

Eight new skink genera and 45 newly named species associated with *Emoia* Gray, 1845 *sensu lato* that reflects ancient divergence and recent speciation within the assemblage (Reptilia: Squamata).

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:88C0C262-ABA2-4878-80D9-F85838DB90DD

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Received 29 March 2018, Accepted 18 June 2019, Published 10 July 2019.

ABSTRACT

The lizard genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845 within the Lygosominae as recognized in 2019 contains about 80 recognized species. Morphological studies have long recognized various species groups (e.g. Brown 1991). More recent molecular studies show ancient divergences. In fact some of these groups are not even closely related to one another, but in fact occur some distance away in the Lygosominae sub familial tree (e.g. Pyron *et al.* 2013).

Based on both morphological and molecular divergence as cited, seven new genera of skinks formerly placed within *Emoia* as currently recognized are formally named according to the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999).

Species in the new genera were mainly placed within the so-called *E. samoensis* group as defined by Brown (1991).

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, type species *Emoa nigra*, is resurrected for this divergent taxon, also previously placed in the *E. samoensis* group. The taxon also subdivided into 6 allopatric species.

A subgenus for the taxon described as *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980 is also assigned as well as another subgenus for the species *Emoia ponapea* Kiestler, 1982, the latter being within *Emoia sensu stricto*.

The putative species originally described as *Lygosoma stellatus* Boulenger, 1900, more recently known as *Sphenomorphus stellatus* (Boulenger, 1900), is in fact not closely related to other *Sphenomorphus* Fitzinger, 1843 species at all. Instead the species group is closest to a clade treated as being within *Emoia sensu lato*, this being the so-called *E. samoensis* group. However it is divergent enough from that group to be formally placed in a newly named genus, giving a total of eight newly named genera of skinks associated with *Emoia sensu lato*.

Furthermore, 45 obvious but previously unnamed species within relevant genera are also named according to the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) for the first time. There also remains further unrecognized and unnamed species within this assemblage.

Keywords: taxonomy; nomenclature; lizards; subfamily; Lygosominae; skinks; genus; *Emoia*; *Sphenomorphus*; *Emoa*; Pacific; Asia; New Guinea; Fiji; Solomon Islands; Indonesia; Papua New Guinea; Malaysia; *panopea*; *nigra*; *atrocostata*; *concolor*; *loyaltiensis*; *stellatus*; new genus; *Notanemoia*; *Canthoemoia*; *Silvaemoia*; *Griseolaterus*; *Aintemoia*; *Caeruleocaudascincus*; *Ventripallidusscincus*; *Shireenhoserscincus*; new subgenus; *Paraemoia*; *Aquilonariemoia*; new species; *kimaniadilboden*; *timdalei*; *karkarensis*; *tonylovelinayi*; *anggididaensis*; *stefanbroghammeri*; *euanedwardsi*; *paulmulvanyi*; *martinmulvanyi*; *paulwoolfi*; *jamesbondi*; *richardwarneri*; *morriedorisioi*; *minusguttata*; *dorsalinae*; *bougainvilliensis*; *boreotis*; *aquacauda*; *yusufmohamudi*; *davidaltmani*; *stephengoldsteini*; *rodneysommerichi*; *roberteksteini*; *georgemariolisi*; *karlagambellae*; *cathysonnemannae*; *neilsonnemanni*; *robvalentici*; *dannygoodwini*; *latishadarwinae*; *stevebennetti*; *lucybennettiae*; *clivebennetti*; *craigbennetti*; *brettbarnetti*; *williambennetti*; *kamahlbenneti*; *drubennetti*; *jaibennetti*; *danielbenneti*; *graysonoconnori*; *michaelguiheneufi*; *rossadlieri*; *shireenhoserae*; *daranini*.

INTRODUCTION

The skink genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845 within the Lygosominae as recognized by most herpetologists in 2018 contains about 80 recognized species.

Morphological studies have long recognized various species groups.

The major study of Brown (1991) created numerous species groups and these have been retained as functional groups by later authors.

Some, but not all of these species groups as determined by Brown (1991) have also been confirmed by molecular studies.

They also show ancient divergences.

In fact some of these groups are not even closely related to one another, but in fact occur some distance away in the Lygosominae sub familial tree as shown in the supermatrix of Pyron *et al.* (2013).

Based on previously published morphological and molecular divergence seven new genera of skinks formerly placed within *Emoia* as currently recognized are formally named according to the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999).

Species in the new genera were mainly placed within the so-called *E. samoensis* group as defined by Brown (1991).

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, type species *Emoa nigra*, is resurrected for this divergent taxon, also previously placed in the *E. samoensis* group. The putative species is also subdivided into 6 allopatric species, 5 formally named for the first time.

A subgenus for the taxon described as *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980 is also assigned as well as another subgenus for the species *Emoia ponapea* Kiestler, 1982, the latter being within *Emoia sensu stricto*.

The putative species originally described as *Lygosoma stellatus* Boulenger, 1900, more recently known as *Sphenomorphus stellatus* (Boulenger, 1900), is in fact not closely related to other *Sphenomorphus* Fitzinger, 1843 species at all.

Instead the species group is closest to a clade treated as being within *Emoia sensu lato*, this being the so-called *E. samoensis* group. However it is divergent enough from that group to be formally placed in a newly named genus.

Furthermore, some obvious but previously unnamed species and subspecies within relevant genera are also named according to the rules of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) for the first time.

MATERIALS, METHODS AND RESULTS

These are inferred in both the abstract and introduction, but as a matter of trite I spell them out in a little more explicit detail.

The available literature was examined relevant to the genus *Emoia sensu lato* and other phylogenetically close taxa.

Additional to this has been inspection of specimens as required and possible in order to ascertain the classification of the genera or species within the genera, both as defined or including unnamed taxa when they are evident.

Available information in the form of photos of specimens with good available locality data and other information was also utilized in this study.

I also note that, notwithstanding the theft of relevant materials from this author in an illegal armed raid on 17 August 2011, which were not returned in breach of undertakings to the court (Court of Appeal Victoria 2014 and VCAT 2015), I have made a decision to publish this paper, even though it would be clearly improved if I took some further years to get further data,

This is in view of the conservation significance attached to the formal recognition of unnamed taxa at all levels and on the basis that further delays may in fact put these presently unnamed or potentially improperly assigned taxa at greater risk of extinction (as outlined by Hoser 2019a, 2019b).

This comment is made noting the extensive increase in human population in the relevant region and the general environmental destruction across the planet as documented by Hoser (1991), including low density areas without a large permanent human

population.

I also note the abysmal environmental record of various National, State and Local governments in the relevant region over the past 200 years as detailed by Hoser (1989, 1991, 1993, 1996 and 2010) in the face of ongoing threats as diverse as introduced species, habitat destruction and modification, introduced pathogens and other factors and combinations thereof.

It is also noteworthy that I cannot guarantee another illegal armed raid on our facility, involving theft of materials and data again at some unspecified date in the future. Therefore it is important that the taxonomy of this group be largely resolved herein, rather than be potentially delayed indefinitely.

Published literature relevant to the taxonomy and nomenclature adopted within this paper includes the following: Adler *et al.* (1995), Allison and Greer (1986), Angel (1935), Auffenberg (1980), Austin and Zug (1999), Bacon (1967), Baker (1928), Baker (2016), Barbour (1912), Bauer (1994), Bauer and Sadlier (2000), Bauer and Vindum (1990), Bauer *et al.* (1995), Blanchard (1923), Bobrov and Semenov (2008), Boettger (1895), Boulenger (1886, 1887, 1895, 1897a, 1897b, 1900, 1914), Bourret (1937), Brabanov and Milto (2017), Brongersma (1931, 1948), Brown (1953, 1954, 1983, 1991), Brown and Alcalá (1980), Brown and Allison (1986), Brown and Falanruw (1972), Brown and Gibbons (1986), Brown and Marshall (1953), Brown and Parker (1985), Bruna *et al.* (1980, 1996a, 1996b), Buden (2007, 2008, 2015a, 2015b), Buden and Taboroši (2016), Clause *et al.* (2018), Cogger (2014), Couper *et al.* (1996), Crombie and Pregill (1999), Daan and Hillenius (1966), Darevsky (1964a, 1964b), Das (2004), De Jong (1927), de Rooij (1915), De Vis (1890, 1892), Dryden and Taylor (1969), Duméril and Bibron (1839), Duméril and Duméril (1851), Dunn (1927), Fischer (1886), Fisher and Ineich (2012), Fisher *et al.* (2017), Fitzinger (1843), Garman (1899, 1901), Gaulke (1999, 2011), Gaulke and Alcalá (2009), Gibson-Hill (1947), Gill (1993), Gill *et al.* (1994), Girard (1858a, 1858b), Goldberg and Grismer (2017), Goldberg and Kraus (2008), Goris and Maeda (2004), Gray (1845), Greer (1974), Grismer (2011a, 2011b), Grismer *et al.* (2009, 2010, 2013), Grossmann and Tillack (2005), Guillaume *et al.* (1994), Günther (1874), Hamilton (2008), Hamilton *et al.* (2010), Heatwole (1975), Hendrickson (1966), Henle (1990), Higgins (1943), How *et al.* (1998), Ineich (1987, 2009, 2011), Ineich and Zug (1991), Iskandar and Mumpini (2002), Jacquinet and Guichenot (1853), Kiestler (1982), Klein *et al.* (2016), Koch (2011, 2012), Kopstein (1926), Kramer (1979), Kraus (2018), Lesson (1826, 1830), Liu-Yu (1970), LiVigni (2013), Longman (1916), Macleay (1877), Manthey and Grossmann (1997), McCoy *et al.* (1995), McCoy (2006), McCoy and Webber (1984), McGregor (1904), McKeown (1999), Medway (1974), Medway and Marshall (1975), Meiri *et al.* (2017), Mertens (1922, 1927, 1930), Meyer (1874), Mittleman (1952), Morley and Winder (2015), Morrison (2003), Mys (1988), Oliver *et al.* (2018), Ota (2000), Parker (1925, 1936), Peters (1966), Peters (1864, 1871, 1874a, 1874b, 1878), Peters and Doria (1878), Procter (1923), Pyron *et al.* (2013), Read (1998), Reed *et al.* (2007), Rehman *et al.* (2013), Resetar and Voris (1997), Ride *et al.* (1999), Rodda (2015a, 2015b), Roux (1913), Sadlier and Bauer (1997), Sang *et al.* (2009), Sauvage (1879), Schmidt (1932), Schmidt and Burt (1930), Schwaner and Ineich (1998), Setiadi and Hamidy (2006), Shea (2016), Siler and Brown (2010), Smith (1935, 1937), Steindachner (1870), Stejneger (1899), Sternfeld (1918), Stuart and Emmett (2006), Sy and Buday (2014), Tanner (1950), Taylor (1915, 1924, 1963), ter Borg (2005, 2007), Truong *et al.* (2011), Vogt (1922), Waite (1903), Wanger *et al.* (2011), Werner (1898, 1899), Whiting *et al.* (2003), Wilson and Swan (2010), Zug (2012, 2013), Zug and Ineich (1995, 1997), Zug (1991), Zug *et al.* (1989, 2011, 2012), and sources cited therein.

KEY POINTS ON THE TAXONOMIC DECISIONS MADE HEREIN

While the species descriptions below, effectively summarize the results of the audit of *Emoia sensu lato*, it is important that relevant considerations in terms of most of the decisions is spelt out first. Without exception, each named species is allopatric to their nearest congener. Each is also morphologically and reproductively divergent and therefore fits the general diagnosis of being different species.

Most of the taxa named as new species have also been separated from one another by significant divergence in molecular studies as cited above.

Where there has been an absence of molecular evidence, biogeographical evidence also makes the same case for division. This evidence may include isolation by water bodies, including at times of glacial maxima, competing species and other potential barriers or eliminating factors.

Divergent, newly named and resurrected from synonymy genera can be seen appropriately placed in the published molecular phylogenies of Zug (1999), Hamilton (2008), Zug *et al.* (2011), Pyron *et al.* (2013) and Klein *et al.* (2016), where the relevant species groups are usually listed as "*Emoia*" or "*Sphenomorphus*". The divergent species or groups simply match the new genus level entities.

Within *Emoia sensu lato*, the various species groups are divided in line with the formal descriptions below and the result is self evident.

Within *Emoia sensu lato* numerous new species are formally named for the first time.

As stated already, these have obvious divergence backed by previously published molecular evidence or alternatively such divergence is supported by the biogeographical and geological evidence. The morphological differences between the taxa as outlined herein, are logical by-products of the preceding.

Genus level divisions all have a molecular basis based on cited published phylogenies of relevance.

The putative species *Emoia pseudocyanura* Brown, 1991 is divided into three species, two formally named for the first time, evidence in support of which can be found in the phylogeny of Klein *et al.* (2016) at figs 3 and 4, as well as McCoy (2006).

The morphological divergence between the three populations of these lizards also speaks for itself.

The taxon *Emoia bougainvillensis sp. nov.*, formerly treated as a population of *E. cyanura* (Lesson, 1830), is justified on a molecular basis by the evidence found in the phylogeny of Klein *et al.* (2016) at figs 3 and 4 and the morphological divergence of the specimens as well, as detailed by Brown (1991).

The species *E. boreotis* also treated until now as (two) island populations of *E. cyanura* is shown to be different species by the molecular evidence provided by Bruna *et al.* (1996b).

The species *Emoia aquacauda sp. nov.* has until now been treated as a population of *Emoia impar* (Werner, 1898) and justification for separating the two comes again from in the phylogeny of Klein *et al.* (2016) at figs 3 and 4 as well as clear morphological divergence and geographical isolation by means of deep sea barriers.

The species *Emoia nigra* (Jacquinot and Guichenot, 1853) now placed in the genus *Emoia* Girard, 1857 would until now be treated as monotypic for this genus grouping. The putative taxon *Emoia nigra* (Jacquinot and Guichenot, 1853) is clearly by any reasonable assessment a species complex (as inferred by Brown 1991) and this is supported by the molecular phylogeny published by Hamilton (2008).

Furthermore at page 57, Brown (1991) described "*Emoia nigra*" as a "superspecies". At page 58, Brown wrote: "*Emoia nigra* exhibits some variation when populations from different islands are compared. Consideration of possible subspecies or very similar sibling species is held in abeyance pending the availability of detailed field and possibly genetic studies."

That was written 27 years prior to the publication of this paper and in that time populations on some islands have been decimated and/or wiped out totally as a result of human intervention by way of introduced species including mongoose and cats. Rather than wait another 27 years to elapse and there is still no further steps taken to recognize various island populations as biological entities and being worthy of protection measures, I have taken the important step of giving five distinct island populations taxonomic recognition so that they may be formally identified and legally protected and avoid the fate of unrecognized species as identified by Hoser (2019a, 2019b). I have no doubt that other island populations also

probably warrant full taxonomic recognition.

In terms of the Fiji Islands, Zug (1991) wrote: "*E. nigra* is spottedly distributed in Fiji (map 15). Old records (pre-1880 and pre-mongoose) demonstrate its former occurrence on Vanua Levu and Viti Levu. Its extinction on the main islands likely resulted from mongoose predation."

This justifies the need to take steps to preserve this putative species throughout its range. It is also worth noting that Kadavu, the third largest island in the Fiji group still does not have mongoose, but no "*E. nigra*" have been reported from the island and I was unable to locate museum specimens ostensibly from there. The absence from this island is interesting as it goes against the trend for other Fijian reptile species groups, including for example the so-called "*Emoia concolor* (Duméril, 1851)" species group or the "*Emoia trossula* Brown and Gibbons" species group.

The putative species "*Emoia concolor* (Duméril, 1851)" and closely related taxa are herein placed in the new genus *Notanemoia gen. nov.* The putative species "*Emoia concolor* (Duméril, 1851)" is herein split five ways based on morphological and geographical divergence of each main population in the Fiji Islands group. A molecular basis for this division can also be found in Austin and Zug (1999) at page 432 and in Hamilton (2008).

The putative species "*Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980" and "*Emoia trossula* Brown and Gibbons, 1986", both now also placed in the genus *Notanemoia gen. nov.* are also divided on a similar basis to that for the "*Emoia concolor* (Duméril, 1851)" species group as just outlined. In the case of "*Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980", two new related species-level taxa are formally named for the first time. In the case of "*Emoia trossula* Brown and Gibbons, 1986" two new species are also formally named for the first time.

The putative taxon "*Emoia flavigularis* Schmidt, 1932" herein placed in the genus *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* is divided into two based on morphological and geographical divergence, separated by a deep water barrier.

Zug and Ineich (1997) wrote: "*E. caeruleocauda* harbors several cryptic species" and following on from this both *Lygosoma cyanurum var. n. weneri* Vogt, 1912:5. Type locality: "Marianen" (= Mariana Islands) and *Lygosoma weneri triviale* Schüz, 1929:7. Type locality: "Dore auf New Guinea" (= Dore, Japen Island, Irian Jaya) are resurrected from synonymy and ten new species-level taxa within this species complex are also formally named for the first time. All are morphologically distinct, geographically separated and clearly have evolved apart for a significant time frame, believed to be in excess of 2 MYA for each species defined herein.

E. caeruleocauda De Vis, (1892) and the other twelve related species are all herein placed in the newly named genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.*

The genus *Ventripallidusscincus gen. nov.* is erected to accommodate the divergent species *E. schmidtii* Brown 1954, which is in turn split into two species, the second formally named for the first time and notably separated from the first by a sea barrier not exposed by land during the last glacial maxima. It is also morphologically divergent, warranting taxonomic recognition. Numerous other species, still within the genus *Emoia*, generally distributed on or adjacent to the Island of New Guinea are formally divided based on identifiable morphological divergence across known biogeographical barriers of known antiquity, including for example the central cordillera of New Guinea. Which species the newly named ones are most closely related to is spelt out clearly in each description.

For the species group associated with the species *Lygosoma stellatus* Boulenger, 1900, more recently placed in the genus *Sphenomorphus* Fitzinger, 1843, the phlogeny of Pyron *et al.* (2013) clearly shows that it should be placed in a genus apart from any of *Lygosoma* Hardwickeý and yGrayý, 1828, *Sphenomorphus*, or *Emoia*. The genus *Shireenhoserscincus gen. nov.* has been erected to accommodate *Sphenomorphus stellatus* (Boulenger, 1900) and three others, all until now treated by most herpetologists as being of a single species.

The division of one putative species into four is justified on the basis that each are allopatric and separated by well-defined biogeographical barriers of unsuitable habitat and/or competing species, as well as significant morphological divergence between the four populations, which indicates divergence and allopatric breeding populations.

Two of those species are formally named for the first time.

In terms of the following descriptions the following points should be noted:

1/ All descriptions of specimens in terms of form and colour relate to normal adult specimens of typical form for each taxon unless otherwise stated.

2/ Spellings of names assigned to taxa should not be altered in any way unless mandated by the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride *et al.* 1999) or superseding nomenclatural rules.

3/ In the unlikely event a first revisor seeks to merge any taxa formally named herein, the name to be used is that of the first name used in terms of page priority, also as listed in the abstract keywords.

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

GENUS NOTANEMOIA GEN. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:BD022E5F-7CC7-4754-99A4-1C5BCF317493

Type species: *Gongylus concolor* Duméril, 1851 (now widely known as *Emoia concolor* (Duméril, 1851)).

Diagnosis: The genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 were all formerly included in the so-called *E. samoensis* group and are defined and separated from other species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845 below.

The genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845, in which they were formerly included, by the following suite of characters: SVL at maturity of 45-122 mm; snout tapered and slightly to moderately depressed; scales smooth; midbody scale rows 26-42; dorsal scale rows 51-84; subdigital lamellae rounded to moderately thinned, fourth toe lamellae 32-81; frontoparietals fused; interparietal nearly always distinct, ranging from long and narrow to small; nasal bones separate; parietal eye present; palate alpha type; dorsal ground color ranges from greenish or greenish tan to light or rarely dark brown, usually with darker markings on dorsal and upper lateral surfaces and sometimes pale spots or dashes.

