115.113889 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, putative "*Ramphotyphlops hamatus* Storr, 1981" now placed in the genus *Anilios* Gray, 1845, with a type species of *Anilios australis* Gray, 1845 has been treated as a single species endemic to the Pilbara region and elevated areas to the south, extending to occupy much of the interior and coastal zone of the south-west part of Western Australia.

Phylogenies published by Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) identified what they called seven species lineages within putative "*Ramphotyphlops hamatus* Storr, 1981".

With two pairs of lineages showing splits at between 1-2 MYA, they have each been treated herein as single species. This leads to five morphologically divergent and allopatric populations recognized herein as divergent species. As pairs, two each had species that diverged from one another over 2 MYA and these two pairs of species in turn diverged from one another about 3 MYA. One of these four species includes the nominate form of *A. hamatus*, with a type locality of Marandoo, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -22.38 S., Longitude 118.06 E., with the other three forms formally named herein as new species.

A fifth lineage is about 4.5 MYA divergent from the others, also until now unnamed and is herein formally named as *Anilios nottobeignored sp. nov.*.

The distributions of each of the five morphologically similar species are dictated by well-known landform biogeographical barriers that affect other reptile species in the same region, including the interplay of range areas where species live and major river basins that stop the spread to other areas of suitable habitat. Based on the molecular evidence, the clade of species originated in the central Pilbara and have expanded beyond this area in more recent geological times.

The nominate form of *A. hamatus* is herein confined to the Hamersley Ranges, of the Pilbara district in Western Australia, bounded by the Turee Creek east branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the east, Fortescue River to the north, Ashburton River to the south and the coastal flats to the west.

A. nottobeignored sp. nov. is by far the most divergent of the five species both genetically and morphologically and it is astounding that no one has bothered to formally describe the species before now.

It is a range-restricted endemic, effectively confined to the Opthalmia Range, being bound by Turee Creek east branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the west, the Fortescue River to the North and east, and the upper Ashburton River basin to the south. An overview of the relevant area gives a range of about 5,000 square km for the species, obviously not all of which is inhabitable to it, making this a very range restricted endemic of high importance.

A. crypticspecies sp. nov. is a taxon only presently known from the hills east of the Fortescue River and the town of Newman in Western Australia in an area of hilly country effectively bound by Wheelarra Hill Mine, Western Australia, Latitude -23.412778 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., in the west and Jiggalong Mission, Western Australia, Latitude -23.366667 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., although this taxon almost certainly occurs in a far wider area, to include hilly areas extending north to the De Gray River, with three recorded specimens in this area being referred to *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*.

A. goodcatch sp. nov. is a taxon from the Onslow / Cape Range area on the Western Australian coast, extending in distribution in a line south-east to include a significant area of the southern interior of the west of Western Australia.

A. greatfind sp. nov. is another in a list of species of reptile that is apparently endemic to the Shark Bay region of Western Australia, only known from within a 100 km radius of the bay and an estimated distribution in terms of this species being no more than 15,000 square km, obviously not all of which is inhabitable to it, making it another a range-restricted endemic.

The five relevant species, being *A. nottobeignored sp. nov.*, *A. hamatus*, *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*, *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* are all separated from one another by the following combinations of characters:

A. nottobeignored sp. nov. is separated from all the other four species by having a dorsum that is purplish brown in colour and starting at the back of the neck each scale on the upper surfaces of dorsum and flanks has a bold smallish white spot at the centre, this spotting remaining prominent to the latter third of the body, where it becomes both faded and scattered (as in not on each scale).

The white spots just mentioned are not of any particular shape as one moves down the body, being generally irregular in shape.

Juveniles of the other species also have this spotting in various forms, but in all except *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* this obvious white spotting is not seen in adults.

The outer edge of the rostral scale bulges out slightly midway down the snout, curling in moderately at the jaw line from the dorsal view, before widening out in lateral or ventral view. The demarcation between dark upper flank and white under body is jagged, being caused by the interplay of different coloured scales (this demarcation is seen in all species). There is also some scattered darker scales infusing into the otherwise white lower flank, these being widely spaced and irregular. The reverse in terms of white infusions up is not seen in this species.

Prefrontal and frontal are of similar size.

A. hamatus has a complete absence of bold white spotting in the centre of scales on the dorsum, instead being a more-or-less unicolor purplish brown snake on top. The rostral is U-shaped with outer edge of the rostral curving inwards slightly midway down the snout, flaring out slightly at the jawline from above, before widening out further in lateral or ventral view. The demarcation between dark upper flank and white under body is jagged, being caused by the interplay of different coloured scales. There are also closely spaced but irregular scattered darker scales infusing into the otherwise white lower flank and also white scales infusing the darker ones on higher rows. Prefrontal is noticeably larger than the frontal.

A. crypticspecies sp. nov. a dark purplish-brown snake. For the first third of the upper body and flanks there are white patches in the centre of each scale, each being in the shape of a tiny rectangle. The latter two thirds of the body lack any such white marks or spotting. It has a horseshoe shaped rostral when viewed from above. The dark of the dorsum is also expanded so that the light (white) of the belly is barely visible when the snake is viewed side on, being in contrast to all the other species, where the lower white is obviously visible due its higher positioning up the lower flank. This situation is further exaggerated by there being significantly more dark infusions downwards rather than light ones up.

Prefrontal is slightly larger than the frontal.

A. goodcatch sp. nov. is a lighter sandy brown on the dorsum with a weak purplish/pink tinge, also infusing the white underparts. the jagged colour change on the mid flank caused by the interplay of coloured scales is consistent along each side, except for about ten irregularly placed single scale light infusions up on the first two thirds of the body length and another ten irregularly placed single scale dark infusions down on the first two thirds of the body length. The posterior third of the body has numerous infusions up and down.

The rostral is square shaped with outer edges of the rostral being in straight lines up when viewed from above. The prefrontal is much larger than the frontal.

A. greatfind sp. nov. is a dark pinkish grey above. Starting at the back of the neck each scale on the upper surfaces of dorsum and flanks has a bold white spot at the centre, this spotting remaining prominent to the end of the body and onto the tail.

On the posterior third of the body, some scattered scales do not have the white centres, but these are limited. Viewed from above the rostral is V-shaped and slightly shortened, the expansion being taken up by the enlarged prefrontal. The frontal is tiny.

The five preceding species, being *A. nottobeignored sp. nov.*, *A. hamatus*, *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*, *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following combination of characters:

A moderately large (up to 42 cm total length), tail being 1.8-4.1 percent of total length (males much longer than females), moderately stout, blind-snake of variable colour on the dorsum dependent on both age and species (in addition to things like shedding cycles).

An obviously beaked snout, 22 midbody scale rows and a nasal cleft usually proceeding from the second labial.

Rostral (from above) is variable in shape but always much longer than wide, about two-thirds as wide as the head and extending back to well short of level of eyes where it always meets the prefrontal. Nasals are narrowly separated behind the rostral. Frontal may be larger or smaller than the prefrontal, but mostly slightly smaller.

Tip of snout has a weak to moderately strong, transverse cutting edge (depending on species). Nostrils inferior, slightly swollen, slightly to much nearer to the rostral than the preocular. Nasal cleft usually proceeds from the second labial to the nostril or a little forward past it but never crossing the obtuse ridge above the nostril.

22 midbody scale rows, 338-394 ventrals 338-394, 11-22 subcaudals (males have the higher counts) (modified and adapted from Storr, 1981).

Distinguishable from the morphologically similar *A. australis* and the closely related *A. adept sp. nov*. (previously treated as a north-west population of *A. australis*) by having a transverse cutting edge on the tip of the snout, nasal cleft not extending on to top of the head, widely separated nasals as opposed to narrowly separated and more than 338 ventrals (versus usually less than 340 in *A. australis* and *A. adept sp. nov*.).

Anilios nottobeignored sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimny_anders/52444811993/

from the Newman area, Western Australia in a photo by Anders Zimmy.

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Anilios goodcatch sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:

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depicting a specimen from the North-west Cape, Western Australia photographed by Bryce van der Heide, and

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https://www.flickr.com/photos/201283849@N06/53939907976/
depicting a specimen from Shark Bay, Western Australia.

Distribution: *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* is a taxon from the Onslow / Cape Range area on the Western Australian coast, extending in distribution in a line south-east to include a significant area of the southern interior of the west of Western Australia.

Etymology: *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* has its name taken directly from the English words "good catch". This reflects the fact that field herpetologists tend to only encounter Blind Snakes occasionally. That includes for this species. They are hard to actually go looking for to find. They are usually found by field herpetologists when looking for other more iconic and "exciting species" such as the Cape Range Death Adders *Acanthophis donnellani* (Hoser, 2002).

This explains why *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* have been found in relatively large numbers crossing the roads around Cape Range. This is a known spot for Cape Range Death Adders *Acanthophis donnellani* (Hoser, 2002).

As to find a different species of snake such as *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* is a good catch, the scientific nomen reflects this.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

ANILIOS GREATFIND SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:DCA7CA6A-EDF4-4CBE-9412-C90E2092FDD5

Holotype: A preserved adult male specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R112743 collected from 6 km northeast of Carnarvon, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -24.86 S., Longitude 113.668889 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, being specimen numbers R137443 (male) collected from 2.5 km north of Peron Homestead, Person Heritage Precinct, Shark Bay, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -25.817222 S., Longitude 113.547222 E., R112742 (juvenile) collected from 2 km west of Carnarvon, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -24.873889 S., Longitude 113.636944 E., and R120970 collected from 2 km southwest of Meedo Homestead, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -25.680556 S., Longitude 114.621667 E .

Diagnosis: Until now, putative "*Ramphotyphlops hamatus* Storr, 1981" now placed in the genus *Anilios* Gray, 1845, with a type species of *Anilios australis* Gray, 1845 has been treated as a single species endemic to the Pilbara region and elevated areas to the south, extending to occupy much of the interior and coastal zone of the south-west part of Western Australia.

Phylogenies published by Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) identified what they called seven species lineages within putative "*Ramphotyphlops hamatus* Storr, 1981".

With two pairs of lineages showing splits at between 1-2 MYA, they have each been treated herein as single species. This leads to five morphologically divergent and allopatric populations recognized herein as divergent species. As pairs, two each had species that diverged from one another over 2 MYA and these two pairs of species in turn diverged from one another about 3 MYA. One of these four species includes the nominate form of *A. hamatus*, with a type locality of Marandoo, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -22.38 S., Longitude 118.06 E., with the other three forms formally named herein as new species.

A fifth lineage is about 4.5 MYA divergent from the others, also until now unnamed and is herein formally named as *Anilios nottobeignored sp. nov.*.

The distributions of each of the five morphologically similar species are dictated by well-known landform biogeographical barriers that affect other reptile species in the same region, including the interplay of range areas where species live and major river basins that stop the spread to other areas of suitable habitat. Based on the molecular evidence, the clade of species originated in the central Pilbara and have expanded beyond this area in more recent geological times.

The nominate form of *A. hamatus* is herein confined to the Hamersley Ranges, of the Pilbara district in Western Australia, bounded by the Turee Creek east branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the east, Fortescue River to the north, Ashburton River to the south and the coastal flats to the west.

A. nottobeignored sp. nov. is by far the most divergent of the five species both genetically and morphologically and it is astounding that no one has bothered to formally describe the species before now.

It is a range-restricted endemic, effectively confined to the Opthalmia Range, being bound by Turee Creek east branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the west, the Fortescue River to the North and east, and the upper Ashburton River basin to the south. An overview of the relevant area gives a range of about 5,000 square km for the species, obviously not all of which is inhabitable to it, making this a very range restricted endemic of high importance.

A. crypticspecies sp. nov. is a taxon only presently known from the hills east of the Fortescue River and

the town of Newman in Western Australia in an area of hilly country effectively bound by Wheelarra Hill Mine, Western Australia, Latitude -23.412778 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., in the west and Jiggalong Mission, Western Australia, Latitude -23.366667 S., Longitude 120.316667 E., although this taxon almost certainly occurs in a far wider area, to include hilly areas extending north to the De Gray River, with three recorded specimens in this area being referred to *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*.

A. goodcatch sp. nov. is a taxon from the Onslow / Cape Range area on the Western Australian coast, extending in distribution in a line south-east to include a significant area of the southern interior of the west of Western Australia.

A. greatfind sp. nov. is another in a list of species of reptile that is apparently endemic to the Shark Bay region of Western Australia, only known from within a 100 km radius of the bay and an estimated distribution in terms of this species being no more than 15,000 square km, obviously not all of which is inhabitable to it, making it another a range-restricted endemic.

The five relevant species, being *A. nottobeignored sp. nov.*, *A. hamatus*, *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*, *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* are all separated from one another by the following combinations of characters:

A. nottobeignored sp. nov. is separated from all the other four species by having a dorsum that is purplish brown in colour and starting at the back of the neck each scale on the upper surfaces of dorsum and flanks has a bold smallish white spot at the centre, this spotting remaining prominent to the latter third of the body, where it becomes both faded and scattered (as in not on each scale).

The white spots just mentioned are not of any particular shape as one moves down the body, being generally irregular in shape.

Juveniles of the other species also have this spotting in various forms, but in all except *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* this obvious white spotting is not seen in adults.

The outer edge of the rostral scale bulges out slightly midway down the snout, curling in moderately at the jaw line from the dorsal view, before widening out in lateral or ventral view. The demarcation between dark upper flank and white under body is jagged, being caused by the interplay of different coloured scales (this demarcation is seen in all species). There is also some scattered darker scales infusing into the otherwise white lower flank, these being widely spaced and irregular. The reverse in terms of white infusions up is not seen in this species.

Prefrontal and frontal are of similar size.

A. hamatus has a complete absence of bold white spotting in the centre of scales on the dorsum, instead being a more-or-less unicolor purplish brown snake on top. The rostral is U-shaped with outer edge of the rostral curving inwards slightly midway down the snout, flaring out slightly at the jawline from above, before widening out further in lateral or ventral view. The demarcation between dark upper flank and white under body is jagged, being caused by the interplay of different coloured scales. There are also closely spaced but irregular scattered darker scales infusing into the otherwise white lower flank and also white scales infusing the darker ones on higher rows. Prefrontal is noticeably larger than the frontal.

A. crypticspecies sp. nov. a dark purplish-brown snake. For the first third of the upper body and flanks there are white patches in the centre of each scale, each being in the shape of a tiny rectangle. The latter two thirds of the body lack any such white marks or spotting. It has a horseshoe shaped rostral when viewed from above. The dark of the dorsum is also expanded so that the light (white) of the belly is barely visible when the snake is viewed side on, being in contrast to all the other species, where the lower white is obviously visible due its higher positioning up the lower flank. This situation is further exaggerated by there being significantly more dark infusions downwards rather than light ones up.

Prefrontal is slightly larger than the frontal.

A. goodcatch sp. nov. is a lighter sandy brown on the dorsum with a weak purplish/pink tinge, also infusing the white underparts. the jagged colour change on the mid flank caused by the interplay of coloured scales is consistent along each side, except for about ten irregularly placed single scale light infusions up on the first two thirds of the body length and another ten irregularly placed single scale dark infusions down on the first two thirds of the body length. The posterior third of the body has numerous infusions up and down.

The rostral is square shaped with outer edges of the rostral being in straight lines up when viewed from above. The prefrontal is much larger than the frontal.

A. greatfind sp. nov. is a dark pinkish grey above. Starting at the back of the neck each scale on the upper surfaces of dorsum and flanks has a bold white spot at the centre, this spotting remaining prominent to the end of the body and onto the tail.

On the posterior third of the body, some scattered scales do not have the white centres, but these are limited. Viewed from above the rostral is V-shaped and slightly shortened, the expansion being taken up by the enlarged prefrontal. The frontal is tiny.

The five preceding species, being *A. nottobeignored sp. nov.*, *A. hamatus*, *A. crypticspecies sp. nov.*, *A. goodcatch sp. nov.* and *A. greatfind sp. nov.* are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following combination of characters:

A moderately large (up to 42 cm total length), tail being 1.8-4.1 percent of total length (males much longer than females), moderately stout, blind-snake

of variable colour on the dorsum dependent on both age and species (in addition to things like shedding cycles).

An obviously beaked snout, 22 midbody scale rows and a nasal cleft usually proceeding from the second labial.

Rostral (from above) is variable in shape but always much longer than wide, about two-thirds as wide as the head and extending back to well short of level of eyes where it always meets the prefrontal. Nasals are narrowly separated behind the rostral. Frontal may be larger or smaller than the prefrontal, but mostly slightly smaller.

Tip of snout has a weak to moderately strong, transverse cutting edge (depending on species). Nostrils inferior, slightly swollen, slightly to much nearer to the rostral than the preocular. Nasal cleft usually proceeds from the second labial to the nostril or a little forward past it but never crossing the obtuse ridge above the nostril.

22 midbody scale rows, 338-394 ventrals 338-394, 11-22 subcaudals (males have the higher counts) (modified and adapted from Storr, 1981).

Distinguishable from the morphologically similar *A. australis* and the closely related *A. adept sp. nov*. (previously treated as a north-west population of *A. australis*) by having a transverse cutting edge on the tip of the snout, nasal cleft not extending on to top of the head, widely separated nasals as opposed to narrowly separated and more than 338 ventrals (versus usually less than 340 in *A. australis* and *A. adept sp. nov*.).

Anilios nottobeignored sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/zimny_anders/52444811993/
from the Newman area, Western Australia in a photo by Anders Zimmy.

Anilios hamatus is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/reptileshots/52789388465/
showing a specimen from the Karijini region, Western Australia in a photo by Brendan Schembri.

Anilios goodcatch sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/252572312
depicting a specimen from the North-west Cape, Western Australia photographed by Bryce van der Heide, and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/260850240
depicting another specimen from the North-west Cape, Western Australia.

Anilios greatfind sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/jaricornelis/50813037496/
depicting a specimen from Hamelin Pool, Western Australia, photographed by Jari Cornelis and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/136643623@N03/45772809072/
depicting a specimen from Hamelin Pool, Western Australia, photographed by Damian Lettoof and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/201283849@N06/53939907976/
depicting a specimen from Shark Bay, Western Australia.

Distribution: *A. greatfind sp. nov.* is another in a list of species of reptile that is apparently endemic to the Shark Bay region of Western Australia, only known from within a 100 km radius of the bay and an estimated distribution in terms of this species being no more than 15,000 square km, obviously not all of which is inhabitable to it, making it another a range-restricted endemic.

It should immediately be treated as a vulnerable species of conservation significance.

Etymology: *A. greatfind sp. nov.* has its name taken directly from the English words “great find”. This reflects the fact that field herpetologists tend to only encounter Blind Snakes incidentally and occasionally, thereby making them a “great find”. That includes for this species.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

ANILIOS BULLIARDI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:607C7051-9439-4F4C-B917-62F70A8935C7

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R67334 collected from Armadale, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -32.166667 S., Longitude 116.016667 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R31992 collected from Helena valley Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -31.45 S., Longitude 116.116667 E.

Diagnosis: The geographic distribution of putative *Anilios waitii* Boulenger, 1895 and morphological divergences between populations flags the presence of more than one species, as indicated in the phylogenies of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013).

The type form of *A. waitii* is from north-west Australia, a form which has a distribution extending from the Pilbara region south through the elevated areas punctuated by the Canarvon and Robinson Ranges, generally north of Lake Barlee and Lake Moore.

A. bulliardi sp. nov. occurs from about Tallering Peak, Latitude -28.1 S. Longitude 115.633333 E. in the north-west, south along the coast of Western Australia to Cranbrook, Latitude -34.3 S., Longitude 117.55 E. in the south, generally west of Lake Moore in the north and not far east of it in the south, the species generally being bound in the south-west by the zone of lowlands and salt lakes between the south-west

and more elevated areas to the north and east of the State of Western Australia.

This low zone is the biogeographic barrier separating the two species.

Anilios mirlirrtjarra sp. nov. is the geographically isolated population of putative *A. waitii* from the Warburton Ranges in the far east of Western Australia, west southwest of the Northern Territory and South Australian border with Western Australia.

It is separated from more western populations by the Great Victoria Desert to the south and south-west and other low-lying regions to the west and northwest including the Gibson Desert.

A. bulliardi sp. nov. is readily separated from the nominate form of *A. waitii* by the fact that adults are a strong yellow brown as adults, versus pinkish brown in *A. waitii.* The anterior of the snout is strongly pinkish white in adult *A. bulliardi sp. nov*. versus strongly pink in type *A. waitii.*

A. mirlirrtjarra sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *A. waitii* but separated from that species by a distinctive reddish tinge to the colour of adults, versus pink in *A. waitii.* Unlike both *A. waitii* and *A. bulliardi sp. nov.* that have a slight darkening or change of colour on the upper surface of the neck, for a short distance behind the eyes (several scales) and slightly more than the distance from eye to snout, this does not seem to be the case in *Anilios mirlirrtjarra sp. nov.*.

