

The Wüster gang and their proposed “Taxon Filter”: How they are knowingly publishing false information, recklessly engaging in taxonomic vandalism and directly attacking the rules and stability of zoological nomenclature.

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PREAMBLE

The following paper was submitted to the editor of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature (BZN)* on 2 January 2014, in response to a hateful rant published by Mr. Hinrich Kaiser in *BZN* within previous days. As of May 2015, it has not been published in *BZN* and noting that other similar rants from Kaiser and others in a group known as the “Wüster gang” have been published in *BZN* since then, even though they were submitted well after this paper, it is reasonably likely that *BZN* will not publish this quite proper response.

Therefore in the public interest and to protect the integrity of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (or “Zoological Code” or “Zoological Rules”) (Ride *et al.* 1999), it is published in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*.

Of relevance is that since this paper was submitted to *Bull. ZN*, the Wüster gang have produced a significant volume of publications repeating demonstrably false statements by them.

This includes the redescription of “Hoser-named” taxa by coining their own invalid junior synonyms in several so-called “papers”, published in PRINO (peer reviewed in name only) journals, the total count now being about 20 names coined.

Notable is that statements within these “papers” collectively as well as from the gang’s many online posts on social media are commonly contradictory of one another. If used for the purposes of cross-referencing in the following paper, this material would improve the power of relevant rebuttals significantly.

However to maintain procedural fairness, the following text has not been substantively altered from that submitted to *BZN* on 2 January 2014 save for minor updates. It is printed herein essentially “as submitted”.

SUMMARY

A gang led by Wolfgang Wüster and including Hinrich Kaiser, Wulf Schleip and Mark O’Shea have engaged in a 15 year campaign of pseudoscience and reckless taxonomic vandalism designed to create nomenclatural instability. These men have sought to stop other scientists using properly proposed names based on sound scientific evidence, proposed by this author (Raymond Hoser), and other scientists as far back as 1861.

In terms of the so-called “Hoser-names”, in 1998, 2000 and 2004 these men repeatedly raised bogus pseudoscientific arguments against them both online and in various printed journal publications. These attempts to stop widespread usage of the names for what they then described as “non-taxa” failed when other scientists revisited the Hoser data

and decided the original science and the resulting Hoser taxonomy and nomenclature was correct.

At the time of the first four relevant taxonomic papers, there was extreme taxonomic vandalism and reckless behaviour by Wüster and his associates. This was due to the reckless way in which they made false claims and pseudoscientific arguments to try to stop usage of the relevant names.

The unethical behaviour of the group was best demonstrated by their dishonest alteration of an online paper originally published in 1999 (Williams and Starkey, 1999), at least twice in 2000, in order to commit acts of scientific fraud and taxonomic vandalism.

This was easily exposed when the poster, the

convicted wild smuggler, David John Williams, failed to remove from various places on the web, all the unaltered earlier versions.

The three versions of the document known as Williams and Starkey, (1999) are cited herein. The dozens of associated internet posts by Wüster and Williams at the time, demonstrating their reckless behaviour are all archived in their original form at: <http://www.smuggled.com/boycan1.htm>.

Hoser (2001) details the unethical and reckless behaviour of Wüster and his gang to September 2001.

After other scientists (e.g. Aplin 1998, Wellington and Wells 1998), Kuch *et al.* 2005, Rawlings *et al.* 2008, and others) revisited the Hoser taxonomy papers to 2001 and one by one validated all the Hoser findings, Wüster and his gang then plagiarized the relevant Hoser results in later papers and masqueraded the same findings as their own original ones.

In a more desperate attempt to stop the use of the Hoser names, the Wüster gang, falsely claimed Hoser publications were not code compliant in 2003 and again in 2009, though to 2010 (Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009; Schleip and O'Shea 2010).

None of the actions by Wüster to stop usage of Hoser names had a scientific basis. It was all motivated through an obsessive hatred by Wüster, as seen by his continually shifting pseudoscientific arguments.

In early 2012, all but one of the supposedly unpublished Hoser names (that being *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009, see Hoser 2013c) that would in the normal course of events be regarded as "available under the code" were republished in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*, with hard copy printing receipts published at the same time.

This effectively stabilized the nomenclature for the relevant taxa from the morally repugnant attacks based on Wüster's ridiculous and false claims of non-code compliance on the alleged basis earlier publications had not in fact been printed (which was the basis of his claims).

With Wüster losing the argument in terms of validity of Hoser publications in 2012, and already losing arguments based on the science behind the taxonomy and nomenclature, the Wüster gang has since 2012 embarked in their most audacious act so far to stop people using Hoser names.

They have done this by creating a new and in fact non-existent "Hoser problem".

This is through alleging the creation of a non-existent mass instability of nomenclature allegedly caused by myself (Hoser), although in fact created wholly by the Wüster gang.

These serial rule breakers now seek to break the fundamental rules underpinning the stability of zoological nomenclature. They seek to do this by overwriting all names properly created by myself and in widespread usage, as well as those of any other authors they arbitrarily deem soft targets or in any way vulnerable to attack.

The stated plan is to steal the "naming rights" of their enemies to claim the "glory" of naming taxa first properly described by others Wüster (2013f). This is also to be used as a short cut to doing any proper scientific research themselves.

To facilitate this, the Wüster gang seek to step outside the zoological code and as an alternative set themselves up as unaccountable gatekeepers of the taxonomy and nomenclature of the reptiles, the mechanism being their newly contrived "Taxon Filter" as a means to hijack control of nomenclature. In time they hope to see a zoological code-breaking system of nepotism and censorship that permeates all areas of zoology.

THE BACKGROUND

I, Raymond Hoser have worked in herpetology full time more than thirty years. My first paper in a peer reviewed scientific herpetology journal was in 1980 (Hoser, 1980). Since then I have published many hundreds of papers in peer reviewed and other journals to 2013 (full list published online at <http://www.smuggled.com/pap1.htm>) and for most taxonomic papers refer to Kaiser *et al.* (2013) for papers to end 2012 and more recent papers at <http://www.zoobank.org>.

Since 1998, I have published scientific papers of a taxonomic nature, naming species or genera in no less than seven different peer reviewed and other journals (namely *Boydii*, *Crocodylian*, *Monitor*, *Macarthur Herpetological Society News*, *Litteratura Serpentina*, *Ophidia Review* and *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*) proposing new names and combinations for unnamed species and groups in accordance with the Zoological Code (Ride *et al.* 1999). The naming of unnamed taxa was the inevitable result of wide-ranging audits of large groups of reptiles, including the majority of the world's snakes at the genus level. As part of this process these actions have also included correct use of pre-existing in-use names, resurrecting old names and the like.

I have also published nine major books including the definitive works *Australian Reptiles and Frogs*, (Hoser 1989) and *Endangered Animals of Australia* (Hoser 1991) and contributed to dozens of others.

My main day job is working professionally with reptiles, employing ten staff (in 2012), less since and myself and my company are employed by both

private industry, governments and others.

My scientific works are regularly cited by scientists in both the peer reviewed and other literature.

In 1993 and 1996, I published two books on wildlife smuggling (Hoser 1993 and 1996) which adversely named members of a small but vocal group herein described as the "Wüster gang" or "Kaiser *et al.*", for their involvement in large scale wildlife trafficking activities, extreme animal cruelty and other criminal conduct.

In an apparent reprisal for this in 1998, Wüster and others in the gang sought to discredit two papers I published naming new species of Australian elapid snakes (Hoser 1998a, 1998b). In summary they sought to stop others from recognizing the taxa and/or using the names proposed by myself (see details of these actions and their publications listed in Hoser 2001). These men also did the same in terms of two other taxonomic papers naming new species that I published in 2000 (Wüster 2001, Wüster *et al.* 2001). Their methodology was to raise pseudoscientific arguments that on scrutiny lacked merit in an attempt to raise doubt in terms of my diagnoses of new species, which were described by them as "non-taxa" (Wüster 2001, Wüster *et al.* 2001). The campaign was most intense on internet chat forums and the like (see for example the list of posts in Hoser 2001), the posts themselves reposted in full with the online version of the paper.

The gang's posts were typically in places they were able to manage debate in their favour by removing dissenting views in a form of extreme censorship.

This has been one of their hallmarks ever since. In summary their campaign consisted of lies and "noise" and a list of many more such online posts and the like beyond 2001 can be found listed in Hoser (2013).

Hoser (2013), also provided extensive documentation showing the Wüster gang engaging in the disgraceful acts of scientific fraud, taxonomic vandalism, repeated criminal acts including, wildlife trafficking, animal cruelty, online fraud, use of bogus identities online in order to manipulate online "debate", plagiarism of the work of others, faking and fabricating alleged scientific findings, misrepresenting evidence they do not have, evidence free acts of taxonomic vandalism, acts deliberately calculated to cause physical harm to others, criminal stalking requiring court intervention, repeated breaches of Intellectual Property (IP) laws and other improper and illegal actions.

The detail of these actions was published by Hoser (2012a and 2013a) and due to the extent of their actions and the space required to document it all, this information is not repeated here. However both

Hoser 2012a and 2013a are available in full on the internet.

The account of Hoser (2013a) spans about 80 pages and has the word count of a book (over 53,000 words). The cited source documents (all publicly available) would fill several large folders.

THE SCIENCE, THE TAXONOMY AND THE PLAGIARISATION

Taxa described in all four of my scientific papers from 1998 and 2000 (Hoser 1998a, 1998b, 2000a, 2000b) were later further validated by others using new molecular methods not available to me in the relevant period. The later molecular results, as would be expected, corroborated my morphological evidence published and as a result, species named in these papers are all now widely recognized and referred to globally, including in books and online databases.

In other words, four out of four scientific papers by myself that have had the benefit of an extended time-line of scrutiny have stood up to the most vigorous of peer reviews possible, both before and after publication and correctly named valid species for the first time. It is in effect a 100% success rate!