This is also an effective diagnosis for the so-called *Emoia samoensis* group.

The genus *Notanemoia gen. nov.* (type species *Gongylus concolor* Duméril, 1851) is separated from the genera *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal also long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-65 (sometimes less in *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*); midbody scale rows 28-36; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68.

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, (type species *Emoa nigra*) is separated from all other species within *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* and *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* by dorsal body colour. Specimens in this genus are alone in adults having a dorsum that is a more-or-less uniform dark brown to black or grey from snout on to the tail.

The genus *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.* (type species *Lygosoma samoense loyaltiense* Roux, 1913) can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia*

gen. nov., *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters being one or other of:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 60-81; Scale rows between parietals and base of tail 56-64; SVL at maturity 68-115 mm; color pattern on dorsum nearly uniform greenish, olivaceous, or brownish, marked by few or many small to large dark spots; head frequently marked by a large brownish patch; (*C. sanfordi*), or:

2/ Snout tapered, narrowly rounded at tip; interparietal distinct, long, longer than broad (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-60, midbody scale rows 30-34; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 62-71 (rarely less than 64); SVL at maturity 60-73 mm; color of dorsum tannish green, of upper lateral surfaces darker grayish tan, marked by some darker blotches; limbs tan with darker brown mottling (*C. loyaltiense*).

The genus *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Fourth toe lamellae 34-60; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal fused with frontoparietals; prefrontals usually in contact; dorsal color brown with scattered dark or vague transverse lines posteriorly; lateral surfaces slightly darker; undersurface of head and neck yellowish or yellowish-greenish.

The genus *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* is separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following unique combination of characters: Midbody scale rows 36-38; dorsal scale rows between the parietals and the base of tail 77-84; fourth toe lamellae 47-53; first toe lamellae 14-17; interparietal of intermediate length, longer than broad; prefrontals in relatively broad contact; color pattern being a dorsal ground color of greenish tan to dark chocolate-brown; lighter specimens marked by some scattered dark brown flecks or small spots; upper lateral surface with grayish to slate-tan or brown band, marked by row of light blotches or dashes along dorsal margin.

The genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by one or other of the following 7 suites of characters:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 38-44; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 38-44; midbody scale rows 28-34; color pattern: dorsum greenish or grayish, nearly uniform or with dark flecks or spots; blackish lateral bands or series of dark spots on the upper lateral surface (*A. nigromarginata*), or:

2/ Fourth toe lamellae 45-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 78-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 45-65; midbody scale rows 30-34 (usually 32); color pattern: dorsum nearly uniform greenish to greenish tan, or with brownish to blackish spots, usually forming transverse bands (tiger pattern); without large, yellowish blotches dorsolaterally (*A. samoensis*), or:

3/ Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 72-84. Fourth toe lamellae 36-42; midbody scale rows 40-42 (*A. aneityumensis*), or:

4/ Fourth toe lamellae 43-55; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; rostral forming moderate, slightly concave suture with frontonasal; supranasals slightly broader anteriorly, in contact with anterior loreal; prefrontals narrowly separated to moderately in contact; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad and narrow; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; one

pair of nuchals; anterior loreal slightly shorter than, to nearly as long as, posterior and slightly higher, in contact with first and second, second, or first, second and third upper labials; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 66-108 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 43-55; Midbody scale rows 32-40 (rarely less than 34); color feature of dorsum usually brownish marked by a few to numerous whitish dashes (*A. michaelguiheneufi* sp. nov., *A. mokolahi*, *A. rossadleri* sp. nov., *A. trossula*), or:

5/ Number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 62-67; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown dorsally and laterally, neck and trunk with transverse series of dark brown irregular-shaped bars; dark bars medium sized and numerous, dark brown postorbital stripe or spot on rear of head and usually on neck; transverse series of bright yellow streaks on neck and trunk; number of fourth finger lamellae 34-42, (*A. oriva*), or:

6/ Interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown, number of middorsal scale rows 59-71 and number of fourth finger lamellae 28-42; dorsal surface of trunk boldly marked with transverse series of bright yellow streaks on background of numerous dark bars; number of fourth toe lamellae 50-65, (*A. tuitarere*), or:

7/ Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33, (*A. parkeri*, *A. dannygoodwini* sp. nov., *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov.).

The preceding diagnosis for *Aintemoia* gen. nov. could have been distilled significantly to about two character suites, but the longer definition allows identification to species level in most cases.

The subgenus *Paraemoia* subgen. nov. (type species *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) within the genus *Aintemoia* gen. nov. is separated from all other species within the genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33.

The subgenus *Aquilonariemoia* subgen. nov. (type species *Emoia ponapea* Kiestler, 1982) within the genus *Emoia* is separated from all other species within the genera *Emoia* Gray, 1845, *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Unfused nasal bones and distinct parietal eye; a palate somewhat intermediate between the alpha and beta types and the unique feature of 13 premaxillary teeth rather than 11, which is otherwise characteristic of other groups of species referred to the genus *Emoia sensu lato*, including the genera and subgenera formally named herein.

Emoia sensu lato including the newly described genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. as well as *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from all other skink genera by the following suite of characters: supranasals present; window in movable lower eyelid; frontoparietals fused; limbs well developed, pentadactyl.

These four characters are shared by all species of the genera. However, one or both of the derived characters (window in

moveable lower eyelid and frontoparietals fused) also characterize some species of *Lipinia* Gray, 1845 and *Leiopolisma* Duméril and Bibron, 1839 being Lygasomine genera lacking supranasals.

Several additional characters are common to all species of *Emoia sensu lato*. but they are not diagnostic because they are also found in most species of several other genera of skinks. These include: (1) rostral broader than high; (2) frontal as long as or longer than broad and in contact with two anterior supraoculars; (3) four large supraoculars; (4) parietals large and in contact; (5) ear prominent, usually with small lobules anteriorly, but always much smaller than eye; (6) rank of adpressed toes from the shortest to the longest: first, second or fifth, third, fourth; (7) tail slender and much longer than body (modified from Brown, 1991).

Distribution: Fiji, Tonga.

Etymology: As said, "not an *Emoia*".

Content: *Notanemoia concolor* (Duméril, 1851) (type species); *N. campbelli* (Brown and Gibbons, 1986); *N. cathysonnemanna* sp. nov.; *N. georgemariolisi* sp. nov.; *N. karlagambellae* sp. nov.; *N. mokosariniveikau* (Zug and Ineich, 1995); *N. neilsonnemanni* sp. nov.; *N. tongana* (Werner, 1899).

GENUS CANNOTBEEMOIA GEN. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:FBFDC585-DF78-453E-8794-A97FA2923C1A

Type species: *Lygosoma samoense loyaltiense* Roux, 1913 now widely known as *Emoia loyaltiense* (Roux, 1913).

Diagnosis: The genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 were all formerly included in the so-called *E. samoensis* group and are defined and separated from other species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845 below.

The genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845, in which they were formerly included, by the following suite of characters: SVL at maturity of 45-122 mm; snout tapered and slightly to moderately depressed; scales smooth; midbody scale rows 26-42; dorsal scale rows 51-84; subdigital lamellae rounded to moderately thinned, fourth toe lamellae 32-81; frontoparietals fused; interparietal nearly always distinct, ranging from long and narrow to small; nasal bones separate; parietal eye present; palate alpha type; dorsal ground color ranges from greenish or greenish tan to light or rarely dark brown, usually with darker markings on dorsal and upper lateral surfaces and sometimes pale spots or dashes.

This is an effective diagnosis also for the so-called *Emoia samoensis* group.

The genus *Notanemoia* gen. nov. (type species *Gongylus concolor* Duméril, 1851) is separated from the genera *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal also long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-65 (sometimes less in *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov.); midbody scale rows 28-36; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68.

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, (type species *Emoa nigra*) is separated from all other species within *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov. and *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. by dorsal body colour. Specimens in this genus are alone in having a dorsum that is uniform dark brown to black from snout onto the tail.

The genus *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov. (type species *Lygosoma samoense loyaltiense* Roux, 1913) can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters being one or other of:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 60-81; Scale rows between parietals and base of tail 56-64; SVL at maturity 68-115 mm; color pattern on dorsum nearly uniform greenish, olivaceous, or brownish, marked by few or many small to large dark spots; head frequently marked by a large brownish patch; (*C. sanfordi*), or:

2/ Snout tapered, narrowly rounded at tip; interparietal distinct, long, longer than broad (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-60, midbody scale rows 30-34; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 62-71 (rarely less than 64); SVL at maturity 60-73 mm; color of dorsum tannish green, of upper lateral surfaces darker grayish tan, marked by some darker blotches; limbs tan with darker brown mottling (*C. loyaltiensis*).

The genus *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard, 1857* by the following suite of characters: Fourth toe lamellae 34-60; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal fused with frontoparietals; prefrontals usually in contact; dorsal color brown with scattered dark or vague transverse lines posteriorly; lateral surfaces slightly darker; undersurface of head and neck yellowish or yellowish-greenish.

The genus *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* is separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard, 1857* by the following unique combination of characters: Midbody scale rows 36-38; dorsal scale rows between the parietals and the base of tail 77-84; fourth toe lamellae 47-53; first toe lamellae 14-17; interparietal of intermediate length, longer than broad; prefrontals in relatively broad contact; color pattern being a dorsal ground color of greenish tan to dark chocolate-brown; lighter specimens marked by some scattered dark brown flecks or small spots: upper lateral surface with grayish to slate-tan or brown band, marked by row of light blotches or dashes along dorsal margin.

The genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard, 1857* by one or other of the following 7 suites of characters:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 38-44; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 38-44; midbody scale rows 28-34; color pattern: dorsum greenish or grayish, nearly uniform or with dark flecks or spots; blackish lateral bands or series of dark spots on the upper lateral surface (*A. nigromarginata*), or:

2/ Fourth toe lamellae 45-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 78-118 mm; number of lamellae underneath fourth toe 45-65; midbody scale rows 30-34 (usually 32); color pattern: dorsum nearly uniform greenish to greenish tan, or with brownish to blackish spots, usually forming transverse bands (tiger pattern); without large, yellowish blotches dorsolaterally (*A. samoensis*), or:

3/ Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 72-84. Fourth toe lamellae 36-42; midbody scale rows 40-42 (*A. aneityumensis*), or:

4/ Fourth toe lamellae 43-55; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; rostral forming moderate, slightly concave suture with frontonasal; supranasals slightly broader anteriorly, in contact with anterior loreal; prefrontals narrowly separated to moderately in contact; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad and narrow; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal slightly shorter than, to nearly as long as, posterior and slightly higher, in contact with first and

second, second, or first, second and third upper labials; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 66-108 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 43-55; Midbody scale rows 32-40 (rarely less than 34); color feature of dorsum usually brownish marked by a few to numerous whitish dashes (*A.*

michaelguiheneufi sp. nov., *A. mokolahi*, *A. rossadlieri sp. nov.*, *A. trossula*), or:

5/ Number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 62-67; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown dorsally and laterally, neck and trunk with transverse series of dark brown irregular-shaped bars; dark bars medium sized and numerous, dark brown postorbital stripe or spot on rear of head and usually on neck; transverse series of bright yellow streaks on neck and trunk; number of fourth finger lamellae 34-42, (*A. oriva*), or:

6/ Interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown, number of middorsal scale rows 59-71 and number of fourth finger lamellae 28-42; dorsal surface of trunk boldly marked with transverse series of bright yellow streaks on background of numerous dark bars; number of fourth toe lamellae 50-65, (*A. tuitarere*), or:

7/ Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33, (*A. parkeri*, *A. dannygoodwini sp. nov.*, *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.*).

The preceding diagnosis for *Aintemoia gen. nov.* could have been distilled significantly to about two character suites, but the longer definition allows identification to species level in most cases.

The subgenus *Paraemoia subgen. nov.* (type species *Emoa parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) within the genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from all other species within the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard, 1857* by the following suite of characters: Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33.

The subgenus *Aquilonariemoia subgen. nov.* (type species *Emoa ponapea* Kiestler, 1982) within the genus *Emoia* is separated from all other species within the genera *Emoia Gray, 1845*, *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard, 1857* by the following suite of characters: Unfused nasal bones and distinct parietal eye; a palate somewhat intermediate between the alpha and beta types and the unique feature of 13 premaxillary teeth rather than 11, which is otherwise characteristic of other groups of species referred to the genus *Emoia sensu lato*, including the genera and subgenera formally named herein.

Emoia sensu lato including the newly described genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* as well as *Emoa Girard, 1857* are separated from all other skink genera by the following suite of characters: supranasals present; window in movable lower eyelid; frontoparietals fused; limbs well developed, pentadactyl.

These four characters are shared by all species of the genera. However, one or both of the derived characters (window in movable lower eyelid and frontoparietals fused) also characterize some species of *Lipinia Gray, 1845* and *Leiopolisma Duméril* and

Bibron, 1839 being Lygasomine genera lacking supranasals.

Several additional characters are common to all species of *Emoia sensu lato*, but they are not diagnostic because they are also found in most species of several other genera of skinks. These include: (1) rostral broader than high; (2) frontal as long as or longer than broad and in contact with two anterior supraoculars; (3) four large supraoculars; (4) parietals large and in contact; (5) ear prominent, usually with small lobules anteriorly, but always much smaller than eye; (6) rank of adpressed toes from the shortest to the longest: first, second or fifth, third, fourth; (7) tail slender and much longer than body (modified from Brown, 1991).

Distribution: Mare and Lifou islands, Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia (*C. loyaltiensis*) and Vanuatu (Banks Islands and New Hebrides), Fauro, Toga, Tegua Islands (*C. sanfordi*).

Etymology: As said, "cannot be an *Emoia*".

Content: *Cannotbeemoia loyaltiensis* (Roux, 1913) (type species); *C. sanfordi* (Schmidt and Burt, 1930).

GENUS SILVAEMOIA GEN. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:481B193A-E901-4E55-97C7-0FB5991CE4AC

Type species: *Emoia flavigularis* Schmidt, 1932.

Diagnosis: The genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 were all formerly included in the so-called *E. samoensis* group and are defined and separated from other species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845 below.

The genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845, in which they were formerly included, by the following suite of characters: SVL at maturity of 45-122 mm; snout tapered and slightly to moderately depressed; scales smooth; midbody scale rows 26-42; dorsal scale rows 51-84; subdigital lamellae rounded to moderately thinned, fourth toe lamellae 32-81; frontoparietals fused; interparietal nearly always distinct, ranging from long and narrow to small; nasal bones separate; parietal eye present; palate alpha type; dorsal ground color ranges from greenish or greenish tan to light or rarely dark brown, usually with darker markings on dorsal and upper lateral surfaces and sometimes pale spots or dashes.

This is an effective diagnosis also for the so-called *Emoia samoensis* group.

The genus *Notanemoia gen. nov.* (type species *Gongylus concolor* Duméril, 1851) is separated from the genera *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal also long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-65 (sometimes less in *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*); midbody scale rows 28-36; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68.

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, (type species *Emoa nigra*) is separated from all other species within *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* and *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* by dorsal body colour. Specimens in this genus are alone in having a dorsum that is uniform dark brown to black from snout onto the tail.

The genus *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.* (type species *Lygosoma samoense loyaltiensis* Roux, 1913) can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters being one or other of:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 60-81; Scale rows between parietals and base of tail 56-64; SVL at maturity 68-115 mm; color pattern on dorsum nearly uniform greenish, olivaceous, or brownish, marked by few or many small to large dark spots; head frequently marked

by a large brownish patch; (*C. sanfordi*), or:

2/ Snout tapered, narrowly rounded at tip; interparietal distinct, long, longer than broad (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-60, midbody scale rows 30-34; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 62-71 (rarely less than 64); SVL at maturity 60-73 mm; color of dorsum tannish green, of upper lateral surfaces darker grayish tan, marked by some darker blotches; limbs tan with darker brown mottling (*C. loyaltiensis*).

The genus *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Fourth toe lamellae 34-60; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal fused with frontoparietals; prefrontals usually in contact; dorsal color brown with scattered dark or vague transverse lines posteriorly; lateral surfaces slightly darker; undersurface of head and neck yellowish or yellowish-greenish.

The genus *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* is separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following unique combination of characters: Midbody scale rows 36-38; dorsal scale rows between the parietals and the base of tail 77-84; fourth toe lamellae 47-53; first toe lamellae 14-17; interparietal of intermediate length, longer than broad; prefrontals in relatively broad contact; color pattern being a dorsal ground color of greenish tan to dark chocolate-brown; lighter specimens marked by some scattered dark brown flecks or small spots: upper lateral surface with grayish to slate-tan or brown band, marked by row of light blotches or dashes along dorsal margin.

The genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by one or other of the following 7 suites of characters:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 38-44; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 38-44; midbody scale rows 28-34; color pattern: dorsum greenish or grayish, nearly uniform or with dark flecks or spots; blackish lateral bands or series of dark spots on the upper lateral surface (*A. nigromarginata*), or:

2/ Fourth toe lamellae 45-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 78-118 mm; number of lamellae under, fourth toe 45-65; midbody scale rows 30-34 (usually 32); color pattern: dorsum nearly uniform greenish to greenish tan, or with brownish to blackish spots, usually forming transverse bands (tiger pattern); without large, yellowish blotches dorsolaterally (*A. samoensis*), or:

3/ Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 72-84. Fourth toe lamellae 36-42; midbody scale rows 40-42 (*A. aneityumensis*), or:

4/ Fourth toe lamellae 43-55; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; rostral forming moderate, slightly concave suture with frontonasal; supranasals slightly broader anteriorly, in contact with anterior loreal; prefrontals narrowly separated to moderately in contact; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad and narrow; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal slightly shorter than, to nearly as long as, posterior and slightly higher, in contact with first and second, second, or first, second and third upper labials; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 66-108 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 43-55; Midbody scale rows 32-40 (rarely less than 34); color feature of dorsum usually brownish

marked by a few to numerous whitish dashes (*A. michaelguiheneufi* sp. nov., *A. mokolahi*, *A. rossadlieri* sp. nov., *A. trossula*), or:

5/ Number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 62-67; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown dorsally and laterally, neck and trunk with transverse series of dark brown irregular-shaped bars; dark bars medium sized and numerous, dark brown postorbital stripe or spot on rear of head and usually on neck; transverse series of bright yellow streaks on neck and trunk; number of fourth finger lamellae 34-42, (*A. oriva*), or:

6/ Interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown, number of middorsal scale rows 59-71 and number of fourth finger lamellae 28-42; dorsal surface of trunk boldly marked with transverse series of bright yellow streaks on background of numerous dark bars; number of fourth toe lamellae 50-65, (*A. tuitarere*), or:

7/ Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33, (*A. parkeri*, *A. dannygoodwini* sp. nov., *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov.).

The preceding diagnosis for *Aintemoia* gen. nov. could have been distilled significantly to about two character suites, but the longer definition allows identification to species level in most cases.

The subgenus *Paraemoia* subgen. nov. (type species *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) within the genus *Aintemoia* gen. nov. is separated from all other species within the genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33.

The subgenus *Aquilonariemoia* subgen. nov. (type species *Emoia ponapea* Kiestler, 1982) within the genus *Emoia* is separated from all other species within the genera *Emoia* Gray, 1845, *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Unfused nasal bones and distinct parietal eye; a palate somewhat intermediate between the alpha and beta types and the unique feature of 13 premaxillary teeth rather than 11, which is otherwise characteristic of other groups of species referred to the genus *Emoia sensu lato*, including the genera and subgenera formally named herein.