A. waitii, *A. bulliardi sp. nov.* and *A. mirlirrtjarra sp. nov.* are as a trio, separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following combination of characters:

Snout is strongly beaked and tipped with a dark coloured transverse cutting edge; nasal cleft usually proceeding from the second labial. Nostrils inferior, swollen, much nearer to rostral than preocular. Rostral from above is elliptic, much longer than wide, being about three-quarters as wide as the head and usually extending back to about the level of the eyes, or most commonly just before them. 20 midbody rows. 535-667 ventrals and 13-26 subcaudals.

Dorsal and upper lateral surfaces moderately dark in colour merging on the far lower flanks with the whitish venter.

These three species are separated from the morphologically similar *A. bituberculatus* (Peters, 1863) species complex by having more numerous ventrals (more than 500 versus fewer than 500) and a snout that is not strongly trilobed.

A. bulliardi sp. nov. sp. nov. is depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 103 at bottom right from Dongara, Western Australia, photographed by Ron E. Johnstone and in Cogger (2014) on page 813 bottom left, from Maddington (Perth), Western Australia, photographed by Brad Maryan.

A. waitii is depicted in life online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353887786/ from Menzies, Western Australia, photographed by Brian Bush.

The molecular evidence of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) and the biogeographical evidence, suggests that the three relevant species diverged from one another over 2 MYA.

Distribution: *A. bulliardi sp. nov. sp. nov.* is a species with a centre of distribution along and near the Darling Range in southwest Australia, bound by the Indian Ocean on the west, salt lakes and plains to the east, flat and mainly arid zones to the north and a cold climate region at the southern extremity of the range.

Etymology: *A. bulliardi sp. nov*. is named in honour of Kaj-Erik Bulliard of Esperance, Western Australia, formerly of Sydney, New South Wales (NSW), Australia in recognition of his contributions to herpetology in Australia.

He was forced to leave New South Wales (NSW) as a fugitive of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Refer also to the etymology for the species *Harrisoniascincus wildlifedepartmentscumorum* Hoser, 2025 in Hoser (2025c) on page 31, and Hoser (1989, 1991, 1993 and 1996).

ANILIOS MIRLIRRTJARRA SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:608EFB9F-5D8A-4B23-B9F7-B1BD93ED6C6A

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R31358 collected from the Warburton Range Mission, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -26.133333 S., Longitude 126.583333 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Six preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen numbers R14659, R17780, R22027, R22095, R31359 and R136180 all from the Warburton Range Mission, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -26.133333 S., Longitude 126.583333 E. or the adjacent Warburton Range.

Diagnosis: The geographic distribution of putative *Anilios waitii* Boulenger, 1895 and morphological divergences between populations flags the presence of more than one species, as indicated in the phylogenies of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013).

The type form of *A. waitii* is from north-west Australia, a form which has a distribution extending from the Pilbara region south through the elevated areas punctuated by the Canarvon and Robinson Ranges, generally north of Lake Barlee and Lake Moore.

A. bulliardi sp. nov. occurs from about Tallering Peak, Latitude -28.1 S. Longitude 115.633333 E. in the north-west, south along the coast of Western Australia to Cranbrook, Latitude -34.3 S., Longitude 117.55 E. in the south, generally west of Lake Moore in the north and not far east of it in the south, the species

generally being bound in the south-west by the zone of lowlands and salt lakes between the south-west and more elevated areas to the north and east of the State of Western Australia.

This low zone is the biogeographic barrier separating the two species.

Anilios mirlirrtjarra sp. nov. is the geographically isolated population of putative *A. waitii* from the Warburton Ranges in the far east of Western Australia, west southwest of the Northern Territory and South Australian border with Western Australia.

It is separated from more western populations by the Great Victoria Desert to the south and south-west and other low-lying regions to the west and northwest including the Gibson Desert.

A. bulliardi sp. nov. is readily separated from the nominate form of *A. waitii* by the fact that adults are a strong yellow brown as adults, versus pinkish brown in *A. waitii.* The anterior of the snout is strongly pinkish white in adult *A. bulliardi sp. nov*. versus strongly pink in type *A. waitii.*

A. mirlirrtjarra sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *A. waitii* but separated from that species by a distinctive reddish tinge to the colour of adults, versus pink in *A. waitii.* Unlike both *A. waitii* and *A. bulliardi sp. nov.* that have a slight darkening or change of colour on the upper surface of the neck, for a short distance behind the eyes (several scales) and slightly more than the distance from eye to snout, this does not seem to be the case in *Anilios mirlirrtjarra sp. nov.*.

A. waitii, *A. bulliardi sp. nov.* and *A. mirlirrtjarra sp. nov.* are as a trio, separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following combination of characters:

Snout is strongly beaked and tipped with a dark coloured transverse cutting edge; nasal cleft usually proceeding from the second labial. Nostrils inferior, swollen, much nearer to rostral than preocular. Rostral from above is elliptic, much longer than wide, being about three-quarters as wide as the head and usually extending back to about the level of the eyes, or most commonly just before them. 20 midbody rows. 535-667 ventrals and 13-26 subcaudals.

Dorsal and upper lateral surfaces moderately dark in colour merging on the far lower flanks with the whitish venter.

These three species are separated from the morphologically similar *A. bituberculatus* (Peters, 1863) species complex by having more numerous ventrals (more than 500 versus fewer than 500) and a snout that is not strongly trilobed.

A. bulliardi sp. nov. sp. nov. is depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 103 at bottom right from Dongara, Western Australia, photographed by Ron E. Johnstone and in Cogger (2014) on page 813 bottom left, from Maddington (Perth), Western Australia, photographed by Brad Maryan.

A. waitii is depicted in life online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353887786/

from Menzies, Western Australia, photographed by Brian Bush.

The molecular evidence of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) and the biogeographical evidence, suggests that the three relevant species diverged from one another over 2 MYA.

Distribution: *A. mirlirrtjarra sp. nov.* is the geographically isolated population of putative *A. waitii* from the Warburton Ranges in the far east of Western Australia, west southwest of the Northern Territory and South Australian border with Western Australia.

It is separated from more western populations by the Great Victoria Desert to the south and south-west and other low-lying regions to the west and northwest including the Gibson Desert.

Etymology: *A. mirlirrtjarra sp. nov.* is named after the Ngaanyatjarra (Aboriginal) name for the Warburton Range. The spelling of this name should not be changed and is deliberate.

Mirlirrtjarra is named after the range of hills (Warburton Ranges) to the north of the community which in turn was named after one of the early European explorers who travelled this region in search of good pastoral land. The other name for the community is Mirlirrtjarra which is the name of a site nearby. Warburton is the largest of the Ngaanyatjarra Communities and is considered the metropolis of the Lands.

Following the above ground testing of nuclear weapons by the British Government at Maralinga to the immediate east in adjacent South Australia, the local Ngaanyatjarra community had to endure clouds of radioactive dust raining on the community for many years and ongoing.

As a result, radiation caused illnesses such as stillborn young, cancers and other fatally debilitating diseases continue to decimate the surviving local natives.

ANILIOS JUDYFERGUSONAE SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:16DC47DA-ED79-4554-BD07-75C85E99D935

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R34039 collected from Tieyon Station, South Australia, Australia, Latitude -26.217 S., Longitude 133.85 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R38957 collected from the Stuart Highway, south of Kulgera, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -25.95541 S., Longitude 133.2299 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, *Anilios judyfergusonae sp.*

nov. has been treated as a southern population of *A. centralis* (Storr, 1984), with a type locality of Alice Springs. Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -23.42S., Longitude 152.0 E.

However, the phylogenies of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) indicated the presence of two species and a divergence of over 2 MYA between the two populations.

Because the two populations are morphologically divergent, allopatric and evolving separately, the unnamed southern population is herein formally named as *Anilios judyfergusonae sp. nov*.

A. centralis is effectively confined to the Central MacDonnell Ranges district of central Australia near Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

A. judyfergusonae sp. nov. is found in the elevated and hilly region around the western half of the Northern Territory and South Australian border in association with the Musgrave Ranges and quite likely also the Tomkinson Ranges.

The two populations are separated from one another by the Lake Amadeus basin and associated areas of salt plains, mud flats and sand dunes, forming an impassable barrier for the relevant populations.

A. judyfergusonae sp. nov. is readily separated from *A. centralis* by the fact that it has a yellowish coloured dorsum with slight pinkish tinge, versus brown with a purplish tinge on nominate *A. centralis. A. judyfergusonae sp. nov*. also has well-defined light etchings of the scales on the back of the head and adjacent neck, versus not so on type *A. centralis.*

The two species are readily separated from all other species of Australian Blind Snakes by the following unique combination of characters:
A moderately slender Blind Snake rarely exceeding 20 cm total length, with 20 midbody scale rows, 405-482 ventrals and 12-20 subcaudals.

Rostral from above is elliptic. longer than wide and extending back nearly to the level of the eyes.

Nasals narrowly separated behind rostral. Snout is relatively short and tipped with a strong, dark transverse cutting edge which extends back as a ridge on to nasal scale just above nostril. Nostrils are inferior, much nearer to the rostral than the preocular. Nasal cleft proceeds from second labial to the nostril or a little beyond but never crossing nasal ridge or reaching the rostral.

Upper surface colouration could be described as purplish brown (for *A. centralis*) or light sandy brown to yellowish (for *A. judyfergusonae sp. nov*.), merging with pale lower surface fairly abruptly slightly below the midline of the flank.

A. judyfergusonae sp. nov. in life is depicted online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/reptileshots/51312722178/
being a specimen from Kulgera, in the far south of the Northern Territory, Australia, photographed by Brendan Schembri.

A. centralis. is depicted in life in Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 529 at centre left, being of a specimen from Alice Springs in the Northern Territory in a photo by Greg Fyfe and online at
https://www.flickr.com/photos/mattsummerville/49018377687
specimen from Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia, photographed by Matt Summerville, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/156667445@N07/44547776555/
specimen from Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia, photographed by Otto Bylén Claesson.

Distribution: *A. judyfergusonae sp. nov*. is found in the elevated and hilly region around the western half of the Northern Territory and South Australian border in association with the Musgrave Ranges and quite likely also the Tomkinson Ranges.

A. centralis is effectively confined to the Central MacDonnell Ranges district of central Australia near Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

The two populations are separated from one another by the Lake Amadeus basin and associated areas of salt plains, mud flats and sand dunes, forming an impassable barrier for the relevant populations.

This biogeographical barrier has separated other Centralian species pairs, some of which have only been relatively recently described, including for example, those listed in Hoser (2025a).
Two species sharing distributions with *A. judyfergusonae sp. nov*. are *Diplodactylus* (*Yankunytjatjaragecko*) *ooh* Hoser, 2023 and *Liopholis faaaaark* Hoser, 2024, both being split from earlier named Centralian taxa (Hoser (2025a).

Etymology: *A. judyfergusonae sp. nov*. is named in honor of Judy Feguson of Taggerty, Victoria, Australia, wife of Peter Whybrow, who are a pair of herpetologists that have made many major contributions to herpetology in Australia for over 30 years.

SUEWITTTYPHLOPS CROTTYI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:CC7F124F-78A0-4935-8B82-8BD9A29F97F7

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R19109 collected from Raragala Island (North), Wessel Islands, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -11.577 S., Longitude 136.35 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: Until now, each of *Suewitttyphlops crottyi sp. nov*., *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.* have been treated as divergent north and north-west Australian populations of *S. sloppi* (Hoser, 2013) (with a type locality of Wyndham East Kimberley, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -15.65 S., Longitude 128.70 E.).

S. sloppi is in turn closely related to *S. ligatus* (Peters, 1879) of the north-east quarter of New South Wales and most of the (in any way) elevated regions of Queensland, east of the Murray Darling, Cooper's Creek and Cape Fold drainages, north to the western slopes of the Great Divide south of Cooktown.

Related to *S. ligatus* is *S. okara sp. nov*. from Cape York Peninsula, found generally north of Coen in Queensland and similar in most respects to that species (*S. ligatus*).

S. crottyi sp. nov. is known only from the type locality in the Wessell Islands and may be endemic to this area due to unsuitable habitat on the immediately adjacent Australian mainland.

S. oxyi sp. nov. is a taxon from the southern Gulf of Carpentaria region in the east Northern Territory.

S. romani sp. nov. is a Selwyn Ranges endemic from north-west Queensland, the distribution including outlier ranges to the north and south of the main range.

As a group all four are separated from *S. ligatus* (Peters, 1879) and *S. okara sp. nov*., by their noticeably more stout and robust body and lower ventral count, 296-355 in these four species, versus over 355 in *S. ligatus* and *S. okara sp. nov*.. They are further separated from *S. ligatus* in that the rostral is intersected on the sides (partially, usually, or completely) by adjoining scales just before it connects the prefrontal shield, versus not so in *S. ligatus* and *S. okara sp. nov*..

Further diagnostic features of the six preceding species, separating them from all other Australian blindsnake species, includes the fact that they are perhaps Australia's most stout and robust Blind Snake, attaining 50 cm as adults and with a length that is 25-32 times that of the diameter. The snout is rounded from above and in profile. There are 24 mid-body scale rows and the nasal cleft, visible from above, extends from the first labial to well on top of the head.

Rostral is slighter wider below than above and about twice as long as wide, and one third or less as wide as the head. Nasal cleft arises from the first labial, curving upwards and back from the nostril and terminates near the top of the nasal after curving backwards.

Preocular present, slightly narrower than the nasal or the ocular, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes as large black spots are readily distinguishable; prefrontal, supraoculars and parietals are noticeably enlarged; four upper labials.

Dorsally the colouration is dark grayish, brown, purplish brown or even a dark pinkish colour and ventrally a whitish cream to yellow or sometimes a dull pink, with the junction between the colours sharp and straight edged.

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

S. crottyi sp. nov., *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.* are separated from *S. sloppi* and one another by the following suites of characters:

S. crottyi sp. nov. has a moderate lightening of the anterior of the snout, versus strongly lightened and whitish in colour in *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.*.

S. sloppi, and *S. crottyi sp. nov*. are both separated from both *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*. by having strong thick yellow or white lines etching the scales at the anterior part of the dorsum of the head, versus weakly so in *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*..

Both *S. crottyi sp. nov*. and *S. ligatus* are separated from the other three species *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*. by the fact that the prefrontal shield is slightly larger than the frontal shield, versus much larger as in double the size in *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*..

S. romani sp. nov. is separated from the other preceding species by the fact that the rostral barely meets the frontal or is otherwise narrowly separated from it and adults have a slightly yellowish brown hue to the dorsal coloration.

Molecular evidence cited by Greer (2025), being a simplified phylogeny from Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) shows that the species, *S. crottyi sp. nov.* diverged from its nearest common ancestor *S. sloppi* in the middle Pliocene Epoch, about 4 MYA, being significant species-level divergence.

The same evidence showed that *S. oxyi sp. nov*. diverged from *S. sloppi* as nearest relatives about 2 MYA.

There is no molecular evidence for *S. romani sp. nov.* found in the Selwyn Ranges district, including outliers in north-west Queensland, but it occurs in a well-known region of endemicity and separated by known biogeographical barriers on all sides. It is also morphologically divergent.

The putative taxon "*Typhlops curtus* Ogilby, 1892" with a type locality of Walsh River, Gulf of Carpentaria is treated as a synonym of *S. ligatus* by being in the same unbroken range of distribution as the type form of *S. ligatus.*

However, geographically disjunct populations of putative *S. ligatus* from further north on Cape York, from Coen, Queensland and north, represents a different species being *S. okara sp. nov*..

S. okara sp. nov. is separated from *S. ligatus* by being pinkish brown on the dorsum rather than brownish or sometimes purplish brown as well as having a rostral that is noticeably narrower at the bottom rather than being of similar width from top to bottom.

Distribution: *S. crottyi sp. nov.* is known only from the Wessel Islands, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -11.577 S., Longitude 136.35 E. This species may be a range-restricted endemic and therefore should be treated as vulnerable to extinction, unless

and until contrary information is obtained.

Etymology: Named in honor of a Great Dane, Rottweiller cross dog myself and my family owned from 1989 for thirteen years named "*Crotalus*" AKA "Crotty" in recognition for his services protecting our research facility from thieves during the relevant time frame. It is fitting that animals that make up such an important part of the human world, should be a part of our heritage in terms of the nomenclature for our biodiversity.

SUEWITTTYPHLOPS OXYI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:86E51EA8-5909-4B9A-B67D-FBD55C33E1FA

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R35156 collected from the Tablelands Highway, Barkly Tableland, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -17.705 S., Longitude 135.68717 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R21830 collected from the Mcarthur River, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -15.467 S., Longitude 136.083 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, each of *Suewitttyphlops crottyi sp. nov*., *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.* have been treated as divergent north and north-west Australian populations of *S. sloppi* (Hoser, 2013) (with a type locality of Wyndham East Kimberley, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -15.65 S., Longitude 128.70 E.).

S. sloppi is in turn closely related to *S. ligatus* (Peters, 1879) of the north-east quarter of New South Wales and most of the (in any way) elevated regions of Queensland, east of the Murray Darling, Cooper's Creek and Cape Fold drainages, north to the western slopes of the Great Divide south of Cooktown.

Related to *S. ligatus* is *S. okara sp. nov*. from Cape York Peninsula, found generally north of Coen in Queensland and similar in most respects to that species.

S. crottyi sp. nov. is known only from the type locality in the Wessell Islands and may be endemic to this area due to unsuitable habitat on the immediately adjacent Australian mainland.

S. oxyi sp. nov. is a taxon from the southern Gulf of Carpentaria region in the east Northern Territory.

S. romani sp. nov. is a Selwyn Ranges endemic from north-west Queensland, the distribution including outlier ranges to the north and south of the main range.

As a group all four are separated from *S. ligatus* (Peters, 1879) and *S. okara sp. nov*., by their noticeably more stout and robust body and lower ventral count, 296-355 in these four species, versus over 355 in *S. ligatus* and *S. okara sp. nov*.. They are further separated from *S. ligatus* in that the rostral is intersected on the sides (partially, usually, or completely) by adjoining scales just before it connects the prefrontal shield, versus not so in *S. ligatus* and *S. okara sp. nov*..

Further diagnostic features of the six preceding species, separating them from all other Australian blindsnake species, includes the fact that they are perhaps Australia's most stout and robust Blind Snake, attaining 50 cm as adults and with a length that is 25-32 times that of the diameter. The snout is rounded from above and in profile. There are 24 mid-body scale rows and the nasal cleft, visible from above, extends from the first labial to well on top of the head.

Rostral is slighter wider below than above and about twice as long as wide, and one third or less as wide as the head. Nasal cleft arises from the first labial, curving upwards and back from the nostril and terminates near the top of the nasal after curving backwards.

Preocular present, slightly narrower than the nasal or the ocular, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes as large black spots are readily distinguishable; prefrontal, supraoculars and parietals are noticeably enlarged; four upper labials.

Dorsally the colouration is dark grayish, brown, purplish brown or even a dark pinkish colour and ventrally a whitish cream to yellow or sometimes a dull pink, with the junction between the colours sharp and straight edged.

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

S. crottyi sp. nov., *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.* are separated from *S. sloppi* and one another by the following suites of characters:

S. crottyi sp. nov. has a moderate lightening of the anterior of the snout, versus strongly lightened and whitish in colour in *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.*.

S. sloppi, and *S. crottyi sp. nov*. are both separated from both *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*. by having strong thick yellow or white lines etching the scales at the anterior part of the dorsum of the head, versus weakly so in *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*..

Both *S. crottyi sp. nov*. and *S. ligatus* are separated from the other three species *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*. by the fact that the prefrontal shield is slightly larger than the frontal shield, versus much larger as in double the size in *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*..

S. romani sp. nov. is separated from the other preceding species by the fact that the rostral barely meets the frontal or is otherwise narrowly separated from it and adults have a slightly yellowish brown hue to the dorsal coloration.

Molecular evidence cited by Greer (2025), being a

simplified phylogeny from Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) shows that the species, *S. crottyi sp. nov.* diverged from its nearest common ancestor *S. sloppi* in the middle Pliocene Epoch, about 4 MYA, being significant species-level divergence.

The same evidence showed that *S. oxyi sp. nov*. diverged from *S. sloppi* as nearest relatives about 2 MYA.

There is no molecular evidence for *S. romani sp. nov.* found in the Selwyn Ranges district, including outliers in north-west Queensland, but it occurs in a well-known region of endemicity and separated by known biogeographical barriers on all sides. It is also morphologically divergent.

The putative taxon "*Typhlops curtus* Ogilby, 1892" with a type locality of Walsh River, Gulf of Carpentaria is treated as a synonym of *S. ligatus* by being in the same unbroken range of distribution as the type form of *S. ligatus.*

However, geographically disjunct populations of putative *S. ligatus* from further north on Cape York, from Coen, Queensland and north, represents a different species being *S. okara sp. nov*..

S. okara sp. nov. is separated from *S. ligatus* by being pinkish brown on the dorsum rather than brownish or sometimes purplish brown as well as having a rostral that is noticeably narrower at the bottom rather than being of similar width from top to bottom.

Distribution: *S. oxyi sp. nov.* is known only from the southern Gulf of Carpentaria region in the east Northern Territory.