It is also significant as it means that the Wüster gang have achieved a 100% failure rate in their claims against my taxa!

Notwithstanding this failure to stop people using the Hoser names for previously unnamed taxa, Wüster in particular and others in his gang have then after failing to stop usage of the Hoser names, shamelessly plagiarized my own papers making the same (obvious) taxonomic findings and judgments.

Examples of these outrageous acts of plagiarization of Hoser papers include:

- Hoser 1998a/2002b *Acanthophis* taxonomy (confirmed by Aplin and Donnellan 1999, Wells 2002), (also see support from Starkey 2008 dating back many years), then plagiarized by Fry *et al.* 2002 (including Wüster) and Wüster *et al.* (2005):
- Hoser 2000b/2003e/2004 Python Taxonomy (confirmed by Rawlings and Donnellan 2003, then plagiarized by Reynolds *et al.* 2013a ("*Chondropython*"), confirmed by Wells 2005 ("*Morelia*" Carpet Pythons), Rawlings, *et al.* 2008 ("*Broghammerus*" and other genera); plagiarized by O'Shea 2007 ("*Leiopython*"); also then plagiarized by Schleip 2008, Schleip and O'Shea 2010, Schleip 2014 ("*Leiopython hoserae*" and others):
- Hoser 1998b/2000b/2001 "*Pseudechis*" group taxonomy (confirmed by Kuch *et al.* 2005), then plagiarized by Wüster *et al.* (2005):
- Hoser 2002a *Oxyuranus* taxonomy, plagiarized by Wüster *et al.* (2005):

F rom the editors

Gijs van Akou
Marcel van der Voort

We published an original article by Raymond Hoser describing a new species of snake from Irian Jaya in volume 20 (issue 6). In this issue you will find a reaction on Hoser's taxonomic contributions written by Wüster, Bush, Keogh, O'Shea and Shine. Wüster et.al criticise Hoser on the way he describes new genera and species. They also criticise the editors of *Litteratura Serpentina* for publishing the article without prior review by several qualified taxonomists.

Prior to publication we did send the Wüster article to Mister Hoser and offered him the opportunity to reply.

From the reactions received we can conclude that we are in the middle of a conflict that has been going on for years. *Litteratura Serpentina* had no intention to become part of, or escalate this conflict.

The publication of the Hoser paper is a fact. That is why we decided to publish the reaction by Wüster et.al. on that publication. If Mister Hoser decides to take the given opportunity to reply, you will find his response in the next issue. Both reactions are published on account of the authors themselves.

The editors do not wish to judge in this matter. After reading the contributions our readers can make up their own minds.



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Welcome to the first edition of Ophidia review which is the first title in a new series of publications on reptiles and amphibians. Some may ask why publish separate magazines? Why not simply expand upon the existing publication? The answer is very simple, specialisation is what most readers now want. As publishers it is very easy to give people what you think they want but few ever ask what the readers really want. Over the years there have been many changes in herpetoculture and introducing separate titles for each area of the hobby reflects increasing trends towards keeping just one group of animals.

I am sure that the article by Raymond Hoser will draw much criticism, both towards us for publishing it and at Raymond Hoser for writing it. I shall, however, make no apology for its appearance. While I may not agree entirely with Hoser's proposals, there is much merit in much of his observations. All too often interesting and controversial work is suffocated by professional jealousies and the like. This publication will have much in common with a scientific journal, but also incorporate aspects of a more serious magazine. This format gives the opportunity for great flexibility of content and enables controversial material to be given an airing. I do hope you enjoy this first issue.

Ophidia Review Contents

The Ivarian Tree Viper
By Euan Edwards

Revision of the Australasian Pythons
By Raymond Hoser

Crotalus cerastes - My experience with keeping and breeding this species
By John Bakker

Snakes in the News
Classifieds

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Hoser 2003a *Pseudonaja* taxonomy, plagiarized by O'Shea (2008), David Williams *et al.* (including Wüster and O'Shea) (2008).

All the above cited morally repugnant plagiarism is readily confirmed by cross-checking the cited documents!

The context of all this in 2013 is that Wüster and the others, are well aware of the validity of most, if not all the Hoser described taxa in the post 2000 period (to end 2012) and their current actions can be put in perspective with their past.

In a rare burst of honesty, on 15 May 2013, Wüster himself admitted on a private internet list that his gang sought to steal any "glory", Hoser may get from having done scientific work naming species and genera. At the same time, he admitted that the Kaiser *et al.* scam was how his gang intended pulling off the stunt (Wüster 2013f)! Wüster (2013f) also admitted that the claims in Kaiser *et al.* "may not be issues of scientific merit", privately admitting elsewhere he knew that the document Kaiser *et al.* was full of lies and mistakes (Wüster 2013d, 2013e).

As mentioned already, in the time period to 2009, the Wüster gang repeatedly engaged in fraudulent and unethical actions to facilitate what ultimately became their hate campaign against myself.

No less than four different journal editors were harassed by the Wüster gang not to publish Hoser material, although in these cases, the threats were ultimately ignored. Two editors even published in their journals that the Wüster gang had unlawfully threatened them (Newman 2000, Van Aken 2001).

AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL OF HERPETOLOGY

In part as a result of the above actions, in 2009, I made the decision to publish taxonomic papers in a journal I had editorial control over.

This was for several reasons.

The main reason was to be able to ensure the best possible quality control in terms of the production of the papers themselves, this being, printing, layout and the like. With all my scientific papers, including taxonomic material being properly peer reviewed prior to submission to journals in the past and as a matter of course, this aspect was not relevant in terms of where papers were published.

Other important considerations were:

1/ To remove the uncertainty of the ongoing threats the Wüster gang were making to other editors.

One of them, Mick Pugh, editor of *Crocodylian*, was even graced with an armed raid by government wildlife officers as a result of a false complaint made by members of the Wüster gang against him after he published a number of my papers. For the

record, I was also graced with a heavily armed 11 man, 9 hour raid following a false complaint made after publication of the first 8 issues of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*. Also for the record, 11 criminal charges laid against me immediately after the raid and allegedly arising from it were all subsequently dropped and I was exonerated of any wrongdoing.

2/ To avoid the very real prospect of the Wüster gang being able to steal and publish my work when my own material was in the waiting list to be published. Two journal editors (Paul Woolf and Mick Pugh) had advised me that approaches had been made to them by the Wüster gang for my taxonomic material to be handed to them before publication and with the clear intent that my work and taxon naming rights be scooped by them.

3/ A compelling advantage of my controlling my own journal was that I would then own the intellectual property (IP) of the papers themselves in all ways and forms. This had emerged as a key consideration in the relevant time frame.

A/ In terms of my published books, the first three (Hoser 1989, Hoser, 1991 and Hoser 1993) all sold out quickly after publication and the publisher, Pierson Publishing saw most of the profits, not myself. With this in mind, and a desire to exercise greater editorial and production control (see above), I decided to publish my later six books myself (one or two at a time) (Hoser, 1994, 1996, 1999a, 1999b, 2001b, 2001c) and all were extremely profitable ventures.

B/ In 2006 I had successfully sued a group including members of the Wüster gang for misusing my legally registered business trademark Snakebuster, receiving a \$29,500 court-enforced payout, as directed by the Federal Court of Australia. At the time, one of the Wüster gang, Mark O'Shea had also unlawfully used the registered trademark to try to undermine my case in the courts, via a journal he controlled, namely *The Herptile*. Two similar cases involving illegal use of my Intellectual Property resulting in my receipt of payouts in the order of \$10,000 each time.

C/ Noting the inherently high demand for hard-copies of taxonomy publications, I correctly predicted that the publishing of my own journal with a sizeable proportion of taxonomic papers would be either a cash-neutral or cash positive proposition. In spite of the large number of free printed copies of *Australasian Journal of Herpetology* issued to Museums and the like, the journal has delivered a nominal profit, while maintaining my control of the relevant intellectual property (IP).

No doubt similar factors explain why there are a

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A reptile educator has named this deadly Territory snake - a cousin of the feared King Brown - after his wife. Picture: RAYMOND HOSER

A REPTILE educator has named a deadly Territory snake in honour of his wife after he found it