Emoia sensu lato including the newly described genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. as well as *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from all other skink genera by the following suite of characters: supranasals present; window in movable lower eyelid; frontoparietals fused; limbs well developed, pentadactyl.

These four characters are shared by all species of the genera. However, one or both of the derived characters (window in movable lower eyelid and frontoparietals fused) also characterize some species of *Lipinia* Gray, 1845 and *Leiopolisma* Duméril and Bibron, 1839 being Lygasomine genera lacking supranasals.

Several additional characters are common to all species of *Emoia sensu lato*. but they are not diagnostic because they are also found in most species of several other genera of skinks. These include:

(1) rostral broader than high; (2) frontal as long as or longer than broad and in contact with two anterior supraoculars; (3) four large supraoculars; (4) parietals large and in contact; (5) ear

prominent, usually with small lobules anteriorly, but always much smaller than eye; (6) rank of adpressed toes from the shortest to the longest: first, second or fifth, third, fourth; (7) tail slender and much longer than body (modified from Brown, 1991).

Distribution: Bougainville, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Etymology: *Silva* in Latin means forest, hence the name means "forest *Emoia*", in reflection of the habitat where the genus is usually found.

Content: *Silvaemoia flavigularis* (Schmidt, 1932); *S. robvalentici* sp. nov.

GENUS *GRISEOLATERUS* GEN. NOV.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:910DEDAA-0B25-47DC-9D02-E6C52CACAB82

Type species: *Emoia erronan* Brown, 1991.

Diagnosis: The genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 were all formerly included in the so-called *E. samoensis* group and are defined and separated from other species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845 below.

The genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845, in which they were formerly included, by the following suite of characters: SVL at maturity of 45-122 mm; snout tapered and slightly to moderately depressed; scales smooth; midbody scale rows 26-42; dorsal scale rows 51-84; subdigital lamellae rounded to moderately thinned, fourth toe lamellae 32-81; frontoparietals fused; interparietal nearly always distinct, ranging from long and narrow to small; nasal bones separate; parietal eye present; palate alpha type; dorsal ground color ranges from greenish or greenish tan to light or rarely dark brown, usually with darker markings on dorsal and upper lateral surfaces and sometimes pale spots or dashes.

This is also an effective diagnosis for the so-called *Emoia samoensis* group.

The genus *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. is separated from the genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following unique combination of characters: Midbody scale rows 36-38; dorsal scale rows between the parietals and the base of tail 77-84; fourth toe lamellae 47-53; first toe lamellae 14-17; interparietal of intermediate length, longer than broad; prefrontals in relatively broad contact; color pattern being a dorsal ground color of greenish tan to dark chocolate-brown; lighter specimens marked by some scattered dark brown flecks or small spots: upper lateral surface with grayish to slate-tan or brown band, marked by row of light blotches or dashes along dorsal margin.

The genus *Notanemoia* gen. nov. (type species *Gongylus concolor* Duméril, 1851) is separated from the genera *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal also long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-65 (sometimes less in *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov.); midbody scale rows 28-36; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68.

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, (type species *Emoa nigra*) is separated from all other species within *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov. and *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. by dorsal body colour. Specimens in this genus are alone in having a dorsum that is uniform dark brown to black from snout onto the tail.

The genus *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.* (type species *Lygosoma samoense loyaltiense* Roux, 1913) can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters being one or other of:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 60-81; Scale rows between parietals and base of tail 56-64; SVL at maturity 68-115 mm; color pattern on dorsum nearly uniform greenish, olivaceous, or brownish, marked by few or many small to large dark spots; head frequently marked by a large brownish patch; (*C. sanfordi*), or:

2/ Snout tapered, narrowly rounded at tip; interparietal distinct, long, longer than broad (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-60, midbody scale rows 30-34; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 62-71 (rarely less than 64); SVL at maturity 60-73 mm; color of dorsum tannish green, of upper lateral surfaces darker grayish tan, marked by some darker blotches; limbs tan with darker brown mottling (*C. loyaltiense*).

The genus *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Fourth toe lamellae 34-60; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal fused with frontoparietals; prefrontals usually in contact; dorsal color brown with scattered dark or vague transverse lines posteriorly; lateral surfaces slightly darker; undersurface of head and neck yellowish or yellowish-greenish.

The genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by one or other of the following 7 suites of characters:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 38-44; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 38-44; midbody scale rows 28-34; color pattern: dorsum greenish or grayish, nearly uniform or with dark flecks or spots; blackish lateral bands or series of dark spots on the upper lateral surface (*A. nigromarginata*), or:

2/ Fourth toe lamellae 45-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 78-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 45-65; midbody scale rows 30-34 (usually 32); color pattern: dorsum nearly uniform greenish to greenish tan, or with brownish to blackish spots, usually forming transverse bands (tiger pattern); without large, yellowish blotches dorsolaterally (*A. samoensis*), or:

3/ Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 72-84. Fourth toe lamellae 36-42; midbody scale rows 40-42 (*A. aneityumensis*), or:

4/ Fourth toe lamellae 43-55; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; rostral forming moderate, slightly concave suture with frontonasal; supranasals slightly broader anteriorly, in contact with anterior loreal; prefrontals narrowly separated to moderately in contact; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad and narrow; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal slightly shorter than, to nearly as long as, posterior and slightly higher, in contact with first and second, second, or first, second and third upper labials; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 66-108 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 43-55; Midbody scale rows 32-40 (rarely less than 34); color feature of dorsum usually brownish marked by a few to numerous whitish dashes (*A. michaelguiheneufi sp. nov.*, *A. mokolahi*, *A. rossadleri sp. nov.*, *A. trossula*), or:

5/ Number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 62-67; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown dorsally and laterally, neck and trunk with transverse series of dark brown irregular-shaped bars; dark bars medium sized and numerous, dark brown postorbital stripe or spot on rear of head and usually on neck; transverse series of bright yellow streaks on neck and trunk; number of fourth finger lamellae 34-42, (*A. oriva*), or:

6/ Interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown, number of middorsal scale rows 59-71 and number of fourth finger lamellae 28-42; dorsal surface of trunk boldly marked with transverse series of bright yellow streaks on background of numerous dark bars; number of fourth toe lamellae 50-65, (*A. tuitarere*), or:

7/ Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33, (*A. parkeri*, *A. dannygoodwini sp. nov.*, *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.*).

The preceding diagnosis for *Aintemoia gen. nov.* could have been distilled significantly to about two character suites, but the longer definition allows identification to species level in most cases.

The subgenus *Paraemoia subgen. nov.* (type species *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) within the genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from all other species within the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33.

The subgenus *Aquilonariemoia subgen. nov.* (type species *Emoia ponapea* Kiestler, 1982) within the genus *Emoia* is separated from all other species within the genera *Emoia* Gray, 1845, *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Unfused nasal bones and distinct parietal eye; a palate somewhat intermediate between the alpha and beta types and the unique feature of 13 premaxillary teeth rather than 11, which is otherwise characteristic of other groups of species referred to the genus *Emoia sensu lato*, including the genera and subgenera formally named herein.

Emoia sensu lato including the newly described genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* as well as *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from all other skink genera by the following suite of characters: supranasals present; window in movable lower eyelid; frontoparietals fused; limbs well developed, pentadactyl.

These four characters are shared by all species of the genera. However, one or both of the derived characters (window in movable lower eyelid and frontoparietals fused) also characterize some species of *Lipinia* Gray, 1845 and *Leiopolisma* Duméril and Bibron, 1839 being Lygasomine genera lacking supranasals.

Several additional characters are common to all species of *Emoia sensu lato*. but they are not diagnostic because they are also found in most species of several other genera of skinks. These include: (1) rostral broader than high; (2) frontal as long as or longer than broad and in contact with two anterior supraoculars; (3) four large supraoculars; (4) parietals large and in contact; (5) ear

prominent, usually with small lobules anteriorly, but always much smaller than eye; (6) rank of adpressed toes from the shortest to the longest: first, second or fifth, third, fourth; (7) tail slender and much longer than body (modified from Brown, 1991).

Distribution: Futuna Island, Vanuatu and nearby islands.

Etymology: The name comes from the Latin which means grey sides, in reflection of the colour of the relevant lizards.

Content: *Griseolaterus erronan* (Brown, 1991).

GENUS AINTEMOIA GEN. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:6A6A2AF8-C609-4984-A7E0-DE51DAAB1D84

Type species: *Gongylus (Eumeces) samoensis* Duméril and Bibron, 1851.

Diagnosis: The genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard*, 1857 were all formerly included in the so-called *E. samoensis* group and are defined and separated from other species in the genus *Emoa* Gray, 1845 below.

The genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard*, 1857 are separated from species in the genus *Emoa* Gray, 1845, in which they were formerly included, by the following suite of characters: SVL at maturity of 45-122 mm; snout tapered and slightly to moderately depressed; scales smooth; midbody scale rows 26-42; dorsal scale rows 51-84; subdigital lamellae rounded to moderately thinned, fourth toe lamellae 32-81; frontoparietals fused; interparietal nearly always distinct, ranging from long and narrow to small; nasal bones separate; parietal eye present; palate alpha type; dorsal ground color ranges from greenish or greenish tan to light or rarely dark brown, usually with darker markings on dorsal and upper lateral surfaces and sometimes pale spots or dashes.

This is an effective diagnosis also for the so-called *Emoa samoensis* group.

The genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard*, 1857 by one or other of the following 7 suites of characters:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 38-44; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae underneath fourth toe 38-44; midbody scale rows 28-34; color pattern: dorsum greenish or grayish, nearly uniform or with dark flecks or spots; blackish lateral bands or series of dark spots on the upper lateral surface (*A. nigromarginata*), or:

2/ Fourth toe lamellae 45-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 78-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 45-65; midbody scale rows 30-34 (usually 32); color pattern: dorsum nearly uniform greenish to greenish tan, or with brownish to blackish spots, usually forming transverse bands (tiger pattern); without large, yellowish blotches dorsolaterally (*A. samoensis*), or:

3/ Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 72-84. Fourth toe lamellae 36-42; midbody scale rows 40-42 (*A. aneytumensis*), or:

4/ Fourth toe lamellae 43-55; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; rostral forming moderate, slightly concave suture with frontonasal; supranasals slightly broader anteriorly, in contact with anterior loreal; prefrontals narrowly separated to moderately in contact; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad and narrow; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal slightly shorter than, to nearly as long as, posterior and slightly higher, in contact with first and

second, second, or first, second and third upper labials; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 66-108 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 43-55; Midbody scale rows 32-40 (rarely less than 34); color feature of dorsum usually brownish marked by a few to numerous whitish dashes (*A. michaelguiheneufi sp. nov.*, *A. mokolahi*, *A. rossadlieri sp. nov.*, *A. trossula*), or:

5/ Number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 62-67; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown dorsally and laterally, neck and trunk with transverse series of dark brown irregular-shaped bars; dark bars medium sized and numerous, dark brown postorbital stripe or spot on rear of head and usually on neck; transverse series of bright yellow streaks on neck and trunk; number of fourth finger lamellae 34-42, (*A. oriva*), or:

6/ Interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown, number of middorsal scale rows 59-71 and number of fourth finger lamellae 28-42; dorsal surface of trunk boldly marked with transverse series of bright yellow streaks on background of numerous dark bars; number of fourth toe lamellae 50-65, (*A. tuitarere*), or:

7/ Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33, (*A. parkeri*, *A. dannygoodwini sp. nov.*, *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.*).

The preceding diagnosis for *Aintemoia gen. nov.* could have been distilled significantly to about two character suites, but the longer definition allows identification to species level in most cases.

The subgenus *Paraemoia subgen. nov.* (type species *Emoa parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) within the genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from all other species within the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard*, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33.

The genus *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* is separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard*, 1857 by the following unique combination of characters: Midbody scale rows 36-38; dorsal scale rows between the parietals and the base of tail 77-84; fourth toe lamellae 47-53; first toe lamellae 14-17; interparietal of intermediate length, longer than broad; prefrontals in relatively broad contact; color pattern being a dorsal ground color of greenish tan to dark chocolate-brown; lighter specimens marked by some scattered dark brown flecks or small spots: upper lateral surface with grayish to slate-tan or brown band, marked by row of light blotches or dashes along dorsal margin.

The genus *Notanemoia gen. nov.* (type species *Gongylus concolor* Duméril, 1851) is separated from the genera *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa Girard*, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal also long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-65 (sometimes less in

Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.; midbody scale rows 28-36; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68.

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, (type species *Emoa nigra*) is separated from all other species within *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* and *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* by dorsal body colour. Specimens in this genus are alone in having a dorsum that is uniform dark brown to black from snout onto the tail.

The genus *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.* (type species *Lygosoma samoense loyaltiense* Roux, 1913) can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters being one or other of:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 60-81; Scale rows between parietals and base of tail 56-64; SVL at maturity 68-115 mm; color pattern on dorsum nearly uniform greenish, olivaceous, or brownish, marked by few or many small to large dark spots; head frequently marked by a large brownish patch; (*C. sanfordi*), or:

2/ Snout tapered, narrowly rounded at tip; interparietal distinct, long, longer than broad (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; number of lamellae under fourth toe 44-60, midbody scale rows 30-34; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 62-71 (rarely less than 64); SVL at maturity 60-73 mm; color of dorsum tannish green, of upper lateral surfaces darker grayish tan, marked by some darker blotches; limbs tan with darker brown mottling (*C. loyaltiense*).

The genus *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Fourth toe lamellae 34-60; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal fused with frontoparietals; prefrontals usually in contact; dorsal color brown with scattered dark or vague transverse lines posteriorly; lateral surfaces slightly darker; undersurface of head and neck yellowish or yellowish-greenish.

The subgenus *Aquilonariemoia subgen. nov.* (type species *Emoia ponapea* Kiestler, 1982) within the genus *Emoia* is separated from all other species within the genera *Emoia* Gray, 1845, *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Unfused nasal bones and distinct parietal eye; a palate somewhat intermediate between the alpha and beta types and the unique feature of 13 premaxillary teeth rather than 11, which is otherwise characteristic of other groups of species referred to the genus *Emoia sensu lato*, including the genera and subgenera formally named herein.

Emoia sensu lato including the newly described genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* as well as *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from all other skink genera by the following suite of characters: supranasals present; window in movable lower eyelid; frontoparietals fused; limbs well developed, pentadactyl.

These four characters are shared by all species of the genera. However, one or both of the derived characters (window in movable lower eyelid and frontoparietals fused) also characterize some species of *Lipinia* Gray, 1845 and *Leiolopisma* Duméril and Bibron, 1839 being Lygasomine genera lacking supranasals.

Several additional characters are common to all species of *Emoia sensu lato*. but they are not diagnostic because they are also found in most species of several other genera of skinks. These include: (1) rostral broader than high; (2) frontal as long as or longer than broad and in contact with two anterior supraoculars; (3) four large supraoculars; (4) parietals large and in contact; (5) ear prominent, usually with small lobules anteriorly, but always much smaller than eye; (6) rank of adpressed toes from the shortest to the longest: first, second or fifth, third, fourth; (7) tail slender and much longer than body (modified from Brown, 1991).

Distribution: Western and American Samoa, Cook Islands, Vanuatu (including Santo, Pentecost, Malakula, Ambrym, Epi, Efate, and Anatom), New Hebrides, Tonga Islands, Rotuma (Fiji), Fiji Islands including Kadavu, Viti Levu, Taveuni, Taveuni, Rotuma Island (Fiji).

Etymology: "Aint: is Australian slang for "is not", hence the name "Aint-*Emoia*" as said literally means, "is not *Emoia*".

Content: *Aintemoia samoensis* (Duméril and Bibron, 1851) (type species); *A. aneityumensis* (Medway, 1974); *A. dannygoodwini sp. nov.*; *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.*; *A. michaelguiheneufi sp. nov.*; *A. mokolahi* (Zug, Ineich, Pregill and Hamilton, 2012); *A. nigromarginata* (Roux, 1913); *A. oriva* Zug, (2012); *A. parkeri* (Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980); *A. rossadlieri sp. nov.*, *A. trossula* (Brown and Gibbons, 1986); *A. tuitarere* (Zug, Hamilton and Austin, 2011).

SUBGENUS *PARAEMOIA* SUBGEN. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:05067961-F476-4836-A2F3-C8DB0A8A2B78

Type species: *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980.

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Paraemoia subgen. nov.* (type species *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) within the genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from all other species within the genera *Emoia*, *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33.

The genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by one or other of the following 7 suites of characters:

1/ Fourth toe lamellae 38-44; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 52-118 mm; number of lamellae below fourth toe 38-44; midbody scale rows 28-34; color pattern: dorsum greenish or grayish, nearly uniform or with dark flecks or spots; blackish lateral bands or series of dark spots on the upper lateral surface (*A. nigromarginata*), or:

2/ Fourth toe lamellae 45-65; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 54-68; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 78-118 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 45-65; midbody scale rows 30-34 (usually 32); color pattern: dorsum nearly uniform greenish to greenish tan, or with brownish to blackish spots, usually forming transverse bands (tiger pattern); without large, yellowish blotches dorsolaterally (*A. samoensis*), or:

3/ Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 72-84.

Fourth toe lamellae 36-42; midbody scale rows 40-42 (*A. aneityumensis*), or:

4/ Fourth toe lamellae 43-55; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; rostral forming moderate, slightly concave suture with frontonasal; supranasals slightly broader anteriorly, in contact with anterior loreal; prefrontals narrowly separated to moderately in contact; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad and narrow; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal slightly shorter than, to nearly as long as, posterior and slightly higher, in contact with first and second, second, or first, second and third upper labials; ground

color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 66-108 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 43-55; Midbody scale rows 32-40 (rarely less than 34); color feature of dorsum usually brownish marked by a few to numerous whitish dashes (*A. michaelguiheneufi* sp. nov., *A. mokolahi*, *A. rossadleri* sp. nov., *A. trossula*), or:

5/ Number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 62-67; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown dorsally and laterally, neck and trunk with transverse series of dark brown irregular-shaped bars; dark bars medium sized and numerous, dark brown postorbital stripe or spot on rear of head and usually on neck; transverse series of bright yellow streaks on neck and trunk; number of fourth finger lamellae 34-42, (*A. oriva*), or:

6/ Interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; ground color dark coppery brown to medium brown, number of middorsal scale rows 59-71 and number of fourth finger lamellae 28-42; dorsal surface of trunk boldly marked with transverse series of bright yellow streaks on background of numerous dark bars; number of fourth toe lamellae 50-65, (*A. tuitarere*), or:

7/ Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33, (*A. parkeri*, *A. dannygoodwini* sp. nov., *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov.).

The preceding diagnosis for *Aintemoia* gen. nov. could have been distilled significantly to about two character suites, but the longer definition allows identification to species level in most cases. The genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 were all formerly included in the so-called *E. samoensis* group and are defined and separated from other species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845 below.

The genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845, in which they were formerly included, by the following suite of characters: SVL at maturity of 45-122 mm; snout tapered and slightly to moderately depressed; scales smooth; midbody scale rows 26-42; dorsal scale rows 51-84; subdigital lamellae rounded to moderately thinned, fourth toe lamellae 32-81; frontoparietals fused; interparietal nearly always distinct, ranging from long and narrow to small; nasal bones separate; parietal eye present; palate alpha type; dorsal ground color ranges from greenish or greenish tan to light or rarely dark brown, usually with darker markings on dorsal and upper lateral surfaces and sometimes pale spots or dashes.

Emoia sensu lato including the newly described genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. as well as *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from all other skink genera by the following suite of characters: supranasals present; window in movable lower eyelid; frontoparietals fused; limbs well developed, pentadactyl.