This species may be a range-restricted endemic and therefore should be treated as vulnerable to extinction, unless and until contrary information is obtained.

Etymology: Named in honor of a Great Dane dog that our family owned from year 2002 to 2010 named "*Oxyuranus*" AKA "*Oxy*" in recognition for his services protecting our research facility from thieves during the relevant time frame. It is fitting that animals that make up such an important part of the human world, should be a part of our heritage in terms of the nomenclature for our biodiversity.

SUEWITTTYPHLOPS ROMANI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:AF793179-BD53-4A75-B28D-5B24D2525B2B

Holotype: A preserved adult female specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J80830 collected from Fort Constantine, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -20.483889 S., Longitude 140.608889 S. (about 24 km north of Cloncurry, Queensland).

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved adult female specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J62775 collected from 300 metres north-east of the Cannington Project Camp, Northwest Queensland, Australia, Latitude -21.9 S., Longitude 140.916667 E., 2/ A preserved immature female specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J39034 collected 9.9 km east of Mount Isa on the Barkly Highway, Northwest Queensland, Australia, Latitude -20.7 S., Longitude 139.566667 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, each of *Suewitttyphlops crottyi sp. nov*., *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.* have been treated as divergent north and north-west Australian populations of *S. sloppi* (Hoser, 2013) (with a type locality of Wyndham East Kimberley, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -15.65 S., Longitude 128.70 E.).

S. sloppi is in turn closely related to *S. ligatus* (Peters, 1879) of the north-east quarter of New South Wales and most of the (in any way) elevated regions of Queensland, east of the Murray Darling, Cooper's Creek and Cape Fold drainages, north to the western slopes of the Great Divide south of Cooktown.

Related to *S. ligatus* is *S. okara sp. nov*. from Cape York Peninsula, found generally north of Coen in Queensland and similar in most respects to that species.

S. crottyi sp. nov. is known only from the type locality in the Wessell Islands and may be endemic to this area due to unsuitable habitat on the immediately adjacent Australian mainland.

S. oxyi sp. nov. is a taxon from the southern Gulf of Carpentaria region in the east Northern Territory.

S. romani sp. nov. is a Selwyn Ranges endemic from north-west Queensland, the distribution including outlier ranges to the north and south of the main range.

As a group all four are separated from *S. ligatus* (Peters, 1879) and *S. okara sp. nov*., by their noticeably more stout and robust body and lower ventral count, 296-355 in these four species, versus over 355 in *S. ligatus* and *S. okara sp. nov*.. They are further separated from *S. ligatus* in that the rostral is intersected on the sides (partially, usually, or completely) by adjoining scales just before it connects the prefrontal shield, versus not so in *S. ligatus* and *S. okara sp. nov*..

Further diagnostic features of the six preceding species, separating them from all other Australian blindsnake species, includes the fact that they are perhaps Australia's most stout and robust Blind Snake, attaining 50 cm as adults and with a length that is 25-32 times that of the diameter. The snout is rounded from above and in profile. There are 24 mid-body scale rows and the nasal cleft, visible from above, extends from the first labial to well on top of the head.

Rostral is slighter wider below than above and about twice as long as wide, and one third or less as wide as the head. Nasal cleft arises from the first labial, curving upwards and back from the nostril and

terminates near the top of the nasal after curving backwards.

Preocular present, slightly narrower than the nasal or the ocular, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes as large black spots are readily distinguishable; prefrontal, supraoculars and parietals are noticeably enlarged; four upper labials.

Dorsally the colouration is dark grayish, brown, purplish brown or even a dark pinkish colour and ventrally a whitish cream to yellow or sometimes a dull pink, with the junction between the colours sharp and straight edged.

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

S. crottyi sp. nov., *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.* are separated from *S. sloppi* and one another by the following suites of characters:

S. crottyi sp. nov. has a moderate lightening of the anterior of the snout, versus strongly lightened and whitish in colour in *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.*.

S. sloppi, and *S. crottyi sp. nov*. are both separated from both *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*. by having strong thick yellow or white lines etching the scales at the anterior part of the dorsum of the head, versus weakly so in *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*..

Both *S. crottyi sp. nov*. and *S. ligatus* are separated from the other three species *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*. by the fact that the prefrontal shield is slightly larger than the frontal shield, versus much larger as in double the size in *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*..

S. romani sp. nov. is separated from the other preceding species by the fact that the rostral barely meets the frontal or is otherwise narrowly separated from it and adults have a slightly yellowish brown hue to the dorsal coloration.

Molecular evidence cited by Greer (2025), being a simplified phylogeny from Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) shows that the species, *S. crottyi sp. nov.* diverged from its nearest common ancestor *S. sloppi* in the middle Pliocene Epoch, about 4 MYA, being significant species-level divergence.

The same evidence showed that *S. oxyi sp. nov*. diverged from *S. sloppi* as nearest relatives about 2 MYA.

There is no molecular evidence for *S. romani sp. nov.* found in the Selwyn Ranges district, including outliers in north-west Queensland, but it occurs in a well-known region of endemicity and separated by known biogeographical barriers on all sides. It is also morphologically divergent.

The putative taxon "*Typhlops curtus* Ogilby, 1892" with a type locality of Walsh River, Gulf of Carpentaria is treated as a synonym of *S. ligatus* by being in the same unbroken range of distribution as the type form of *S. ligatus.*

However, geographically disjunct populations of putative *S. ligatus* from further north on Cape York, from Coen, Queensland and north, represents a different species being *S. okara sp. nov*..

S. okara sp. nov. is separated from *S. ligatus* by being pinkish brown on the dorsum rather than brownish or sometimes purplish brown as well as having a rostral that is noticeably narrower at the bottom rather than being of similar width from top to bottom.

Distribution: *S. romani sp. nov.* is known only from the Selwyn Ranges, northwest Queensland and outliers.

The region is quite substantial in land area and geographically isolated, with little if any intensive human activities other than extractive mining.

Therefore, the species is probably not at any extinction risk.

Etymology: Named in honor of a Great Dane dog that our family owned from year 2023 to present named "Roman" being named after Roman Hulimka of 492 Park Road in Park Orchards, Victoria, Australia, who also provided services to herpetology over 2 decades.

The dog has actively protected our research facility from thieves during the relevant time frame. It is fitting that animals that make up such an important part of the human world, should be a part of our heritage in terms of the nomenclature for our biodiversity.

SUEWITTTYPHLOPS OKARA SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:DE4D14F2-4A0D-45AA-8066-9C32E0F43C71

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J92808 collected from just north-west of Coen in north-east Queensland, Australia, Latitude -13.651389 S., Longitude 142.796389 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J93151 collected from the Ducie River area, Latitude -12.045833 S., Longitude 142.064722 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, each of *Suewitttyphlops crottyi sp. nov*., *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.* have been treated as divergent north and north-west Australian populations of *S. sloppi* (Hoser, 2013) (with a type locality of Wyndham East Kimberley, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -15.65 S., Longitude 128.70 E.).

S. sloppi is in turn closely related to *S. ligatus* (Peters, 1879) of the north-east quarter of New South Wales and most of the (in any way) elevated regions of Queensland, east of the Murray Darling, Cooper's Creek and Cape Fold drainages, north to the western slopes of the Great Divide south of Cooktown.

Related to *S. ligatus* is *S. okara sp. nov*. from Cape York Peninsula, found generally north of Coen in

Queensland and similar in most respects to that species.

The putative taxon "*Typhlops curtus* Ogilby, 1892" with a type locality of Walsh River, Gulf of Carpentaria is treated as a synonym of *S. ligatus* by being in the same unbroken range of distribution as the type form of *S. ligatus.*

The geographically disjunct population of putative *S. ligatus* from further north on Cape York, from Coen, Queensland in the south and then found further north, separated by a distinct gap in the distribution of putative *S. ligatus* represents a different species, this being now known as *S. okara sp. nov*..

S. okara sp. nov. is separated from *S. ligatus* by being pinkish brown on the dorsum rather than brownish or sometimes purplish brown as well as having a rostral that is noticeably narrower at the bottom rather than being of similar width from top to bottom.

S. crottyi sp. nov. is known only from the type locality in the Wessell Islands and may be endemic to this area due to unsuitable habitat on the immediately adjacent Australian mainland.

S. oxyi sp. nov. is a taxon from the southern Gulf of Carpentaria region in the east Northern Territory.

S. romani sp. nov. is a Selwyn Ranges endemic from north-west Queensland, the distribution including outlier ranges to the north and south of the main range.

As a group all four are separated from *S. ligatus* (Peters, 1879) and *S. okara sp. nov*., by their noticeably more stout and robust body and lower ventral count, 296-355 in these four species, versus over 355 in *S. ligatus* and *S. okara sp. nov*.. They are further separated from *S. ligatus* in that the rostral is intersected on the sides (partially, usually, or completely) by adjoining scales just before it connects the prefrontal shield, versus not so in *S. ligatus* and *S. okara sp. nov*..

Further diagnostic features of the six preceding species, separating them from all other Australian Blind Snake species, includes the fact that they are perhaps Australia's most stout and robust Blind Snake, attaining 50 cm as adults and with a length that is 25-32 times that of the diameter. The snout is rounded from above and in profile. There are 24 mid-body scale rows and the nasal cleft, visible from above, extends from the first labial to well on top of the head.

Rostral is slighter wider below than above and about twice as long as wide, and one third or less as wide as the head. Nasal cleft arises from the first labial, curving upwards and back from the nostril and terminates near the top of the nasal after curving backwards.

Preocular present, slightly narrower than the nasal or the ocular, in contact with the second and third labials; eyes as large black spots are readily distinguishable; prefrontal, supraoculars and parietals are noticeably enlarged; four upper labials.

Dorsally the colouration is dark grayish, brown, purplish brown or even a dark pinkish colour and ventrally a whitish cream to yellow or sometimes a dull pink, with the junction between the colours sharp and straight edged.

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

S. crottyi sp. nov., *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov.* are separated from *S. sloppi* and one another by the following suites of characters:

S. crottyi sp. nov. has a moderate lightening of the anterior of the snout, versus strongly lightened and whitish in colour in *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov..*

S. sloppi, and *S. crottyi sp. nov*. are both separated from both *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*. by having strong thick yellow or white lines etching the scales at the anterior part of the dorsum of the head, versus weakly so in *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*..

Both *S. crottyi sp. nov*. and *S. ligatus* are separated from the other three species *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*. by the fact that the prefrontal shield is slightly larger than the frontal shield, versus much larger as in double the size in *S. sloppi*, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. and *S. romani sp. nov*..

S. romani sp. nov. is separated from the other preceding species by the fact that the rostral barely meets the frontal or is otherwise narrowly separated from it and adults have a slightly yellowish brown hue to the dorsal coloration.

Molecular evidence cited by Greer (2025), being a simplified phylogeny from Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) shows that the species, *S. crottyi sp. nov.* diverged from its nearest common ancestor *S. sloppi* in the middle Pliocene Epoch, about 4 MYA, being significant species-level divergence.

The same evidence showed that *S. oxyi sp. nov*. diverged from *S. sloppi* as nearest relatives about 2 MYA.

There is no molecular evidence for *S. romani sp. nov.* found in the Selwyn Ranges district, including outliers in north-west Queensland, but it occurs in a well-known region of endemicity and separated by known biogeographical barriers on all sides. It is also morphologically divergent.

Likewise for *S. okara sp. nov.* in that there is no molecular data on the taxon.

Distribution: *S. okara sp. nov*. is currently only known from a small number of specimens and appears to be confined to elevated regions generally north of Coen, Queensland on Cape York, Australia.

The name *S. okara sp. nov*. is taken from the name of the local (to north Cape York) Aboriginal tribe that inhabited the area before the British invasion and genocide of the people of the 1800's.

The formation of the scientific name as “okara” rather than “okaraorum” as would normally be the case is deliberate and done with a view to keeping the scientific name both simpler and also more relatable to the Okara people themselves, not otherwise familiar with either Latin or the rules of scientific nomenclature.

Therefore, the spelling of the name should only be changed if absolutely mandatory.

SUEWITTTYPHLOPS OVERLOOKEDIT SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:E6A61D15-36CB-4116-AE2A-D9AEB11CDEF1

Holotype: A preserved adult female specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R140003 collected from Millstream, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -21.6 S., Longitude 117.1 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved adult female specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R102111 collected as a roadkill in mid-April 1991 at Pannawonica, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -21.395 W., Longitude 116.20 E., 2/ A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R170702 collected from near Duck Creek, Pilbara District, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -22.0 S., Longitude 116.5 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, each of *Suewitttyphlops overlookedit sp. nov.* and *Suewitttyphlops outofsight sp. nov.* have been treated as populations of the putative Pilbara taxon, *Suewitttyphlops ganei* (Aplin, 1998), with a type locality of Cathedral Gorge, 30 km west of Newman, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -23.17305 S., Longitude 119.28 E.

The three species are range restricted endemics effectively confined to upland areas and separated by major drainage systems which are known biogeographic barriers affecting other Pilbara reptile species.

S. ganei is herein confined to the Opthalmia Range in the East Pilbara, in a region bound by Turri Creek East Branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the west, separating this taxon from the Hamersley Ranges taxon *S. overlookedit sp. nov.*. *S. ganei* is further constrained by the major biogeographical barrier of the Fortescue River, including Jiggalong Creek to the north and the Ashburton River system to the south.

The same above-mentioned river systems and the Pilbara coast to the west effectively confine *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* to the Hamersley Ranges district.

To the north of the Fortescue River barrier in the Chichester Range, the morphologically divergent *S. outofsight sp. nov.* occurs.

The molecular results of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) as cited by Greer (2025) found that the three relevant populations of putative *S. ganei* all diverged from one another about 2 MYA and were in effect separate species.

Each species appears to be confined to mainly wetter habitats in hilly areas in an otherwise very hot and dry Pilbara district.

The three morphologically similar species are separated from one another by the following character combinations.

S. ganei has a frontal shield that is essentially straight sided from top to bottom except for an enlarged round-shaped bulge at the upper edge where it meets and intersects the first and second labials on each side and the prefrontal posterior to it. The nasal is more “U-shaped” than triangular, the lower edge of the “U-shape being the upper edge of the scale. The scales of the head and dorsum are a medium brownish in colour and the etching between the scales on the upper parts of the head is a light creamish colour with a very slight reddish tinge.

S. overlookedit sp. nov. has a frontal shield that is essentially ovoid or horseshoe shaped, as opposed to straight sided. The bulge at the top is gradual in form and not ball-on-stick-style as seen in *S. ganei.* The nasals are obviously triangular with a well pointed upper edge formed from a narrow apex, rather than being from a U-shaped peak as seen in *S. ganei*. The scales of the head and dorsum are a medium purplish brownish in colour and the etching between the scales on the upper parts of the head is white, and sometimes with a very slight pink tinge.

S. outofsight sp. nov. has a frontal shield that is straight sided top to bottom, or at most only slightly wider near the top. It is not with a noticeable circular area at the top as seen in *S. ganei* or in the form of a horseshoe as seen in *S. overlookedit sp. nov.*. The nasals are obviously triangular with a well pointed upper edge formed from a medium to wide apex, rather than being from a narrow obviously constricted apex as seen in *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* or with a U-shaped peak as seen in *S. ganei*. The dorsum of this species is chocolate brown in colour. Etching between the scales on the head is beige in colour.

The three species *S. ganei*, *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* and *S. outofsight sp. nov.* are readily separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters:

An elongate, moderately stout Australian Blind Snake with 24 midbody scale rows, a foreshortened head with snout bluntly rounded in lateral profile and from above, moderately high number of vertebral scales (430-448) and nasal cleft vertically dividing the nasal scale, originating

from the second labial scale and terminating at the top of the rostral scale on the dorsal surface of the head.

Vertebral scales number 430-448 for females, 432 for

the only male counted. Subcaudal scales (excluding the conical spine) of females 12-13, of male known is 19.

Circumferential scale rows 24 along entire length of body.

Head bluntly rounded in profile and from above, preocular region extremely foreshortened. Eyes conspicuous, positioned deep to the anterodorsal portion of the ocular scale.

Nasals large, forming a major part of the anterior surface of the head; broadly separated behind the rostral by the prefrontal. Nasal cleft originates from the anterior end of the second supralabial, curves around the front of the nostril then extends vertically onto the upper surface of the head, finally swinging posteromedially to contact posterolateral margin of rostral. Nasal scale thus completely divided into subequal anterior and posterior moeities. Preocular smaller than the nasal, subequal to ocular, narrowly separated from prefrontal by intervening supraocular.

Anterior suture of preocular intersects upper border of second upper labial well behind nasal cleft. Lower border of preocular overlaps upper labials 2-3. Ocular subequal to preocular.

Ventral portion wedged between upper labials 3 and 4. Upper labials increase in size posteriorly;

Upper labial 4 projects behind posterior margin of the ocular. Prefrontal large, equal to three body scales; deeply wedged between nasal and supraocular but fails to contact the preocular. Supraocular subequal to the prefrontal. Frontal is so small is to not be readily distinguishable from other scales of the vertebral series. Parietal wide but straplike, equal in width to three body scales.

The three preceding species are most similar to putative *S. ligatus* (Peters, 1879), herein treated as a composite of *S. ligatus* (confined to Queensland and New South Wales, east of the Carpentaria Fold) and south of Cooktown, Queensland, along with the closely related *S. okara sp. nov*. from Cape York Peninsula, found generally north of Coen in Queensland and similar in most respects to that species, as well as *S. sloppi* (Hoser, 2013) (with a type locality of Wyndham East Kimberley, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -15.65 S., Longitude 128.70 E.), *S. crottyi sp. nov*. from the Wessell Islands, Northern Territory, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. from the southern Gulf of Carpentaria Region west of the Carpentaria Fold in the Northern Territory and *S. romani sp. nov.* from the Selwyn Ranges, north-west Queensland, including outliers.

The three preceding species are separated from the latter six by being less elongate (as in more stout), with fewer vertebral scales (296-355 in females), a less extremely foreshortened head, a broader rostral scale, and a nasal cleft which originates at the first labial scale and terminates well short of the rostral scale.

S. ganei of the type form is depicted in life in Aplin (1998) on page 8 at top and it is also depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 102 at top left, being from 30 km west of Newman, Western Australia and is also depicted online at: https://biocache.alS.org.au/occurrences/ac16745d-f4e7-46fc-a68d-eae19239a83b

S. overlookedit sp. nov. is depicted in life online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/7218816240/ being a specimen from Pannawonica, Western Australia.

S. outofsight sp. nov. from the Chichester range is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 101 at bottom right.

Distribution: *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* is a Hamersley Ranges endemic of the Pilbara region in northwest Western Australia. This is a region of about 100 km diameter or about 10,000 square km, although obviously this taxon does not and cannot live in much of this area due its specific habitat and microhabitat needs. Of the three species, *S. ganei*, *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* and *S. outofsight sp. nov.* it is *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* that has the largest known range. The other two species each probably occupies a range of about 2,500 square kilometers. Because of the small number of specimens of each species collected to date by herpetologists in the Pilbara region, an area extensively collected over the past 4 decades, all three species should be treated as vulnerable.

Etymology: The species name *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* is a direct reflection of the fact that countless government officials and herpetologists in Australia have quite shamefully overlooked this taxon as a valid species in need of cataloguing and preserving. Refer to the relevant comments of Hoser (2019a, 2019b) in particular.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

SUEWITTTYPHLOPS OUTOFSIGHT SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:48FA23E9-716E-4A26-BDFC-4D7D0E23DE50

Holotype: A preserved subadult male specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R156328 collected from the Chichester Range, Pilbara district, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -22.2 S., Longitude 119.0 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen numbers R151749, R165000 and R165034 (Skeleton) all collected from the Chichester Range, Pilbara district, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -22.2 S., Longitude 119.0 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, each of *Suewitttyphlops overlookedit sp. nov.* and *Suewitttyphlops outofsight sp. nov.* have been treated as populations of the putative Pilbara taxon, *Suewitttyphlops ganei* (Aplin, 1998), with a type locality of Cathedral Gorge, 30 km west of Newman, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -2317305 S., Longitude 119.28 E.

The three species are range restricted endemics effectively confined to upland areas and separated by major drainage systems which are known biogeographic barriers affecting other Pilbara reptile species.

S. ganei is herein confined to the Opthalmia Range in the East Pilbara, in a region bound by Turri Creek East Branch and Weeli Wolli Creek in the west, separating this taxon from the Hamersley Ranges taxon *S. overlookedit sp. nov.*. *S. ganei* is further constrained by the major biogeographical barrier of the Fortescue River, including Jiggalong Creek to the north and the Ashburton River system to the south.

The same above-mentioned river systems and the Pilbara coast to the west effectively confine *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* to the Hamersley Ranges district.

To the north of the Fortescue River barrier in the Chichester Range, the morphologically divergent *S. outofsight sp. nov.* occurs.

The molecular results of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) as cited by Greer (2025) found that the three relevant populations of putative *S. ganei* all diverged from one another about 2 MYA and were in effect separate species.