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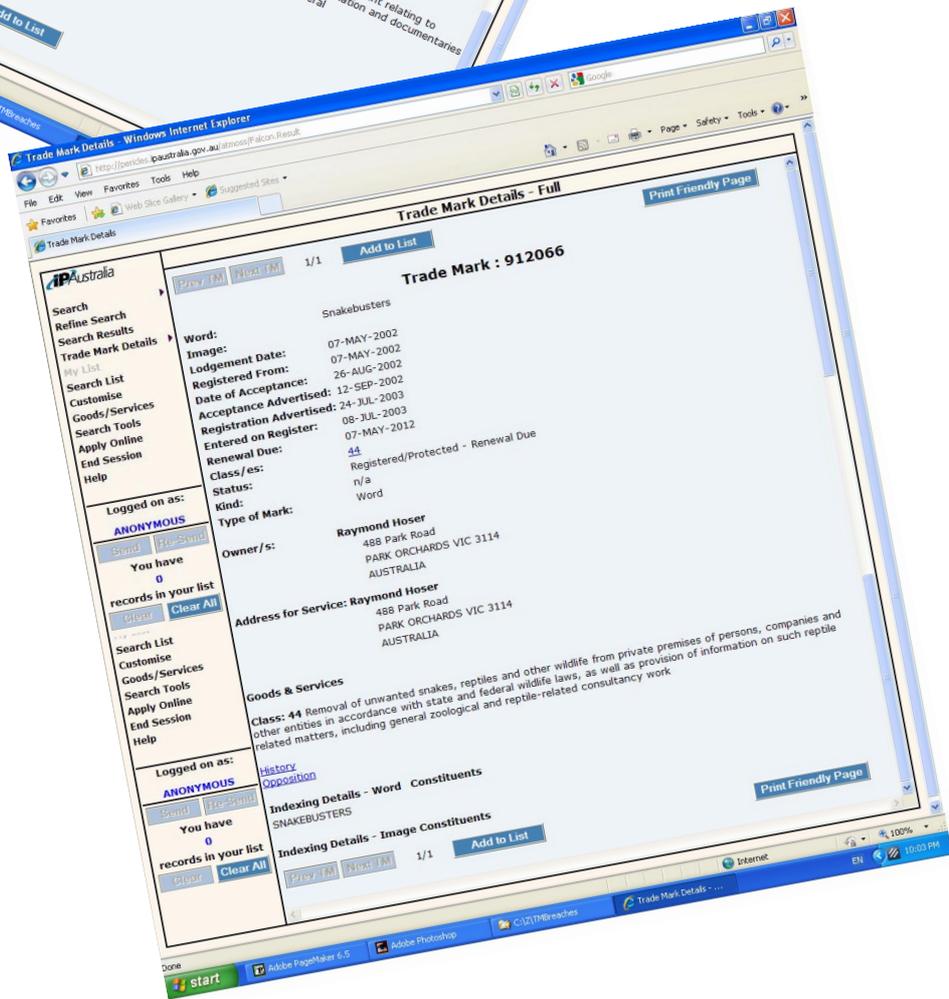
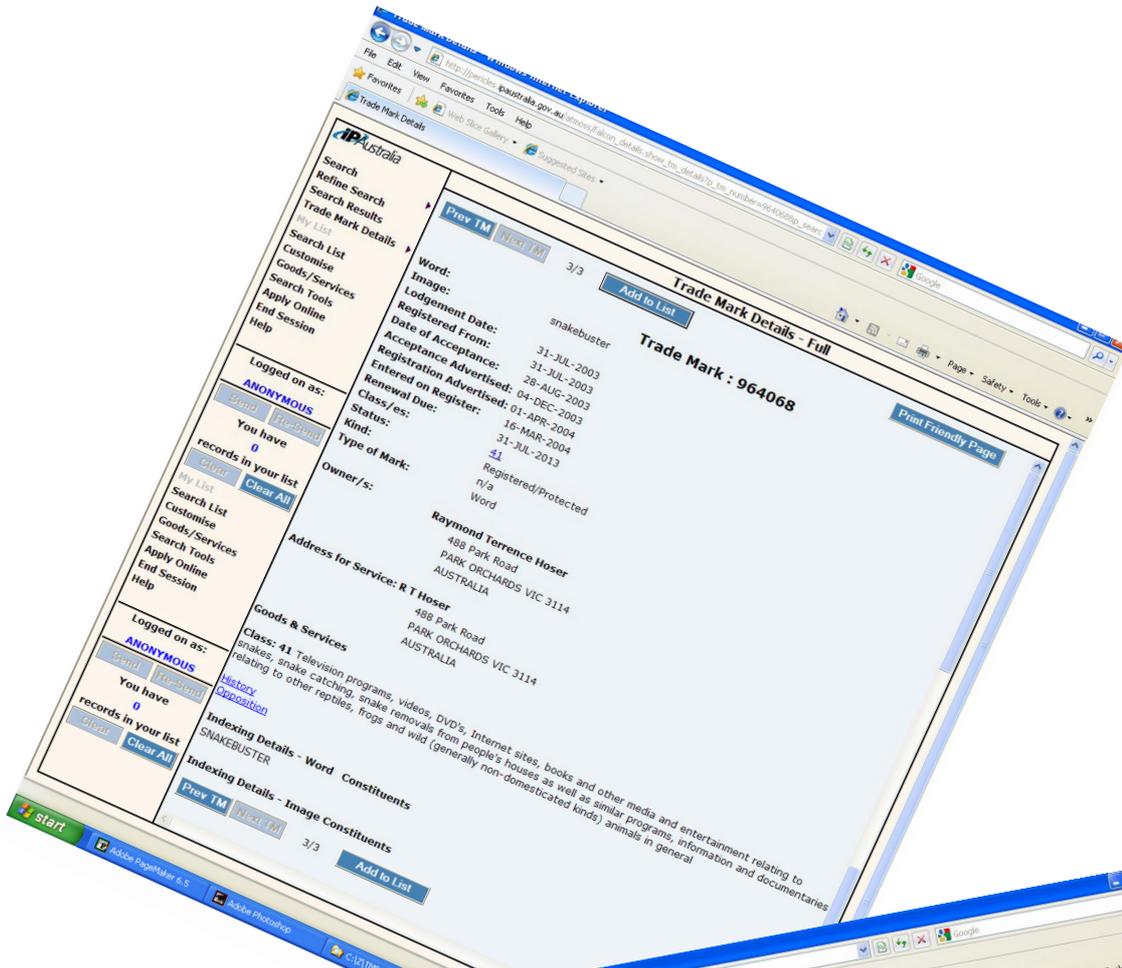
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large number of other “privately published” or “in house” taxonomic publications by scientists around the world as well as predatory profit-making taxonomy journals such as *Zootaxa* which are not owned or funded by government-backed entities.

4/ I correctly saw the rise of the internet and online distribution of hard copy papers post publication via pdf's and the like becoming the primary means of distribution of scientific papers. This being opposed to the traditional form of subscription to hard copies.

Combined with an obvious rise in the number of different journals soliciting and publishing taxonomic papers, most publishing online versions (e.g. *Zootaxa*, *Molecular Phylogeny and Evolution*) it became clear that the quality of the science in the journal was now more important than any prestige or “impact factor” formerly attached to a given printed journal.

Zootaxa itself is a good example of a journal that appears to be PRINO (peer reviewed in name only) that has produced both excellent and atrocious papers. Furthermore with wide dissemination of freely available (open access) post publication pdf's being in the spirit of the Zoological Code I saw it as desirable that I have full control of the IP and so *Australasian Journal of Herpetology (AJH)* was created in 2009.

This journal contained all my taxonomy publications post 2009.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE FORM OF PEER REVIEW

Contrary to the false claims of Kaiser *et al.* (2013) and Kaiser (2013), *AJH* is in fact peer reviewed pre-publication.

Also contrary to popular perception, most of the thousands of reptile taxa currently recognized globally were formally described in literature that was not peer reviewed before printing.

By the way and of peripheral relevance is that peer review is NOT a requirement of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, meaning that all arguments relating to peer review and nomenclature are somewhat redundant in any event.

However one form of peer review not mentioned by Kaiser and others in the Wüster gang is that of post publication peer review. This is the far more effective review of papers by scientists after they have been published by others. It is also a process that can run for many years post publication.

It must be recognized by all that it's both possible and common for authors of given papers to avoid peer review if so desired.

This can be done by shopping a paper to various journals, or more likely via a PRINO (Peer review in name only) journal, thereby enabling pretty much any kind of paper to be published (somewhere).

Alternatively a paper can be published in a journal where the author is editor and no peer review takes place (a claim levelled against myself post 2009, even though all papers published were subjected to rigorous external review and oversight), or similarly where a paper is sent to a journal where the editor is a friend of the author and shoddy work is allowed to bypass any effective forms of peer review.

This last method is that typically employed by the Wüster gang to have their material bypass any effective form of peer review or general quality control including in those papers of theirs cited above (the best examples of which include Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009, Schleip 2008 or Schleip and O'Shea 2010).

However post publication peer review is not avoidable and is a consequence faced by all authors of scientific papers.

This is where potentially thousands of other scientists are able to review given papers and potentially refine, improve or even reject the findings based on all the available evidence, including that not available to the original author.

This is also called scientific progress!

Ultimately, the facts in a given paper will rise or fall on their merits and the ability to duplicate the results and findings.

Noting the effective nature of post-publication peer review of the Hoser taxonomy and in the face of the relentless Wüster gang campaign against Hoser taxonomy and names, it is clear that the taxonomy and nomenclature would only ever be used by others in the face of overwhelming evidence in their favour (and those brave enough to dodge the flak from the Wüster gang).

As noted already, for those species and genera revisited by others since the publication of the relevant Hoser papers, the original Hoser taxonomy and nomenclature has been further validated and consistently vindicated.

As a simple reality check, a global audit of the entire planet's serpents by myself completed in 2013 after decades of working with snakes, left the vast majority untouched in terms of their taxonomy or nomenclature. There has been no mass changes or any instability in terms of the code! A tiny unnamed portion has been named according to the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* in a series of science-based and conservatively formulated taxonomic proposals!

In summary there is no “Hoser problem” and there has never been one!

THE WÜSTER GANG PROBLEM

With an ever increasing number of Hoser names being further validated by others, the Wüster gang

has become ever more desperate in their attempts to stop people using Hoser names for reptile taxa.

By 2012, it had become apparent that the adoption of Hoser names had become general in herpetology and in spite of the Wüster gang's best efforts (and contrary to the claim otherwise of Kaiser 2013).

As a result of this the so called Kaiser *et al.* plan to step outside the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (or the "Zoological Code") to stop usage of the Hoser names was executed.

A document was prepared, which according to Kaiser (2012b) was written by Wüster and the gang in 2012, but not Kaiser himself. This is although it was later fraudulently rebadged as "Kaiser *et al.* 2013" (at which time Wüster said on the Taxacom list server that Kaiser had written it).

The document sought to arbitrarily declare all Hoser papers from years 2000 to 2012 "unscientific", this term being used as a smokescreen or code to justify a their own planned renaming of all relevant species and genera in direct breach of the rules of the Zoological Code. This was spelt out explicitly on page 20 of Kaiser *et al.* (2013).

Contrary to their earlier false claims, the issue with the Hoser papers now was that they were code compliant and as a result the code itself was faulty and needed to be directly attacked (Kaiser *et al.* (2012).