These four characters are shared by all species of the genera. However, one or both of the derived characters (window in moveable lower eyelid and frontoparietals fused) also characterize some species of *Lipinia* Gray, 1845 and *Leiolopisma* Duméril and Bibron, 1839 being Lygasomine genera lacking supranasals. Several additional characters are common to all species of *Emoia sensu lato*. but they are not diagnostic because they are also found in most species of several other genera of skinks. These include: (1) rostral broader than high; (2) frontal as long as or longer than broad and in contact with two anterior supraoculars; (3) four large supraoculars; (4) parietals large and in contact; (5) ear prominent, usually with small lobules anteriorly, but always much

smaller than eye; (6) rank of adpressed toes from the shortest to the longest: first, second or fifth, third, fourth; (7) tail slender and much longer than body (modified from Brown, 1991).

Etymology: Para in Latin means near or almost and hence the full subgenus name means "almost *Emoia*".

Content: *Cannotbeemoia* (*Paraemoia*) *parkeri* (Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) (type species); *A. dannygoodwini* sp. nov.; *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov..

GENUS CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS GEN. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:46EE6971-2499-40D4-B135-BFE98397F89B

Type species: *Mocoo caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892.

Diagnosis: The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-called superspecies known until now as *Emoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Not properly determined, but believed to include The Marianas. Carolines. Marshalls, Palau and Fiji in the Pacific Basin region, and Vanuatu. Solomons. Bismarcks, New Guinea. Moluccas, Celebes, and at least northern Borneo and southern Philippines (Brown, 1991).

Etymology: *Caeruleocaudascincus* in Latin literally means blue tailed skink.

Content: *Caeruleocaudascincus caeruleocauda* (De Vis, 1892) (type species); *C. brettbarnetti* sp. nov., *C. clivebennetti* sp. nov.; *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov.; *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov.; *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.; *C. jaibennetti* sp. nov.; *C. kamahlbennetti* sp. nov.; *C. lucybennettae* sp. nov.; *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov.; *C. triviale* (Schüz, 1929); *C. wernerii* (Vogt, 1912); *C. williambennetti* sp. nov..

GENUS VENTRIPALLIDUSCINCUS GEN. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:FCA3E8DC-8B8F-474B-A893-DAC39B50661B

Type species: *Emoia schmidti* Brown, 1953.

Diagnosis: The genus *Ventripalliduscincus* gen. nov. has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes only the species until now known as *Emoia schmidti* Brown, 1953 and the species *Ventripalliduscincus graysonoconnori* sp. nov. until now treated as a population of the former. Both are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11; Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Nasal bones not fused; palate beta-type; scale rows between parietals and base of tail 49-64; interparietal fused with frontoparietals. Pale, narrow middorsal stripe absent from head and usually from body (if present on body, grayish tan to golden light brown in colour, not less than two scale rows in breadth and not well-defined on the upper edge). Midbody scale rows 30-36; number of thin, blade-like fourth toe lamellae is 69-83; ground color of middorsal region (two full-scale rows and two half-scale rows) grayish tan to golden light brown, which merges anteriorly with the bronze-brown of the neck and head. The narrow, pale dorsolateral stripes begin in the supraclavicular region; upper lateral surfaces dark brown to blackish with scattered pale scales. The tail is grey to blue-green and with darker markings which in *Ventripalliduscincus graysonoconnori* sp. nov. forms a pattern of paired spots (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: New Georgia and associated smaller islands in the Solomons.

Etymology: *Ventripallidusscincus* in Latin means pale bellied skink.

Content: *Ventripallidusscincus schmidtii* (Brown, 1953) (type species); *V. graysonoconnori* sp. nov. (this paper).

SUBGENUS AQUILONARIEMOIA SUBGEN. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:26BE9B1E-AF5D-4960-A6B5-26E4F8829D1F

Type species: *Emoia ponapea* Kiestler, 1982.

Diagnosis: The subgenus *Aquilonariemoia* subgen. nov. (type species *Emoia ponapea* Kiestler, 1982) within the genus *Emoia* is separated from all other species within the genera *Emoia*, *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Unfused nasal bones and distinct parietal eye; a palate somewhat intermediate between the alpha and beta types and the unique feature of 13 premaxillary teeth rather than 11, which is otherwise characteristic of other groups of species referred to the genus *Emoia sensu lato*, including the genera and subgenera formally named herein.

The genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 were all formerly included in the so-called *E. samoensis* group and are defined and separated from other species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845 below.

The genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845, in which they were formerly included, by the following suite of characters: SVL at maturity of 45-122 mm; snout tapered and slightly to moderately depressed; scales smooth; midbody scale rows 26-42; dorsal scale rows 51-84; subdigital lamellae rounded to moderately thinned, fourth toe lamellae 32-81; frontoparietals fused; interparietal nearly always distinct, ranging from long and narrow to small; nasal bones separate; parietal eye present; palate alpha type; dorsal ground color ranges from greenish or greenish tan to light or rarely dark brown, usually with darker markings on dorsal and upper lateral surfaces and sometimes pale spots or dashes.

Emoia sensu lato including the newly described genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. as well as *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from all other skink genera by the following suite of characters: supranasals present; window in movable lower eyelid; frontoparietals fused; limbs well developed, pentadactyl.

These four characters are shared by all species of the genera. However, one or both of the derived characters (window in moveable lower eyelid and frontoparietals fused) also characterize some species of *Lipinia* Gray, 1845 and *Leiopolisma* Duméril and Bibron, 1839 being Lygasomine genera lacking supranasals.

Several additional characters are common to all species of *Emoia sensu lato*. but they are not diagnostic because they are also found in most species of several other genera of skinks. These include: (1) rostral broader than high; (2) frontal as long as or longer than broad and in contact with two anterior supraoculars; (3) four large supraoculars; (4) parietals large and in contact; (5) ear prominent, usually with small lobules anteriorly, but always much smaller than eye; (6) rank of adpressed toes from the shortest to the longest: first, second or fifth, third, fourth; (7) tail slender and much longer than body (modified from Brown, 1991).

Etymology: Aquilonaris means northern in Latin. Hence *Aquilonariemoia* translates roughly as northern *Emoia* in reflection of the northern distribution of the subgenus.

Content: *Cannotbeemoia* (*Aquilonariemoia*) *ponapea* (Kiestler, 1982) (monotypic).

GENUS SHIRENHOSERSINCUS GEN. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:9537C64A-FB53-420C-B282-470F815C23E2

Type species: *Shirenhoserscincus shirenhoserae* sp. nov. (this paper).

Diagnosis: *Shirenhoserscincus* gen. nov. as a genus includes the putative species *Lygosoma stellatum* Boulenger, 1900 and in effect includes that putative species only as recognized to date by authors who have reviewed the species complex, including most importantly Taylor, 1963 and more recently Bacon (1967) as well as Stuart and Emmett (2006). That putative species is herein split four ways, using two existing names and formally naming two other species for the first time, based on well-established geographical disjunction of populations combined with significant morphological divergence between each, further separated by significant long-term habitat and competing species boundaries.

The genus *Sphenomorphus sensu lato* Strauch 1887 is a paraphyletic assemblage of species diagnosed as follows: lacking supranasal scales, has a deeply sunk tympanum, five digits on both limbs, fewer than 30 subdigital lamellae on the fourth toe, two rows of supradigital scales on the fourth toe, inner preanal scales overlapping the outer preanal scales and lower eyelids composed of multiple small scales (Lim 1998; Taylor 1963).

This diagnosis also applies to *Shirenhoserscincus* gen. nov.

Shirenhoserscincus gen. nov. is however separated from *Sphenomorphus* and therefore diagnosed as separate, by having an external ear opening present; 22-24 mid-body scale rows; two median rows of dorsal scales that are distinctly widened as opposed to the other dorsal scale; an absence of white edges to the free margins of the upper and lower eyelids; adpressed limbs overlapping; convex rostral; a pair of enlarged preanal scales; bronze-brown coloration above, with scattered, light-colored spots; black spots forming vertebral and dorsolateral longitudinal stripes on body; black spots on upper and lower lips; and tail lighter in coloration than body, with narrow, transverse, black bands not connecting ventrally.

The species described as *Lygosoma annamiticum* Boettger, 1901 Type locality: Phuc-son (Vietnam), since synonymised with "*Sphenomorphus stellatus*" is in fact a separate and geographically disjunct species. It is differentiated from the latter by reddish, as opposed to bluish iris in life and a dorsal pattern including mottled black pigment down the midline tending to form an ill-defined and irregular shaped line, versus no such arrangement in *S. stellatus* and for other diagnostic differences and reasons given elsewhere in this paper or in Table 1, at the top of page 28 of Bacon (1967).

Two other species in the genus, formerly treated as conspecific with "*Sphenomorphus stellatus*" are formally named for the first time in this paper and included in this genus.

The four species, now comprising the total in this newly named genus are readily separated from one another by the comparative diagnostic characters published in Table 1, at the top of page 28 of Bacon (1967), under the headings "South Viet Nam", "Thailand", "Borneo" and "Malaya", the first and fourth of these corresponding to two previously named species and the other two columns corresponding to the two species named in this paper.

Distribution: Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Peninsular Malaysia, Borneo.

Etymology: The name *Shirenhoserscincus* literally means Shireen Hoser Skink, named in honour of my wife, Shireen Hoser in recognition of many years important wildlife conservation work. The gender assignment is intended as in Australian slang terms it is said that this woman has "balls".

Content: *Shirenhoserscincus stellatus* (Boulenger, 1900) (type species); *S. annamiticum* (Boettger, 1901); *S. daranini* sp. nov. (this paper); *S. shirenhoserae* sp. nov. (this paper).

EMOIA KIMANIADILBODENI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:89409DCF-AEF5-465E-89AF-9BC392AD0ADE

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Natural History, London, UK, specimen number: 1984.994 collected from Mt. Nok, Waigeo Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Natural History, London, UK, specimen number: 1984.995 collected from

Mt. Nok, Waigeo Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

Diagnosis: *Emoia kimaniadilbodeni* sp. nov. from Mount Nok, Waigeo Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia is similar in most respects to *Emoia oribata* Brown, 1953, to which it would key out as using the diagnosis in Brown (1991).

However *E. kimaniadilbodeni* sp. nov. differ in color pattern from that typical of all other similar or closely related species including *E. oribata*. They lack the distinctive mottled pattern on the sides of the neck and flanks typical of *E. oribata* Brown, 1953 and they lack the dorsal, transverse banded pattern typical of *E. oribata*.

They have more prominent whitish spots on the side of the neck and anterior flanks than does the similar *E. tropidolepis* (Boulenger, 1914) and also lack the pale dorsolateral line, which is common for that species. *E. kimaniadilbodeni* sp. nov. is further diagnosed by having distinct nuchals and three to five strong keels on the dorsal scales, which distinguish them from *E. callisticta* (Peters and Doria, 1878). Premaxillary teeth number about 11; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44, large parietal scale is absent, sixth upper labial is enlarged and under the eye.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality, Mt. Nok, Waigeo Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

Etymology: Named in honour of Kimani Adil Boden, a human rights lawyer based in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. See the full etymology in Hoser (2018a).

EMOIA TIMDALEI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:04178ADB-6282-49D4-9BD3-AB1CD9277658

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Natural History, London, UK, specimen number 1984.991 collected from Mount Baduri, Japen (AKA Yapen) Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: *Emoia timdalei* sp. nov. is separated from all other similar species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845 in the so-called “*baudini*” species group, as defined by Brown (1991) at pages 15-17, by the following unique combination of characters: Head and snout moderately tapered and depressed; dorsal scales smooth; midbody scale rows 31-42; dorsal scale rows 42-68; subdigital lamellae under fourth toe rounded, numbering 23-48; interparietal fused with frontoparietal (rarely separated); anterior loreal shorter and higher than posterior; sixth upper labial enlarged and beneath eye; nasal bones fused; parietal eye absent; palate alpha type; dorsal ground color iridescent tan, or olive brown with or without darker markings including on neck not including white spots on the lower side of neck; lateral surfaces usually with a darker band. The preceding suite of characters also separates this species from all other species within *Emoia* as defined herein (this paper), as well as the genera formally named for the first time within this paper, that included species previously placed within *Emoia sensu lato* or within *Emoia* as defined by Brown (1991).

Distribution: Known only from the type locality of Mount Baduri, Japen Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

Etymology: Named in honour of Tim Dale of Warrandyte, Victoria, Australia in recognition for his services to downhill snow skiing and snowboarding in Australia.

EMOIA KARKARENSIS SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:3949E073-6BCA-4A92-8F8D-97C7D8C1B8BE

Holotype: A preserved specimen in the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.24708 collected at Miak, Karkar Island, Madang District, Papua New Guinea, Latitude 4.60 S., Longitude 145.90 E. The Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 31 preserved specimens in the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen numbers R24713-14, R24716-17, R24755, R24935-41, R25408, R25538, R25675-76, R25724, R26726, R25106-07, R25200, R25210, R25594-95, R25600, R25644, R25759, R26023, R28861-62 and R28874.

Diagnosis: *Emoia karkarensis* sp. nov. known only from Kar Kar

Island, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea, has until now been treated as an insular population of *Emoia obscura* (de Jong, 1927) as defined by Brown (1991). However it is most readily separated from *E. obscura* and the similar newly described species *E. tonylovelinayi* sp. nov. on the basis that the dorsum has numerous spots arranged in a relatively indistinct pattern, versus only a few spots on dorsum in *E. obscura* and *E. tonylovelinayi* sp. nov. as well as a yellowish white venter, versus greyish white venter in *E. obscura* and *E. tonylovelinayi* sp. nov..

Brown (1991), in table 4 on page 25, showed statistically significant differences between *Emoia karkarensis* sp. nov. (identified as a population of *E. obscura*), *E. tonylovelinayi* sp. nov. from Central Province, PNG, (also identified as a population of *E. obscura*) and *E. obscura sensu stricto* (treated herein as the entirety of that species-level taxon) from Irian Jaya in terms of counts of dorsal scale rows, mid-body scale rows and the position of the upper labial under the eye (5 or 6).

In summary, *E. karkarensis* sp. nov. averages a statistically significantly lower average count for mid-body and dorsal scale rows than the other two species, based on sizeable samples.

E. obscura has the sixth upper labial connecting with the eye, versus the fifth in both *E. karkarensis* sp. nov. and *E. tonylovelinayi* sp. nov..

E. tonylovelinayi sp. nov. shares the same dorsal colouration as *E. obscura*, separating it from *E. karkarensis* sp. nov., other than the obvious small spots on the limbs, which it shares with *E. karkarensis* sp. nov., in turn separating it from *E. obscura*.

Distribution: *Emoia karkarensis* sp. nov. is known only from Kar Kar Island, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea.

Etymology: Named in reflection of where this taxon is known to occur, namely Kar Kar Island, Papua New Guinea.

EMOIA TONYLOVELINAYI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:5BC8FB50-8FD7-4D74-9C4D-81B436A192AF

Holotype: A preserved specimen in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA, specimen number AMNH 74060, collected at Cape Vogel, Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea, Latitude 9.67 S., Longitude 150.02 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 9 preserved specimens in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA, specimen numbers AMNH 74030, 74154, 74160, 74172, 74183, 74196, 74207, 74252 and 74316 collected at Cape Vogel, Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea, Latitude 9.67 S., Longitude 150.02 E.

Diagnosis: *Emoia karkarensis* sp. nov. known only from Kar Kar Island, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea, has until now been treated as an insular population of *Emoia obscura* (de Jong, 1927) as defined by Brown (1991). However it is most readily separated from *E. obscura* and the similar species *Emoia tonylovelinayi* sp. nov. on the basis that the dorsum has numerous spots arranged in a relatively indistinct pattern, versus only a few spots on dorsum in *E. obscura* and *E. tonylovelinayi* sp. nov. as well as a yellowish white venter, versus greyish white venter in *E. obscura* and *E. tonylovelinayi* sp. nov..

Brown (1991), in table 4 on page 25, showed statistically significant differences between *Emoia karkarensis* sp. nov. (identified as a population of *E. obscura*), *E. tonylovelinayi* sp. nov. from Central Province, PNG, (also identified as a population of *E. obscura*) and *E. obscura sensu stricto* (treated herein as the entirety of that species-level taxon) from Irian Jaya in terms of counts of dorsal scale rows, mid-body scale rows and the position of the upper labial under the eye (5 or 6).

In summary, *E. karkarensis* sp. nov. averages a statistically significantly lower average count for mid-body and dorsal scale rows than the other two species, based on sizeable samples.

E. obscura has the sixth upper labial connecting with the eye, versus the fifth in both *E. karkarensis* sp. nov. and *E. tonylovelinayi* sp. nov..

E. tonylovelinayi sp. nov. shares the same dorsal colouration as *E. obscura*, separating it from *E. karkarensis* sp. nov., other than the

obvious small spots on the limbs, which it shares with *E. karkarensis* sp. nov., in turn separating it from *E. obscura*.

Distribution: Island New Guinea, generally west of the Huon Peninsula, including, Morobe, Northern Province, Central Province and Milne Bay.

Etymology: Named in honour of Tony Love-Linay of Taylors Lakes, Victoria, Australia and also Albury-Woodonga, Australia and his fantastic staff at Reconnect Telecommunications, who runs a network of mobile phone stores across southern New South Wales and Victoria in recognition of his assistances to the local community and their telecommunications needs, various overseas charities he works with and assisting Snakebusters, Australia's best reptiles shows with logistical support for their ongoing wildlife conservation and research programmes in south-east Australia, including via telecommunications support, printing and copying. On one occasion Tony Love-Linay did emergency motor vehicle repairs to a severely immobilized Toyota Land Cruiser that he meticulously removed the engine from, pulled apart into numerous fragments laid across the floor of the lounge of the Snakeman's house and then diligently re-assembled in working order.

EMOIA ANGGIGIDAENSIS SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:894854B9-20D8-4C89-BD5A-9340C8BBC1E9

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, specimen number: BPBM 6880, collected at Kampong Surerei, Anggi Gida Lake, Irian Jaya, Indonesia, Latitude 1.36 S., Longitude 133.86 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 30 preserved specimens at the The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, specimen numbers BPBM 6881-95, 6897-916, 6918, 6921-22, 6924-25, collected at Anggi Gida Lake, Irian Jaya, Indonesia, Latitude 1.36 S., Longitude 133.86 E.

Diagnosis: *Emoia anggigidaensis* sp. nov. known only from the immediate vicinity of the type locality at Anggi Gida Lake, Irian Jaya, Indonesia has until now been treated as a regional and divergent population of *Emoia bogerti* (Brown, 1953) as defined by Brown (1991). It is however readily separated from that species from further east in Irian Barat by lower counts for midbody and dorsal scale rows. These are 30-31 midbody scale rows in *E. anggigidaensis* sp. nov. versus 32-33 in *E. bogerti* from the type locality of that taxon and the nearby areas it occurs, being Wissel Lakes and Baliem areas in Irian Jaya. *E. anggigidaensis* sp. nov. has 56-58 dorsal scale rows versus 59-60 in *E. bogerti*.

Distribution: *Emoia anggigidaensis* sp. nov. is known only from the immediate vicinity of the type locality at Anggi Gida Lake, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

Etymology: Named in reflection of where the species occurs, namely Anggi Gida Lake in Irian Jaya (noting that the spelling of the locality is subject to variation).

EMOIA STEFANBROGHAMMERI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:6BC6BA3F-293A-43B3-9DE2-40183B8C6A9D

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Natural History in London, UK, specimen number BMNH 1984.912.945 collected at Mount Nok, Waigeo Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: *Emoia stefanbroghammeri* sp. nov. has until now been referred to as a western population of *Emoia veracunda* Brown, 1953, as diagnosed by Brown (1991) at page 26. It is however readily separated from *E. veracunda* by having 46-49 dorsal scale rows, versus 43-45 in *E. veracunda*. *E. stefanbroghammeri* sp. nov. is further separated from *E. veracunda* by having 35-37 fourth toe lamellae, versus 31-33 in *E. veracunda*.