Each species appears to be confined to mainly wetter habitats in hilly areas in an otherwise very hot and dry Pilbara district.

The three morphologically similar species are separated from one another by the following character combinations.

S. ganei has a frontal shield that is essentially straight sided from top to bottom except for an enlarged round-shaped bulge at the upper edge where it meets and intersects the nasal and preocular on each side and the prefrontal posterior to it. The nasals are more “U-shaped” than triangular, the lower edge of the “U-shape being the upper edge of the scale. The scales of the head and dorsum are a medium brownish in colour and the etching between the scales on the upper parts of the head is a light creamish colour with a very slight reddish tinge.

S. overlookedit sp. nov. has a frontal shield that is essentially ovoid or horseshoe shaped, as opposed to straight sided. The bulge at the top is gradual in form and not ball-on-stick-style as seen in *S. ganei.* The nasals are obviously triangular with a well pointed upper edge formed from a narrow apex, rather than being from a U-shaped peak as seen in *S. ganei*. The scales of the head and dorsum are a medium purplish brownish in colour and the etching between the scales on the upper parts of the head is white, and sometimes with a very slight pink tinge.

S. outofsight sp. nov. has a frontal shield that is straight sided top to bottom, or at most only slightly wider near the top. It is not with a noticeable circular area at the top as seen in *S. ganei* or in the form of a horseshoe as seen in *S. overlookedit sp. nov.*. The nasals are obviously triangular with a well pointed upper edge formed from a medium to wide apex, rather than being from a narrow obviously constricted apex as seen in *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* or with a U-shaped peak as seen in *S. ganei*. The dorsum of this species is chocolate brown in colour. Etching between the scales on the head is beige in colour.

The three species *S. ganei*, *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* and *S. outofsight sp. nov.* are readily separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters:

An elongate, moderately stout Australian Blind Snake with 24 midbody scale rows, a foreshortened head with snout bluntly rounded in lateral profile and from above, moderately high number of vertebral scales (430-448) and nasal cleft vertically dividing the nasal scale, originating

from the second labial scale and terminating at the top of the rostral scale on the dorsal surface of the head.

Vertebral scales number 430-448 for females, 432 for the only male counted. Subcaudal scales (excluding the conical spine) of females 12-13, of male known is 19.

Circumferential scale rows 24 along entire length of body.

Head bluntly rounded in profile and from above, preocular region extremely foreshortened. Eyes

conspicuous, positioned deep to the anterodorsal portion of the ocular scale.

Nasals large, forming a major part of the anterior surface of the head; broadly separated behind

the rostral by the prefrontal. Nasal cleft originates from the anterior end of the second supralabial, curves around the front of the nostril then extends vertically onto the upper surface of the head, finally swinging posteromedially to contact posterolateral margin of rostral. Nasal scale thus completely divided into subequal anterior and posterior moeities. Preocular smaller than the nasal, subequal to ocular, narrowly separated from prefrontal by intervening supraocular.

Anterior suture of preocular intersects upper border of second upper labial well behind nasal

cleft. Lower border of preocular overlaps upper labials 2-3. Ocular subequal to preocular.

Ventral portion wedged between upper labials 3 and 4. Upper labials increase in size posteriorly;

Upper labial 4 projects behind posterior margin of the ocular. Prefrontal large, equal to three body scales; deeply wedged between nasal and supraocular but

fails to contact the preocular. Supraocular subequal to the prefrontal. Frontal is so small is to not be readily distinguishable from other scales of the vertebral series. Parietal wide but straplike, equal in width to three body scales.

The three preceding species are most similar to putative *S. ligatus* (Peters, 1879), herein treated as a composite of *S. ligatus* (confined to Queensland and New South Wales, east of the Carpentaria Fold) and south of Cooktown, Queensland, along with the closely related *S. okara sp. nov*. from Cape York Peninsula, found generally north of Coen in Queensland and similar in most respects to that species, as well as *S. sloppi* (Hoser, 2013) (with a type locality of Wyndham East Kimberley, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -15.65 S., Longitude 128.70 E.), *S. crottyi sp. nov*. from the Wessell Islands, Northern Territory, *S. oxyi sp. nov*. from the southern Gulf of Carpentaria Region west of the Carpentaria Fold in the Northern Territory and *S. romani sp. nov.* from the Selwyn Ranges, north-west Queensland, including outliers.

The three preceding species are separated from the latter six by being less elongate (as in more stout), with fewer vertebral scales (296-355 in females), a less extremely foreshortened

head, a broader rostral scale, and a nasal cleft which originates at the first labial scale and

terminates well short of the rostral scale.

S. ganei of the type form is depicted in life in Aplin (1998) on page 8 at top and it is also depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 102 at top left, being from 30 km west of Newman, Western Australia and is also depicted online at: https://biocache.alS.org.au/occurrences/ac16745d-f4e7-46fc-a68d-eae19239a83b

S. overlookedit sp. nov. is depicted in life online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/7218816240/

being a specimen from Pannawonica, Western Australia.

S. outofsight sp. nov. from the Chichester range is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 101 at bottom right.

Distribution: To the north of the Fortescue River barrier in the Chichester Range, the morphologically divergent *S. outofsight sp. nov.* occurs.

S. overlookedit sp. nov. is a Hamersley Ranges endemic of the Pilbara region in northwest Western Australia. This is a region of about 100 km diameter or about 10,000 square km, although obviously this taxon does not and cannot live in much of this area due its specific habitat and microhabitat needs.

Of the three species, *S. ganei*, *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* and *S. outofsight sp. nov.* it is *S. overlookedit sp. nov.* that has the largest known range. The other two species each probably occupies a range of about 2,500 square kilometers. Because of the small number of specimens of each species collected to date by herpetologists in the Pilbara region, an area extensively collected over the past 4 decades, all three species should be treated as vulnerable.

Etymology: The species name *S. outofsight sp. nov.* is a direct reflection of the fact that countless government officials and herpetologists in Australia have quite shamefully overlooked this taxon as a valid species in need of cataloguing and preserving and kept it "out of sight" of the public at large while they potentially "managed the species to extinction".

Refer to the relevant comments of Hoser (2019a, 2019b) in particular.

SUEWITTTYPHLOPS MILEII SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:D8602701-39A7-4B14-8E38-73B476E557C1

Holotype: A preserved male specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R133192 collected from Koolan Island, Buccaneer Archipelago, West Kimberley District, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -16.127222 S., Longitude 123.741389 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Six preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen numbers R133193 (adult female), R158014 (adult female), R158055 (male), R165559 (female), R145043 (adult) and R91044 all from Koolan Island, Buccaneer Archipelago, West Kimberley District, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -16.127222 S., Longitude 123.741389 E.

Diagnosis: Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) provided a molecular basis to separate putative *Suewitttyphlops kimberleyensis* (Storr, 1981) into at least four separate species in addition to the closely related south-west Kimberley species *S. troglodytes* (Storr, 1981).

The type locality for *S. kimberleyensis* is Bigge Island, Western Australia, Latitude 14.32 S., Longitude 125.08 E. and this taxon is herein confined to nearby islands in the Bonaparte Archipelago, extending at least as far south as Coronation Island, Western Australia, Latitude -14.983333 S., Longitude 124.916667 E. as well as the immediately adjacent mainland of the West Kimberley District of Western Australia.

Suewitttyphlops mileii sp. nov. is only known from Koolan Island, other islands in the immediately adjacent Buccaneer Archipelago and the immediately adjacent mainland of the West Kimberley District of Western Australia.

Suewitttyphlops paulwoolfi sp. nov. is a taxon from the north-east Kimberley District of Western Australia, known from an area generally east of Wuudagu, about 20 km west of Kalumburu, in the north Kimberley District, to the Northern Territory border in the east, being an inhabitant of woodlands associated

with sandstone rock outcroppings.

Suewitttyphlops euanedwardsi sp. nov. inhabits the rockier parts of the western half of the top end of the Northern Territory from the Victoria River district in the south-west to the west Arnhem Land escarpment in the north-east.

S. kimberleyensis (Storr, 1981), *S. mileii sp. nov.*, *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.* and *S. euanedwardsi sp. nov.* are separated from one another by the following character differences:

S. kimberleyensis is a dark pinkish-brown coloured snake on top, being this colour at the anterior end, becoming cholate brown at the posterior end. It has a has a moderately wide U-shaped rostral that flares out slightly at the last third of the lower edge, entering the prefrontal but not flattening the anterior edge. The large scale around the eye spot is not divided. There is thin and semi distinct white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout. The tip of the snout is whitish.

S. mileii sp. nov. is a dark pinkish-brown coloured snake on top, being this colour at the anterior end, becoming cholate brown at the posterior end. It has a rostral that barely touches the anterior of the prefrontal with the lateral parts of the prefrontal scale being ending in a narrow sharp point, versus a wide blunter point in *S. kimberleyensis*. The large scale around the eye spot is effectively divided into two, the division being along the posterior edge of the eye spot. There is thin and semi distinct white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout. The tip of the snout is whitish.

S. paulwoolfi sp. nov. is a pinkish coloured snake, with a slight brownish tinge at the posterior end. The rostral is straight sided up the snout from top to bottom. The middle of the front edge of the prefrontal is flat in line, rather than forward angled in both *S. kimberleyensis* and *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov*.. The prefrontal is also wider than the rostral, versus not so in *S. kimberleyensis* and *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.*. The scale around the eye spot is reduced in size and teardrop shaped, the front and back edge effectively confining the eye spot. There is strong and thick white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout.

S. euanedwardsi sp. nov. is a snake that has a yellowish-brown dorsum all over and no change in colour intensity at the posterior end. The top of the head is noticeably lighter than the rest of the body, being light yellowish brown rather than medium yellowish brown in colour. There is a very slight further lightening of colour at the anterior part of the snout, but not in the form of whitening as such. The rostral is relatively shorter in this species than seen in the three preceding species, with the anterior edge of the prefrontal moving forward and accommodating the void. There is no white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout.

The four preceding species *S. kimberleyensis*, *S. mileii sp. nov.*, *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.* and *S. euanedwardsi sp. nov.* are separated from the closely related and morphologically similar west Kimberley taxon *S. troglodytes* (Storr, 1981) of the south-west Kimberley district by having a nasal cleft extending upwards and slightly backwards to about midway between nostril and top of the nasal scale; nostril a little nearer to the rostral than the preocular and ventrals fewer than 550, versus the nasal cleft extending upwards and forwards from nostril to rostral; nostril much nearer to the rostral than the preocular and ventrals more than 600.

As a cohort, the five preceding species are readily separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following combination of characters: snout is rounded in profile; rostral (from above) is much longer than wide; nostrils are lateral; 22 Midbody scale rows and over 400 ventrals.

S. mileii sp. nov. is depicted in life on the website controlled by Peter Uetz and the Adam Britton gang of people who engage in anal sex with people's pet dogs, child rapists, drug dealers and wildlife smugglers at:
https://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/species?genus=Anilios&species=kimberleyensis

with the specimen from Koolan Island, Western Australia, being photographed by Brad Maryan.

S. paulwoolfi sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/194274402@N06/51649985624/

being a specimen from Mornington Station, Western Australia, photographed by Melissa Bruton.

S. euanedwardsi sp. nov. is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 803 at bottom right, being from Litchfield National Park in the Northern Territory, photographed by Paul Horner.

The phylogenies of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) showed that each of *S. kimberleyensis* (Storr, 1981), *S. mileii sp. nov.*, *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.* and *S. euanedwardsi sp. nov.* and the morphologically similar *S. troglodytes* (Storr, 1981) diverged from one another in the Pliocene epoch which means each diverged from nearest relatives more than 2.6 MYA, supporting the species level recognition of each taxon.

Distribution: *S. mileii sp. nov.* is only known from Koolan Island, other islands in the immediately adjacent Buccaneer Archipelago and the immediately adjacent mainland of the west Kimberley, WA.

Etymology: *S. mileii sp. nov.* is named in honour of Javier Gerardo Milei who is an Argentine libertarian politician and economist. He has served as President of Argentina since 2023 (continuing to do so in mid 2025). His political mantra of dismantling the corrupt and parasitic public service bureaucracy, combined with zero tolerance for police, judicial and political corruption have reversed a century long decline in Argentina's economic, social and environmental fortunes and propelled the country to be one of the most dynamic modern economies in South America

within his first year of government.

His successful model of minimalist government intrusions into the lives of law-abiding citizens, combined with no tolerance for corruption and dishonesty in government is one that should be adopted in other countries including the endemically corrupt fascist state of Australia.

There would be significant benefits to wildlife conservation in Australia with the government model of Javier Gerardo Milei.

SUEWITTTYPHLOPS PAULWOOLFI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:CC91FE73-F2E0-4453-8724-0F957283EC61

Holotype: A preserved adult female specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R125981 collected from Wyndham, East Kimberley District, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -15.466667 S., Longitude 128.1 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved adult male specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number 98 km southwest of Kununurra, 7-9 km east of the Great Northern Highway, East Kimberley District, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -16.586111 S., Longitude 128.275278 E., 2/ A preserved specimen at the Australian National Wildlife Collection (controlled by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation AKA CSIRO), Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia, specimen number R12424 collected from McPhee Creek, East Kimberley District, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -16.2661 S., Longitude 128.3024 E.

Diagnosis: Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) provided a molecular basis to separate putative *Suewitttyphlops kimberleyensis* (Storr, 1981) into at least four separate species in addition to the closely related south-west Kimberley species *S. troglodytes* (Storr, 1981).

The type locality for *S. kimberleyensis* is Bigge Island, Western Australia, Latitude 14.32 S., Longitude 125.08 E. and this taxon is herein confined to nearby islands in the Bonaparte Archipelago, extending at least as far south as Coronation Island, Western Australia, Latitude -14.983333 S., Longitude 124.916667 E. as well as the immediately adjacent mainland of the West Kimberley District of Western Australia.

Suewitttyphlops mileii sp. nov. is only known from Koolan Island, other islands in the immediately adjacent Buccaneer Archipelago and the immediately adjacent mainland of the West Kimberley District of Western Australia.

Suewitttyphlops paulwoolfi sp. nov. is a taxon from the north-east Kimberley district of Western Australia, known from an area generally east of Wuudagu, about 20 km west of Kalumburu, in the north Kimberley District, to the Northern Territory border in the east, being an inhabitant of woodlands associated with sandstone rock outcroppings.

Suewitttyphlops euanedwardsi sp. nov. inhabits the rockier parts of the western half of the top end of the Northern Territory from the Victoria River district in the south-west to the west Arnhem Land escarpment in the north-east.

S. kimberleyensis (Storr, 1981), *S. mileii sp. nov.*, *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.* and *S. euanedwardsi sp. nov.* are separated from one another by the following character differences:

S. kimberleyensis is a dark pinkish-brown coloured snake on top, being this colour at the anterior end, becoming cholate brown at the posterior end. It has a has a moderately wide U-shaped rostral that flares out slightly at the last third of the lower edge, entering the prefrontal but not flattening the anterior edge. The large scale around the eye spot is not divided. There is thin and semi distinct white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout. The tip of the snout is whitish.

S. mileii sp. nov. is a dark pinkish-brown coloured snake on top, being this colour at the anterior end, becoming cholate brown at the posterior end. It has a rostral that barely touches the anterior of the prefrontal with the lateral parts of the prefrontal scale being ending in a narrow sharp point, versus a wide blunter point in *S. kimberleyensis*. The large scale around the eye spot is effectively divided into two, the division being along the posterior edge of the eye spot. There is thin and semi distinct white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout. The tip of the snout is whitish.

S. paulwoolfi sp. nov. is a pinkish coloured snake, with a slight brownish tinge at the posterior end. The rostral is straight sided up the snout from top to bottom. The middle of the front edge of the pre-frontal is flat in line, rather than forward angled in both *S. kimberleyensis* and *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov*.. The prefrontal is also wider than the rostral, versus not so in *S. kimberleyensis* and *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.*. The scale around the eye spot is reduced in size and teardrop shaped, the front and back edge effectively confining the eye spot. There is strong and thick white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout.

S. euanedwardsi sp. nov. is a snake that has a yellowish-brown dorsum all over and no change in colour intensity at the posterior end. The top of the head is noticeably lighter than the rest of the body, being light yellowish brown rather than medium yellowish brown in colour. There is a very slight further lightening of colour at the anterior part of the snout, but not in the form of whitening as such. The rostral is relatively shorter in this species than seen in the three preceding species, with the anterior edge of the prefrontal moving forward and accommodating the void. There is no white etching of scales on the

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anterior of the snout.

The four preceding species *S. kimberleyensis*, *S. mileii sp. nov.*, *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.* and *S. euanedwardsi sp. nov.* are separated from the closely related and morphologically similar west Kimberley taxon *S. troglodytes* (Storr, 1981) of the south-west Kimberley district by having a nasal cleft extending upwards and slightly backwards to about midway between nostril and top of the nasal scale; nostril a little nearer to the rostral than the preocular and ventrals fewer than 550, versus the nasal cleft extending upwards and forwards from nostril to rostral; nostril much nearer to the rostral than the preocular and ventrals more than 600.

As a cohort, the five preceding species are readily separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following combination of characters: snout is rounded in profile; rostral (from above) is much longer than wide; nostrils are lateral; 22 Midbody scale rows and over 400 ventrals.

S. mileii sp. nov. is depicted in life on the website controlled by Peter Uetz and the Adam Britton gang of people who engage in anal sex with people's pet dogs, child rapists, drug dealers and wildlife smugglers at:
https://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/species?genus=Anilios&species=kimberleyensis

with the specimen from Koolan Island, Western Australia, being photographed by Brad Maryan.

S. paulwoolfi sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/194274402@N06/51649985624/

being a specimen from Mornington Station, Western Australia, photographed by Melissa Bruton.

S. euanedwardsi sp. nov. is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 803 at bottom right, being from Litchfield National Park in the Northern Territory, photographed by Paul Horner.

The phylogenies of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) showed that each of *S. kimberleyensis* (Storr, 1981), *S. mileii sp. nov.*, *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.* and *S. euanedwardsi sp. nov.* and the morphologically similar *S. troglodytes* (Storr, 1981) diverged from one another in the Pliocene epoch which means each diverged from nearest relatives more than 2.6 million years ago, supporting the species level recognition of each taxon.

Distribution: *Suewitttyphlops paulwoolfi sp. nov.* is a taxon from the north-east Kimberley district of Western Australia, known from an area generally east of Wuudagu, about 20 km west of Kalumburu, in the north Kimberley District, to the Northern Territory border in the east, being an inhabitant of woodlands associated with sandstone rock outcroppings.

Etymology: *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.* is named in honour of Paul Woolf of Walloon, Queensland, Australia. For more details see the etymology for *Woolftyphlops* Hoser, 2012 in Hoser (2012d) at pages 19-20.

SUEWITTTYPHLOPS EUANEDWARDSI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:1D2BF8E8-0005-49E7-BDA6-A71334C0C9EE

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R21996 collected at Litchfield National Park, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -13.202 S., Longitude 130.708 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R22224 collected at Litchfield National Park, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude-13.7 S., Longitude 131.8.

Diagnosis: Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) provided a molecular basis to separate putative *Suewitttyphlops kimberleyensis* (Storr, 1981) into at least four separate species in addition to the closely related south-west Kimberley species *S. troglodytes* (Storr, 1981).

The type locality for *S. kimberleyensis* is Bigge Island, Western Australia, Latitude 14.32 S., Longitude 125.08 E. and this taxon is herein confined to nearby islands in the Bonaparte Archipelago, extending at least as far south as Coronation Island, Western Australia, Latitude -14.983333 S., Longitude 124.916667 E. as well as the immediately adjacent mainland of the West Kimberley District of Western Australia.

Suewitttyphlops mileii sp. nov. is only known from Koolan Island, other islands in the immediately adjacent Buccaneer Archipelago and the immediately adjacent mainland of the West Kimberley District of Western Australia.

Suewitttyphlops paulwoolfi sp. nov. is a taxon from the north-east Kimberley District of Western Australia, known from an area generally east of Wuudagu, about 20 km west of Kalumburu, in the north Kimberley District, to the Northern Territory border in the east, being an inhabitant of woodlands associated with sandstone rock outcroppings.

Suewitttyphlops euanedwardsi sp. nov. inhabits the rockier parts of the western half of the top end of the Northern Territory from the Victoria River district in the south-west to the west Arnhem Land escarpment in the north-east.

S. kimberleyensis (Storr, 1981), *S. mileii sp. nov.*, *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.* and *S. euanedwardsi sp. nov.* are separated from one another by the following character differences:

S. kimberleyensis is a dark pinkish-brown coloured snake on top, being this colour at the anterior end, becoming cholate brown at the posterior end. It has a has a moderately wide U-shaped rostral that flares out slightly at the last third of the lower edge, entering the prefrontal but not flattening the anterior edge. The

large scale around the eye spot is not divided. There is thin and semi distinct white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout. The tip of the snout is whitish.