Because it would not be possible to argue to the wider zoological community that the Wüster gang were a bunch of renegades seeking to steal someone else's work and rename species and genera, they had to market their claim to the wider community as something else.

Hence the manufacturing of the so-called "Hoser problem".

This alleged problem was that I had created a huge problem of nomenclatural instability by renaming previously named species and genera. Put bluntly, this was one big lie!

As a badly concealed Nazi style "final solution" to their fabricated problem, they then sought to rename all taxa validly and properly named by myself.

The Trojan Horse in the document, later marketed as Kaiser *et al.* (2013) was a rant about the benefits of the scientific method and effective peer review, which in any event was totally irrelevant to their ultimate claims.

No one in the scientific community, myself included, could possibly argue against effective peer review as a form of quality control. So to publish an argument pretending that there would be any scientists publicly opposed to effective proper quality control was in itself fraudulent.

However noting the obvious failures that may occur in any peer review process (Bohannon 2013), science, including taxonomy and nomenclature depends more importantly on the wider peer review that occurs post publication.

As already stated, it is ultimately the science itself that matters, not who did or did not review a paper before publication!

The same is true in terms of publication outlet. One need look no further than the website <http://retractionwatch.com/> which details numerous cases of scientific frauds, retractions and the like involving numerous prestigious "peer reviewed" scientific journals.

Regardless of the false claims made in terms of alleged non-peer review in *AJH*, the fact is that the scientific evidence and conclusions in the papers within the journal have stood up to rigorous post publication review and analysis (see for example the more recent confirmatory results of Pyron *et al.* 2013 (in terms of several Hoser-named genera derived from *Oligodon*, *Boiga* and *Dendrelaphis*), Reynolds *et al.* 2013 (*Adelynhoserboa* derived from *Tropidophis*), and others).

That the Wüster gang know the validity of the Hoser-named taxa is seen in their Nazi-style final solution, which is to overwrite the Hoser names with their own.

Long ago they ceased arguing the merits of the science!

Now if the Hoser papers were in fact completely unscientific rubbish as regularly alleged by the Wüster gang (without substantiation), including on their online hate pages, there would be no need to rename anything.

The rules of priority and homonymy in the *Zoological Code* have taken care of the widespread issue of taxonomic vandalism for 200 years.

The solution is called "synonymy"!

So the fact is that there is no instability created by the formal published taxonomic proposals of Raymond Hoser (myself), Bill McCord, Richard Wells, Ross Wellington and the others in the Wüster gang hit list as published by Kaiser *et al.* (2012) and added to since. That is even if one were to accept the totally false statements adverse of myself as published by Kaiser *et al.* (2013) and Kaiser (2013).

KAISER ET AL. AND THEIR DUAL NOMENCLATURE.

There is however extreme risk of serious instability created by a dual nomenclature recklessly created by the Wüster gang in total contempt for the rules of zoology.

Case 3601 (Hoser 2013c), is but one of many cases

that will come before the commission if the Wüster gang is allowed to continue stealing the work of others to rename validly named taxa.

In that case, Wüster and others sought to rename a validly named cobra genus, namely *Spracklandus* Hoser, 2009 in a deliberate and reckless breach of the Zoological Code, even after they were repeatedly made aware of the errors of their actions.

More recently, the same gang through Reynolds *et al.* (2013b) have sought to declare the Wells and Wellington name *Australiasis* Wells and Wellington (1983) *nomen nudem*, knowing full well that it was not (Shea 2013e) and that their claim was false. This latest act of taxonomic vandalism by the gang is made more serious by the fact that the ICZN even ruled in favour of the Wells and Wellington publication being validly published according to the code in 1991 and again in 2000, with the names being available. This means the Wüster gang even acts in contempt of the Commission itself and not just their rules! (ICZN 1991, 2000).

Of course I need not mention the example of the Wüster gang's renaming of the python genus *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004, in the paper Reynolds *et al.* (2013b). In May 2013, before Reynolds *et al.* published their "paper", O'Shea in one of many such posts wrote "This name (*Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004) should be ignored and replaced with a suitable substitute." (O'Shea 2013e).

His colleagues in the form of Reynolds *et al.* (2013b) did this by calling the genus "*Malayopython*", backed by the patently false claim that *Broghammerus* was a *nomen nudem* (Shea 2013c).

These thieves (and that's all they are), have recklessly created nomenclatural instability in an icon genus of snakes of global conservation significance. This reckless act of Reynolds *et al.* was aggressively promoted by the Wüster gang including O'Shea again, to get Google to list no less than 509 websites using the name by 25 December 2013.

This was less than a month after publication of their draft paper in a PRINO journal promoting the new name!

For the record, *Broghammerus* had been used in numerous books and no less than 15,200 internet sites as of 24 December 2013.

While speaking about quality of science, the diagnosis (alone) for *Broghammerus* in Hoser 2004 was 1,477 words (3 pages), versus just five words in Reynolds *et al.* 2013 for their synonym genus *Malayopython*!

There are other similar such rule-breaking acts by the Wüster gang detailed in Hoser (2013).

By the way, the central claims against Hoser and

Wells made in Kaiser *et al.* (2012 and 2013) were comprehensively discredited by Shea (2013a), Wells (2013a), Wellington (2013) and Cogger (2013).

Hoser (2012b) gave a more detailed rebuttal of Kaiser *et al.* (2012) and those near identical claims made in Kaiser *et al.* (2013) were similarly discredited in detail by Hoser (2013a).

The rebuttal by Hoser (2013a) was even conceded as correct, by Wüster (2013d, 2013e), who noted the "errors that slipped through in that paper" and "mistakes slipped into the Kaiser *et al.* paper - big deal, that was hardly the point of the paper."

Notwithstanding these admissions by his alleged coauthor, Kaiser (2013) repeats a number of these false statements from the two earlier documents in Kaiser (2013).

THE SOLUTION TO THE WÜSTER GANG PROBLEM

The Wüster gang of thieves, with Hinrich Kaiser as one of the front men, need to be stopped before the whole of zoological nomenclature descends into chaos.

As a result of the reckless actions of Reynolds *et al.* (2013b), at the behest of Wüster and his gang, the ICZN will almost certainly have to formally place *Broghammerus* onto the official names list to stabilize the nomenclature of the genus and to stop the Wüster gang's duel nomenclature causing chaos. The same applies for no less than three genera of lizards renamed in deliberate breach of the rules! At the same time, or preferably sooner, the ICZN must rule that it will not tolerate the wanton abuse of the rules of the code by those who deliberately rename taxa in acts of theft.

These actions of Kaiser *et al.* (2013) and those now aggressively promoting the taxonomic and nomenclatural chaos within that paper are in breach of numerous parts of the Zoological Code both in letter and spirit, including the three critical rules of: 1/ Homonymy (Principal 5, Article 52 and elsewhere), 2/ Priority (Principal 3, Article 23 and elsewhere), 3/ Stability (Principal 4, Articles 23, 65 and elsewhere), as well as the ethics of the Code (Appendix A).

Removing the ongoing instability caused by this gang is best done by the ICZN making a formal statement renouncing Kaiser *et al.*'s "ridiculous and unworkable" plans to rename dozens of well-recognized and properly named taxa (backed by sound scientific data) on the basis of the gang's false and baseless claims against authors they seek to steal work from (Cogger 2013, Shea 2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2013d, Wells 2013).

END NOTE:

From the taxacom list server:

“On 21/05/2013 21:28, Stephen Thorpe wrote:

At the end of the day, Wolfgang, you are just complaining about the authorship of names which may have to be used as valid ... complaining that they are not yours (or those of people you choose to consider to be colleagues)! This isn't a big issue!”

APPENDIX 1:**Obvious factual errors in Kaiser (2013) as published in *Bull ZN* issue 4 and other relevant matters.**

The general adverse statements against myself (Raymond Hoser) as published by Kaiser *et al.* (2013) are generally untrue and have been shown as such by Shea (2013a), Wells (2013a), Cogger (2013) and Hoser (2012, 2013). Therefore they should not have been repeated in an altered form in the *Bulletin on Zoological Nomenclature (BZN)* a year later!

However in terms of claims raised specifically within Kaiser (2013), the following are noted:

SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT AND DELIBERATE FALSE STATEMENTS

Kaiser has talked about scientific misconduct and myself in the same time and place and yet failed to give a single example of this activity involving myself. This is because I have never engaged in “scientific misconduct”. However the Wüster gang and Kaiser himself have repeatedly engaged in this activity. Recent examples are documented in Hoser (2013), including Kaiser putting his name as lead author to Kaiser *et al.* (2013), when in 2012, while marketing the same document (Kaiser *et al.* 2012) he said it had been written by others (Kaiser 2012).

The writings of Kaiser *et al.*, including the rest of the Wüster gang regularly fit within the ambit of “Pseudoscience” as defined within Kaiser (2013). A holotype example is the paper of co-author Wulf Schleip in 2008 inventing three non-existent species of *Leiopython* (Schleip 2008), published in a PRINO journal at a place where he is also an editor (Hoser 2009a, confirmed by CITES 2011).

Kaiser (2013) describing myself as “Australian snake enthusiast Raymond Hoser” is deliberately wording his introduction to imply I have no scientific knowledge of reptiles. Working full time with reptiles for decades and having published in the peer reviewed scientific literature on reptiles since 1980 would refute that inference.

By comparison I could accurately describe Hinrich Kaiser as being at a quack university that specializes in creationism theory. These are facts easily ascertained from the Victor Valley College's own website!

Claims by Kaiser *et al.* that my publications are unscientific do not stand up to even a cursory scrutiny. In any event, Kaiser *et al.* have failed to argue against the scientific merits of the relevant papers. That is because they cannot credibly do this!