Emoia euanedwardsi sp. nov. from the Mimika and Otakwa drainages in southern Irian Jaya are similar in most respects to *E. stefanbroghammeri* sp. nov. (see above), including by having 46-49 dorsal scale rows, but are separated from that species and *E. veracunda* by having 34 fourth toe lamellae.

Distribution: *Emoia stefanbroghammeri* sp. nov. includes all

populations previously referred to as *E. veracunda* Brown, 1953 from west of Japen Island (inclusive) in Irian Jaya and either north of the central cordillera or in the Vogelkop region and immediately adjacent islands. Specimens from the east of Irian Jaya and northern Papua New Guinea, and the far east of New Guinea referred to as *E. veracunda* remain as that species. Specimens referred to as *E. veracunda* from the Mimika and Otakwa drainages in southern Irian Jaya are now referred to as the new species *E. euanedwardsi* sp. nov..

Etymology: Named in honour of well-known German snake breeder and businessman, Stefan Broghammer, who happens to be the world's foremost expert on "Ball Pythons", usually referred to as "*Python regius* (Shaw, 1802)" in recognition to his services to conservation spanning many decades. The genus *Broghammerus* (for the Reticulated and Timor Pythons) was also named in his honour. The name "*Malayopython*" later coined by Wolfgang Wuster and his gang of thieves is an illegal junior synonym and should not be used.

The originally published papers naming "*Malayopython*", being published in several non-identical forms explicitly breached Article 8.1.3 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ride et al. 1999) and is therefore not an available name under the Code.

EMOIA EUANEDWARDSI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:0D3964D1-CB9C-47A6-9AFD-D783B7AA4BD5

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Natural History in London, UK, specimen number BMNH 1913.10.31.155-164.a-e collected at Mimika River, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: *Emoia stefanbroghammeri* sp. nov. has until now been referred to as a western population of *Emoia veracunda* Brown, 1953, as diagnosed by Brown (1991) at page 26. It is however readily separated from *E. veracunda* by having 46-49 dorsal scale rows, versus 43-45 in *E. veracunda*. *E. stefanbroghammeri* sp. nov. is further separated from *E. veracunda* by having 35-37 fourth toe lamellae, versus 31-33 in *E. veracunda*.

Emoia euanedwardsi sp. nov. from the Mimika and Otakwa drainages in southern Irian Jaya are similar in most respects to *E. stefanbroghammeri* sp. nov. (see above), including by having 46-49 dorsal scale rows, but are separated from that species and *E. veracunda* by having 34 fourth toe lamellae.

Distribution: *Emoia stefanbroghammeri* sp. nov. includes all populations previously referred to as *E. veracunda* Brown, 1953 from west of Japen Island (inclusive) in Irian Jaya and either north of the central cordillera or in the Vogelkop region and immediately adjacent islands. Specimens from the east of Irian Jaya and northern New Guinea, and the far east of New Guinea referred to as *E. veracunda* remain as that species. Specimens referred to as *E. veracunda* from the Mimika and Otakwa drainages in southern Irian Jaya are now referred to as the new species *E. euanedwardsi* sp. nov..

Etymology: Named in honour of well-known Australian herpetologist, Euan Edwards of the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia for services to wildlife conservation and herpetology spanning some decades, including by way of significant fieldwork in various parts of the world including Africa, Madagascar, Australia and the United States of America.

EMOIA MARTINMULVANYI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B9C9BD65-D3A3-4032-A8E6-6263462119B4

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Natural History in London, UK, specimen number 1984.907-909 collected at Mount Nok, Waigeo Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: Both *Emoia martinmulvanyi* sp. nov. and *E. paulmulvanyi* sp. nov. have until now been treated as populations of *E. klossi* (Boulenger, 1914) as diagnosed by Brown (1991).

All three species are unique in the so-called *E. baudini* (Duméril and Bibron, 1839) group of species group by their significantly larger adult size and relatively longer limbs as detailed by Brown

(1991). The three species are also different from the rest in the species group in that the seventh upper labial is enlarged and below the eye, as opposed to number 5 or 6 in all other species.

Emoia martinmulvanyi sp. nov. is separated from the other two species by the presence of very slight keels (absent in the other two). *E. paulmulvanyi* sp. nov. is separated from *E. klossi* by having 44-46 fourth toe lamellae, versus 42 in *E. klossi* and 32-34 midbody scale rows versus 30 in *E. klossi*.

Distribution: *Emoia martinmulvanyi* sp. nov. is currently known only from Waigeo Island Irian Jaya, Indonesia. *E. paulmulvanyi* sp. nov. is known only from the East Sepik Province in the north of Papua New Guinea. *E. klossi* is currently only known from the Utakwa River area south of the central cordillera in Irian Jaya.

Etymology: Named in honour of Martin Mulvany of Blackburn, Victoria, Australia, owner of "One Man's Trash" in recognition to his services to wildlife conservation through his logistical assistances to Snakebusters, Australia's best reptile shows in Melbourne, Australia.

EMOIA PAULMULVANYI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:32B437C0-AAD2-4F1C-8151-9B0D60E78D57

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, USA, specimen number R100274 collected at Mount Nibo, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: Both *Emoia paulmulvanyi* sp. nov. and *E. martinmulvanyi* sp. nov. have until now been treated as populations of *E. klossi* (Boulenger, 1914) as diagnosed by Brown (1991).

All three species are unique in the so-called *E. baudini* (Duméril and Bibron, 1839) group of species group by their significantly larger adult size and relatively longer limbs as detailed by Brown (1991). The three species are also different from the rest in the species group in that the seventh upper labial is enlarged and below the eye, as opposed to number 5 or 6 in all other species.

Emoia paulmulvanyi sp. nov. is separated from *E. klossi* by having 44-46 fourth toe lamellae, versus 42 in *E. klossi* and 32-34 midbody scale rows versus 30 in *E. klossi*. *E. martinmulvanyi* sp. nov. is separated from the other two species by the presence of very slight keels (absent in the other two).

Distribution: *Emoia paulmulvanyi* sp. nov. is known only from the East Sepik Province in the north of Papua New Guinea. *E. martinmulvanyi* sp. nov. is currently only known from Waigeo Island Irian Jaya, Indonesia. *E. klossi* is currently only known from the Utakwa River area south of the central cordillera in Irian Jaya.

Etymology: Named in honour of Paul Mulvany of Blackburn, Victoria, Australia in recognition to his services to wildlife conservation through his logistical assistances to Snakebusters, Australia's best reptile shows in Melbourne, Australia, including through emergency repairs to the reptile breeding facility as required. See also Hoser (2012) at pages 71-72.

EMOIA PAULWOOLFI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:EC470A11-C281-4D7F-9F6B-97FF44A03C29

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA, specimen number CAS HERP 107754 collected at Mendi in the Southern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea, Latitude 6.14 S., Longitude 143.66 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 5 preserved specimens at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA, specimen number CAS HERP 107756-107760 collected at Mendi in the Southern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea, Latitude 6.14 S., Longitude 143.66 E.

Diagnosis: Both *Emoia paulwoolffi* sp. nov. and *Emoia jamesbondi* sp. nov. have until now been treated as populations of *Emoia loveridgei* Brown (1953) as defined by Brown (1991). *E. loveridgei* is herein restricted to the region north-west of the Huon Peninsula, north of the central cordillera, through northern Papua New Guinea and nearby parts of Irian Jaya. *E. paulwoolffi* sp. nov. from south of

the Cordillera in Southern Highlands, Western Highlands and Western Provinces in Papua New Guinea is readily separated from *E. loveridgei* by having 51-58 dorsal scale rows, versus 45-50 (rarely higher) in *E. loveridgei*.

E. loveridgei is readily separated from the other two species by having a head and tail noticeably darker in colour than the rest of the body, versus not so in the other two species. *E. jamesbondi* sp. nov. from the north side of the central cordillera, south-east of the Huon Peninsula in Papua New Guinea is separated from both *E. loveridgei* and *E. paulwoolffi* sp. nov. by the presence of a thick, well defined white-lateral line on the lower flank, bounded on the upper side by blackish-brown versus somewhat thinner and less well defined and bounded by dark brown in the other two species. *E. jamesbondi* sp. nov. also has distinct irregular light markings on the limbs, not seen in either *E. loveridgei* and *E. paulwoolffi* sp. nov.. *E. jamesbondi* sp. nov. is depicted in life in Brown (1991) page 30 at top.

Distribution: *E. paulwoolffi* sp. nov. is confined to the region south of the Cordillera in Southern Highlands, Western Highlands and Western Provinces in Papua New Guinea.

Etymology: Named in honour of Paul Woolf of Walloon in Queensland, Australia for services to herpetology spanning many decades, including as foundation president of the Herpetological Society of Queensland Incorporated. He also performed a valuable role in facilitating the legalization of private ownership of reptiles in Australia post-dating a 20 year period in which it was effectively banned in Australia (1973-1993).

EMOIA JAMESBONDI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:0F19ED2A-57A1-4CF9-8C62-F7BEB5D45AF2

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.80865 collected at Bulolo, Morobe District, Papua New Guinea Latitude 7.11 S., Longitude 146.39 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.80866 collected at Bulolo, Morobe District, Papua New Guinea Latitude 7.11 S., Longitude 146.39 E.

2/ A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R.64542 collected at Wau, Morobe District, Papua New Guinea, Latitude 7.20 S., Longitude 146.43 E.

Diagnosis: Both *Emoia jamesbondi* sp. nov. and *Emoia paulwoolffi* sp. nov. have until now been treated as populations of *Emoia loveridgei* Brown (1953) as defined by Brown (1991). *E. loveridgei* is herein restricted to the region north-west of the Huon Peninsula, north of the central cordillera, through northern Papua New Guinea and nearby parts of Irian Jaya. *E. paulwoolffi* sp. nov. from south of the Cordillera in Southern Highlands, Western Highlands and Western Provinces in Papua New Guinea is readily separated from *E. loveridgei* by having 51-58 dorsal scale rows, versus 45-50 (rarely higher) in *E. loveridgei*.

E. loveridgei is readily separated from the other two species by having a head and tail noticeably darker in colour than the rest of the body, versus not so in the other two species. *E. jamesbondi* sp. nov. from the north side of the central cordillera, south-east of the Huon Peninsula in Papua New Guinea is separated from both *E. loveridgei* and *E. paulwoolffi* sp. nov. by the presence of a thick, well defined white-lateral line on the lower flank, bounded on the upper side by blackish-brown versus somewhat thinner and less well defined and bounded by dark brown in the other two species. *E. jamesbondi* sp. nov. also has distinct irregular light markings on the limbs, not seen in either *E. loveridgei* and *E. paulwoolffi* sp. nov.. *E. jamesbondi* sp. nov. is depicted in life in Brown (1991) page 30 at top.

Distribution: *E. jamesbondi* sp. nov. occurs on the north side of the central cordillera, south-east of the Huon Peninsula in Papua New Guinea

Etymology: Named in honour of James Bond of Park Orchards,

Victoria, Australia for services to herpetology including his valuable assistances with the day-to-day tasks of running Snakebusters: Australia's best reptiles shows and the scientific research projects of this author and the rest of the dedicated team.

EMOIA RICHARDWARNERI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:0AF43673-A4F9-4AA4-887B-1A9D2856E420

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, specimen number: MCZ 112250 collected at Mimika River in southern Irian Jaya (erroneously listed as a specimen of "*Emoia baudini*"). This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen in the Museum of Natural History, London, UK, specimen number BMNH 1913.10.31,164F, from the Mimika River in southern Irian Jaya.

Diagnosis: *Emoia richardwarneri* sp. nov. has until now been treated as a western outlier population of *E. physicina* Brown and Parker, 1985 as defined by Brown (1991), being known only from the Mimika River area in south west Irian Jaya. However it can be readily separated from *E. physicina* from south-western Papua New Guinea and immediately adjacent Irian Jaya by the presence of strongly keeled dorsals versus only weakly keeled in *E. physicina*.

E. richardwarneri sp. nov. and *E. physicina* Brown and Parker, 1985 are separated from all other species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and genera consisting species formerly treated as being within *Emoia* as identified in this paper by the following suite of characters: One pair of enlarged nuchals; dorsal scales with three to five weak or strong keels, barely overlapping, not forming points at posterior edge of scale and strictly limited to posterior half of body. Fifth (rarely sixth) upper labial enlarged and below eye; number of dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail is 45-52 (usually less than 50), 35-42 fourth toe lamellae, snout-vent-length at maturity is 38-51 mm, dorsal ground colour is a medium brown with or without darker spots outside vertebral rows. 5-6 rows of the upper lateral surface are darker brown, nearly uniform or with scattered pale scales.

Distribution: *E. richardwarneri* sp. nov. is known only from the area of the type locality being the Mimika River area in south west Irian Jaya.

Etymology: Named in honour of Richard Warner of Donvale, Victoria, Australia for his extended services to the care of the elderly and otherwise disabled people, done over many years and without ever asking for payment or any other financial rewards. See also Hoser (2017) at page 22.

EMOIA MORRIEDORISIOI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:1EAACC55-34F5-4941-9A0C-EF93CA1D0D9F

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, specimen number Herp-BPBM 10602, collected in the vicinity of the Frieda Mining Base Camp, (Frieda River project), Western Province, Papua New Guinea.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, specimen numbers Herp-BPBM 10603 and Herp-BPBM 10604, collected in the vicinity of the Frieda Mining Base Camp, (Frieda River project), Western Province, Papua New Guinea.

Diagnosis: Until now *Emoia morriedorisioi* sp. nov. has been treated as a southern (PNG) population of the species *E. battersbyi* (Proctor, 1923), as defined by Brown (1991), known from north of the Central Cordillera, from Toem and Jobi Island in Irian Jaya in the west, through lowland areas to the east as far as Lae, Huon Gulf. *Lygosoma ahli* Vogt, 1932 is a synonym of *E. battersbyi* (Shea, 2016).

Emoia morriedorisioi sp. nov. is readily separated from *E. battersbyi* by having less than 40 lamellae under the fourth toe, versus more than 40 in *E. battersbyi*.

Both *E. morriedorisioi* sp. nov. and *E. battersbyi* are separated from all other *Emoia* species by the following suite of characters: One pair of enlarged nuchals, 47-56 dorsal scale rows between the

parietals and base of tail, 32-40 mid-body scale rows, three to five weak keels on the dorsal scales, dorsal colour not exhibiting dark and light transverse bands, 38-59 rounded lamellae on the fourth toe, sixth (rarely number 5 or 7) upper labial is enlarged and below the eye (derived from Brown 1991).

Distribution: *E. morriedorisioi* sp. nov. is known only from the vicinity of the Frieda Mining Base Camp, (Frieda River project), Western Province, Papua New Guinea.

Etymology: Named in honour of Morrie Dorisio, of Bulleen, Victoria, Australia, more recently moved to Reservoir, Victoria, Australia, for services to herpetology in particular for assistances with IT and related issues for this author and the team at Reptile Party, Reptile Shows in Melbourne, Australia and including in the production of books published by myself in the 1990's. See also Hoser (2012) at page 71.

EMOIA MINUSGUTTATA SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:02AED83A-E6BB-48AA-B432-895962E1ACD3

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number: R90942 collected from Malaita Island, Solomon Islands. The Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 59 preserved specimens at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen numbers: R90943-69 and R90971-91002 all collected from Malaita Island, Solomon Islands.

Diagnosis: The two species *Emoia minusguttata* sp. nov. and *Emoia dorsalinea* sp. nov. have until now been treated as two populations of *E. pseudocyanura* Brown, 1991 and would be identified as this using the information within the diagnostic key and paper of Brown (1991), as done by Brown, (1991).

E. minusguttata sp. nov. is restricted to Malaita Island, Solomon Islands and *E. dorsalinea* sp. nov. is restricted to Bougainville Island and the immediately adjacent Shortland Island.

The three species are separated from one another as follows:

E. pseudocyanura Brown, 1991 is separated from *E. minusguttata* sp. nov. and *E. dorsalinea* sp. nov. by having a dorsal colour of very dark brown to black and with a distinctive yellowish-white mid-dorsal stripe running from the snout to around the base of the tail. See for example plates 51 and 52 of McCoy (2006) of images of *E. pseudocyanura* in life.

E. minusguttata sp. nov. is separated from both *E. pseudocyanura* and *E. dorsalinea* sp. nov. by the fact that the mid-dorsal stripe fades immediately after the front legs and does not run down most of the back and does not ever reach the pelvis.

E. dorsalinea sp. nov. is separated from both *E. minusguttata* sp. nov. and *E. pseudocyanura* by the presence of a prominent well-defined at the edges mid-dorsal stripe running past the back legs and onto the anterior tail which does not have thinning, fading or breaks at the posterior end of the body as seen in *E. pseudocyanura*.

E. dorsalinea sp. nov. is characterised and separated from the other two species further by the presence of two more well defined stripes on either side of the mid-dorsal line on the body. One of these is at the upper edge of the dorsal surface and the other midway on the flanks and in each case are bounded by blackish pigment.

E. minusguttata sp. nov. also has an absence of spotting or other markings on the (original) tail, versus a significant presence of these in both *E. dorsalinea* sp. nov. and *E. pseudocyanura*.

E. pseudocyanura is further separated from both *E. dorsalinea* sp. nov. and *E. minusguttata* sp. nov. by the presence of numerous small pale spots on the dorsal and upper lateral surfaces, not seen in the other two species.

E. dorsalinea sp. nov. is further separated from both *E. pseudocyanura* and *E. minusguttata* sp. nov. by the fact that the anterior dorsolateral line running from the snout is an immaculate yellow colour, versus with orangeish tinge in *E. pseudocyanura* and brownish tinge in *E. minusguttata* sp. nov..

E. dorsalinea sp. nov. also has a lower average midbody scale row count (28-30) as compared to the other two species (30-34) (Brown, 1991).

McCoy (2006) has images of *E. minusguttata sp. nov.* in life at plate 53 and images of *E. dorsalinea sp. nov.* in life at plates 49 and 50.

The three species *E. minusguttata sp. nov.*, *E. dorsalinea sp. nov.* and *E. pseudocyanura* are separated from all other species within *Emoia sensu lato*, by the following unique suite of characters: SVL at maturity 45.0-58.8 mm; midbody scale rows 27-34; dorsal scale rows 53-60; thinned subdigital lamellae numbering 73-98 under the fourth toe; there is always at least a narrow, pale, paravertebral stripe, limited to head and anterior part of body and becoming broader posteriorly, which may go past the rear limbs in some species, there are rows of black dots or short bars on the tail in two of three species and the tail always has a very strong bluish tinge; venter (in life) is yellow to light green.

The three species are further diagnosed as follows: rostral forming relatively short to moderately long, nearly straight suture with frontonasal; supranasals triangular; prefrontals narrowly to rather widely separated; one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal shorter than and slightly higher than posterior, in contact with first and second, or more frequently, only second upper labials; six or seven upper labials, fifth (rarely sixth) enlarged and below eye; six or seven lower labials; scales smooth, paravertebral rows not or scarcely enlarged (Brown 1991).

Distribution: *E. minusguttata sp. nov.* is known only from Malaita Island in the Solomon Islands, where at present it appears to be common.

Etymology: In Latin "*minusguttata*" literally means less spots or specks.

EMOIA DORSALINEA SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:58B38A14-21C9-42E7-ADBD-5A92B2BFECED

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, USA, Herpetology Collection: specimen number: MCZ 93970, collected from Mutahi, at an elevation of 2200-3200 feet above sea level, Bougainville, in the country of Papua New Guinea.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three preserved specimens at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, USA, Herpetology Collection: specimen number: MCZ 93971-73, collected from Mutahi, at an elevation of 2200-3200 feet above sea level, Bougainville, in the country of Papua New Guinea, This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: The two species *Emoia dorsalinea sp. nov.* and *Emoia minusguttata sp. nov.* have until now been treated as two populations of *E. pseudocyanura* Brown, 1991 and would be identified as this using the information within the diagnostic key and paper of Brown (1991), as done by Brown (1991).