S. mileii sp. nov. is a dark pinkish-brown coloured snake on top, being this colour at the anterior end, becoming cholate brown at the posterior end. It has a rostral that barely touches the anterior of the prefrontal with the lateral parts of the prefrontal scale being ending in a narrow sharp point, versus a wide blunter point in *S. kimberleyensis*. The large scale around the eye spot is effectively divided into two, the division being along the posterior edge of the eye spot. There is thin and semi distinct white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout. The tip of the snout is whitish.

S. paulwoolfi sp. nov. is a pinkish coloured snake, with a slight brownish tinge at the posterior end. The rostral is straight sided up the snout from top to bottom. The middle of the front edge of the prefrontal is flat in line, rather than forward angled in both *S. kimberleyensis* and *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov*.. The prefrontal is also wider than the rostral, versus not so in *S. kimberleyensis* and *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.*. The scale around the eye spot is reduced in size and teardrop shaped, the front and back edge effectively confining the eye spot. There is strong and thick white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout.

S. euanedwardsi sp. nov. is a snake that has a yellowish-brown dorsum all over and no change in colour intensity at the posterior end. The top of the head is noticeably lighter than the rest of the body, being light yellowish brown rather than medium yellowish brown in colour. There is a very slight further lightening of colour at the anterior part of the snout, but not in the form of whitening as such. The rostral is relatively shorter in this species than seen in the three preceding species, with the anterior edge of the prefrontal moving forward and accommodating the void. There is no white etching of scales on the anterior of the snout.

The four preceding species *S. kimberleyensis*, *S. mileii sp. nov.*, *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.* and *S. euanedwardsi sp. nov.* are separated from the closely related and morphologically similar west Kimberley taxon *S. troglodytes* (Storr, 1981) of the south-west Kimberley district by having a nasal cleft extending upwards and slightly backwards to about midway between nostril and top of the nasal scale; nostril a little nearer to the rostral than the preocular and ventrals fewer than 550, versus the nasal cleft extending upwards and forwards from nostril to rostral; nostril much nearer to the rostral than the preocular and ventrals more than 600.

As a cohort, the five preceding species are readily separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following combination of characters: snout is rounded in profile; rostral (from above) is much longer than wide; nostrils are lateral; 22 Midbody scale rows and over 400 ventrals.

S. mileii sp. nov. is depicted in life on the website controlled by Peter Uetz and the Adam Britton gang of people who engage in anal sex with people's pet dogs, child rapists, drug dealers and wildlife smugglers at:
https://reptile-database.reptarium.cz/species?genus=Anilios&species=kimberleyensis

with the specimen from Koolan Island, Western Australia, being photographed by Brad Maryan.

S. paulwoolfi sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/194274402@N06/51649985624/

being a specimen from Mornington Station, Western Australia, photographed by Melissa Bruton.

S. euanedwardsi sp. nov. is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 803 at bottom right, being from Litchfield National Park in the Northern Territory, photographed by Paul Horner.

The phylogenies of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) showed that each of *S. kimberleyensis* (Storr, 1981), *S. mileii sp. nov.*, *S. paulwoolfi sp. nov.* and *S. euanedwardsi sp. nov.* and the morphologically similar *S. troglodytes* (Storr, 1981) diverged from one another in the Pliocene epoch which means each diverged from nearest relatives more than 2.6 million years ago, supporting the species level recognition of each taxon.

Distribution: *Suewitttyphlops euanedwardsi sp. nov.* inhabits the rockier parts of the western half of the top end of the Northern Territory from the Victoria River District in the south-west to the west Arnhem Land escarpment in the north-east.

Etymology: *S. euanedwardsi sp. nov.* is named in honour of Euan Edwards of Upper Coomera on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. For more details see the etymology for *Edwardstyphlops* Hoser, 2012 in Hoser (2012d) at page 19.

ACKYTYPHLOPS GEDYEI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:D66EC2BB-4E04-4E24-B14F-3D2EABA3DBAA

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J72742 collected from near Wandana Waters, northeast Queensland, Australia, Latitude -17.55 S., Longitude 145.616667 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J76031 collected from near Ravenshoe, northeast Queensland, Australia, Latitude -17.6 S., Longitude 145.483333 E.,

2/ A preserved specimen at the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen number J80559 collected from the Tully Falls Forest Reserve, northeast Queensland, Australia, Latitude -17.610556 S., Longitude 145.558889 E.

Diagnosis: *Ackytyphlops gedyei sp. nov.* is a taxon found in the southern wet tropics, of Queensland, Australia being a region generally south and south-west of Cairns in north-east Queensland. It is morphologically and genetically divergent to the specimens from further north on Cape York that are assigned to one or other of either *A. robertsi* (Couper, Covacevich and Wilson, 1998) of the northern west tropics region, generally bounded by Cooktown in the North and Port Douglas in the south, or further north, where specimens are assigned to *A. torresianus* (Boulenger, 1889).

Ackytyphlops gedyei sp. nov. is separated from all other species in the *A. polygrammicus* (Schlegel, 1839) complex of north-east Australia and the New Guinea/Wallacea region which is where they occur, by the following unique suite of characters: dark brown dorsum with underlying semi-distinct black patches usually being made up of part or whole of a scale, an elongate more-or-less rectangular rostral that indents (inwards) slightly on either side midway up the sides, or is otherwise essentially straight lined (unique to this species within the group); yellow patches and yellow etching on and between the scales at the anterior part of the top of the head, yellow venter and a reasonably well-defined demarcation between dorsal and ventral colouration, versus extremely well-defined in *A. robertsi* and poorly defined in *A. torresianus* being the only other two species in the group from Australia.

As a group, *A. gedyei sp. nov*. and the other species in the *A. polygrammicus* group of species are separated from all other Australasian Blind Snakes by the unique combination of the following characters:

Brownish above, yellowish below. Rostral, mouth and tail tip usually yellowish or with yellow pigment spots. The snout is rounded from above and in profile. Nasal cleft joins the second supralabial or the suture between the first and second labials, projecting forward and upward to partially divide the nasal, which is visible from above. Rostral is large and obvious, being much longer than wide. 22 midbody scale rows, 520-580 ventrals. Length is 35-60 times the diameter; average length is 25 cm and maximum is about 40 cm (modified from Cogger 2014 and Couper, Covacevich and Wilson, 1998).

Ackytyphlops gedyei sp. nov. is depicted in life in Cogger (2014) on page 809 bottom left and online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/shaneblackfnq/16984398101/

being from Lake Eacham, Queensland and photographed by Shane Black, and https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/5205828774/

being from Paluma Range and photographed by Stephen Zozaya.

The phylogenies of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) showed that the species *A. gedyei sp. nov*. diverged from nearest relatives further north in Qld over 2 MYA.

Distribution: *Ackytyphlops gedyei sp. nov.* is a taxon found in the southern wet tropics, of Queensland, Australia being a region generally south and south-west of Cairns in north-east Queensland.

Etymology: *A. gedyei sp. nov.* is named in honour of Andrew Gedye of Innisfail of far north Queensland, Australia. He is a well-known breeder of rare and potentially threatened species of snakes and is thanked for his services to herpetology spanning some decades.

PATTERSONTYPHLOPS KAMILAROI SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:CC2C7CCA-7C54-4D3D-9E57-7412B6C3675B

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.154152 collected from Poison Gate Road on road to Poison Gate from the Gwydir Highway, New South Wales, Australia, Latitude -29.52971 S., Longitude 149.26749 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.19388 collected from Collarenabri, New South Wales, Australia, Latitude -29.55 S., Longitude 148.583 E., 2/ A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.12761 collected from Walgett, New South Wales, Australia, Latitude -30.016 S., Longitude 148.116 E.

Diagnosis: Until now *Pattersontyphlops kamilaroi sp. nov*. has been treated as a south-west population of *Pattersontyphlops wiedii* (Peters, 1867) with a type locality of Brisbane, Queensland.

A. wiedii is herein confined to the general region north of the border ranges in south-east Queensland extending south along the NSW north coast, east of the ranges. Its range extends north on the margins of the Great Dividing range to the Tropic of Capricorn.

A. kamilaroi sp. nov. is the taxon found in drier parts of north-east New South Wales, extending west to the Darling River basin.

A. kamilaroi sp. nov. is separated from *A. wiedii* by having a weakly and evenly ovoid-shaped rostral, with a sizeable contact point to the lower snout, versus one that is wide and bulbous at the top and with narrow contact point below at the lower snout. *A. kamilaroi sp. nov*. has a narrow prefrontal shield, versus wide in *A. wiedii.*

In *A. kamilaroi sp. nov*. the black eye spot is at the posterior part of the scale overlaying it, versus in the central part in *A. wiedii*.

The two species, *A. kamilaroi sp. nov*. and *A. wiedii* are readily separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Snout is rounded in profile from above and the leading edge of the rostral is curved and lacks a downturned transverse keel. Nasal cleft is visible from above and

usually joins the second supralabial. Nasal scale is not completely divided. 20 midbody scale rows. Body without longitudinal stripes of any kind, venter is obviously lighter than the dorsum.

The most similar related species is *A. fossor* Shea, 2015 which is differentiated by having a round-shaped rostral versus either ovoid or bulbous in shape and the nasal cleft is not visible from above.

A. wiedii is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/ryanfrancis/19316423316/
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/145071341
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/142435850

A. kamilaroi sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/91525797
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/145447499
and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/58147773

The phylogenies published by Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) indicated the divergence between populations of *A. wiedii* and *A. kamilaroi sp. nov*. to be in excess of 2.6 MYA during the late Pliocene epoch.

Distribution: *A. kamilaroi sp. nov*. is found in drier parts of north-east New South Wales, nearby far south Queensland and extending west to the Darling River basin.

Etymology: *A. kamilaroi sp. nov*. is named after the Kamilaroi people being the original inhabitants of the region this species occurs in. They lived here prior to the British invasion and genocide of the 1800's. Most of the area was cleared and turned into intensive agriculture. The few natives that survived had to move further west into arid and agriculturally useless land to try to eke out an existence.

Unable to do so, they moved to the edges of "white" towns where they lived under sheets of tin and scavenged rubbish in order to survive.

KERRTYPHLOPS CORRUPTPOLICEORUM SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B46E5334-8C97-42E9-8177-B9275FBB3C46

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian National Wildlife Collection (controlled by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation AKA CSIRO), Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia, specimen number R06668 collected from the Sloane Reserve, Savernake Hall, 28.5 km north of Mulwala, New South Wales, Australia, Latitude -35.738 S., Longitude 146.0483 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, specimen numbers D68358 collected from near Katamatite, Victoria, Latitude -36.0833 S., Longitude 145.7 E., D16295 collected from Shepparton, Victoria (AKA "Ice town"), Australia, Latitude -36.38 S., Longitude 145.4 E.

Diagnosis: For decades, since moving from Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, to Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, while in the field catching reptiles in almost all parts of both states, I have noticed subtle but consistent morphological divergence between specimens of putative "*Ramphotyphlops proximus* Waite, 1893" from different places.

The species is now placed in the genus *Kerrtyphlops* Hoser, 2013.

The molecular results of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) found that the main west and central Victorian population, also entering far southern New South Wales, diverged from the New South Wales and Queensland population by roughly 2 million years.

Therefore, the unnamed Victorian form is herein formally named as a new species *Kerrtyphlops corruptpoliceorum sp. nov*..

K. corruptpoliceorum sp. nov. is readily separated from the nominate form of *K. proximus* (Waite, 1893) by having a rostral that when viewed from above is relatively narrow and squarish at the lower half before topping out in a wide oval shape in the upper half, versus one that is only slightly narrower on the lower part. *K. corruptpoliceorum sp. nov*. is further separated from *K. proximus* by usually having a prominent anal spot, versus either absent or indistinct in *K. proximus.*

The two preceding species, being the entirety of the genus *Kerrtyphlops* Hoser, 2013 are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following suite of characters: Rich dark brown above, fading to creamish-white below, sometimes with a small dark patch on either side of the vent. The snout is very bluntly tri-lobed from above, angular in profile. The nasal cleft is visible from above, joining the first labial below. Rostral is either wholly ovoid from above or alternatively bulbously oval on top and straight edged below, slightly longer than broad. 20 mid body scale rows, body diameter is 20-40 times its length, with an average adult length of 50 cm, but known to attain nearly 75 cm on some occasions.

K. corruptpoliceorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://images.ala.org.au/image/viewer?imageId=d8777ca9-3da2-4c8a-83bd-1937d596b1e5

K. proximus is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/reptileshots/53344136584/
from the Liverpool Plains in New South Wales, photographed by Brendan Schembri.

Distribution: *K. corruptpoliceorum sp. nov*. is a taxon that occurs in drier areas west and north of the Great Divide in northern Victoria, excluding the driest parts

of the north-west and the far west in general, crossing the New South Wales border and entering the south-western slopes and adjoining plains in southern New South Wales.

K. proximus as recognized herein occupies the rest of the range of the subgenus, being found generally from Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory, along the ranges, western slopes and coastal plains of New South Wales to south-east Queensland, south of the tropic of Capricorn. Specimens from north of the Border Ranges in south-east Queensland have different head scalation to those further south and may also be of a different species. However, the molecular results of Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) that sequenced these animals in addition to those from New South Wales and Victoria did not indicate this.

Etymology: *K. corruptpoliceorum sp. nov*. a collective noun in apposition, is named in recognition of the corrupt Victoria Police Department. Supposedly a law-enforcement department, the State Police in Victoria do anything but enforce the law. Instead, they run crime and corruption at all levels, times and places and are in effect a terrorist organisation.

The State Police here in Victoria, bash, rob and thieve from people on a daily basis. They fabricate criminal charges against those who get in their way and worse still, instead of prosecuting hard-core criminals, they actively protect them.

They instead prosecute those who seek to end the crime.

This is not just so-called legal indiscretions, but rather things that any moral person would see as wrong.

Crimes like kidnapping people's pet dogs, anally raping them and posting videos of the same online are fair game in Victoria and green-lighted by the police here.

Members of the Wolfgang Wüster / Adam Britton gang in Victoria do not get charged for the most serious crimes, including things that would automatically have them jailed elsewhere.

Court suppression orders are used to green-light criminals to continue their crimes and without ever being publicly exposed, which is why I am not publishing any new names of perpetrators or details of their crimes in this etymology.

Those who may even inadvertently expose the perpetrators are instead jailed for breaching the suppression orders.

The relevant species *K. corruptpoliceorum sp. nov*. has a paratype from Shepparton in northern Victoria. This provincial town also known as "Ice city" and for good reason.

It is an epicenter of a Victoria Police protected illegal methamphetamine trade.

Ice (crystal meth), is an illegal methamphetamine, a member of the amphetamine family of drugs. It is very addictive and is linked to chronic physical and mental health problems.

Countless lives are destroyed by its use and the corrupt police use ice addicts to do their dirty work, such as bashing people, aggravated burglaries, being "stooge witnesses" in court proceedings against innocent people and the like.

Publicly and in the State controlled media in Australia, the Victoria Police are always claiming to be good in all ways. When not bashing their own wives and demanding recognition for their allegedly dangerous job (most police are in fact killed by other police), they are busy nominating themselves for government issued awards, building obscene statues in public places and seeking other ways to immortalize themselves with a false narrative.

As a sop to their wish to immortalize themselves it is appropriate that a species of blind snake be named in recognition of the corrupt Victorian Police department and its individual officers, pretty much all of whom, down to the very last officer, is 100 percent corrupt.

I note also that this species has a distribution extending into New South Wales and for the record, the police force in that state is no better!

For further details about the activities of the Victorian Police refer to Hoser (1999-b) and for further details on the New South Wales Police, refer to Hoser (1999b).

See also the etymology for the skink lizard *Harrisoniascincus nswpolicearecrooks* Hoser, 2025 in Hoser (2025c).

ROBINWITTTYPHLOPS DATSTINK SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:9F74E787-836B-43FD-BE3A-74CD2C14F61F

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R146958 collected from Kalumburu, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -14.3 S., Longitude 126.633333 E..

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen numbers R131661, R146375 and R180002 all collected from within 25 km of Kalumburu, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -14.3 S., Longitude 126.633333 E.

Diagnosis: Until now most publishing authors have treated each of *Robinwitttyphlops datstink sp. nov*., *R. fukdat sp. nov*., *R. stinkey sp. nov*. and *R. anothersp sp. nov*. as putative *Robinwitttyphlops unguirostris* (Peters, 1867), until now placed in various genera including originally as "*Typhlops* (*Onychocephalus*) *unguirostris* Peters, 1867" and more recently in the genus *Anilios* Gray, 1845.

The two related species, *Robinwitttyphlops jackyhoserae* (Hoser, 2013) and *R. yirrikalae* (Kinghorn, 1942) have often been treated as putative *R. unguirostris* and are all closely related to it.

The seven relevant and most closely related species

are as follows:

R. unguirostris including the synonym name "*Typhlops curvirostris* Peters, 1879" is herein confined to coastal and near coastal Queensland, south of Cairns and mainly east of the spine of the Great Dividing Range to the Fitzroy River basin in south-central east Queensland.

R. anothersp sp. nov. is found on most of Cape York and the eastern Gulf of Carpentaria in north Queensland.

R. jackyhoserae is a taxon from the south-west Kimberley district, of Western Australia generally southwest of the type locality of the Gibb River Homestead, Western Australia, Latitude -16.42 S., Longitude. 126.44 E.

R. yirrikalae is found in the region of East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

R. datstink sp. nov. is endemic to the north Kimberley district of Western Australia, from the type locality, Kalumburu, Western Australia, Australia and including the hilly region southeast, to include the Mitchell River area.

R. fukdat sp. nov. occurs in a broad region across the Northern Territory, extending from the south-west Gulf of Carpentaria to the Ord River drainage in north-east Western Australia not including the top end or the arid regions to the south.

R. stinkey sp. nov. is confined to the western half of the top end of the Northern Territory, bound by the Daly River in the south and the west Arnhem Land escarpment area in the east.

The seven species are separated from one another as follows:

Nominate *R. unguirostris* is defined as being a pinkish to pinkish brown snake on top, with the yellow-white whitening of the snout being bold to behind the eyes on the top of the head. In *R. unguirostris* the anterior part of the eye spot eye sits back from the line of the head shield, meaning it sits completely within the boundaries of the shield.

In *R. unguirostris* each dorsal scale does not have a whitish edge producing a netted or sometimes spotted appearance on the upper surfaces or if so, it is extremely faint and barely noticeable. Viewed from below, the mouth is in the form of a C-shape or over-wide U-shape.

R. anothersp sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *R. unguirostris* but separated from that species by being a distinctive chocolate brown above and with yellow below for the entire length of the venter, as opposed to just anteriorly in *R. unguirostris*

Viewed from below, the mouth is in the form of a U-shape or rather than as a C-shape or over-wide U-shape as seen in *R. unguirostris*.

R. yirrikalae is readily separated from all the preceding six species by having the unique combination of a head that is rounded from above and in profile and a rostral that does not have a sharp transverse keel, versus a head that is bluntly trilobed from above and with a rostral that has a sharp transverse keel, so that the head is angular in profile as seen in all the other species.

The species is pinkish in dorsal colour and snout is lighter than the body, but still pinkish rather than white or strongly yellow.

In *R. jackyhoserae* the dorsum is a purplish brown color, consistent all over, except for the snout which is whitish, the whitish colour stopping at or before the level of the eyes on the top of the head. Undersides have a very slight yellowish tinge anteriorly but are otherwise white.

Each scale of the dorsum has a whitish edge producing a netted or spotted appearance on the upper surfaces. This is especially the case on the anterior part of the dorsum.

In *R. jackyhoserae* the line of the eye shield touches the anterior edge of the eye. By contrast in *R. unguirostris* of Queensland, the anterior part of the eye spot eye sits back from the line of the eye shield, meaning it sits completely within the boundaries of the shield.

R. datstink sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *R. jackyhoserae* including in terms of overall colouration. However, it is separated from that species by the fact while the scales of the dorsum have a lighter edge, this is in the form of a dull lighter edge, rather than like well-defined spots. There is also an absence of defined white spots at the anterior part of the dorsum as seen in *R. jackyhoserae.* The venter is pinkish white rather than white as seen in *R. jackyhoserae.*

R. fukdat sp. nov. is separated from the other species by the combination of a more strongly purplish or pink rinse in the color of adults, including aged specimens which as a rule are brown in all relevant species. Perhaps most noticeable is the particularly well-formed hooked beak, which is more pronounced in this *R. fukdat sp. nov*. than in any of the other species besides *R. stinkey sp. nov.* which is similarly over-hooked.

Notably, while the head is bluntly trilobed from above in *R. fukdat sp. nov*., it is so slight in this taxon, it almost appears as a more rounded head from above, but obviously not smoothly rounded.

R. stinkey sp. nov. is the taxon among the group with a snout that is more angular and pointed at the front when viewed from above. The scales of the dorsum have a strong purplish brown colour and with minimal markings save for a dark etching of each dorsal scale, thereby accentuating the scaly appearance of the snake. The white of the snout has a slight yellowish tinge and extends well past the eyes on the top of the head. Venter is whitish, including at the anterior end and the light of the belly extends some way up the lower flank and more so than seen in the other species.