Importantly however, a cross-referencing of the appendix of his (purported) paper Kaiser *et al.* (2013), which gave an evidence free list of name changes for hundreds of taxa, showed he and the 8 alleged co-authors hadn't even bothered to read the majority of papers they were criticising. More importantly, gang members Wolfgang Wüster and Wulf Schleip condemned Hoser papers on Facebook admitting they hadn't yet read them! (Schleip 2013a, Schleip 2013b, Schleip 2013c, Wüster 2013a, Wüster 2013b, Wüster 2013c).

Claims against my “deportment” and that I have acted in violation of the Code's ethics (Kaiser 2013), are reckless and without substantiation and should not have been published in *Bull ZN* without a shred of evidence.

By contrast, Wüster, Schleip, Kaiser and their agents have routinely breached the ethics of the code, through various hate webpages such as their liberal usage of sites created called “Ray Hoser, Melbourne's Biggest Wanker” (Various authors 2011), “Herpetological Taxonomy”, the latter being a hate site run by Kaiser's good mate Robert Twombly (also of Victor Valley College), and a barrage of non-stop and abusive hate posts on all relevant and accessible parts of the internet to peddle their weird form of taxonomical anarchy and hatred (Twombly *et al.* 2013) and many others. Twombly himself, in his own words, claims to have expertise in the pseudoscience of “Cryptozoology” (see <http://www.iherp.com/Public/ShowUser.aspx?UserId=75ebfdbab-bd2b-4261-9146-e479aa261fc8>) (Twombly 2013).

Many of these hate sites used by the Wüster gang were removed from the internet by no less than five separate court orders after the gang were lobbying

for people to commit criminal attacks on myself, my wife, young children and our wildlife research and education business, which did in fact culminate in an illegal armed raid on our facility on 17 August 2011.

By way of example, when the Wüster gang post on Wikipedia and other outlets lies such as:

"In 2011 Hoser was convicted and fined \$12,000 in the County Court after four separate people died in four separate incidents as a result of venomoid snake bites at his reptile displays, as well as numerous other near-fatal bites involving snakes that had regenerated venom and become dangerously venomous. Hoser allowed his 10-year-old daughter to be bitten by a taipan and a death adder using her as a guinea pig to demonstrate that his "venomoid" snakes were harmless and she was hospitalized for a week after the bite, being in a coma for two days." (Wüster *et al.* 2000-2013),

I am entitled to be outraged and to publicly correct the series of lies!

By the way the truth of the story is that our venomoid snakes (those with venom glands removed) have never regenerated a drop of venom, as it simply isn't possible. Therefore no one has ever been killed or injured as a result of venomoid bites from our snakes.

My business "Snakebusters, Australia's best reptiles" has an unmatched perfect safety record spanning more than 30 years!

The language and abuse by Kaiser, Schleip, O'Shea and Wüster is of the level that would commonly put people in prison and has allowed us to have agents of theirs acted on by the legal system here in Australia.

We have even been to court and had criminal sanctions imposed by the courts via orders against several criminal co-offenders, including Margaret Irvine Osborne, Sean McCarthy, Danny Wynn, Benny Moylan and Andrew DeGroot, all of whom not only masqueraded as herpetologists to attack my scientific papers with countless false statements but even went so far as to commit criminal attacks on our wildlife education business.

The sort of thing I refer to is one of the countless abusive Schleip posts on facebook like his comment on 16 December 2013 "Hey shit head. There is nothing as the "rules of zoology", and appendix isn't mandatory either" (Schleip 2013c).

Recall Schleip is one of Kaiser's esteemed co-authors!

"A STABILITY PROBLEM" ... CREATED BY KAISER AND THE REST OF THE WÜSTER GANG

Under the heading, "A stability problem" Kaiser

erroneously uses the terms "science based and Hoser's names" to overtly imply mine are exclusive of the former. The fact is that my names are all science based as in based on quantifiable evidence and data. In both examples given under this heading of usage by others of my allegedly unscientific names (without substantiation), Kaiser has been in serious error.

That he knew this is indicated by his lack of detail in his allegations and so I shall give the circumstances of his published claims here.

In the case of the first example he gave, in 2011 he sought not to use the then universally recognized genus *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004 for the reticulated pythons when reporting on his field collecting in Timor-Leste as part of the gang's policy of not using any Hoser names or crediting Hoser's prior published works on reptiles (Kaiser *et al.* 2011).

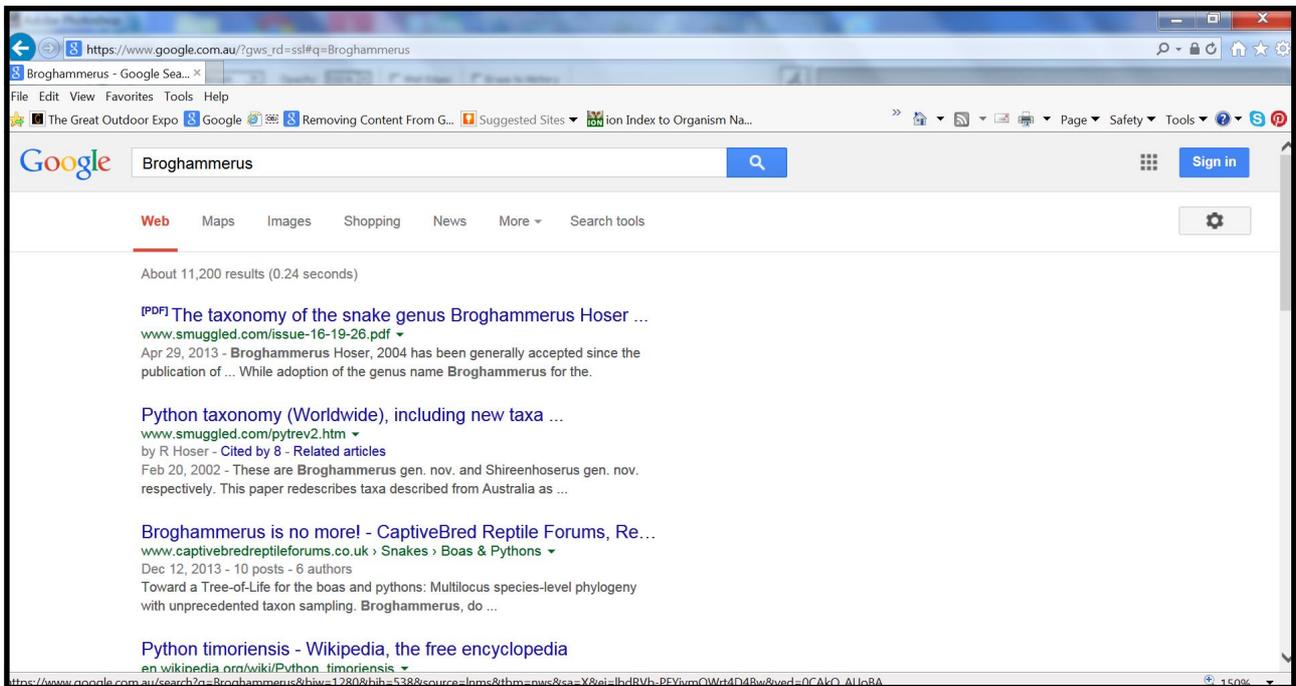
Broghammerus was proposed by myself as part of a global audit of the Pythonidae and based on obvious significant morphological divergence between the Reticulated Pythons and the nominate Python species, the Burmese Python (*Python molurus*) via a 1,477 word (three page) diagnosis in the formal description. Such differences were well known and had been referred to by earlier authors such as McDowell (1975). My 2003/4 diagnosis for the genus was confirmed by molecular data as published by Rawlings *et al.* in 2008 and beyond that date the Wüster gang had increasing difficulty getting others not to use the generic name *Broghammerus*.

By way of example the name has appeared in numerous books and papers and was listed by Google as being on no less than 15,200 websites as of 24 December 2013.

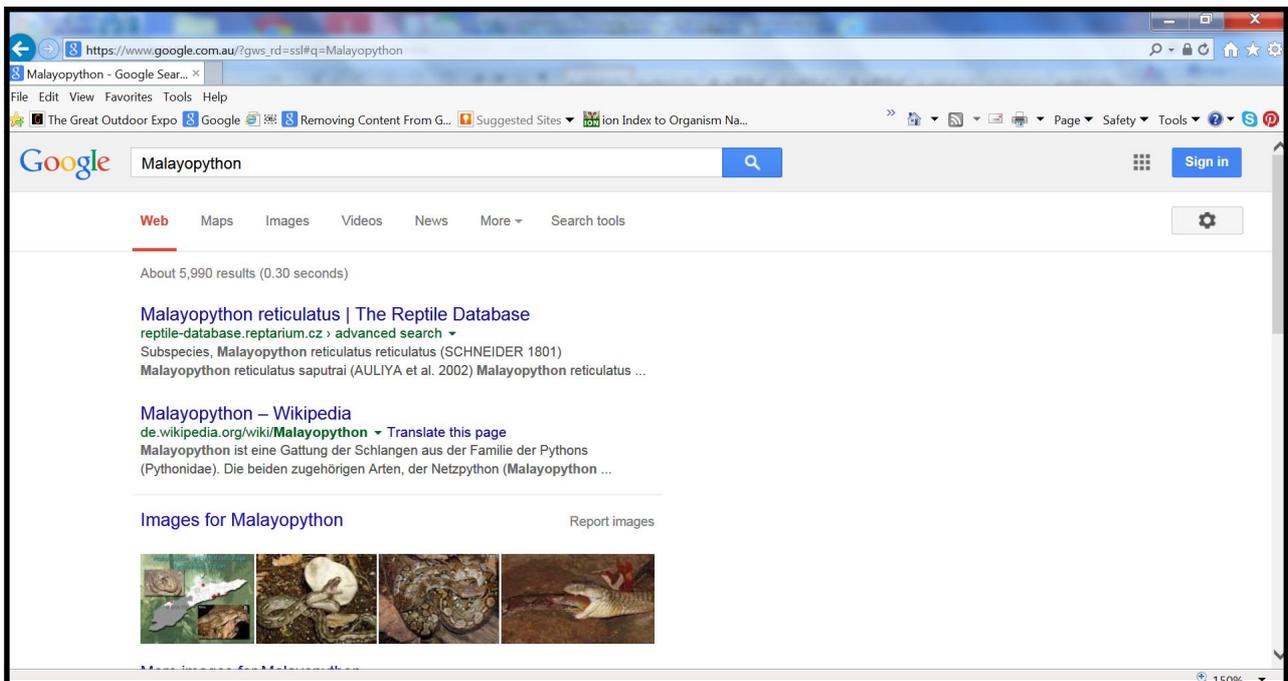
Now in terms of my original 2004 paper, it is clear that the diagnosis of the genus *Broghammerus* was based on scientific evidence, confirmed via peer review both before and after publication.