E. minusguttata sp. nov. is restricted to Malaita Island, Solomon Islands and *E. dorsalinea sp. nov.* is restricted to Bougainville Island and the immediately adjacent Shortland Island.

The three species are separated from one another as follows:

E. pseudocyanura Brown, 1991 is separated from the *E. minusguttata sp. nov.* and *E. dorsalinea sp. nov.* by having a dorsal colour of very dark brown to black and with a distinctive yellowish-white mid-dorsal stripe running from the snout to around the base of the tail. See for example plates 51 and 52 of McCoy (2006) of images of *E. pseudocyanura* in life.

E. minusguttata sp. nov. is separated from both *E. pseudocyanura* and *E. dorsalinea sp. nov.* by the fact that the mid-dorsal stripe fades immediately after the front legs and does not run down most of the back and does not ever reach the pelvis.

E. dorsalinea sp. nov. is separated from both *E. minusguttata sp. nov.* and *E. pseudocyanura* by the presence of a prominent well-defined at the edges mid-dorsal stripe running past the back legs and onto the anterior tail which does not have thinning, fading or breaks at the posterior end of the body as seen in *E.*

pseudocyanura.

E. dorsalinea sp. nov. is characterised and separated from the other two species further by the presence of two more well defined stripes on either side of the mid-dorsal line on the body. One of these is at the upper edge of the dorsal surface and the other midway on the flanks and in each case are bounded by blackish pigment.

E. minusguttata sp. nov. also has an absence of spotting or other markings on the (original) tail, versus a significant presence of these in both *E. dorsalinea sp. nov.* and *E. pseudocyanura*.

E. pseudocyanura is further separated from both *E. dorsalinea sp. nov.* and *E. minusguttata sp. nov.* by the presence of numerous small pale spots on the dorsal and upper lateral surfaces, not seen in the other two species.

E. dorsalinea sp. nov. is further separated from both *E. pseudocyanura* and *E. minusguttata sp. nov.* by the fact that the anterior dorsolateral line running from the snout is an immaculate yellow colour, versus with orangeish tinge in *E. pseudocyanura* and brownish tinge in *E. minusguttata sp. nov.*

E. dorsalinea sp. nov. also has a lower average midbody scale row count (28-30) as compared to the other two species (30-34) (Brown, 1991).

McCoy (2006) has images of *E. minusguttata sp. nov.* in life at plate 53 and images of *E. dorsalinea sp. nov.* in life at plates 49 and 50.

The three species *E. minusguttata sp. nov.*, *E. dorsalinea sp. nov.* and *E. pseudocyanura* are separated from all other species within *Emoia sensu lato*, by the following unique suite of characters: SVL at maturity 45.0-58.8 mm; midbody scale rows 27-34; dorsal scale rows 53-60; thinned subdigital lamellae numbering 73-98 under the fourth toe; there is always at least a narrow, pale, paravertebral stripe, limited to head and anterior part of body and becoming broader posteriorly, which may go past the rear limbs in some species, there are rows of black dots or short bars on the tail in two of three species and the tail always has a very strong bluish tinge; venter (in life) is yellow to light green.

The three species are further diagnosed as follows: rostral forming relatively short to moderately long, nearly straight suture with frontonasal; supranasals triangular; prefrontals narrowly to rather widely separated; one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal shorter than and slightly higher than posterior, in contact with first and second, or more frequently, only second upper labials; six or seven upper labials, fifth (rarely sixth) enlarged and below eye; six or seven lower labials; scales smooth, paravertebral rows not or scarcely enlarged (Brown 1991).

Distribution: *E. dorsalinea sp. nov.* is known only from Bougainville Island (part of the territory of Papua New Guinea) and the small immediately adjacent island of Shortland Island to the south, in the territory of the Solomon Islands, where at present it appears to be common on both islands.

Etymology: In Latin "*dorsaline*" literally means line on the dorsum.

EMOIA BOUGAINVILLIENSIS SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:F084D0C7-AC1C-4AB2-BBAF-FD6951DA9F0A

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, USA, specimen number: LSUMZ Herps 93843, collected at Togarau Two Village, Central Bougainville, on the south-east slope of Mount Balbi, North Solomons Province, Papua New Guinea, Latitude 5.94 S., Longitude 155.04 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 1/ A preserved specimen at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, USA, specimen number: LSUMZ Herps 93844, collected at Togarau Two Village, Central Bougainville, on the south-east slope of Mount Balbi, North Solomons Province, Papua New Guinea, Latitude 5.94 S., Longitude 155.04 E, and: 2/ 12 preserved specimens at the California Academy of Sciences, California, USA, Specimen numbers: Herpetology collection CAS 108905-16, collected from Turiboiru, Bougainville Island, Bougainville, in the territory of Papua New

Guinea, Latitude 6.73 S., Longitude 155.68 E.

Diagnosis: Until now *Emoia bougainvillensis* sp. nov. has been treated as a population of *E. cyanura* (Lesson, 1826). It is however readily separated from that taxon by having more than 79 lamellae under the fourth finger of the (front) toe, versus less than that in all populations of *E. cyanura*.

E. bougainvillensis sp. nov. has a distinctive yellowish-greenish upper surface to the anterior half of the tail, versus brown, grey or bluish in *E. cyanura*. In *E. cyanura* the dorso-lateral stripes are whitish and distinct, versus greenish-yellow, broad and fading on the lower edge in *E. bougainvillensis* sp. nov. There is barring of the rear limbs toes in *Emoia bougainvillensis* sp. nov. that is not seen in populations of *E. cyanura* found elsewhere.

All of *E. bougainvillensis* sp. nov., *E. boreotis* sp. nov. (described in this paper) and *E. cyanura* are separated from all other species in *Emoia sensu lato* by the following combination of characters: Nasal bones not fused; palate beta-type; a pale narrow vertebral stripe (less than two scale rows in breadth) beginning at the tip of the snout; subdigital lamellae are thin and bladeliike with 59-86 under the fourth finger of the fourth (front) toe; midbody scale rows 26-32; scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-64; interparietal fused with frontoparietals; tail without extremely prominent black markings.

All of *E. bougainvillensis* sp. nov., *E. boreotis* sp. nov. (described in this paper) and *E. cyanura* are further diagnosed by the following suite of characters: Snout-vent length (SVL) 38.9-56.5 mm for males and 40.5-54.8 mm for females; snout strongly tapered, its length 62-70% of head width and 32-42% of head length; head width 60-65% of head length and 14-17% of snout-vent length; eye 62-73% of snout length and 40-47% of head width; rostral forming moderately long, nearly straight suture with frontonasal; supranasals narrow-elongate to narrowly triangular; prefrontals narrowly to widely separated (rarely in contact); one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal somewhat shorter than, to nearly as long as and slightly higher than, posterior loreal. in contact with first and second, second, or second and third upper labials and with supranasal; usually six or seven upper labials, fifth (occasionally sixth) enlarged and below eye; six or seven lower labials; scales smooth; midbody scale rows 26-32, not more than 30 except for populations in Fiji and Vanuatu; dorsal scale rows 52-64. rarely more than 60; length of extended hindlimb 90-110% of axilla-groin distance and 43-52% of SVL; lamellae under first toe 16-21.

Distribution: Believed to be confined to Bougainville and nearby small islands.

Etymology: Named in reflection of where the species occurs.

EMOIA BOREOTIS SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:620A9FD8-11CB-4B46-8FE6-77ED31D4175A

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Californian Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA, specimen number: CAS 184020, collected from Guam. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Californian Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA, specimen number: CAS183942, collected from Kosrae.

Diagnosis: The species *Emoia boreotis* sp. nov. has until now been treated as a divergent population of *E. cyanura* (Lesson, 1826). However Bruna *et al.* (1996b) provided genetic evidence to show that so-called *E. cyanura* from the islands of Guam and Kosrae are in fact of a different, albeit closely related species.

The species *Emoia boreotis* sp. nov. is separated from *E. cyanura* and the related *Emoia bougainvillensis* sp. nov. by the presence of significantly faded upper labials and obvious peppering on the lower flanks of the original tail.

All of *E. boreotis* sp. nov., *E. bougainvillensis* sp. nov. (described previously in this paper) and *E. cyanura* are separated from all other species in *Emoia sensu lato* by the following combination of characters: Nasal bones not fused; palate beta-type; a pale narrow vertebral stripe (less than two scale rows in breadth) beginning at the tip of the snout; subdigital lamellae are thin and bladeliike with

59-86 under the fourth finger of the fourth (front) toe; midbody scale rows 26-32; scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-64; interparietal fused with frontoparietals; tail without extremely prominent black markings.

All of *E. boreotis* sp. nov., *E. bougainvillensis* sp. nov. (described in this paper) and *E. cyanura* are further diagnosed by the following suite of characters: Snout-vent length (SVL) 38.9-56.5 mm for males and 40.5-54.8 mm for females; snout strongly tapered, its length 62-70% of head width and 32-42% of head length; head width 60-65% of head length and 14-17% of snout-vent length; eye 62-73% of snout length and 40-47% of head width; rostral forming moderately long, nearly straight suture with frontonasal; supranasals narrow-elongate to narrowly triangular; prefrontals narrowly to widely separated (rarely in contact); one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal somewhat shorter than, to nearly as long as and slightly higher than, posterior loreal. in contact with first and second, second, or second and third upper labials and with supranasal; usually six or seven upper labials, fifth (occasionally sixth) enlarged and below eye; six or seven lower labials; scales smooth; midbody scale rows 25-32, not more than 30 except for populations in Fiji and Vanuatu; dorsal scale rows 52-64. rarely more than 60; length of extended hindlimb 90-110% of axilla-groin distance and 43-52% of SVL; lamellae under first toe 16-21.

Distribution: Known only from the islands of Guam and Kosrae in the north-west Pacific Ocean.

Etymology: In Latin the word *boreotis* means "northern" and this reflects the relative distribution of this species as compared to other members of the species group, which are generally found to the south.

EMOIA AQUACAUDA SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:AD2141B6-2FE4-4B96-A166-C65793ACA395

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, USA, specimen number: KU 307191 collected from Poro, Ranongga Island, (New Georgia Group), Solomon Islands, Latitude 8.08 S., Longitude 156.60 E. The University of Kansas Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, USA allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, USA, specimen number: KU 307192 collected from Poro, Ranongga Island, (New Georgia Group), Solomon Islands, Latitude 8.08 S., Longitude 156.60 E.

Diagnosis: The species *Emoia aquacauda* sp. nov. has until now been treated as a population of *Emoia impar* (Werner, 1898). It is most easily separated from that taxon by colouration, having blackish brown between the dorsolateral stripes as opposed to coppery brown, as well as limbs that are almost jet black as opposed to being medium brown with black etching at the lower end of each scale.

The tail of *Emoia aquacauda* sp. nov. is a rich aqua blue colour with black peppering on the anterior end of the dorsal surface, occasionally merging to form a line, versus none in *E. impar*.

Both *Emoia aquacauda* sp. nov. and *E. impar* are separated from all other species in *Emoia sensu lato* by the following suite of characters: Less than 65 mm snout-vent length in adults; tail slender; limbs long; tips of toes of the hindfoot extent to or beyond the axilla; there is a supranasal scale above the nasal scale on each side; there is a distinctive mid-dorsal stripe and pair of dorsolateral stripes, white, orangeish-white, brownish-white or yellowish-white in colour, but at a glance appearing white or a thick creamy-white colour; tail is always strongly bluish in colour and mainly immaculate; 40-53 lamellae beneath the fourth finger; 57-82 lamellae under the fourth toe of the rear foot; 52-62 rows of scales between the parietals and the base of the tail; 26-33 midbody rows; no ipiphyseal (pineal) eye or pigmented spot on top of the head; anterior loreal higher than long; one or more of the mid-dorsal scale rows are either fully or partially fused, usually forming a single row of enlarged mid-dorsal scales; belly and underside of thighs are dusky or peppered.

Distribution: This member of a wider species complex appears to be restricted to the New Georgia group of islands in the Solomon Islands.

Etymology: Aqua the colour is appropriate for the tail as this is the colour, being a light blue.

The word "cauda" in Latin refers to the tail, so the entire name for the species means aqua coloured tail. The name *Emoia caeruleocauda* (De Vis, 1892) is already preoccupied by a reasonably closely related species-level taxon, although it is treated as of a different genus in this paper.

EMOA YUSEFMOHAMUDI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:8CFB7CD4-4EDC-4CA6-A74B-50C5C677C024

Holotype: A preserved specimen at The California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA, specimen number CAS HERP153233, collected from Malaupaina Island, Makira Province, Solomon Islands, Latitude 10.25 S., Longitude 161.97 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at The California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA, specimen numbers CAS HERP153234 and CAS HERP153235, collected from Malaupaina Island, Makira Province, Solomon Islands, Latitude 10.25 S., Longitude 161.97 E.

Diagnosis: Following Brown (1991), the taxon, *Emoia whitneyi* (Burt, 1930) is treated as being synonymous with the nominate form of *Emoia nigra* (Jacquinot and Guichenot, 1853). Brown (1991) wrote: "I have examined the type of *E. whitneyi*, and in scale counts, color and weak keels on dorsal scales it is typical of juveniles of *E. nigra* populations from some of the Solomon Islands."

This would be expected on the basis of a type locality of the Shortland Islands.

Within the genus *Emoia* Girard, 1857, type species *Emoia nigra*, the type species is readily separated from others in the complex by the following suite of characters: strong red-coloured iris, weakly keeled anterior scales on the body, a dorsal pattern that includes a definite light demarcation along the dorsolateral line and a tail pattern forming obvious longitudinal stripes, with that on the flanks being black. Any spots present on the upper flanks are yellow.

The species *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov. from Malaupaina Island in the Olu Malu Islands, Makira province, Solomon Islands is readily separated from *E. nigra* and others in the genus by the iris being a yellow-brown colour as opposed to red. Adults are jet black all over the dorsal surface and flanks and lack markings on the body or legs or tail, the latter being a uniform black along the entire length. Exceptional to this, is the snout, which while dark, is metal grey in colour at the tip. Dorsal scales are effectively smooth.

The species *E. davidaltmani* sp. nov. from Rennell Island in the Solomon Islands is similar in most respects to *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov., but separated from that taxon by the presence of well-defined brown and black cross-bands on the fingers of the toes and feet, as well as labials that are evenly coloured versus uneven in *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov.. Dorsals are slightly keeled. Snout tip is blackish-grey in colour.

The species *E. stephengoldsteini* sp. nov. from the Santa Cruz Islands in the Solomon Islands is also similar in most respects to *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov., but separated from that taxon by dark etching of some scales under the chin and a snout tip that is dark brown in colour.

The species *E. rodneysommerichi* sp. nov. from Koro Island, Fiji is separated from all other species in the genus *Emoia* by the following suite of characters: An irregularly marked tail giving a somewhat broken banded appearance, scattered white flecks or spots on the upper labials and occasionally others on the neck, or rarely upper back and flanks, slightly keeled dorsal scales and a dark iris.

The species *E. roberteksteini* sp. nov. from Taveuni Island and nearby Vanua Levu Island, Fiji is separated from all other species in the genus *Emoia* by the following suite of characters: distinctly orange-brown iris, generally blackish-brown in colour, with minimal

spots, flecks or markings and most present are scattered light-brown scales on the lower flanks. The limbs are characterised by well spaced orange spots in defined lines on a dark brown background. The top of the head is blackish and the labials are brown and lacking white spots or flecks. The dorsal scales are slightly keeled. In common with *E. rodneysommerichi* sp. nov. this species also has an irregularly marked tail giving a somewhat broken banded appearance.

The genus *Emoia* Girard, 1857, (type species *Emoia nigra*) is separated from all other species within *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov. and *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. by dorsal body colour. Specimens in this genus are alone among the five similar genera just listed, in that adults have a dorsum that is more-or-less uniform dark brown to black or grey from snout onto the tail.

Distribution: Malaupaina Island, Makira Province, Solomon Islands and immediately adjacent small islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of Yusef Mohamud, a lawyer based in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia for services to wildlife conservation including assisting Snakebusters: Australia's best reptiles in dealing with lawless thieves seeking to undermine the valuable wildlife conservation work of the team at Snakebusters. He also works with Kimani Adil Boden, another lawyer based in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. See the full etymology for Kimani Adil Boden in Hoser (2018a).

EMOA DAVIDALTMANI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:134C2E50-6381-4BDD-93E7-DA26BD683CBC

Holotype: A preserved specimen at The California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA, specimen number CAS HERP 72010, collected from Rennel Island, Central Province, Solomon Islands, Latitude 11.66 S., Longitude 160.31 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three preserved specimens at The California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA, specimen numbers CAS HERP 72011-3, collected from Rennel Island, Central Province, Solomon Islands, Latitude 11.66 S., Longitude 160.31 E.

Diagnosis: Following Brown (1991), the taxon, *Emoia whitneyi* (Burt, 1930) is treated as being synonymous with the nominate form of *Emoia nigra* (Jacquinot and Guichenot, 1853). Brown (1991) wrote: "I have examined the type of *E. whitneyi*, and in scale counts, color and weak keels on dorsal scales it is typical of juveniles of *E. nigra* populations from some of the Solomon Islands."

This would be expected on the basis of a type locality of the Shortland Islands.

Within the genus *Emoia* Girard, 1857, type species *Emoia nigra*, the type species is readily separated from others in the complex by the following suite of characters: strong red-coloured iris, weakly keeled anterior scales on the body, a dorsal pattern that includes a definite light demarcation along the dorsolateral line and a tail pattern forming obvious longitudinal stripes, with that on the flanks being black. Any spots present on the upper flanks are yellow.

The species *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov. from Malaupaina Island in the Olu Malu Islands, Makira province, Solomon Islands is readily separated from *E. nigra* and others in the genus by the iris being a yellow-brown colour as opposed to red. Adults are jet black all over the dorsal surface and flanks and lack markings on the body or legs or tail, the latter being a uniform black along the entire length. Exceptional to this, is the snout, which while dark, is metal grey in colour at the tip. Dorsal scales are effectively smooth.

The species *E. davidaltmani* sp. nov. from Rennell Island in the Solomon Islands is similar in most respects to *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov., but separated from that taxon by the presence of well-defined brown and black cross-bands on the fingers of the toes and feet, as well as labials that are evenly coloured versus uneven in *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov.. Dorsals are slightly keeled. Snout tip is blackish-grey in colour.

The species *E. stephengoldsteini* sp. nov. from the Santa Cruz

Islands in the Solomon Islands is also similar in most respects to *E. yusufmohamudi sp. nov.*, but separated from that taxon by dark etching of some scales under the chin and a snout tip that is dark brown in colour.

The species *E. rodneysommerichi sp. nov.* from Koro Island, Fiji is separated from all other species in the genus *Emoa* by the following suite of characters: An irregularly marked tail giving a somewhat broken banded appearance, scattered white flecks or spots on the upper labials and occasionally others on the neck, or rarely upper back and flanks, slightly keeled dorsal scales and a dark iris.

The species *E. roberteksteini sp. nov.* from Taveuni Island and nearby Vanua Levu Island, Fiji is separated from all other species in the genus *Emoa* by the following suite of characters: distinctly orange-brown iris, generally blackish-brown in colour, with minimal spots, flecks or markings and most present are scattered light-brown scales on the lower flanks. The limbs are characterised by well spaced orange spots in defined lines on a dark brown background. The top of the head is blackish and the labials are brown and lacking white spots or flecks. The dorsal scales are slightly keeled. In common with *E. rodneysommerichi sp. nov.* this species also has an irregularly marked tail giving a somewhat broken banded appearance.