The seven preceding Blind Snakes are separated

from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following unique combination of characters:
A moderately slender Blind Snake attaining up to 50 cm long, with a snout hooked in profile, 24 midbody scale rows, 387-474 ventrals,11-16 subcaudals, the tail is 1.2-2.7 percent of the total length and nasal cleft proceeding from the first labial.

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

The dorsal surface is a dark olive brown to purple brown in adults, which is well demarcated from the whitish, yellowish, whitish-yellowish, or sometimes pinkish white venter.

Images of the type form of *R. unguirostris* in life are online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/114192916@N07/46139711721/
specimen from Charters Towers, Queensland, photographed by Justin Wright, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/hamidtun/47580744922/
specimen from Townsville, Queensland, photographed by Halvard Aas Midtun, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/144043627@N08/37034630624/
specimen from Townsville, Queensland, photographed by Lorenzo Bertola, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/144043627@N08/23891024988/i
specimen from Townsville, Queensland photographed by Lorenzo Bertola, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/shaneblackfnq/38947624365/
specimen from Ravenshoe, Queensland, photographed by Shane Black
https://www.flickr.com/photos/194580465@N02/53590781584/
specimen from Townsville, Queensland photographed by Alec Karcz.

Images of *R. anothersp sp. nov.* in life are online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/8207417809/
specimen from Weipa, Queensland, photographed by Stephen Zozoya, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/8208507338/
specimen from Weipa, Queensland, photographed by Stephen Zozoya, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/shaneblackfnq/51813559288/
specimen from Palmer River, north wet tropics, Queensland, photographed by Shane Black.

Images of *R. stinkey sp. nov.* in life are online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/204555864
specimen from Robin Falls, Adelaide River, Northern Territory, photographed by “rubynats” and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/ntwildlife/33980327822/
specimen from Marakai, Northern Territory, photographed by Stuart Butler.

Images of *R. jackyhoserae* in life are online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/194274402@N06/51649989329/
specimen from Mornington, Kimberley district, Western Australia, photographed by Melissa Bruton, and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/219262469
specimen from Mornington Sanctuary, Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges, Kimberley district, Western Australia, photographed by “handwerlen”.

An image of *R. datstink sp. nov.* in life is online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/114192916@N07/53051657960/
photographed in the North Kimberley, photographed by Justin Wright.

Images of *R. fukdat sp. nov.* in life are depicted in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 103 bottom right, specimen from Lake Argyle, Western Australia, Cogger (2014) on page 812 at top right, specimen from Kununurra, Western Australia, and Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 541, middle right specimen from Kununurra, Western Australia.

An image of the holotype of *R. yirrakale* is depicted in Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 543 centre right, photographed by serial taxonomic vandal Glenn Shea.

The phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012 and 2013) confirmed that all the preceding seven species, being *R. unguirostris*, *R. jackyhoserae*, *R. yirrakale*, *R. datstink sp. nov.*, *R. fukdat sp. nov.*, *R. stinkey sp. nov.*, *R. anothersp sp. nov.* separated in the Pliocene, as in more than 2.6 MYA, in effect confirming that all are divergent species. Based on the phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012 and 2023) the most divergent of these, *R. jackyhoserae* diverged about 8 MYA from nearest relative.

Distribution: *R. datstink sp. nov*. is endemic to the north Kimberley district of Western Australia, from the type locality, Kalumburu, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -14.3 S., Longitude 126.633333 E. and including the hilly region southeast, to include the Mitchell River area.

Etymology: *R. datstink sp. nov*. is named in reflection of the fact that when picked up, it defecates and it is quite smelly. When collecting specimens on the roads of the Kimberley district with fellow herpetologist Charles Acheson in 1983, a specimen defecated on him and he exclaimed “dat stink!” and hence the etymology.

The species name is a noun in apposition.

ROBINWITTTYPHLOPS FUKDAT SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:E0B0C721-4DA3-4BC2-91DD-85549DBF58E5

Holotype: A preserved female specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R115861 collected from Lake Argyle, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -128.8 S., Longitude -16.3 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved male specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R151036 collected from Kununurra, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -128.8 S., Longitude -15.833333 E.

Diagnosis: Until now most publishing authors have treated each of *Robinwitttyphlops datstink sp. nov*., *R. fukdat sp. nov*., *R. stinkey sp. nov*. and *R. anothersp sp. nov*. as putative *Robinwitttyphlops unguirostris* (Peters, 1867), until now placed in various genera including originally as "*Typhlops* (*Onychocephalus*) *unguirostris* Peters, 1867" and more recently in the genus *Anilios* Gray, 1845.

The two related species, *Robinwitttyphlops jackyhoserae* (Hoser, 2013) and *R. yirrikalae* (Kinghorn, 1942) have often been treated as putative *R*. *unguirostris* and are all closely related to it.

The seven relevant and most closely related species are as follows:

R. *unguirostris* including the synonym name "*Typhlops curvirostris* Peters, 1879" is herein confined to coastal and near coastal Queensland, south of Cairns and mainly east of the spine of the Great Dividing Range to the Fitzroy River basin in south-central east Queensland.

R. anothersp sp. nov. is found on most of Cape York and the eastern Gulf of Carpentaria in north Queensland.

R. jackyhoserae is a taxon from the south-west Kimberley district, of Western Australia generally southwest of the type locality of the Gibb River Homestead, Western Australia, Latitude -16.42 S., Longitude. 126.44 E.

R. yirrikalae is found in the region of East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

R. datstink sp. nov. is endemic to the north Kimberley district of Western Australia, from the type locality, Kalumburu, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -14.3 S., Longitude 126.633333 E. and including the hilly region southeast, to include the Mitchell River area.

R. fukdat sp. nov. occurs in a broad region across the Northern Territory, extending from the south-west Gulf of Carpentaria to the Ord River drainage in north-east Western Australia not including the top end or the arid regions to the south.

R. stinkey sp. nov. is confined to the western half of the top end of the Northern Territory, bound by the Daly River in the south and the west Arnhem Land escarpment area in the east.

The seven species are separated from one another as follows:

Nominate *R*. *unguirostris* is defined as being a pinkish to pinkish brown snake on top, with the yellow-white whitening of the snout being bold to behind the eyes on the top of the head. In *R. unguirostris* the anterior part of the eye spot eye sits back from the line of the eye shield, meaning it sits completely within the boundaries of the shield.

In *R*. *unguirostris* each dorsal scale does not have a whitish edge producing a netted or sometimes spotted appearance on the upper surfaces or if so, it is extremely faint and barely noticeable. Viewed from below, the mouth is in the form of a C-shape or over-wide U-shape.

R. anothersp sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *R*. *unguirostris* but separated from that species by being a distinctive chocolate brown above and with yellow below for the entire length of the venter, as opposed to just anteriorly in *R*. *unguirostris*

Viewed from below, the mouth is in the form of a U-shape or rather than as a C-shape or over-wide U-shape as seen in *R*. *unguirostris*.

R. yirrikalae is readily separated from all the preceding six species by having the unique combination of a head that is rounded from above and in profile and a rostral that does not have a sharp transverse keel, versus a head that is bluntly trilobed from above and with a rostral that has a sharp transverse keel, so that the head is angular in profile as seen in all the other species.

The species is pinkish in dorsal colour and snout is lighter than the body, but still pinkish rather than white or strongly yellow.

In *R. jackyhoserae* the dorsum is a purplish brown color, consistent all over, except for the snout which is whitish, the whitish colour stopping at or before the level of the eyes on the top of the head. Undersides have a very slight yellowish tinge anteriorly but are otherwise white.

Each scale of the dorsum has a whitish edge producing a netted or spotted appearance on the upper surfaces. This is especially the case on the anterior part of the dorsum.

In *R. jackyhoserae* the line of the eye shield touches the anterior edge of the eye. By contrast in *R. unguirostris* of Queensland, the anterior part of the eye spot eye sits back from the line of the eye shield, meaning it sits completely within the boundaries of the shield.

R. datstink sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *R. jackyhoserae* including in terms of overall colouration. However, it is separated from that species by the fact while the scales of the dorsum have a lighter edge, this is in the form of a dull lighter edge, rather than

like well-defined spots. There is also an absence of defined white spots at the anterior part of the dorsum as seen in *R. jackyhoserae.* The venter is pinkish white rather than white as seen in *R. jackyhoserae. R. fukdat sp. nov*. is separated from the other species by the combination of a more strongly purplish or pink rinse in the color of adults, including aged specimens which as a rule are brown in all relevant species. Perhaps most noticeable is the particularly well-formed hooked beak, which is more pronounced in this *R. fukdat sp. nov*. than in any of the other species besides *R. stinkey sp. nov.* which is similarly over-hooked.

Notably, while the head is bluntly trilobed from above in *R. fukdat sp. nov*., it is so slight in this taxon, it almost appears as a more rounded head from above, but obviously not smoothly rounded.

R. stinkey sp. nov. is the taxon among the group with a snout that is more angular and pointed at the front when viewed from above. The scales of the dorsum have a strong purplish brown colour and with minimal markings save for a dark etching of each dorsal scale, thereby accentuating the scaly appearance of the snake. The white of the snout has a slight yellowish tinge and extends well past the eyes on the top of the head. Venter is whitish, including at the anterior end and the light of the belly extends some way up the lower flank and more so than seen in the other species.

The seven preceding Blind Snakes are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following unique combination of characters:

A moderately slender Blind Snake attaining up to 50 cm long, with a snout hooked in profile, 24 midbody scale rows, 387-474 ventrals,11-16 subcaudals, the tail is 1.2-2.7 percent of the total length and nasal cleft proceeding from the first labial.

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

The dorsal surface is a dark olive brown to purple brown in adults, which is well demarcated from the whitish, yellowish, whitish-yellowish, or sometimes pinkish white venter.

Images of the type form of *R. unguirostris* in life are online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/114192916@N07/46139711721/

specimen from Charters Towers, Queensland, photographed by Justin Wright, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/hamidtun/47580744922/

specimen from Townsville, Queensland, photographed by Halvard Aas Midtun, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/144043627@N08/37034630624/

specimen from Townsville, Queensland, photographed by Lorenzo Bertola, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/144043627@N08/23891024988/i

specimen from Townsville, Queensland photographed by Lorenzo Bertola, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/shaneblackfnq/38947624365/

specimen from Ravenshoe, Queensland, photographed by Shane Black

https://www.flickr.com/photos/194580465@N02/53590781584/

specimen from Townsville, Queensland photographed by Alec Karcz.

Images of *R. anothersp sp. nov.* in life are online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/8207417809/

specimen from Weipa, Queensland, photographed by Stephen Zozoya, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/8208507338/

specimen from Weipa, Queensland, photographed by Stephen Zozoya, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/shaneblackfnq/51813559288/

specimen from Palmer River, north wet tropics, Queensland, photographed by Shane Black.

Images of *R. stinkey sp. nov.* in life are online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/204555864

specimen from Robin Falls, Adelaide River, Northern Territory, photographed by “rubynats” and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/ntwildlife/33980327822/

specimen from Marakai, Northern Territory, photographed by Stuart Butler.

Images of *R. jackyhoserae* in life are online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/194274402@N06/51649989329/

specimen from Mornington, Kimberley district, Western Australia, photographed by Melissa Bruton, and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/219262469

specimen from Mornington Sanctuary, Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges, Kimberley district, Western Australia, photographed by “handwerlen”.

An image of *R. datstink sp. nov.* in life is online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/114192916@N07/53051657960/

photographed in the North Kimberley, photographed by Justin Wright.

Images of *R. fukdat sp. nov.* in life are depicted in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 103 bottom right, specimen from Lake Argyle, Western Australia, Cogger (2014) on page 812 at top right, specimen from Kununurra, Western Australia, and Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 541, middle right

specimen from Kununurra, Western Australia.

An image of the holotype of *R. yirrakale* is depicted in Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 543 centre right, photographed by serial taxonomic vandal Glenn Shea.

The phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) confirmed that all the preceding seven species, being *R. unguirostris*, *R. jackyhoserae*, *R. yirrakale*, *R. datstink sp. nov.*, *R. fukdat sp. nov.*, *R. stinkey sp. nov.*, *R. anothersp sp. nov.* separated in the Pliocene, as in more than 2.6 MYA, in effect confirming that all are divergent species. Based on the phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) the most divergent of these, *R. jackyhoserae* diverged about 8 MYA from nearest relative.

Distribution: *R. fukdat sp. nov*. occurs in a broad region across the Northern Territory, extending from the south-west Gulf of Carpentaria to the Ord River drainage in north-east Western Australia not including the top end or the arid regions to the south.

Etymology: *R. fukdat sp. nov*. is named in reflection of the fact that when picked up, it defecates and it is quite smelly. When collecting specimens on the Lake Argyle road on a stinking hot moonless night with fellow herpetologist Charles Acheson in 1983, a specimen defecated on him as he grabbed it crossing the bitumen road. He exclaimed "fuk dat" and hence the etymology. The species name is a noun in apposition.

ROBINWITTTYPHLOPS STINKEY SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:525F6D50-1995-4358-826E-B4CD44F6B739

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R21669 collected from Dundee Beach, Fog Bay, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -12.75 S., Longitude 130.367 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its specimens.

Paratypes: Three preserved specimens at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, being 1/ Specimen number R27369 collected at Jim Jim Road near the Airstrip, at Mount Bundy, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -12.867 S., Longitude 131.0 E., 2/ Specimen number R27690 collected from Dorat Road, south of the Adelaide River township, Adelaide River Region, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -13.482 S., Longitude 131.134 E., 3/ Specimen number R38914 collected from the Arnhem Highway, near the entrance to Bird Billabong, Mount Bundy, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -12.90267 S., Longitude 131.62448 E.

Diagnosis: Until now most publishing authors have treated each of *Robinwitttyphlops datstink sp. nov*., *R. fukdat sp. nov*., *R. stinkey sp. nov*. and *R. anothersp sp. nov*. as putative *Robinwitttyphlops unguirostris* (Peters, 1867), until now placed in various genera including originally as "*Typhlops* (*Onychocephalus*) *unguirostris* Peters, 1867" and more recently in the genus *Anilios* Gray, 1845.

The two related species, *Robinwitttyphlops jackyhoserae* (Hoser, 2013) and *R. yirrikalae* (Kinghorn, 1942) have often been treated as putative *R. unguirostris* and are all closely related to it.

The seven relevant and most closely related species are as follows:

R. unguirostris including the synonym name "*Typhlops curvirostris* Peters, 1879" is herein confined to coastal and near coastal Queensland, south of Cairns and mainly east of the spine of the Great Dividing Range to the Fitzroy River basin in south-central east Queensland.

R. anothersp sp. nov. is found on most of Cape York and the eastern Gulf of Carpentaria in north Queensland.

R. jackyhoserae is a taxon from the south-west Kimberley district, of Western Australia generally southwest of the type locality of the Gibb River Homestead, Western Australia, Latitude -16.42 S., Longitude. 126.44 E.

R. yirrikalae is found in the region of East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

R. datstink sp. nov. is endemic to the north Kimberley district of Western Australia, from the type locality and including the hilly region southeast, to include the Mitchell River area.

R. fukdat sp. nov. occurs in a broad region across the Northern Territory, extending from the south-west Gulf of Carpentaria to the Ord River drainage in north-east Western Australia not including the top end or the arid regions to the south.

R. stinkey sp. nov. is confined to the western half of the top end of the Northern Territory, bound by the Daly River in the south and the west Arnhem Land escarpment area in the east.

The seven species are separated from one another as follows:

Nominate *R. unguirostris* is defined as being a pinkish to pinkish brown snake on top, with the yellow-white whitening of the snout being bold to behind the eyes on the top of the head. In *R. unguirostris* the anterior part of the eye spot eye sits back from the line of the eye shield, meaning it sits completely within the boundaries of the shield.

In *R. unguirostris* each dorsal scale does not have a whitish edge producing a netted or sometimes spotted appearance on the upper surfaces or if so, it is extremely faint and barely noticeable. Viewed from below, the mouth is in the form of a C-shape or over-wide U-shape.

R. anothersp sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *R. unguirostris* but separated from that species by being a distinctive chocolate brown above and with yellow below for the entire length of the venter, as opposed

to just anteriorly in *R. unguirostris*

Viewed from below, the mouth is in the form of a U-shape or rather than as a C-shape or over-wide U-shape as seen in *R. unguirostris*.

R. yirrikalae is readily separated from all the preceding six species by having the unique combination of a head that is rounded from above and in profile and a rostral that does not have a sharp transverse keel, versus a head that is bluntly trilobed from above and with a rostral that has a sharp transverse keel, so that the head is angular in profile as seen in all the other species.

The species is pinkish in dorsal colour and snout is lighter than the body, but still pinkish rather than white or strongly yellow.

In *R. jackyhoserae* the dorsum is a purplish brown color, consistent all over, except for the snout which is whitish, the whitish colour stopping at or before the level of the eyes on the top of the head. Undersides have a very slight yellowish tinge anteriorly but are otherwise white.

Each scale of the dorsum has a whitish edge producing a netted or spotted appearance on the upper surfaces. This is especially the case on the anterior part of the dorsum.

In *R. jackyhoserae* the line of the eye shield touches the anterior edge of the eye. By contrast in *R. unguirostris* of Queensland, the anterior part of the eye spot eye sits back from the line of the eye shield, meaning it sits completely within the boundaries of the shield.

R. datstink sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *R. jackyhoserae* including in terms of overall colouration. However, it is separated from that species by the fact while the scales of the dorsum have a lighter edge, this is in the form of a dull lighter edge, rather than like well-defined spots. There is also an absence of defined white spots at the anterior part of the dorsum as seen in *R. jackyhoserae.* The venter is pinkish white rather than white as seen in *R. jackyhoserae. R. fukdat sp. nov*. is separated from the other species by the combination of a more strongly purplish or pink rinse in the color of adults, including aged specimens which as a rule are brown in all relevant species. Perhaps most noticeable is the particularly well-formed hooked beak, which is more pronounced in this *R. fukdat sp. nov*. than in any of the other species besides *R. stinkey sp. nov.* which is similarly over-hooked.

Notably, while the head is bluntly trilobed from above in *R. fukdat sp. nov*., it is so slight in this taxon, it almost appears as a more rounded head from above, but obviously not smoothly rounded.

R. stinkey sp. nov. is the taxon among the group with a snout that is more angular and pointed at the front when viewed from above. The scales of the dorsum have a strong purplish brown colour and with minimal markings save for a dark etching of each dorsal scale, thereby accentuating the scaly appearance of the snake. The white of the snout has a slight yellowish tinge and extends well past the eyes on the top of the head. Venter is whitish, including at the anterior end and the light of the belly extends some way up the lower flank and more so than seen in the other species.

The seven preceding Blind Snakes are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following unique combination of characters:

A moderately slender Blind Snake attaining up to 50 cm long, with a snout hooked in profile, 24 midbody scale rows, 387-474 ventrals,11-16 subcaudals, the tail is 1.2-2.7 percent of the total length and nasal cleft proceeding from the first labial.

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

The dorsal surface is a dark olive brown to purple brown in adults, which is well demarcated from the whitish, yellowish, whitish-yellowish, or sometimes pinkish white venter.

Images of the type form of *R. unguirostris* in life are online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/114192916@N07/46139711721/

specimen from Charters Towers, Queensland, photographed by Justin Wright, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/hamidtun/47580744922/

specimen from Townsville, Queensland, photographed by Halvard Aas Midtun, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/144043627@N08/37034630624/

specimen from Townsville, Queensland, photographed by Lorenzo Bertola, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/144043627@N08/23891024988/i

specimen from Townsville, Queensland photographed by Lorenzo Bertola, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/shaneblackfnq/38947624365/

specimen from Ravenshoe, Queensland, photographed by Shane Black

https://www.flickr.com/photos/194580465@N02/53590781584/

specimen from Townsville, Queensland photographed by Alec Karcz.

Images of *R. anothersp sp. nov.* in life are online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/8207417809/

specimen from Weipa, Queensland, photographed by Stephen Zozoya, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/

euprepiosaur/8208507338/

specimen from Weipa, Queensland, photographed by Stephen Zozoya, and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/shaneblackfnq/51813559288/

specimen from Palmer River, north wet tropics, Queensland, photographed by Shane Black.

Images of *R. stinkey sp. nov.* in life are online at:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/204555864

specimen from Robin Falls, Adelaide River, Northern Territory, photographed by "rubynats" and

https://www.flickr.com/photos/ntwildlife/33980327822/

specimen from Marakai, Northern Territory, photographed by Stuart Butler.

Images of *R. jackyhoserae* in life are online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/194274402@N06/51649989329/

specimen from Mornington, Kimberley district, Western Australia, photographed by Melissa Bruton, and

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/219262469

specimen from Mornington Sanctuary, Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges, Kimberley district, Western Australia, photographed by "handwerlen".

An image of *R. datstink sp. nov.* in life is online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/114192916@N07/53051657960/

photographed in the North Kimberley, photographed by Justin Wright.