That Kaiser and other gang member Mark O'Shea refused to accept the obvious and not use the correct nomenclature of the time is not my fault or as a result of any code-breaking instability. It is simply the manifestation of their own refusal to accept peer reviewed scientific evidence and reality that has been first presented by a man they see as their enemy!

Oddly enough, Schleip and O'Shea (2010), the latter co-working and co-publishing with Kaiser on Timor-Leste did in fact recognize and use the generic name *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004, in that paper, erroneously crediting Rawlings *et al.* for the discovery of it, as did O'Shea on his website at: http://www.markoshea.info/oba4-4_peru03.php, still



Both screen dumps on this page were taken on 1 May 2015.



Hoser 2015 - Australasian Journal of Herpetology 25:14-38.

online as late as 9 December 2013 (O'Shea 2013d). However in terms of Kaiser's alleged grievance, this time (2011) as their hatred for all names Hoser intensified in the post 2009 period, they decided to create a nomenclatural problem and a "stability problem" by boycotting the established nomenclature.

More recently in December 2013 the gang have been actively promoting use of the invalid name *Malayopython* Reynolds *et al.* 2013 as their means to "kill" *Broghammerus* (O'Shea *et al.* 2013).

The solution to the nomenclatural problem created by the Wüster gang and raised by Kaiser (2013) is to make sure taxonomists and scientists in general deal with the facts at issue and not concern themselves with who was the first to publish a finding and whether or not they are a part of your gang!

As for the Kaiser, *Broghammerus* matter in Timor-Leste, it was his refusal to accept the science of the taxonomy and the rules of the nomenclature the followed from this that was the issue and the problem. Nothing I, Raymond Hoser did was in any way unscientific or against the spirit or rules of the code.

A genus was named according to the scientific evidence available at the time (2004) and has been agreed by most publishing herpetologists since then!

KAISER AND WÜSTER NOW USURPING PROPERLY FORMED NAMES FROM THE 1800'S!

Kaiser's statement, "In Brazil, a country where a strong commitment to conservation has been emerging over the years, there are now two parallel taxonomies for snakes in use, one using science-based names and the other Hoser's names. For the purposes of species management, proper communication between government agencies, and the treatment of snakebite, dual taxonomies are impractical and must be avoided." Is patently false, again because it falsely asserts any names proposed by myself are not science based.

As it happens, the name used by the Brazilian authorities he referred to was the genus *Caudisona* Cope, 1861, not any so-called "Hoser names" (Wüster and Bernils, 2011). I had merely recognized a particular genus of rattlesnake and resurrected the old name in compliance with the code. Upon reading my paper and accepting it as science-based, the Brazilian herpetologists had accepted my taxonomy and nomenclature as correct.

Again, the problem was with Kaiser's own issue with anything "Hoser" and a recklessly misguided impression that the name *Caudisona* was a Hoser invention.

KAISER'S EVIDENCE FREE UNSCIENTIFIC TAXONOMY

But for those interested in real cases of evidence free unscientific taxonomy, a holotype example is the hit-list of taxa to have their names changed as published by Kaiser *et al.* (2013), cited by Kaiser (2013), noting that Kaiser *et al.*'s failure to read the original papers of Hoser and Wells they were attacking, meant they transferred species to genera they had never been a part of and for that matter could not possibly be placed in.

Hence in one fell swoop, Kaiser *et al.* created immense nomenclatural and taxonomic instability affecting hundreds of properly constituted scientific names backed by good scientific evidence and strong peer review!

Furthermore there is absolutely no doubt at all that Kaiser *et al.* failed to read the Wells and Hoser papers they so strongly criticized.

This is because they haven't even been able to follow the intellectual exercise of cross-matching our newly created genera with those from where we derived the given species and instead resorted to the totally unscientific game of guessing, (yes guessing!) what genera the said species came from.

Plus of course, Schleip (2013a) did in April 2013 admit to not having read the papers he so roundly condemned as listed co-author in Kaiser *et al.* (2013).

So in summary, Kaiser *et al.* were incapable of effectively "joining the dots" in terms of our papers, which is something a normal 7 year old could do!

By way of example, until now, no one in history has ever contemplated moving species from *Lampropholis* Fitzinger, 1843 to *Eulamprus* Lonnberg and Andersson, 1913, but this is exactly what Kaiser *et al.* (2013) has told the world to do. ...and "without evidence"!

The claim by Kaiser (2013) "some authorities in the field are treating these (Hoser) names as if they were nomenclaturally unavailable, largely because they cannot be reliably used in the absence of satisfactory scientific argumentation justifying their appropriate attribution." if true has arisen not due to any fault of myself or the content of my original publications, but rather due to the deliberate false claims of the Wüster gang that my publications are "unscientific".

Kaiser's claim "that multiple names will be in use simultaneously for a large number of organisms." will only occur if his group and other potentially like-minded thieves continue to rename previously named genera such as they have recently recklessly done with *Broghammerus*, *Spracklandus*, *Swilesaurus*, *Funkisaurus* and *Adelynkimberlea* in

each case stealing my published data and using the very same type species (Reynolds *et al.* 2013b, Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009, Baig *et al.* 2012, Bates *et al.* 2013)!

The easiest solution to the Wüster gang's self-manufactured Hoser problem is to either use the correct names, or if there is no evidence for them as alleged (which based on the record is not the case), then to allow the names to disappear into synonymy along with the other hundreds of thousands of synonyms in the pool of "available" names already.

Kaiser (2012) is partially correct when he writes "If the purpose of the *Code* is 'to promote stability and universality in the scientific names of animals,' this goal cannot be achieved so long as Hoser's names are treated as available by the *Code* and unavailable by many in the herpetological community."

The obvious solution to the problem is for Kaiser and the rest of the Wüster gang to abide by the code and admit that the Hoser names are available under the code.

Then there will be 'stability and universality in the scientific names of animals,'.

From there, the only issue to be debated by them is whether or not the taxa identified by Hoser are in fact worthy of recognition based on peer reviewed scientific evidence.

The Wüster gang must either formally renounce their scheme to rename hundreds of Hoser named taxa and those of other scientists, or if they refuse to do so, then the ICZN must formally rule that all affected names are available under the code and must not be deliberately over-written in direct contravention of the spirit and letter of the rules.

Kaiser *et al.* (2013) wrote "These recommendations are not formal nomenclatural proposals according to articles of the *Code*", but since then this gang have treated the document as if it is (see for example Reynolds *et al.* 2013b, Fritz and Havas 2013 and Bates *et al.* 2013). Therefore the ICZN should as a matter of urgency place both Kaiser *et al.* (2012) and the later version Kaiser *et al.* (2013) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoology to remove the instability, even though neither actually propose newly diagnosed taxon names.

The statement "a key problem for stability with Hoser's approach is his practice of giving names to even the most poorly supported groups, and then selecting type material he assumes to be suitable from lists presented in the literature, without ever evaluating this material himself." is patently false and shown as such when the original Hoser papers are read. In an earlier document, Kaiser *et al.* (2013) complained of myself only harvesting the

best clades to name as genera. However if one were to actually read all my descriptions, not one single taxon is defined solely on a molecular basis! Molecular results are only cited as supporting my diagnoses if and when available.

I do note however that the Wüster gang cannot identify one single taxon named by myself that has its basis of naming refuted by molecular evidence.

Kaiser's reference to naming branches of phylogenies as if it is an easy thing to do, and as an allegation of myself somehow stealing naming rights from others is not supported by any evidence and yet another reckless claim. Checking the accuracy of inputs in phylogenies, including by cross-checking of morphological attributes of the relevant species and all other relevant evidence takes time. Kaiser's own good friend and co-author of Kaiser *et al.* (2013), Wulf Schleip has conceded that large amounts of material at Genbank is in fact improperly labelled, making taxonomy based on molecular results only a very risky venture (Schleip 2013b).

In terms of nomenclature, further time is required to check for pre-existing names and resurrecting them as needed. Kaiser ignores all this and comments within his papers cited below show he has no idea as to what the differences are between simple taxonomy and nomenclature!

By way of example Kaiser *et al.* (2011) wrote: "Rawlings *et al.* (2008) determined that *reticulatus* and *timoriensis* were sufficiently phylogenetically distinct from other species in the genus *Python* to warrant separate generic recognition. However, we believe that the generic name assigned to these two species by Rawlings *et al.* (2008) is taxonomically unavailable".

KAISER AND THE REST OF THE WÜSTER GANG, A VERY NOISY MINORITY!