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, (type species *Emoa nigra*) is separated from all other species within *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Canthoemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* and *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* by dorsal body colour. Specimens in this genus are alone among the five similar genera just listed, in that adults have a dorsum that is more-or-less uniform dark brown to black or grey from snout onto the tail.

Distribution: Rennel Island, Central Province, Solomon Islands and immediately adjacent small islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of David Altman of Bondi, New South Wales, Australia in recognition of his assistances to this author in herpetological fieldwork on Death Adders *Acanthophis antarcticus* (Shaw and Nodder, 1802) at West Head, Kurringai Chase, New South Wales, Australia in the 1970's and 1980's.

EMOA STEPHENGOLDSTEINI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:9EC6E380-BFF7-4A9F-B409-D937651D5BC7

Holotype: A preserved specimen at The American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA, specimen number AMNH 42086, collected from Santa Cruz Island (AKA Nendo Island), Solomon Islands, Latitude 10.72 S., Longitude 165.92 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Seven preserved specimens at The American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA, specimen numbers AMNH 42087 and AMNH 42107-12, collected from Santa Cruz Island (AKA Nendo Island), Solomon Islands, Latitude 10.72 S., Longitude 165.92 E.

Diagnosis: Following Brown (1991), the taxon, *Emoa whitneyi* (Burt, 1930) is treated as being synonymous with the nominate form of *Emoa nigra* (Jacquinot and Guichenot, 1853). Brown (1991) wrote: "I have examined the type of *E. whitneyi*, and in scale counts, color and weak keels on dorsal scales it is typical of juveniles of *E. nigra* populations from some of the Solomon Islands."

This would be expected on the basis of a type locality of the Shortland Islands.

Within the genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, type species *Emoa nigra*, the type species is readily separated from others in the complex by the following suite of characters: strong red-coloured iris, weakly keeled anterior scales on the body, a dorsal pattern that includes a definite light demarcation along the dorsolateral line and a tail pattern forming obvious longitudinal stripes, with that on the flanks being black. Any spots present on the upper flanks are yellow.

The species *E. yusufmohamudi sp. nov.* from Malaupaina Island in the Olu Malu Islands, Makira province, Solomon Islands is readily separated from *E. nigra* and others in the genus by the iris being a yellow-brown colour as opposed to red. Adults are jet black all

over the dorsal surface and flanks and lack markings on the body or legs or tail, the latter being a uniform black along the entire length. Exceptional to this, is the snout, which while dark, is metal grey in colour at the tip. Dorsal scales are effectively smooth.

The species *E. davidalmani sp. nov.* from Rennell Island in the Solomon Islands is similar in most respects to *E. yusufmohamudi sp. nov.*, but separated from that taxon by the presence of well-defined brown and black cross-bands on the fingers of the toes and feet, as well as labials that are evenly coloured versus uneven in *E. yusufmohamudi sp. nov.*. Dorsals are slightly keeled. Snout tip is blackish-grey in colour.

The species *E. stephengoldsteini sp. nov.* from the Santa Cruz Islands in the Solomon Islands is also similar in most respects to *E. yusufmohamudi sp. nov.*, but separated from that taxon by dark etching of some scales under the chin and a snout tip that is dark brown in colour.

The species *E. rodneysommerichi sp. nov.* from Koro Island, Fiji is separated from all other species in the genus *Emoa* by the following suite of characters: An irregularly marked tail giving a somewhat broken banded appearance, scattered white flecks or spots on the upper labials and occasionally others on the neck, or rarely upper back and flanks, slightly keeled dorsal scales and a dark iris.

The species *E. roberteksteini sp. nov.* from Taveuni Island and nearby Vanua Levu Island, Fiji is separated from all other species in the genus *Emoa* by the following suite of characters: distinctly orange-brown iris, generally blackish-brown in colour, with minimal spots, flecks or markings and most present are scattered light-brown scales on the lower flanks. The limbs are characterised by well spaced orange spots in defined lines on a dark brown background. The top of the head is blackish and the labials are brown and lacking white spots or flecks. The dorsal scales are slightly keeled. In common with *E. rodneysommerichi sp. nov.* this species also has an irregularly marked tail giving a somewhat broken banded appearance.

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, (type species *Emoa nigra*) is separated from all other species within *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Canthoemoia gen. nov.*, *Aintemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.* and *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* by dorsal body colour. Specimens in this genus are alone among the five similar genera just listed, in that adults have a dorsum that is more-or-less uniform dark brown to black or grey from snout onto the tail.

Distribution: Santa Cruz (AKA Nendo) Island, Solomon Islands and immediately adjacent small islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of Stephen Goldstein of Hornsby, New South Wales, Australia, for services to herpetology throughout the 1970's and 1980's including with important fieldwork conducted by this author in New South Wales.

EMOA RODNEYSOMMERICHI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:524ED31A-D313-42A2-A6F8-A25C33E35AFF

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the US National Museum, better known as the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, USA, specimen number USNM 230073, collected from Koro Island, Fiji, Latitude 17.20 S., Longitude 179.26 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Seven preserved specimens at the US National Museum, better known as the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, USA, specimen numbers USNM 230074-81, collected from Koro Island, Fiji, Latitude 17.20 S., Longitude 179.26 E.

Diagnosis: Following Brown (1991), the taxon, *Emoa whitneyi* (Burt, 1930) is treated as being synonymous with the nominate form of *Emoa nigra* (Jacquinot and Guichenot, 1853). Brown (1991) wrote: "I have examined the type of *E. whitneyi*, and in scale counts, color and weak keels on dorsal scales it is typical of juveniles of *E. nigra* populations from some of the Solomon Islands."

This would be expected on the basis of a type locality of the Shortland Islands.

Within the genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, type species *Emoa nigra*, the type species is readily separated from others in the complex by the following suite of characters: strong red-coloured iris, weakly keeled anterior scales on the body, a dorsal pattern that includes a definite light demarcation along the dorsolateral line and a tail pattern forming obvious longitudinal stripes, with that on the flanks being black. Any spots present on the upper flanks are yellow.

The species *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov. from Malaupaina Island in the Olu Malu Islands, Makira province, Solomon Islands is readily separated from *E. nigra* and others in the genus by the iris being a yellow-brown colour as opposed to red. Adults are jet black all over the dorsal surface and flanks and lack markings on the body or legs or tail, the latter being a uniform black along the entire length. Exceptional to this, is the snout, which while dark, is metal grey in colour at the tip. Dorsal scales are effectively smooth.

The species *E. davidalmani* sp. nov. from Rennell Island in the Solomon Islands is similar in most respects to *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov., but separated from that taxon by the presence of well-defined brown and black cross-bands on the fingers of the toes and feet, as well as labials that are evenly coloured versus uneven in *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov.. Dorsals are slightly keeled. Snout tip is blackish-grey in colour.

The species *E. stephengoldsteini* sp. nov. from the Santa Cruz Islands in the Solomon Islands is also similar in most respects to *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov., but separated from that taxon by dark etching of some scales under the chin and a snout tip that is dark brown in colour.

The species *E. rodneysommerichi* sp. nov. from Koro Island, Fiji is separated from all other species in the genus *Emoa* by the following suite of characters: An irregularly marked tail giving a somewhat broken banded appearance, scattered white flecks or spots on the upper labials and occasionally others on the neck, or rarely upper back and flanks, slightly keeled dorsal scales and a dark iris.

The species *E. roberteksteini* sp. nov. from Taveuni Island and nearby Vanua Levu Island, Fiji is separated from all other species in the genus *Emoa* by the following suite of characters: distinctly orange-brown iris, generally blackish-brown in colour, with minimal spots, flecks or markings and most present are scattered light-brown scales on the lower flanks. The limbs are characterised by well spaced orange spots in defined lines on a dark brown background. The top of the head is blackish and the labials are brown and lacking white spots or flecks. The dorsal scales are slightly keeled. In common with *E. rodneysommerichi* sp. nov. this species also has an irregularly marked tail giving a somewhat broken banded appearance.

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, (type species *Emoa nigra*) is separated from all other species within *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov. and *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. by dorsal body colour. Specimens in this genus are alone among the five similar genera just listed, in that adults have a dorsum that is more-or-less uniform dark brown to black or grey from snout onto the tail.

Distribution: Restricted to Koro Island, Fiji.

Etymology: Named in honour of Rodney Sommerich, formerly of Castle Cove (Sydney) New South Wales, Australia, for services to herpetology throughout the 1970's and 1980's including with important fieldwork conducted by this author in New South Wales and (along with his suffering parents) supplying important food reserves for myself and associates in relevant bush camping trips as well as on other important occasions.

EMOA ROBERTEKSTEINI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:457A786A-2A63-463E-B61B-9063C7CE9833

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the US National Museum, better known as the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, USA, specimen number USNM 499927, collected from 1 km NE of Vuna Point, Taveuni Island, Fiji. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Two preserved specimens at the US National

Museum, better known as the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, USA, specimen numbers USNM 333406, 499928, 499925, collected from Taveuni Island, Fiji.

Diagnosis: Following Brown (1991), the taxon, *Emoa whitneyi* (Burt, 1930) is treated as being synonymous with the nominate form of *Emoa nigra* (Jacquinot and Guichenot, 1853). Brown (1991) wrote: "I have examined the type of *E. whitneyi*, and in scale counts, color and weak keels on dorsal scales it is typical of juveniles of *E. nigra* populations from some of the Solomon Islands."

This would be expected on the basis of a type locality of the Shortland Islands.

Within the genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, type species *Emoa nigra*, the type species is readily separated from others in the complex by the following suite of characters: strong red-coloured iris, weakly keeled anterior scales on the body, a dorsal pattern that includes a definite light demarcation along the dorsolateral line and a tail pattern forming obvious longitudinal stripes, with that on the flanks being black. Any spots present on the upper flanks are yellow.

The species *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov. from Malaupaina Island in the Olu Malu Islands, Makira province, Solomon Islands is readily separated from *E. nigra* and others in the genus by the iris being a yellow-brown colour as opposed to red. Adults are jet black all over the dorsal surface and flanks and lack markings on the body or legs or tail, the latter being a uniform black along the entire length. Exceptional to this, is the snout, which while dark, is metal grey in colour at the tip. Dorsal scales are effectively smooth.

The species *E. davidalmani* sp. nov. from Rennell Island in the Solomon Islands is similar in most respects to *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov., but separated from that taxon by the presence of well-defined brown and black cross-bands on the fingers of the toes and feet, as well as labials that are evenly coloured versus uneven in *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov.. Dorsals are slightly keeled. Snout tip is blackish-grey in colour.

The species *E. stephengoldsteini* sp. nov. from the Santa Cruz Islands in the Solomon Islands is also similar in most respects to *E. yusufmohamudi* sp. nov., but separated from that taxon by dark etching of some scales under the chin and a snout tip that is dark brown in colour.

The species *E. rodneysommerichi* sp. nov. from Koro Island, Fiji is separated from all other species in the genus *Emoa* by the following suite of characters: An irregularly marked tail giving a somewhat broken banded appearance, scattered white flecks or spots on the upper labials and occasionally others on the neck, or rarely upper back and flanks, slightly keeled dorsal scales and a dark iris.

The species *E. roberteksteini* sp. nov. from Taveuni Island and nearby Vanua Levu Island, Fiji is separated from all other species in the genus *Emoa* by the following suite of characters: distinctly orange-brown iris, generally blackish-brown in colour, with minimal spots, flecks or markings and most present are scattered light-brown scales on the lower flanks. The limbs are characterised by well spaced orange spots in defined lines on a dark brown background. The top of the head is blackish and the labials are brown and lacking white spots or flecks. The dorsal scales are slightly keeled. In common with *E. rodneysommerichi* sp. nov. this species also has an irregularly marked tail giving a somewhat broken banded appearance.

The genus *Emoa* Girard, 1857, (type species *Emoa nigra*) is separated from all other species within *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov. and *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. by dorsal body colour. Specimens in this genus are alone among the five similar genera just listed, in that adults have a dorsum that is more-or-less uniform dark brown to black or grey from snout onto the tail.

Distribution: Taveuni Island and nearby Vanua Levu Island, Fiji as well as small adjacent islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of Robert Ekstein of Roseville, Bondi and Belrose (Sydney), New South Wales, Australia for services to herpetology spanning some decades in numerous capacities.

NOTANEMOIA GEORGEMARIOLISI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:F551A343-34B5-4BC6-916C-CDF4C4DB157B

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, USA, Specimen number: Herp R-15014, collected from Vunisea on Kadavu (Island), Fiji, identified as "*Emoia samoense*". The Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes. The following 11 specimens at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, USA, specimen numbers: Herp R-16930, Herp R-16932, Herp R-16934, Herp R-16938, Herp R-16939, Herp R-16940, Herp R-16931, Herp R-16933, Herp R-16935, Herp R-16936, Herp R-16937 all collected from Dravuni Island, Fiji (just north of the main Kadavu Island) (mislabelled as Dravini).

Diagnosis: The species *Notanemoia georgemariolisi sp. nov.*, *N. karlagambellae sp. nov.*, *N. neilsonnemanni sp. nov.* and *N. cathysonnemannae sp. nov.* have all until now been treated as populations of the species *N. concolor* (Duméril, 1851) and would until now have keyed out as this species using the keys of Brown (1991) or Zug (1991).

However the genetic evidence of Austin and Zug (1999), Zug (1991), Fisher *et al.* (2017) and glacial sea-level minimums between the two most divergent populations for which molecular evidence is unavailable (but is for other similarly distributed Fijian reptiles on the same islands), but for which morphological evidence is available, confirms that there are at least five separate species in the species complex, all of which are described herein, four for the first time as newly named species.

The type form *N. concolor* (Duméril, 1851) is that from the main Fiji island of Viti Levu and immediately adjacent smaller islands such as Ovalau, that are separated by very shallow seas that were land bridges in geologically recent glacial sea depth maxima.

The specimens from Kadavu (AKA Kandavu), are herein assigned to the species *Notanemoia georgemariolisi sp. nov.*, those from the island of Gau are herein assigned to the species *N. karlagambellae sp. nov.*, those from Taveuni Island, Vanua Levu and outliers to the north of the strait between these islands and Viti Levu / Taveuni are assigned to the species *N. cathysonnemannae sp. nov.*, while those from Matuku and potentially other small islands to the north are assigned to the species *N. neilsonnemanni sp. nov.*

The species *N. concolor* is herein restricted to Viti Levu and nearby Ovalau and includes the synonymous name *N. resplendens* (Peters, 1877).

Diagnostic features separating the five relevant taxa are effectively outlined in Zug (1991) and the most important ones are abridged and given here as the formal diagnosis for all five species in terms of separating them from one another.

N. concolor (Duméril, 1851) is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 57-58 dorsal rows, 29-30 mid-body rows, 36-37 lamellae on finger 4 and 49-51 lamellae on toe 4.

N. georgemariolisi sp. nov., is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 59-60 dorsal rows, 31-32 mid-body rows, 41-43 lamellae on finger 4 and 57-59 lamellae on toe 4.

N. karlagambellae sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 58-59 dorsal rows, 30-31 mid-body rows, 44-45 lamellae on finger 4 and 62-63 lamellae on toe 4.

N. cathysonnemannae sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 56-58 dorsal rows, 20-29 mid-body rows, 34-36 lamellae on finger 4 and 47-48 lamellae on toe 4.

N. neilsonnemanni sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 58-59 dorsal rows, 30-31 mid-body rows, 42-44 lamellae on finger 4 and 59-61 lamellae on toe 4.

All five species (previously treated as *N. concolor*) are readily separated from all other *Emoia sensu lato* species, including all

species in the genus *Notanemoia gen. nov.* as defined elsewhere in this paper by the following suite of characters: Scales on the body are of a moderate size; adults of slender build and in excess of 55 mm snout-vent length; dorsally with green to greenish tan head and body; back and head are never silvery-grey, never have a mid-dorsal stripe and the tail is never blue or green; 27-33 midbody scale rows; less than 90 scales from head to base of tail; 43-65 lamellae beneath the fourth toe of the hind foot.

Distribution: *N. georgemariolisi sp. nov.* occurs in Kadavu (AKA Kandavu) and immediately adjacent small islands to the north east, within Fiji, but separated by the Kadavu Passage from Viti Levu.

Etymology: Named in honour of George Mariolis of Burwood, Victoria, former body-building champion and former of owner of Definition Fitness Centre in East Doncaster, Victoria and now a highly sought-after personal (fitness) trainer at several venues, for services to the health and well-being of many Australians over many decades.

The genus *Georgemarioliscolotes* Hoser, 2018 was also named in honour of George Mariolis, however the etymology statement was inadvertently omitted from the final proof of that paper (Hoser 2018b) as published and this etymology also applies to that paper.

NOTANEMOIA KARLAGAMBELLAE SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:FF12AF48-D547-496A-BD84-20C6EDDE0DA0

Holotype: A preserved specimen in the collection of Nature Fiji (Dick Watling), specimen number: F-526, in association with the University of South Pacific Herpetology Collection, Suva, Fiji (SUVA), collected from the island of Gau, Fiji Islands. Their specimens are made available to scientists.

Paratypes: Six other preserved specimens in the collection of Nature Fiji (Dick Watling), specimen number: F543 and F572-576, in association with the University of South Pacific Herpetology Collection, Suva, Fiji (SUVA).

Note: The holotype and paratypes are the specimens examined and recorded by Zug (1991) and Brown (1991).

Diagnosis: The species *Notanemoia georgemariolisi sp. nov.*, *N. karlagambellae sp. nov.*, *N. neilsonnemanni sp. nov.* and *N. cathysonnemannae sp. nov.* have all until now been treated as populations of the species *N. concolor* (Duméril, 1851) and would until now have keyed out as this species using the keys of Brown (1991) or Zug (1991).

All can be separated from one another by morphological differences as outlined herein.

The specimens from Kadavu (AKA Kandavu), are herein assigned to the species *Notanemoia georgemariolisi sp. nov.*, those from the island of Gau are herein assigned to the species *N. karlagambellae sp. nov.*, those from Taveuni Island, Vanua Levu and outliers to the north of the strait between these islands and Viti Levu / Ovalau are assigned to the species *N. cathysonnemannae sp. nov.*, while those from Matuku and potentially other small islands to the north are assigned to the species *N. neilsonnemanni sp. nov.*

The species *N. concolor* is herein restricted to Viti Levu and nearby Ovalau and includes the synonymous name *N. resplendens* (Peters, 1877).

Diagnostic features separating the five taxa are outlined in Zug (1991) and the most important ones are abridged and given here as the formal diagnosis for all five species in terms of separating them from one another.

N. karlagambellae sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 58-59 dorsal rows, 30-31 mid-body rows, 44-45 lamellae on finger 4 and 62-63 lamellae on toe 4.

N. concolor (Duméril, 1851) is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 57-58 dorsal rows, 29-30 mid-body rows, 36-37 lamellae on finger 4 and 49-51 lamellae on toe 4.

N. georgemariolisi sp. nov., is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 59-60 dorsal rows, 31-32 mid-body rows, 41-43 lamellae on finger 4 and 57-59 lamellae on toe 4.

N. cathysonnemanna sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 56-58 dorsal rows, 20-29 mid-body rows, 34-36 lamellae on finger 4 and 47-48 lamellae on toe 4.

N. neilsonnemanni sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 58-59 dorsal rows, 30-31 mid-body rows, 42-44 lamellae on finger 4 and 59-61 lamellae on toe 4.

All five species (previously treated as *N. concolor*) are readily separated from all other *Emoia sensu lato* species, including all species in the genus *Notanemoia* gen. nov. as defined elsewhere in this paper by the following suite of characters: Scales on the body are of a moderate size; adults of slender build and in excess of 55 mm snout-vent length; dorsally with green to greenish tan head and body; back and head are never silvery-grey, never have a mid-dorsal stripe and the tail is never blue or green; 27-33 midbody scale rows; less than 90 scales from head to base of tail; 43-65 lamellae beneath the fourth toe of the hind foot.