Images of *R. fukdat sp. nov.* in life are depicted in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 103 bottom right, specimen from Lake Argyle, Western Australia, Cogger (2014) on page 812 at top right, specimen from Kununurra, Western Australia, and Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 541, middle right specimen from Kununurra, Western Australia.

An image of the holotype of *R. yirrakale* is depicted in Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 543 centre right, photographed by serial taxonomic vandal Glenn Shea.

The phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) confirmed that all the preceding seven species, being *R. unguirostris*, *R. jackyhoserae*, *R. yirrakale*, *R. datstink sp. nov.*, *R. fukdat sp. nov.*, *R. stinkey sp. nov.*, *R. anothersp sp. nov.* separated in the Pliocene, as in more than 2.6 MYA, in effect confirming that all are divergent species. Based on the phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012, 3013) the most divergent of these, *R. jackyhoserae* diverged about 8 MYA from nearest relative.

Distribution: *R. stinkey sp. nov.* is confined to the western half of the top end of the Northern Territory, bound by the Daly River in the south west and the west Arnhem Land escarpment area in the north east.

Etymology: *R. stinkey sp. nov*. is named in reflection of the fact that when picked up, it defecates and it is quite smelly. When filming specimens in the early days of March 2012 near the town of Batchelor in the Northern Territory, I gave an adult specimen to a Kungarakan (native aboriginal) child to hold.

He said "it stinkey" and hence the etymology. The species name is a noun in apposition.

ROBINWITTTYPHLOPS ANOTHERSP SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:A507D576-381F-4212-8476-E65FA6BE1757

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum Herpetology Collection, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.105154 collected from Weipa, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -12.633 S., Longitude 141.883 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum Herpetology Collection, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.82576 collected from Weipa, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -12.633 S., Longitude 141.883 E. and 2/ Two preserved specimens at the Queensland Museum Herpetology Collection, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, specimen numbers J67276 and J67277 both collected from Weipa, Queensland, Australia, Latitude -12.633 S., Longitude 141.883 E.

Diagnosis: Until now most publishing authors have treated each of *Robinwitttyphlops datstink sp. nov*., *R. fukdat sp. nov*., *R. stinkey sp. nov*. and *R. anothersp sp. nov*. as putative *Robinwitttyphlops unguirostris* (Peters, 1867), until now placed in various genera including originally as "*Typhlops* (*Onychocephalus*) *unguirostris* Peters, 1867" and more recently in the genus *Anilios* Gray, 1845.

The two related species, *Robinwitttyphlops jackyhoserae* (Hoser, 2013) and *R. yirrikalae* (Kinghorn, 1942) have often been treated as putative *R. unguirostris* and are all closely related to it.

The seven relevant and most closely related species are as follows:

R. unguirostris including the synonym name "*Typhlops curvirostris* Peters, 1879" is herein confined to coastal and near coastal Queensland, south of Cairns and mainly east of the spine of the Great Dividing Range to the Fitzroy River basin in south-central east Queensland.

R. anothersp sp. nov. is found on most of Cape York and the eastern Gulf of Carpentaria in north Queensland.

R. jackyhoserae is a taxon from the south-west Kimberley district, of Western Australia generally southwest of the type locality of the Gibb River Homestead, Western Australia, Latitude -16.42 S., Longitude. 126.44 E.

R. yirrikalae is found in the region of East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

R. datstink sp. nov. is endemic to the north Kimberley district of Western Australia, from the type locality

and including the hilly region southeast, to include the Mitchell River area.

R. fukdat sp. nov. occurs in a broad region across the Northern Territory, extending from the south-west Gulf of Carpentaria to the Ord River drainage in north-east Western Australia not including the top end or the arid regions to the south.

R. stinkey sp. nov. is confined to the western half of the top end of the Northern Territory, bound by the Daly River in the south and the west Arnhem Land escarpment area in the east.

The seven species are separated from one another as follows:

Nominate *R. unguirostris* is defined as being a pinkish to pinkish brown snake on top, with the yellow-white whitening of the snout being bold to behind the eyes on the top of the head. In *R. unguirostris* the anterior part of the eye spot eye sits back from the line of the eye shield, meaning it sits completely within the boundaries of the eye shield.

In *R. unguirostris* each dorsal scale does not have a whitish edge producing a netted or sometimes spotted appearance on the upper surfaces or if so, it is extremely faint and barely noticeable. Viewed from below, the mouth is in the form of a C-shape or over-wide U-shape.

R. anothersp sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *R. unguirostris* but separated from that species by being a distinctive chocolate brown above and with yellow below for the entire length of the venter, as opposed to just anteriorly in *R. unguirostris*

Viewed from below, the mouth is in the form of a U-shape or rather than as a C-shape or over-wide U-shape as seen in *R. unguirostris*.

R. yirrikalae is readily separated from all the preceding six species by having the unique combination of a head that is rounded from above and in profile and a rostral that does not have a sharp transverse keel, versus a head that is bluntly trilobed from above and with a rostral that has a sharp transverse keel, so that the head is angular in profile as seen in all the other species.

The species is pinkish in dorsal colour and snout is lighter than the body, but still pinkish rather than white or strongly yellow.

In *R. jackyhoserae* the dorsum is a purplish brown color, consistent all over, except for the snout which is whitish, the whitish colour stopping at or before the level of the eyes on the top of the head. Undersides have a very slight yellowish tinge anteriorly but are otherwise white.

Each scale of the dorsum has a whitish edge producing a netted or spotted appearance on the upper surfaces. This is especially the case on the anterior part of the dorsum.

In *R. jackyhoserae* the line of the eye shield touches the anterior edge of the eye. By contrast in *R. unguirostris* of Queensland, the anterior part of the eye spot eye sits back from the line of the eye shield, meaning it sits completely within the boundaries of the shield.

R. datstink sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *R. jackyhoserae* including in terms of overall colouration. However, it is separated from that species by the fact while the scales of the dorsum have a lighter edge, this is in the form of a dull lighter edge, rather than like well-defined spots. There is also an absence of defined white spots at the anterior part of the dorsum as seen in *R. jackyhoserae.* The venter is pinkish white rather than white as seen in *R. jackyhoserae.*

R. fukdat sp. nov. is separated from the other species by the combination of a more strongly purplish or pink rinse in the color of adults, including aged specimens which as a rule are brown in all relevant species. Perhaps most noticeable is the particularly well-formed hooked beak, which is more pronounced in this *R. fukdat sp. nov*. than in any of the other species besides *R. stinkey sp. nov.* which is similarly over-hooked.

Notably, while the head is bluntly trilobed from above in *R. fukdat sp. nov*., it is so slight in this taxon, it almost appears as a more rounded head from above, but obviously not smoothly rounded.

R. stinkey sp. nov. is the taxon among the group with a snout that is more angular and pointed at the front when viewed from above. The scales of the dorsum have a strong purplish brown colour and with minimal markings save for a dark etching of each dorsal scale, thereby accentuating the scaly appearance of the snake. The white of the snout has a slight yellowish tinge and extends well past the eyes on the top of the head. Venter is whitish, including at the anterior end and the light of the belly extends some way up the lower flank and more so than seen in the other species.

The seven preceding Blind Snakes are separated from all other Australian Blind Snakes by the following unique combination of characters:

A moderately slender Blind Snake attaining up to 50 cm long, with a snout hooked in profile, 24 midbody scale rows, 387-474 ventrals,11-16 subcaudals, the tail is 1.2-2.7 percent of the total length and nasal cleft proceeding from the first labial.

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

The dorsal surface is a dark olive brown to purple brown in adults, which is well demarcated from the whitish, yellowish, whitish-yellowish, or sometimes pinkish white venter.

Images of the type form of *R. unguirostris* in life are online at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/114192916@N07/46139711721/
specimen from Charters Towers, Queensland, photographed by Justin Wright, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/hamidtun/47580744922/
specimen from Townsville, Queensland, photographed by Halvard Aas Midtun, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/144043627@N08/37034630624/
specimen from Townsville, Queensland, photographed by Lorenzo Bertola, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/144043627@N08/23891024988/i
specimen from Townsville, Queensland photographed by Lorenzo Bertola, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/shaneblackfnq/38947624365/
specimen from Ravenshoe, Queensland, photographed by Shane Black
https://www.flickr.com/photos/194580465@N02/53590781584/
specimen from Townsville, Queensland photographed by Alec Karcz.

Images of *R. anothersp sp. nov.* in life are online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/8207417809/
specimen from Weipa, Queensland, photographed by Stephen Zozoya, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/8208507338/
specimen from Weipa, Queensland, photographed by Stephen Zozoya, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/shaneblackfnq/51813559288/
specimen from Palmer River, north wet tropics, Queensland, photographed by Shane Black.

Images of *R. stinkey sp. nov.* in life are online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/204555864
specimen from Robin Falls, Adelaide River, Northern Territory, photographed by "rubynats" and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/ntwildlife/33980327822/
specimen from Marakai, Northern Territory, photographed by Stuart Butler.

Images of *R. jackyhoserae* in life are online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/194274402@N06/51649989329/
specimen from Mornington, Kimberley district, Western Australia, photographed by Melissa Bruton, and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/219262469
specimen from Mornington Sanctuary, Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges, Kimberley district, Western Australia, photographed by "handwerlen".

An image of *R. datstink sp. nov.* in life is online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/114192916@N07/53051657960/
photographed in the North Kimberley, photographed by Justin Wright.

Images of *R. fukdat sp. nov.* in life are depicted in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 103 bottom right, specimen from Lake Argyle, Western Australia, Cogger (2014) on page 812 at top right, specimen from Kununurra, Western Australia, and Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 541, middle right specimen from Kununurra, Western Australia.

An image of the holotype of *R. yirrakale* is depicted in Wilson and Swan (2021) on page 543 centre right, photographed by serial taxonomic vandal Glenn Shea.

The phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) confirmed that all the preceding seven species, being *R. unguirostris*, *R. jackyhoserae*, *R. yirrakale*, *R. datstink sp. nov.*, *R. fukdat sp. nov.*, *R. stinkey sp. nov.*, *R. anothersp sp. nov.* separated in the Pliocene, as in more than 2.6 MYA, in effect confirming that all are divergent species. Based on the phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012, 3013) the most divergent of these, *R. jackyhoserae* diverged about 8 MYA from nearest relative.

Distribution: *R. anothersp sp. nov*. is found on most of Cape York and the eastern Gulf of Carpentaria in north Queensland.

Etymology: *R. anothersp sp. nov*. is named in reflection of the fact it is another species in a complex of species that until the publication of this paper had not been formally named.

The species name is a noun in apposition, with the suffix "sp" being an obvious abbreviation of the word "species".

LIBERTADICTUS ICK SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:9D4C4446-4623-491D-97B3-3219ED710894

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen number R146985 collected at Broad Arrow, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -30.45 S., Longitude 121.333333 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Four preserved specimens at the Western Australian Museum (WAM), Perth, Western Australia, Australia, specimen numbers R144974, R144975 and R144976 collected at Black Flag, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -30.566667 S., Longitude 121.25 E., and specimen number R5317 collected at Broad Arrow, Western Australia, Australia, Latitude -30.45 S., Longitude 121.333333 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, putative *Libertadictus bituberculatus* (Peters, 1863), type locality of the Adelaide Plain, near Gawler in South Australia, being the type species of the genus *Libertadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1984, has been treated as a wide-ranging taxon found in drier parts of the southern

half of Australia, effectively excluding the east and west coasts of Australia, the tropical desert areas as well as the hotter west Australian deserts and cooler, wetter parts of southern Australia, in particular the colder south-east.

However, various phylogenies, including Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) have confirmed the presence of multiple species with Pliocene divergence from one another.

This paper formally names four species identified by Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) and two others apparently allopatric and separated with biogeographical barriers of similar antiquity that have caused speciation in numerous other Australian reptiles.

The relevant species in the complex are as follows:

L. bituberculatus is herein confined to the southern region of South Australia, generally near the coast, bound by the Nullarbor Plain in the west and Flinders Ranges / Adelaide Hills in the east.

L. ick sp. nov. is found throughout much of the southern interior of Western Australia, generally west of the Nullarbor Plain in the east and away from the coastal plain and ranges in the south-west.

L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov. is the distinctive form restricted to the Macdonnell Ranges district of central Australia, Northern Territory, generally around the township of Alice Springs.

Separated to the north and south by a mosaic of black soil plains and moving red sand dunes, is a range-restricted population from the northwestern ranges area of South Australia, herein formally named as *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov*..

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. occurs in the area of the Stuart Range, west of Lake Eyre in South Australia.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. occurs in the area of the deserts of far north-west Victoria, immediately adjacent New South Wales and also South Australia, extending west to the Flinders Ranges and Adelaide Hills barrier, extending north into north-east South Australia and into far south-west Queensland.

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is found in New South Wales, west of the Great Dividing Range, generally east of the main Darling River basin, extending from far north-east Victoria north to southern Queensland.

The seven preceding species are separated from one another as follows:

L. bituberculatus is brownish as an adult, with a pinkish or purplish tinge, moderately trilobed and with the eye spot set well back from the front line of the ocular scale, being either central or slightly to the rear of the centre of the scale. The snout is barely lighter than the rest of the dorsum of the snake.

L. ick sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. bituberculatus* but with the eye spot being set well back on the ocular scale, being pretty much dead centre. Colour is strongly whitish on the head anterior to the eyes, barely extending to the eyes and including the relevant supralabial scales.

L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov. is a distinctive chocolate brown coloured snake as an adult, extremely strongly trilobed, with exaggerated nasal scales. The eye spot is slightly anterior to the centre of the ocular scale. Snout anterior to the eyes is a faded light dull brownish colour.

L. snakebustersorum sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov*. but instead has a strong yellowish hue in dorsal colouration in adults. The anterior snout is dull whitish above, quite obviously extending back past the eyes.

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. is a pinkish brown snake on top with an obviously yellow coloured head. The snout is relatively strongly trilobed, being not as strongly trilobed as *L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov*. and *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov.*, but obviously more strongly trilobed than the other species. The eye spot is slightly anterior to the centre of the ocular scale.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. is a pinkish brown snake dorsally as an adult. The anterior snout has a slight dull yellowing only. Snout is only moderately trilobed. Eye spot varies a lot in different populations of this taxon, but is mostly anterior in the ocular scale, sometimes entering the preocular.

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. fasciststateorum sp. nov*. but is separated from that taxon by having a distinctively yellow anterior snout, a relatively larger eye spot and a more weakly trilobed snout when viewed from above, often appearing smooth in profile. Eye spot is usually slightly posterior in the ocular scale.

The seven preceding species are readily separated from *Libertadictus margaretae* (Storr, 1981), the only other species in the genus by the fact that it has 18 midbody rows, versus 20 in all the other species.

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

L. bituberculatus of the type form is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/128497936@N03/50931993187/

specimen from Yorke Peninsula, South Australia, photographed by Shawn Scott, and https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/144693954 from near Gawler, South Australia, photographed by "Ballzak", and https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/217636871 from near Gawler, South Australia, photographed by "BTWrenhill", and https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/84275779 from near Locheal, South Australia, photographed by "Nicko Nichols".

L. ick sp. nov. is depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 101 in image number 3, specimen from Junana Rock, Western Australia, photographed by Ron E. Johnstone and online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353869641/ from Coolgardie, Western Australia, photographed by Brian Bush, and https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353863401/ from Coolgardie, Western Australia, photographed by Brian Bush.

L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/171250498@N08/52518375650/ specimen from the West MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory, Australia, photographed by Wes Read, and https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/52568597394/ specimen from the West MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory, Australia, photographed by Stephen Zozaya.

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. is depicted in life online at: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/105130809 from near Roxby Downs, South Australia, photographed by "JBilby" and https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/151202028 from Olympic Dam, South Australia, photographed by taxonomic vandal Jules Farquhar.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/88708273@N03/10681269095/ from Murrayville, Victoria, photographed by Matt Clancy, and https://www.flickr.com/photos/julesfarquhar/54211644849/ from Little Desert, Victoria, photographed by taxonomic vandal Jules Farquhar, and https://www.flickr.com/photos/moloch05/45814384515/ from Ngarkat, southeast South Australia, photographed by David (Moloch05).

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/251886021 with specimen from Pretty Pine, New South Wales, and photographed by Jim Churches, and https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/265532535 from Terrick Terrick, Victoria, photographed by "max_sonn".

In terms of calibrated divergences, the phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) showed Pliocene divergences (as in over 2.5 MYA) for three of the newly named species and the nominate form of *L. bituberculatus.* The other species, being *L. ick sp. nov*., *L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov.* and *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov.* are isolated from each other and the other four species and separated by biogeographical barriers of known antiquity. Other reptile species similarly isolated, which have had molecular samples taken and cross-matched also had Pliocene divergences.

Distribution: *L. ick sp. nov.* is found throughout much of the southern interior of Western Australia, generally west of the Nullarbor Plain in the east and away from the coastal plain and ranges in the south-west.

Etymology: It was in 1981, when hitch-hiking across the southern part of Australia and after crossing the Nullarbor we stopped at a rest area. I lifted tin and found a specimen of this species. When I passed it to my driver, he yelled "ick" and moved away. Hence the etymology.

LIBERTADICTUS WELLSANDWELLINGTONORUM SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:7E067660-441C-4E7A-8415-471DE3827C82

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Reptile Collection, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen number R12400 collected from Temple Bar Gap, Roe Creek, (just west of Alice Springs), Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude

Latitude -23.75 S., Longitude 133.75 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Reptile Collection, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, specimen numbers R17276 and R34109 both collected from Alice Springs, Central Australia, Northern Territory, Australia, Latitude -23.733 S., Longitude 133.883 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, putative *Libertadictus bituberculatus* (Peters, 1863), type locality of the Adelaide Plain, near Gawler in South Australia, being the type species of the genus *Libertadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1984, has been treated as a wide-ranging taxon found in drier parts of the southern half of Australia, effectively excluding the east and

west coasts of Australia, the tropical desert areas as well as the hotter west Australian deserts and cooler, wetter parts of southern Australia, in particular the colder south-east.

However, various phylogenies, including Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) have confirmed the presence of multiple species with Pliocene divergence from one another.

This paper formally names four species identified by Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) and two others apparently allopatric and separated with biogeographical barriers of similar antiquity that have caused speciation in numerous other Australian reptiles.

The relevant species in the complex are as follows:

L. bituberculatus is herein confined to the southern region of South Australia, generally near the coast, bound by the Nullarbor Plain in the west and Flinders Ranges / Adelaide Hills in the east.

L. ick sp. nov. is found throughout much of the southern interior of Western Australia, generally west of the Nullarbor Plain in the east and away from the coastal plain and ranges in the south-west.

L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov. is the distinctive form restricted to the Macdonnell Ranges district of central Australia, Northern Territory, generally around the township of Alice Springs.

Separated to the north and south by a mosaic of black soil plains and moving red sand dunes, is a range-restricted population from the northwestern ranges area of South Australia, herein formally named as *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov*..

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. occurs in the area of the Stuart Range, west of Lake Eyre in South Australia.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. occurs in the area of the deserts of far north-west Victoria, immediately adjacent New South Wales and also South Australia, extending west to the Flinders Ranges and Adelaide Hills barrier, extending north into north-east South Australia and into far south-west Queensland.

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is found in New South Wales, west of the Great Dividing Range, generally east of the main Darling River basin, extending from far north-east Victoria north to southern Queensland.

The seven preceding species are separated from one another as follows:

L. bituberculatus is brownish as an adult, with a pinkish or purplish tinge, moderately trilobed and with the eye spot set well back from the front line of the ocular scale, being either central or slightly to the rear of the centre of the scale. The snout is barely lighter than the rest of the dorsum of the snake.

L. ick sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. bituberculatus* but with the eye spot being set well back on the ocular scale, being pretty much dead centre. Colour is strongly whitish on the head anterior to the eyes, barely extending to the eyes and including the relevant anterior scales.

L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov. is a distinctive chocolate brown coloured snake as an adult, extremely strongly trilobed, with exaggerated nasal scales. The eye spot is slightly anterior to the centre of the ocular scale. Snout anterior to the eyes is a faded light dull brownish colour.

L. snakebustersorum sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov*. but instead has a strong yellowish hue in dorsal colouration in adults. The anterior snout is dull whitish above, quite obviously extending back past the eyes.

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. is a pinkish brown snake on top with an obviously yellow coloured head. The snout is relatively strongly trilobed, being not as strongly trilobed as *L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov*. and *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov.*, but obviously more strongly trilobed than the other species. The eye spot is slightly anterior to the centre of the ocular scale.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. is a pinkish brown snake dorsally as an adult. The anterior snout has a slight dull yellowing only. Snout is only moderately trilobed. Eye spot varies a lot in different populations of this taxon, but is mostly anterior in the ocular scale, sometimes entering the preceding preocular.

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. fasciststateorum sp. nov*. but is separated from that taxon by having a distinctively yellow anterior snout, a relatively larger eye spot and a more weakly trilobed snout when viewed from above, often appearing smooth in profile. Eye spot is usually slightly posterior in the ocular scale.