Kaiser's claim he represents "a strong majority of scientists against a single individual who seeks to validate his actions by using the *Code*." is patently false. Fact is that in spite of an intensive marketing effort spanning a year and dressing up an attack on myself as a point of view endorsing peer review (which happens to be my position in actions and not that of the Wüster gang), the Wüster gang blog marketed as Kaiser *et al.* (2013) failed to gain the support of a majority of herpetologists. By way of example, not one of Australia's pre-eminent herpetological taxonomists signed the Kaiser *et al.* (2012, 2013) declarations, these being Dr Hal Cogger (Cogger 2012, 2013), Dr Glenn Shea (Shea 2013a, 2013b, 2013d), Richard Wells (Wells 2013) and Ross Wellington (Wellington 2013)!

All publicly stated they were opposed to it (Cogger 2013, Shea, 2013a, Wellington 2013, Wells 2013).

The case whereby the Wüster gang faked thousands of online “votes” to defraud the Accor hotels chain of thousands of dollars is a matter of public record, with relevant material from the Wüster gang themselves quoted and cited by Hoser (2012a, 2012b), meaning that any claims by the Wüster gang of widespread support for their rule-breaking position must be treated with utmost scepticism.

Added to this the Wüster gang’s ruthless censorship of journals and internet sites that they control, countless examples of which have been screen dumped and archived, liberal usage of bogus internet ID’s to fake widespread support for their views and to post bare-faced lies about myself as part of a broad-based hate campaign (as seen on the Wikipedia page and Facebook pages they manage), and the evil insidious nature of their agenda becomes apparent.

Of course any success they have in renaming properly named taxa in herpetology and stealing the published works of others, will be copied by similar ruthless individuals in other areas of zoology if the Wüster gang are allowed to succeed.

In an unsubstantiated attack on myself, Kaiser wrote:

“While it is easy and probably correct to say that taxonomic research will eventually ferret out the false names and place them into the synonymy of scientifically acceptable names - after all, it has always been thus - this is not good enough any more, especially when a single, self-supported individual with the ability to publish at will can easily produce new names faster than scientists can synonymise them; the former has no constraints imposed by peer reviewers, publishers, tenure review boards, funding agencies, or even access to specimens. Poorly executed taxonomy not only contaminates the products of science, but will also divert the efforts of other scientists away from following their own research goals; it compels them instead to devote their efforts to refuting pseudoscience.”

As it happens the comments “While it is easy and probably correct to say that taxonomic research will eventually ferret out the false names and place them into the synonymy of scientifically acceptable names - after all, it has always been thus” are correct, but they in fact apply to his own Wüster gang. The holotype examples of the time-wasting taxonomic vandalism they have engaged in include their reckless attempts to rename the snake genera *Spracklandus* and *Broghammerus* and three Hoser-named lizard genera *Swilesaurus*, *Funkisaurus* and *Adelynkimberlea* as well as Wulf Schleip’s creation of three bogus *Leiopython* species (Schleip 2008) in a holotype case of scientific fraud and evidence free

taxonomy (Hoser 2009, confirmed by CITES 2011). All these actions of “Pseudoscience” by Kaiser and his mates, which now need to be undone, has wasted and will waste a lot of time by scientists better spent on more productive endeavours, including perhaps naming other unnamed species and genera!

I should also note that as of 2015 usage of the correct Hoser names by others still exceeds that of the Wüster gang and in spite of their best efforts, making a mockery of their claim to have majority support of the herpetological community.

As of 1 May 2015, the Google results for usage of each name was as follows:

Broghammerus 11,200 results

Malayopython 5,990 results

Put another way, it seems that 2 out of 3 herpetologists prefer to use the proper code compliant name for the reticulated pythons as opposed to the illegitimate “alternative taxonomy” of the Wüster gang!

These numbers also make a mockery of the 6 times repeated claim by Rhodin *et al.* (2015) that their views against using “Hoser names” are those of the “global herpetological community”.

That is also in the face of their overt attacks on websites using the correct names as outlined by them on their own controlled Facebook page “herpetological Taxonomy” with just 290 “likes in both May 2014 and May 2014 (indicating their anti-code campaign has “tanked”, which also must by definition give their warped views of nomenclature an apparent bias that would otherwise not be the case.

Or alternatively look at *Leiopython hoserae* Hoser, 2000 versus *Leiopython meridionalis* Schleip, 2014.

As of 1 May 2015, the Google results for usage of each name was as follows:

Leiopython hoserae 3,520 results

Leiopython meridionalis 711 results.

With this taxon contest, representing Schleip’s most audacious attempt of name theft ever, and in the face of his near 24/7 obsessive campaign to get usage of his improperly coined name he has only managed to get at best about one in five herpetologists to use his name!

THE RED HERRING OF THE “TAXON FILTER”

The “Taxon Filter” as proposed by Kaiser and taken to its highest possible altruistic level is nothing more than an expanded form of peer review and is not the real basis of his paper.

But the real reason for his paper was to prepare people for his gang’s wholesale destruction of the

rules of nomenclature. In the form proposed by Kaiser, the so-called "Taxon Filter" is clearly a sinister plan to enable his group to take control of the naming rights for species and genera in herpetology and perhaps elsewhere and then to impose his own warped and evidence-free taxonomy on other scientists and hopefully with the approval of the ICZN. This is to be executed while masquerading as a benign form of peer review. Wüster and his gang are known to stack internet forums and the like with their own cronies, remove dissenters and to stifle proper scientific discourse, debate and correct outcomes.

Examples are seen in the Facebook forums the gang control including those cited already.

This would be a *fait accompli* in any Wüster gang proposed taxonomic filter. It is also a bogus argument to justify non-use of scientific evidence-based names first proposed by myself, that have been through rigorous peer review and are now widely in use.

While, the work of myself Raymond Hoser, is the target of the gang's attacks this year, who knows who's names and works they will turn their attentions to after I have departed from zoological research. Based on my age of 52 in 2014, this will be shortly.

Furthermore if the lists produced by Kaiser *et al.* (2012 and 2013) are any indication of how their taxonomic filter will work, it is most certainly something that should not be foisted on herpetologists or anyone else!

Recall, these lists compiled without a shred of evidence consisted of species being moved to genera they had never been in and could never sensibly be placed in.

Coauthor of Kaiser *et al.*, an amateur snake keeper, Wulf Schleip (no doubt a part of this planned "Taxon Filter") and with no expertise in taxonomy whatsoever has already polluted online databases with his three bogus species of *Leiopython* (Schleip 2008)!

Recall they were shown as being "non-taxa" by Hoser (2009a) and yet they remain listed by Wüster's good mate Peter Uetz on his "The Reptile Database" as full and recognized species as of 29 December 2013 (Uetz, 2013).

This action alone means you could safely expect other "non-taxa", or species and genera described without a shred of evidence described by the gang to slip through Kaiser's so-called "Taxon Filter" if the gang ever got complete control of the taxonomy and naming of reptiles.

Would their "Taxon Filter" remove the rights of others to demand evidence of proof before they

were forced to recognize taxa or use names, once "cleared" by them and regardless of provisions and rules of the Zoological Code!

Then of course, such evidence-based taxa such as the Hoser-named *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004, *Acanthophis wellsii* Hoser, 1998 and the like would have been "banned" outright and then no doubt later named in an act of scientific theft, by members of the gang controlling their "Taxon Filter".

KAISER'S ACTIONS TO CREATE MASS INSTABILITY

The statement,

"In herpetology, we have reached the point when the scientific community has formally and nearly unanimously rejected the use of names coined by Raymond Hoser since the year 2000." is simply not true.

Likewise for the next statement,

"Given that these names have appeared in a single outlet and their production has followed the same pattern that makes them unacceptable to herpetologists, such names could be rendered void for the purposes of nomenclature if the Commission used its plenary power (Article 81) to declare all names proposed in Hoser's *AJH* unavailable."

Rather than giving a name-by-name examples, one needs look no further than the name *Broghammerus* Hoser, 2004. This name was in fact published in *Crocodylian*, a journal over which I have never had editorial or other control and have no part in publishing. Like all names from the period 1998-2008, it was not published in *Australasian Journal of Herpetology*, as that journal simply didn't exist at the time (Wells 2013).

Kaiser himself knew this because he cited all Hoser taxonomy publications from 2000 to 2012 in Kaiser *et al.* (2012) and Kaiser *et al.* (2013), including their publication outlets!

It also means he has knowingly made a false statement within *Bull ZN* and one that should have been removed by the editors.

To claim the name *Broghammerus* has been "formally and nearly unanimously rejected" is also patently false as seen by the many thousands of uses of it in books, papers and online globally.

In terms of books see for example De Lang (2011) or Grismer (2011), or alternatively view any of the 14,700 publications reported by Google on 25 December 2013.

Likewise for other Hoser names that are also found throughout much of the scientific and popular literature in many thousands of publications, including for example the books of Eipper (2012), Emmott and Wilson (2009), Storr, Smith and

Johnstone (2002), Wilson and Swan (2008, 2013) and so on, many of whom cite my scientific papers (the majority not being taxonomic in nature) more (by number of citations) than those of any other author (e.g. Eipper 2012).

The online search engine, Google reported over 300,000 uses of "*Morelia harrisoni*" Hoser, 2000 alone, as of 25 December 2013, 4,630 uses of "*Acanthophis wellsei*" Hoser 1998 or 3,610 uses of "*Leiopython hosei*" Hoser, 2000 which can hardly be reported as "nearly unanimously rejected" names as alleged by Kaiser (2013)!

That such false statements by Kaiser could make it into the pages of *Bull ZN* is an indictment of the pre-publication fact checking and editorial control of that journal and one hopes that such indiscretions do not form part of a regular editorial pattern and/or the editorial oversight of contributions is tightened up so as to prevent such glaring errors being printed in the future!

One also hopes that the ICZN Commissioners see through the errors being published in the journal that is meant to be their collective mouthpiece!

PRECEDENTS THAT DON'T SUPPORT THE KAISER'S CASE

The statement by Kaiser (2013),

"There is precedent for this step (mass banning of names via plenary action), albeit for entirely different reasons, and the Commission recently took it in the case of a work by Lacepède (Savage, 2003; Opinion 2104, BZN 62: 55; March 2005)." as justification to get the ICZN to rubber stamp the Wüster gang's planned renaming of hundreds of taxa in an unscientific manner is also ridiculous.

Lacepède's work from the 1700's was written outside the Zoological Code. Mine was not!

There are many other critically important differences.

Secondly the ICZN rely on the code itself for guidance and never relies on precedent!

The code states "(8) There is no "case law" in zoological nomenclature. Problems in nomenclature are decided by applying the Code directly, and never by reference to precedent. If the Commission is called on to make a ruling on a particular case, the decision relates to that case alone." (Ride *et al.* 1999).

There is however a precedent of relevance in terms of the Wüster gang plans. This was in the failed attempt to suppress for nomenclatural purposes the works of Wells and Wellington (1983, 1985). Almost unanimously Australian herpetologists of the time sought the ICZN suppress the works on the basis that the Wells and Wellington papers spelt chaos

and instability for taxonomy and nomenclature in Australia. The number of taxonomic acts in these papers, exceeded the number cited by Kaiser *et al.* (2013) as needing formal suppression.

After arguments were raised in *Bull ZN* questioning the merits of blanket suppression of authors or journals, the ICZN refused to rule against the Wells and Wellington papers in 1991 (ICZN 1991).

History has also been more than favorable to the original authors.

There was no taxonomic or nomenclatural chaos as allegedly feared by proponents of the original submission and while the Wells and Wellington papers did contain errors and most descriptions of taxa were extremely brief (in contrast to those of the Hoser publications and the Wells ones also on the Kaiser *et al.* hit list), most later scientists have confirmed the bulk of the Wells and Wellington taxonomy and corresponding code-compliant nomenclature.

The most recent relevant Australian reptile field guide, Wilson and Swan (2013) lists more than 30 genera and species first created by Wells and Wellington in 1983 and 1985 and follows many dozens of other taxonomic acts first done by Wells and Wellington.

No doubt the same would apply to the Hoser names from 2000 to 2013 and the Wells names of the same time period if time were allowed to take its course. It is knowledge of the fact that the Hoser and Wells taxonomy and nomenclature of the post 2000 period is in fact generally correct that drives the Wüster gang to forcibly suppress names now that they know are scientifically formulated and evidence based.

KAISER'S ATTACKS ON THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE CODE

The statement by Kaiser (2013), "the spirit of the Code is truly more important than the letter of the Code." is correct, but unfortunately it is Kaiser and the rest of the Wüster gang who are clearly operating outside the code, not !!

Recall in 2012 in his call to arms, Kaiser said his plan "may require overriding the *letter* of the Code" (Kaiser *et al.* 2012). He repeated this call in Kaiser *et al.* 2013 by seeking herpetologists to recklessly create taxonomic and nomenclatural instability in order to force the ICZN to rule on each and every one of the names of Hoser, Wells and anyone else they sought to over-write (O'Shea 2013e).

More importantly, you can easily see the trail of abuse of the code by Wüster and the gang spanning more than 15 years (Williams and Starkey 1999a, 1999b, 1999c, noting the second and third versions of the same document were in fact published in year

2000), or Wüster (2009a-c, 2013a-d), as crystallized in Hoser (2013c).

Included for example are Wüster's and O'Shea's repeated calls to people to overwrite all names including *Broghammerus*, knowing full-well the instability and chaos such actions would cause (Wüster 2013d, O'Shea 2013e).

That call by the Wüster gang was taken up by Reynolds *et al.* in December 2013 in what can only be described as extreme taxonomic misconduct and a total contempt for rules and spirit of the code!

Or perhaps there is no better example of the abuse of the spirit of the code, than the case of the serial offenders Wallach, Wüster and Broadley who in 2009 knowingly lied when claiming *AJH* Issue 7 was not validly published according to the code and then in breach of the ethics of the code renamed the Cobra genus *Spracklandus*. Their continued false statements for years after being told that their statements were wrong and being provided with confirmatory evidence is even more disturbing (Hoser 2013c provides a list of relevant references, but they include Wüster and Bernils 2011 and Schleip and O'Shea 2010).

THE WIDENING TAXONOMIC AND NOMENCLATURAL INSTABILITY CAUSED BY KAISER ET AL.

What is particularly alarming and no doubt a sign of things to come, unless the ICZN intervenes, is the citation of the taxonomic vandalism of Kaiser *et al.* (2013) as a justification for other renegade authors potentially outside the Wüster gang created war-zone to deliberately engage in code-violating acts of taxonomic vandalism and nomenclatural misconduct, which will spread across all areas of the zoological sciences.

Four such examples include:

1/ Mark O'Shea's creation of a hit list of authors whose names are to be banned, even before they have published papers (O'Shea 2013), meaning that scientific merit is not and has never been a relevant issue for their gang;

2/ The non-recognition of validly described taxa, backed by strong and undisputed morphological and molecular data in a paper recently published (Hoser 2013b) not read or cited by Kaiser *et al.* (2013) (as at that stage the Hoser paper hadn't been published) on the alleged basis that Kaiser *et al.* (2013) provided a code compliant justification to do so (Fritz and Havas, 2013).

Fritz and Havas wrote, "Hoser (2013) named a new species and a new subspecies of *Macrochelys*. These taxa are not recognized here until the situation associated with taxa descriptions by Hoser is clarified (cf. Kaiser *et al.* 2013)."

3/ The claim that Kaiser *et al.* (2013) provided justification to overwrite a Cope genus from 1861, (*Caudisona*) simply because Hoser used the name in a scientific paper (Kaiser 2013).

4/ The overwriting of a valid scientific name from 1983 (the Wells and Wellington, *Australiasis*) on the alleged basis that Kaiser *et al.* (2013) provided a code compliant justification to do so, even though Kaiser *et al.* in their rule-breaking hit list, used year 2000 as their alleged cut off date to overwrite other people's names (Reynolds *et al.* 2013b), meaning *Australiasis* was not among those names marked to be overwritten, further meaning the list of authors and names liable to be over-written is effectively unlimited.

In summary I am mortified that the ICZN has in their own journal published what is easily shown to be a collection of false statements and misrepresentations from a man (Kaiser) representing a group of renegades hell-bent on the destruction of order and sanity in zoology and both taxonomy and nomenclature.

I note these men have a stated aim of operating in an unscientific manner outside of the Zoological Code (Wüster 2013f) and who by their own actions clearly seek the destruction of a system of zoological nomenclature that has operated well for more than 200 years.

The Wüster gang have long ago lost all arguments about the taxonomy underpinning the Hoser names and those of others they seek to steal naming rights from (e.g. Wells and Wellington 1983).

Their own published phylogenies support our taxonomy! (e.g. Wallach, Wüster and Broadley 2009 and Reynolds *et al.* 2013a, the latter being mainly a rehashing of the work of Rawlings *et al.* 2008). In fact before the Wüster gang induced Reynolds *et al.* to engage in their reckless brand of taxonomic vandalism in 2013, the original draft of their paper did use the correct name *Broghammerus* (and not the more recently coined *Malayopython*) throughout the paper. We know this because an earlier draft, different from the widely posted version seen on Bryan Fry's website at:

http://www.venomdoc.com/downloads/MPE_pythons.pdf, inadvertently this being Reynolds *et al.* (2013b) remained online on a website on 13 December 2013 and was downloaded by myself from here: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1055790313004284>, this being the original document Reynolds *et al.* (2013a).

So it is now self evident that members of the Wüster gang are marketing their plan to corruptible friends in academia as a short cut to steal the work of others in breach of the zoological code and without

having to do the original research.

Wells (2013) correctly said "what is unfolding is a straight forward matter of scientific fraud and intellectual theft that is masquerading as science", a view agreed by many others including former ICZN Commissioner, Hal Cogger (Cogger 2013).

On this basis, it is now time for the ICZN to step in and make sure that this gang fail in their self-declared war on the rules of zoological nomenclature before they cause a level of damage that so far has not even been visualized by most zoologists. The Kaiser *et al.* gang are manufacturing a disaster of extreme taxonomic vandalism and nomenclatural destruction that threatens to engulf other areas of the biological sciences and way beyond the scaly laboratories of herpetologists.

Their actions put the entire code of zoological nomenclature at risk!

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Re: [Taxacom] Paper on taxonomic standards in herpetology

To see messages related to this one, [group messages by conversation](#).

 Roderic Page (r.page@bio.gla.ac.uk) Schedule cleanup 6:54 PM Groups
To: TAXACOM

As an outsider I find this thread fascinating, in a train-wreck kind of way.

Regarding Hoser's names, a blanket rejection seems odd, given that some names seem to have gained acceptance. Broghammerus is used in the NCBI taxonomy <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy/Browser/wwwtax.cgi?id=1334238>, has molecular support (see <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1095-8312.2007.00904.x>, PDF available here http://cteg.berkeley.edu/~rabosky/Publications_files/Rawlings_etal_BJLS_2008.pdf), and two of the authors of Kaiser *et al.* (Wulf D. Schleip and Mark O'Shea) recently accepted the genus as valid in a checklist of pythons (<http://dx.doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.66.683>). What has changed that we should now reject Broghammerus?

I can't help feel that there's an element of "we did all this hard work to show that taxa 'x' is distinct, but some bugger has already given it a name, but he's a bit of a joker and (chortle) published it in his own journal (the horror), so let's give it a Proper Name".

I can't help but think part of the issue here is way too many people chasing too few taxa. I suspect arthropod or nematode taxonomists would kill for this degree of attention lavished on their beasties. I'm mean, pythons are cool and everything, but seriously, aren't there more pressing things to worry about?