The seven preceding species are readily separated from *Libertadictus margaretae* (Storr, 1981), the only other species in the genus by the fact that it has 18 midbody rows, versus 20 in all the other species.

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

L. bituberculatus of the type form is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/128497936@N03/50931993187/

specimen from Yorke Peninsula, South Australia,

photographed by Shawn Scott, and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/144693954
from near Gawler, South Australia, photographed by "Ballzak", and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/217636871
from near Gawler, South Australia, photographed by "BTWrenhill", and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/84275779
from near Locheal, South Australia, photographed by "Nicko Nichols".

L. ick sp. nov. is depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 101 in image number 3, specimen from Junana Rock, Western Australia, photographed by Ron E. Johnstone and online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353869641/
from Coolgardie, Western Australia, photographed by Brian Bush, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353863401/
from Coolgardie, Western Australia, photographed by Brian Bush.

L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/171250498@N08/52518375650/
specimen from the West MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory, Australia, photographed by Wes Read, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/52568597394/
specimen from the West MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory, Australia, photographed by Stephen Zozaya.

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/105130809
from near Roxby Downs, South Australia, photographed by "JBilby" and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/151202028
from Olympic Dam, South Australia, photographed by taxonomic vandal Jules Farquhar.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/88708273@N03/10681269095/
from Murrayville, Victoria, photographed by Matt Clancy, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/julesfarquhar/54211644849/
from Little Desert, Victoria, photographed by taxonomic vandal Jules Farquhar, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/moloch05/45814384515/
from Ngarkat, southeast South Australia, photographed by David (Moloch05).

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/251886021
with specimen from Pretty Pine, New South Wales, and photographed by Jim Churches, and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/265532535
from Terrick Terrick, Victoria, photographed by "max_sonn".

In terms of calibrated divergences, the phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) showed Pliocene divergences (as in over 2.5 MYA) for three of the newly named species and the nominate form of *L. bituberculatus.*

The other species, being *L. ick sp. nov*., *L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov.* and *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov.* are isolated from each other and the other four species and separated by biogeographical barriers of known antiquity.

Other reptile species similarly isolated, which have had molecular samples taken and cross-matched also had Pliocene divergences.

Distribution: *L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov*. is the distinctive form restricted to the Macdonnell Ranges district of central Australia, Northern Territory, generally around the township of Alice Springs.

Etymology: *L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov.* is named in honour of Richard Walter Wells and Cliff Ross Wellington, both of New South Wales, Australia, who as Australia's pre-eminent herpetologists have done considerable taxonomic work on most species and genera at some stage and has included extensive fieldwork in all parts of the continent.

They were also about 40 years ahead of most other Australian herpetologists when they realized that not all Australian Blind Snakes were in a single genus and in 1984 they erected 2 genera for two of the most divergent groups, these being *Libertadictus* and *Sivadictus.*

LIBERTADICTUS SNAKEBUSTERSORUM SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:8CFEF909-6CAF-4E77-99AD-E8234670450F

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, specimen number R44841 collected from 10 km north northeast of Mount Woodroffe, South Australia, Latitude -26.2486 S., Longitude 131.7933 E.

This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three preserved specimens at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, being specimen number R51545 collected from 37 km east southeast of Amata, South Australia, Australia, Latitude -26.2353 S., Longitude 131.5 E., and specimen numbers R50191 and R50194 both collected from 14 km southeast of Sentinel Hill, South Australia, Australia, Latitude -26.1717 S., Longitude 132.5478 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, putative *Libertadictus bituberculatus* (Peters, 1863), type locality of the Adelaide Plain, near Gawler in South Australia, being the type species of the genus *Libertadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1984, has been treated as a wide-ranging taxon found in drier parts of the southern half of Australia, effectively excluding the east and west coasts of Australia, the tropical desert areas as well as the hotter west Australian deserts and cooler, wetter parts of southern Australia, in particular the colder south-east.

However, various phylogenies, including Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) have confirmed the presence of multiple species with Pliocene divergence from one another.

This paper formally names four species identified by Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) and two others apparently allopatric and separated with biogeographical barriers of similar antiquity that have caused speciation in numerous other Australian reptiles.

The relevant species in the complex are as follows:

L. bituberculatus is herein confined to the southern region of South Australia, generally near the coast, bound by the Nullarbor Plain in the west and Flinders Ranges / Adelaide Hills in the east.

L. ick sp. nov. is found throughout much of the southern interior of Western Australia, generally west of the Nullarbor Plain in the east and away from the coastal plain and ranges in the south-west.

L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov. is the distinctive form restricted to the Macdonnell Ranges district of central Australia, Northern Territory, generally around the township of Alice Springs.

Separated to the north and south by a mosaic of black soil plains and moving red sand dunes, is a range-restricted population from the northwestern ranges area of South Australia, herein formally named as *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov*..

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. occurs in the area of the Stuart Range, west of Lake Eyre in South Australia.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. occurs in the area of the deserts of far north-west Victoria, immediately adjacent New South Wales and also South Australia, extending west to the Flinders Ranges and Adelaide Hills barrier, extending north into north-east South Australia and into far south-west Queensland.

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is found in New South Wales, west of the Great Dividing Range, generally east of the main Darling River basin, extending from far north-east Victoria north to southern Queensland.

The seven preceding species are separated from one another as follows:

L. bituberculatus is brownish as an adult, with a pinkish or purplish tinge, moderately trilobed and with the eye spot set well back from the front line of the ocular scale, being either central or slightly to the rear of the centre of the scale. The snout is barely lighter than the rest of the dorsum of the snake.

L. ick sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. bituberculatus* but with the eye spot being set well back on the ocular scale, being pretty much dead centre. Colour is strongly whitish on the head anterior to the eyes, barely extending to the eyes and including the relevant anterior scales.

L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov. is a distinctive chocolate brown coloured snake as an adult, extremely strongly trilobed, with exaggerated nasal scales. The eye spot is slightly anterior to the centre of the ocular scale. Snout anterior to the eyes is a faded light dull brownish colour.

L. snakebustersorum sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov*. but instead has a strong yellowish hue in dorsal colouration in adults. The anterior snout is dull whitish above, quite obviously extending back past the eyes.

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. is a pinkish brown snake on top with an obviously yellow coloured head. The snout is relatively strongly trilobed, being not as strongly trilobed as *L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov*. and *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov.*, but obviously more strongly trilobed than the other species. The eye spot is slightly anterior to the centre of the ocular scale.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. is a pinkish brown snake dorsally as an adult. The anterior snout has a slight dull yellowing only. Snout is only moderately trilobed. Eye spot varies a lot in different populations of this taxon, but is mostly anterior in the ocular scale, sometimes entering the preocular.

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. fasciststateorum sp. nov*. but is separated from that taxon by having a distinctively yellow anterior snout, a relatively larger eye spot and a more weakly trilobed snout when viewed from above, often appearing smooth in profile. Eye spot is usually slightly posterior in the ocular scale.

The seven preceding species are readily separated from *Libertadictus margaretae* (Storr, 1981), the only other species in the genus by the fact that it has 18 midbody rows, versus 20 in all the other species.

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

purplish brown, gradually merging with the whitish lower surface.

L. bituberculatus of the type form is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/128497936@N03/50931993187/
specimen from Yorke Peninsula, South Australia, photographed by Shawn Scott, and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/144693954
from near Gawler, South Australia, photographed by "Ballzak", and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/217636871
from near Gawler, South Australia, photographed by "BTWrenhill", and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/84275779
from near Locheal, South Australia, photographed by "Nicko Nichols".

L. ick sp. nov. is depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 101 in image number 3, specimen from Junana Rock, Western Australia, photographed by Ron E. Johnstone and online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353869641/
from Coolgardie, Western Australia, photographed by Brian Bush, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/brian_busho/49353863401/
from Coolgardie, Western Australia, photographed by Brian Bush.

L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/171250498@N08/52518375650/
specimen from the West MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory, Australia, photographed by Wes Read, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/52568597394/
specimen from the West MacDonnell Ranges, NT, Australia, photographed by Stephen Zozaya.

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/105130809
from near Roxby Downs, South Australia, photographed by "JBilby" and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/151202028
from Olympic Dam, South Australia, photographed by taxonomic vandal Jules Farquhar.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/88708273@N03/10681269095/
from Murrayville, Victoria, photographed by Matt Clancy, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/julesfarquhar/54211644849/
from Little Desert, Victoria, photographed by taxonomic vandal Jules Farquhar, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/moloch05/45814384515/
from Ngarkat, southeast South Australia, photographed by David (Moloch05).

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/251886021
with specimen from Pretty Pine, New South Wales, and photographed by Jim Churches, and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/265532535
from Terrick Terrick, Victoria, photographed by "max_sonn".

In terms of calibrated divergences, the phylogeny of Marin *et al.* (2012, 2013) showed Pliocene divergences (as in over 2.5 MYA) for three of the newly named species and the nominate form of *L. bituberculatus.* The other species, being *L. ick sp. nov*., *L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov.* and *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov.* are isolated from each other and the other four species and separated by biogeographical barriers of known antiquity. Other reptile species similarly isolated, which have had molecular samples taken and cross-matched also had Pliocene divergences.

Distribution: *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov*. is a range restricted taxon from the northwestern ranges area of South Australia, being separated from populations in the same genus in elevated areas to the north and south by a mosaic of black soil plains and moving red sand dunes.

Etymology: *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov*. is named in honor of the crew at Snakebusters: Australia's best reptiles displays for services to wildlife conservation with the only hands-on reptile shows that let people hold the animals in Australia. This is a significant achievement in a country like Australia and the state of Victoria, the main area of operation for Snakebusters.

This is because of the corrupt fascist State Government and their dysfunctional "Zoos Victoria" business which seeks to monopolize the wildlife space to the detriment of the animals themselves as well as those working to save and conserve these same animals.

LIBERTADICTUS BRITISHBOMBEDHERE SP. NOV.

LSIDurn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:21719386-AD74-49DF-8E3B-4B9C604F1369

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, specimen number R62428 collected from 20 km northeast of Mount Penrhyn, South Australia, Australia, Latitude -29.305 S., Longitude 135.1717 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three preserved specimens at the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, being specimen number R44731 collected

from 6.1 km east of Jamison Bore at Welbourne Hill Station, South Australia, Australia, Latitude -27.5561 S., Longitude 134.425 E., specimen number R58164 collected from 7.1 km northwest of Ant Hill, South Australia, Australia, Latitude -28.4414 S., Longitude 134.5044 E., and specimen number R30404 collected from the Breakaways Reserve, 25 km north northwest of Coober Pedy, South Australia, Australia, Latitude -28.4414 S., Longitude 134.5044 E.

Diagnosis: Until now, putative *Libertadictus bituberculatus* (Peters, 1863), type locality of the Adelaide Plain, near Gawler in South Australia, being the type species of the genus *Libertadictus* Wells and Wellington, 1984, has been treated as a wide-ranging taxon found in drier parts of the southern half of Australia, effectively excluding the east and west coasts of Australia, the tropical desert areas as well as the hotter west Australian deserts and cooler, wetter parts of southern Australia, in particular the colder south-east.

However, various phylogenies, including Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) have confirmed the presence of multiple species with Pliocene divergence from one another.

This paper formally names four species identified by Marin *et al*. (2012, 2013) and two others apparently allopatric and separated with biogeographical barriers of similar antiquity that have caused speciation in numerous other Australian reptiles.

The relevant species in the complex are as follows:

L. bituberculatus is herein confined to the southern region of South Australia, generally near the coast, bound by the Nullarbor Plain in the west and Flinders Ranges / Adelaide Hills in the east.

L. ick sp. nov. is found throughout much of the southern interior of Western Australia, generally west of the Nullarbor Plain in the east and away from the coastal plain and ranges in the south-west.

L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov. is the distinctive form restricted to the Macdonnell Ranges district of central Australia, Northern Territory, generally around the township of Alice Springs.

Separated to the north and south by a mosaic of black soil plains and moving red sand dunes, is a range-restricted population from the northwestern ranges area of South Australia, herein formally named as *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov*..

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. occurs in the area of the Stuart Range, west of Lake Eyre in South Australia.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. occurs in the area of the deserts of far north-west Victoria, immediately adjacent New South Wales and also South Australia, extending west to the Flinders Ranges and Adelaide Hills barrier, extending north into north-east South Australia and into far south-west Queensland.

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is found in New South Wales, west of the Great Dividing Range, generally east of the main Darling River basin, extending from far north-east Victoria north to southern Queensland.

The seven preceding species are separated from one another as follows:

L. bituberculatus is brownish as an adult, with a pinkish or purplish tinge, moderately trilobed and with the eye spot set well back from the front line of the ocular scale, being either central or slightly to the rear of the centre of the scale. The snout is barely lighter than the rest of the dorsum of the snake.

L. ick sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. bituberculatus* but with the eye spot being set well back on the ocular scale, being pretty much dead centre. Colour is strongly whitish on the head anterior to the eyes, barely extending to the eyes and including the relevant anterior scales.

L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov. is a distinctive chocolate brown coloured snake as an adult, extremely strongly trilobed, with exaggerated nasal scales. The eye spot is slightly anterior to the centre of the ocular scale. Snout anterior to the eyes is a faded light dull brownish colour.

L. snakebustersorum sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov*. but instead has a strong yellowish hue in dorsal colouration in adults. The anterior snout is dull whitish above, quite obviously extending back past the eyes.

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. is a pinkish brown snake on top with an obviously yellow coloured head. The snout is relatively strongly trilobed, being not as strongly trilobed as *L. wellswellingtonorum sp. nov*. and *L. snakebustersorum sp. nov.*, but obviously more strongly trilobed than the other species. The eye spot is slightly anterior to the centre of the ocular scale.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. is a pinkish brown snake dorsally as an adult. The anterior snout has a slight dull yellowing only. Snout is only moderately trilobed. Eye spot varies a lot in different populations of this taxon, but is mostly anterior in the ocular scale, sometimes entering the preocular scale.

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *L. fasciststateorum sp. nov*. but is separated from that taxon by having a distinctively yellow anterior snout, a relatively larger eye spot and a more weakly trilobed snout when viewed from above, often appearing smooth in profile. Eye spot is usually slightly posterior in the ocular scale.

The seven preceding species are readily separated from *Libertadictus margaretae* (Storr, 1981), the only other species in the genus by the fact that it has 18 midbody rows, versus 20 in all the other species.

The genus *Libertadictus* as defined here is confined to species of Blind Snakes with the following suite of characters: A moderately dark, small, slender long-snouted Blind Snake up to 35 cm long with 20 or rarely 18, mid body scale rows and a nasal cleft proceeding from the second labial; snout strongly or moderately strongly trilobed as seen from above and

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L. bituberculatus of the type form is depicted in life online at:
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specimen from Yorke Peninsula, South Australia, photographed by Shawn Scott, and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/144693954
from near Gawler, South Australia, photographed by "Ballzak", and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/217636871
from near Gawler, South Australia, photographed by "BTWrenhill", and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/84275779
from near Locheal, South Australia, photographed by "Nicko Nichols".

L. ick sp. nov. is depicted in life in Storr, Smith and Johnstone (2002) on page 101 in image number 3, specimen from Junana Rock, Western Australia, photographed by Ron E. Johnstone and online at:
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from Coolgardie, Western Australia, photographed by Brian Bush, and
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from Coolgardie, Western Australia, photographed by Brian Bush.

L. wellsandwellingtonorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/171250498@N08/52518375650/
specimen from the West MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory, Australia, photographed by Wes Read, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/euprepiosaur/52568597394/
specimen from the West MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory, Australia, photographed by Stephen Zozaya.

L. britishbombedhere sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/105130809
from near Roxby Downs, South Australia, photographed by "JBilby" and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/151202028
from Olympic Dam, South Australia, photographed by taxonomic vandal Jules Farquhar.

L. fasciststateorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/88708273@N03/10681269095/
from Murrayville, Victoria, photographed by Matt Clancy, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/julesfarquhar/54211644849/
from Little Desert, Victoria, photographed by taxonomic vandal Jules Farquhar, and
https://www.flickr.com/photos/moloch05/45814384515/
from Ngarkat, southeast South Australia, photographed by David (Moloch05).

L. dishonestpoliceorum sp. nov. is depicted in life online at:
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with specimen from Pretty Pine, New South Wales, and photographed by Jim Churches, and
https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/265532535
from Terrick Terrick, Victoria, photographed by "max_sonn".

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Distribution: *L. britishbombedhere sp. nov*. occurs in the area of the Stuart Range, west of Lake Eyre in South Australia, Australia and so is a relatively range-restricted taxon.

Etymology: *L. britishbombedhere sp. nov*. is named in honor of the British armed forces who tested their nuclear weapons from 1952 to 1963 in outback South Australia in above ground tests and explosions immediately north-west of where this species occurs.

While there is no evidence of this taxon suffering as a result of the atomic bomb explosions at nearby Emu Field and Maralinga, the local indigenous Australian inhabitants certainly did.

Many died of radiation caused diseases at the time as clouds of radioactive dust settled on their homes.

Even decades later in the 2000's, birth deformities, cancers and other serious medical conditions plague the few surviving Aboriginals of the Antakirinja tribe who remain in this general area.

... Continued in *AJH* Issue 77 ...

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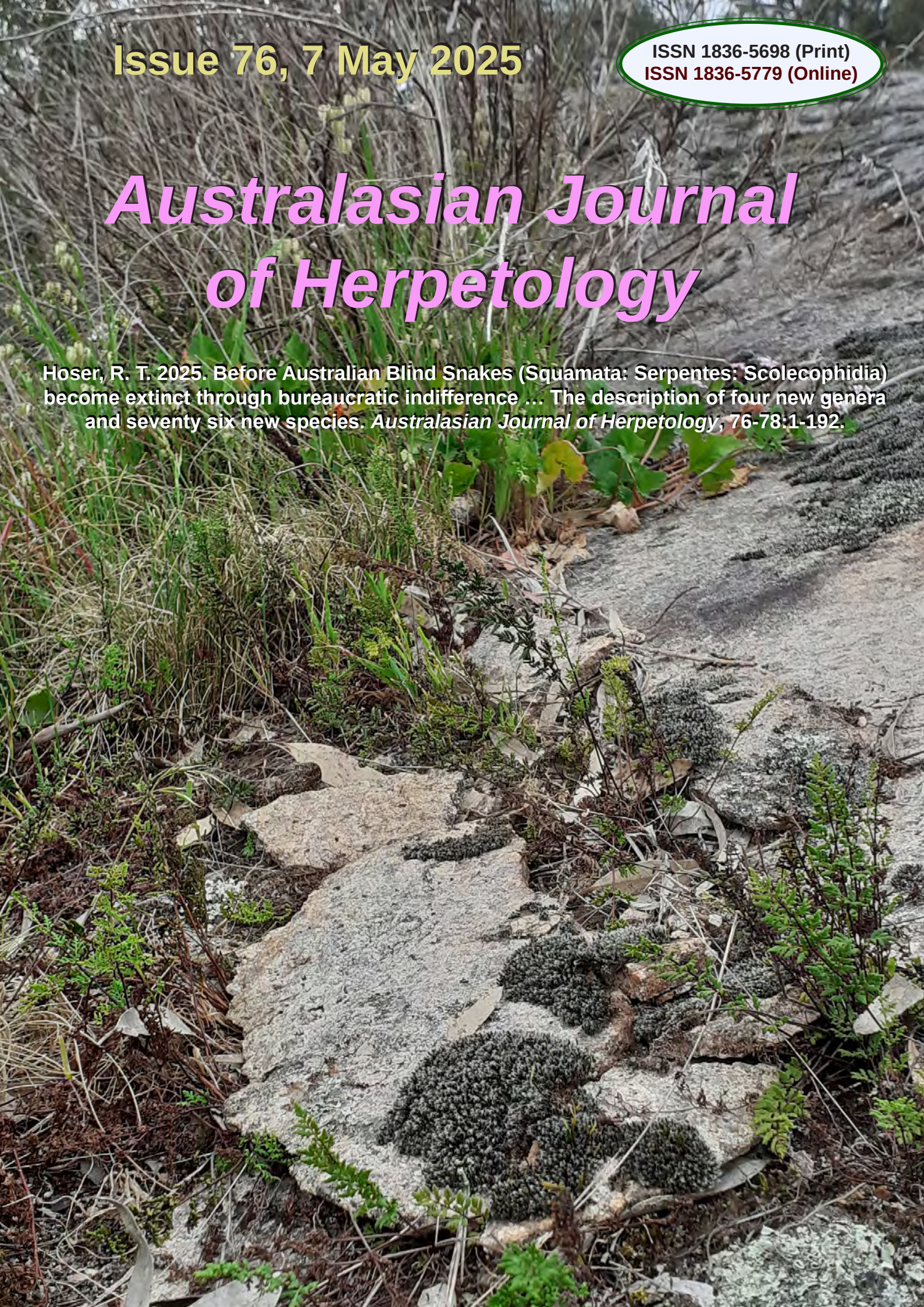

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