Distribution: *N. karlagambellae* sp. nov. occurs on the island of Gau, Fiji and potentially no other place, although it may occur on one or two nearby islands to the immediate north.

All are separated from Viti Levu, by deep sea passages not breached during ice-age sea level drops.

Etymology: Named in honour of Karla Gambell of Burwood, Victoria, wife of George Mariolis and also a former body-building champion and former of owner of Definition Fitness Centre in East Doncaster, Victoria and also now a highly sought-after personal (fitness) trainer at several venues, for services to the health and well-being of many Australians over many decades.

Comment: The island of Gau, Fiji, as well as Nairai and Koro to the north almost certainly have yet further unrecognized herpetological diversity due to their relative isolation, even in times of sea level minimum during recent glacial maxima. Habitat destruction in the form of land clearing and introduced pests threaten much of this biodiversity and it needs to be catalogued and properly managed to prevent extinctions as soon as possible.

NOTANEMOIA CATHYSONNEMANNAE SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B4199E15-93A1-4D72-9D36-207D49E8179F

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, USA, Specimen number: Herps MCZ 48, collected from Taveuni, Fiji. The Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: The species *Notanemoia georgemariolisi* sp. nov., *N. karlagambellae* sp. nov., *N. neilsonnemanni* sp. nov. and *N. cathysonnemanna* sp. nov. have all until now been treated as populations of the species *N. concolor* (Duméril, 1851) and would until now have keyed out as this species using the keys of Brown (1991) or Zug (1991).

All can be separated from one another by morphological differences as outlined herein.

The specimens from Kadavu (AKA Kandavu), are herein assigned to the species *Notanemoia georgemariolisi* sp. nov., those from the island of Gau are herein assigned to the species *N. karlagambellae* sp. nov., those from Taveuni Island, Vanua Levu and outliers to the north of the strait between these islands and Viti Levu / Taveuni are assigned to the species *N. cathysonnemanna* sp. nov., while those from Matuku and potentially other small islands to the north are assigned to the species *N. neilsonnemanni* sp. nov.

The species *N. concolor* is herein restricted to Viti Levu and nearby Ovalau and includes the synonymous name *N. resplendens* (Peters, 1877).

Diagnostic features separating the five taxa are outlined in Zug (1991) and the most important ones are abridged and given here as the formal diagnosis for all five species in terms of separating them from one another.

N. cathysonnemanna sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 56-58 dorsal rows, 20-29 mid-body rows, 34-36 lamellae on finger 4 and 47-48 lamellae on toe 4.

N. concolor (Duméril, 1851) is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 57-58 dorsal rows, 29-30 mid-body rows, 36-37 lamellae on finger 4 and 49-51 lamellae on toe 4.

N. georgemariolisi sp. nov., is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 59-60 dorsal rows, 31-32 mid-body rows, 41-43 lamellae on finger 4 and 57-59 lamellae on toe 4.

N. karlagambellae sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 58-59 dorsal rows, 30-31 mid-body rows, 44-45 lamellae on finger 4 and 62-63 lamellae on toe 4.

N. neilsonnemanni sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 58-59 dorsal rows, 30-31 mid-body rows, 42-44 lamellae on finger 4 and 59-61 lamellae on toe 4.

All five species (previously treated as *N. concolor*) are readily separated from all other *Emoia sensu lato* species, including all species in the genus *Notanemoia* gen. nov. as defined elsewhere in this paper by the following suite of characters: Scales on the body are of a moderate size; adults of slender build and in excess of 55 mm snout-vent length; dorsally with green to greenish tan head and body; back and head are never silvery-grey, never have a mid-dorsal stripe and the tail is never blue or green; 27-33 midbody scale rows; less than 90 scales from head to base of tail; 43-65 lamellae beneath the fourth toe of the hind foot.

Distribution: *N. cathysonnemanna* sp. nov. with a type locality of Taveuni Island, is believed to occur also on Vanua Levu, Yadua and potentially tiny outliers to the north of the strait between these islands and Viti Levu / Ovalau further south.

Etymology: Named in honour of Cathy Sonnemann, wife of Neil Sonnemann, a herpetological icon in Australia, in recognition of her services assisting to Neil Sonnemann's important work in herpetology.

Neil Sonnemann is best known as a world-leader in captive breeding numerous kinds of Australian reptiles, in particular pythons and geckos.

Some of the immaculate reptiles used in Snakebusters: Australia's best reptile shows for the only hands on reptile shows in Australia that let people hold the animals came from the Sonnemann breeding facility.

NOTANEMOIA NEILSONNEMANNI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:3B4D3FA4-ABD2-4900-8FF5-4F40EB3618F7

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA, specimen number: AMNH Herpetology 41706, collected from Matuku, Fiji.

The American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Six preserved specimens at the Smithsonian United States National Museum (USNM), Washington, DC, USA, specimen numbers: USNM Herps 230221-26, collected from Matuku, Fiji.

Diagnosis: The species *Notanemoia georgemariolisi* sp. nov., *N. karlagambellae* sp. nov., *N. neilsonnemanni* sp. nov. and *N. cathysonnemanna* sp. nov. have all until now been treated as populations of the species *N. concolor* (Duméril, 1851) and would until now have keyed out as this species using the keys of Brown (1991) or Zug (1991).

All can be separated from one another by morphological differences as outlined herein.

The specimens from Kadavu (AKA Kandavu), are herein assigned to the species *Notanemoia georgemariolisi* sp. nov.; those from the island of Gau are herein assigned to the species *N. karlagambellae* sp. nov.; those from Taveuni Island, Vanua Levu and immediately adjacent outliers to the north of the strait between these islands and Viti Levu / Taveuni (to the south) are assigned to the species *N. cathysonnemanna* sp. nov., while those from Matuku and potentially other small islands to the north in the Lau Group are assigned to the species *N. neilsonnemanni* sp. nov.

The species *N. concolor* is herein restricted to Vita Levu and nearby Ovalau and includes the synonymous name *N. resplendens* (Peters, 1877).

Diagnostic features separating the five taxa are outlined in Zug (1991) and the most important ones are abridged and given here as the formal diagnosis for all five species in terms of separating them from one another.

N. neilsonnemanni sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 58-59 dorsal rows, 30-31 mid-body rows, 42-44 lamellae on finger 4 and 59-61 lamellae on toe 4.

N. cathysonnemanna sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 56-58 dorsal rows, 20-29 mid-body rows, 34-36 lamellae on finger 4 and 47-48 lamellae on toe 4.

N. concolor (Duméril, 1851) is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 57-58 dorsal rows, 29-30 mid-body rows, 36-37 lamellae on finger 4 and 49-51 lamellae on toe 4.

N. georgemariolisi sp. nov., is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 59-60 dorsal rows, 31-32 mid-body rows, 41-43 lamellae on finger 4 and 57-59 lamellae on toe 4.

N. karlagambellae sp. nov. is separated from the other four species by the following unique suite of characters: 58-59 dorsal rows, 30-31 mid-body rows, 44-45 lamellae on finger 4 and 62-63 lamellae on toe 4.

All five species (previously treated as *N. concolor*) are readily separated from all other *Emoia sensu lato* species, including all species in the genus *Notanemoia* gen. nov. as defined elsewhere in this paper by the following suite of characters: Scales on the body are of a moderate size; adults of slender build and in excess of 55 mm snout-vent length; dorsally with green to greenish tan head and body; back and head are never silvery-grey, never have a mid-dorsal stripe and the tail is never blue or green; 27-33 midbody scale rows; less than 90 scales from head to base of tail; 43-65 lamellae beneath the fourth toe of the hind foot.

Distribution: *N. neilsonnemanni* sp. nov. with a type locality of Matuku, Fiji, is only known from there but may also be found on tiny islands to the north in the Lau group of islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of Neil Sonnemann, of husband and wife team "Sonnemann's Snakes". Neil Sonnemann is a herpetological icon in Australia, and this species is named in his honour.

Neil Sonnemann is best known as a world-leader in captive breeding numerous kinds of Australian reptiles, in particular pythons and geckos, although his achievements and work in herpetology goes way beyond this and has been largely out of public view.

Some of the immaculate reptiles used in Snakebusters: Australia's best reptile shows for the only hands on reptile shows in Australia that let people hold the animals came from the Sonnemann breeding facility. Many tens of thousands of people who would previously have hated snakes have had the benefit of holding Sonnemann's snakes at Snakebusters reptile shows and been converted to the cause of wildlife conservation.

AINTEMOIA DANNYGOODWINI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:26DD36CB-DDA5-4C37-8FEB-75F9DC4BDDE4

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the US National Museum USNM, aka Smithsonian at Washington, DC, USA, herpetology collection, specimen number: 322474 from Vanua Levu, Fiji. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Natural History (UK), aka British Museum of Natural History, London, United Kingdom, specimen number: BMNH 1938.8.2.11 collected from Tavenui, Fiji.

Diagnosis: The species *Aintemoia dannygoodwini* sp. nov., *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov. and *A. parkeri* (Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) have until now all been treated as separate island

populations of the same species, until now called *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980.

There are at least three separate populations of all of which are both genetically and morphologically divergent from one another, separated by deep water barriers and therefore given the status herein as separate but similar species.

All would until now have been keyed out or identified as "*Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980", which is the same diagnosis as for the subgenus *Paraemoia* subgen. nov..

The subgenus *Paraemoia* subgen. nov. (type species *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) within the genus *Aintemoia* gen. nov. is separated from all other species within the genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Canotoemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33.

Nominate *Aintemoia parkeri* is herein restricted to Viti Levu Island, Fiji. *A. dannygoodwini* sp. nov. occurs on Vanua Levu and Tavenui islands, Fiji. *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov. is found on Kadavu Island, Fiji and potentially islets immediately to the north-east.

The three species, *A. dannygoodwini* sp. nov., *A. parkeri* and *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov. are most readily separated from one another by differences in colouration.

A. parkeri is characterised and separated from both other species by a black stripe commencing in front of the eye, running under it and then as thick unbroken line past the top of the ear and along the flank past the front leg after which it breaks and becomes broken by the brown colouration that dominates the dorsal surface and rear flanks. By contrast *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov. is of similar dorsal colouration to *A. parkeri* but the same black stripe on *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov. commences only from the back of the eye (not in front of it) and has one or more well-defined breaks in it before the front leg. The species *A. dannygoodwini* sp. nov. is also similar to both other species (*A. parkeri* and *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov.), in this case with the black stripe starting from the front of the eye, being similar to that of *A. parkeri*, but is separated from both other species by a generally lighter dorsal colouration (medium, versus dark brown on top) and whitish upper labials, versus yellowish in *A. latishadarwinae* sp. nov. and brownish in *A. parkeri*.

Distribution: *A. dannygoodwini* sp. nov. is restricted to the islands of Vanua Levu and Tavenui, Fiji.

Etymology: Named in honour of Danny Goodwin of Inverloch, Victoria, Australia, in recognition of many years of important work in Australian herpetology, in the main part being assisting better known scientists in their research projects, publications and the like and commonly doing the harder work that avoids official recognition or even recognition from peers.

AINTEMOIA LATISHADARWINAE SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:533F3068-595F-4724-A720-6352CF168181

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA, specimen number: CAS HERP 147570, collected from 3 km South of Richmond High School, Kadavu, Fiji. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three more preserved specimens at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA, specimen number: CAS HERP 147571-3, also collected from Kadavu, Fiji.

Diagnosis: The species *Aintemoia latishadarwinae* sp. nov., *A. dannygoodwini* sp. nov. and *A. parkeri* (Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) have until now all been treated as separate island populations of the same species, until now called *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980.

There are at least three separate populations of all of which are both genetically and morphologically divergent from one another, separated by deep water barriers and therefore given the status herein as separate but similar species.

All would until now have been keyed out or identified as "*Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980", which is the same diagnosis as for the subgenus *Paraemoia subgen. nov.*

The subgenus *Paraemoia subgen. nov.* (type species *Emoia parkeri* Brown, Pernetta and Watling, 1980) within the genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* is separated from all other species within the genera *Notanemoia gen. nov.*, *Cannotbeemoia gen. nov.*, *Silvaemoia gen. nov.*, *Griseolaterus gen. nov.* and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Dorsum not uniformly dark; dorsal ground color of head and body in shades of olive, tan or medium to light brown and iridescent; if ground color of trunk brown, sides with darker bars, spots or stripes; ground color of head and body tan, brown or olive, lateral pattern of sparse markings to boldly marked; trunk with dark dorsolateral and lateral stripes and greenish bronze vertebral stripe, number of middorsal scales from nape to base of tail 72 or fewer; interparietal and frontoparietal scales separate; number of scales around midbody 26-33.

Nominate *Aintemoia parkeri* is herein restricted to Viti Levu Island, Fiji. *A. dannygoodwini sp. nov.* occurs on Vanua Levu and Tavenui islands, Fiji. *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.* is found on Kadavu Island, Fiji and potentially islets immediately to the north-east.

The three species, *A. dannygoodwini sp. nov.*, *A. parkeri* and *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.* are most readily separated from one another by differences in colouration.

A. parkeri is characterised and separated from both other species by a black stripe commencing in front of the eye, running under it and then as thick unbroken line past the top of the ear and along the flank past the front leg after which it breaks and becomes broken by the brown colouration that dominates the dorsal surface and rear flanks. By contrast *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.* is of similar dorsal colouration to *A. parkeri* but the same black stripe on *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.* commences only from the back of the eye (not in front of it) and has one or more well-defined breaks in it before the front leg. The species *A. dannygoodwini sp. nov.* is also similar to both other species (*A. parkeri* and *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.*), in this case with the black stripe starting from the front of the eye, being similar to that of *A. parkeri*, but is separated from both other species by a generally lighter dorsal colouration (medium, versus dark brown on top) and whitish upper labials, versus yellowish in *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.* and brownish in *A. parkeri*.

Distribution: *A. latishadarwinae sp. nov.* is restricted to the island of Kadavu, Fiji and potentially immediately adjacent islets to the north east.

Etymology: Named in honour of Latisha Darwin manager of the Brush Ski Lodge, Mount Hotham, Victoria, for some years preceding 2018, in recognition for her services to the downhill snow skiing and snowboarding industry, including actively diverting young Australians and foreigners away from their mobile phones and computers and actually engaging in outdoor sport, exercise and appreciation of their natural environment.

CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS STEVEBENNETTI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:58319D6C-8AE5-466E-BC2B-C8248D2472BC

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the United States National Museum (now National Museum of Natural History; Smithsonian Institution; Washington, DC), USA, specimen number: USNM 333793, collected at 3km east of Somosomo at 600 metres elevation, Taveuni, Fiji.

The National Museum of Natural History; Smithsonian Institution; Washington, DC, USA, allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 13 preserved specimens at the United States National Museum (now National Museum of Natural History; Smithsonian Institution; Washington, DC), USA, specimen numbers: USNM 333794-333806, collected at Taveuni, Fiji.

Diagnosis: *Caeruleocaudascincus stevebennetti sp. nov.* known

only from the Fiji Islands, is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 8-10, supraciliaries, 7-12 scales on the eyelid, 6-8 infralabials, 56-60 dorsals, 31-36 mid-body rows, 25-28 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 33-41 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 56-59 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. lucybennettiae sp. nov. known only from Efate, Vanuatu, and immediately adjacent islands is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 7-9 supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a deep sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. clivebennetti sp. nov. known only from San Cristobal Island and other nearby islands in the Solomons, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti sp. nov.*, *C. lucybennettiae sp. nov.* and *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* from Bougainville by adult males lacking any obvious mid-dorsal stripe and no well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks and adult females also without well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. craigbennetti sp. nov. from Bougainville, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti sp. nov.*, *C. lucybennettiae sp. nov.* and *C. clivebennetti sp. nov.*, by adult males being characterised by a well-defined light coloured mid-dorsal stripe of about one scale's width, usually with little or no blue on the tail and females with a well-defined dorsal pattern of stripes and including a well-defined white line demarcating darker zones on the lower flanks. This demarcation line is light orangeish white. Females are further defined by having a well defined orange stripe running down the upper surface of all four limbs and distinctive banding on the toes of all four feet.

C. brettbarnetti sp. nov. from the New Georgia group of Islands in the Western Province of Solomon Islands are similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* but separated from that taxon by the presence of significant peppering of grey on the rear lower labials in males (versus immaculate in *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.*) and the presence of well defined dark blackish-blue etchings at the rear of each scale on the mid section of the dorsal surface of the tail giving barred appearance. These bars expand in width so that the tip of the tail is almost blackish in appearance.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 is similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* but whereas a black mid-dorsal stripe runs from just behind the pelvis down about half the tail of *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* this is not the case for *C. caeruleocauda*.

Adult *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. are characterised by a mainly pale aqua blue tail, versus strong and generally immaculate aqua in *C. caeruleocauda*.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 has 40-49 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot and 52-57 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. williambennetti sp. nov. from the Bismark Archipelago is separated from all other species in the genus

Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov. by the following unique combination of characters: 37-43 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 50-58 scale rows parietals to tail, 31-35 mid body rows (an average number much higher than for all other species in the genus), well defined immaculate yellowish stripes on the dorsal surface and flanks, which are otherwise an immaculate chocolate brownish black, legs scaly in pattern and not striped and immaculate white lower labials.

C. kamahlbennetti sp. nov. from St. Matthias is similar in most respects to *C. williambennetti* sp. nov. as defined herein, but is separated from that species by 44-54 lamellae on the fourth rear toe (versus 37-43) and 53-64 scale rows parietals to tail (versus 50-58). The combined suite of characters thus separates these two species from all others in the genus.

C. werner Vogt, 1912 from the Mariana Islands, is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following suite of characters: 36-45 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot; 52-59 scale rows parietals to tail; the colour consists of mid dorsal and dorsolateral stripes being light brown and broken by darker scales in a peppered manner, stripes on the flanks are very indistinct and the rest of the upper body is a peppered chocolate brown on a blackish background, but by any view, far from immaculate. Limbs and feet lack any obvious stripes or markings, save for a few indistinct spots or specks on the upper hind limbs. The blue on the tail is often broken with brown and there is no obvious dark stripe running down the midline of the anterior part of the tail. The front of the head is mottled light brown in colour becoming whiteish at the top of the snout.

C. drubennetti sp. nov. from the Gulf province of southern New Guinea and nearby areas is readily separated from all others in the genus by 8-10 supraciliaries, 9-13 scales on the eyelid, 6-7 infralabials, 53-59 dorsals, 27-33 mid body rows, 21-28 lamellae on the fourth finger of the toe and 30-39 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot, 53-59 scale rows parietals to tail, and body stripes becoming blue anterior to the tail, versus posterior to the tail in *C. triviale* (Schütz, 1929) which is otherwise similar and would identify as the same species in terms of separation from the rest.

In both species *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. and *C. triviale* the toes are banded black and yellow, the dorsal pattern of stripes on a dark background is immaculate and the rear end of the tail is usually a deep aqua colour. The dorsolateral black stripe running from behind the pelvic girdle is only short and invariably at best runs no more than 20 per cent of the tail length.

C. jaibennetti sp. nov. from north of Borneo and the Philippines is readily separated from the other species in the genus by colouration including a general absence of any black line running down the anterior part of the upper part of the tail and the lower flanks having distinctive upward incursions of white from the belly up the lower flanks. The tail is bright aqua blue at the anterior end, becoming sky blue towards the rear; the front of the snout becomes yellowish and the upper rear legs have distinctive yellow spots. *C. jaibennetti* sp. nov. is further characterised by having 51-59 scale rows parietals to tail and 31-43 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot.

The species *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. (see above) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. also has some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov.

The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-

called superspecies known until now as *Emoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Known only from the Fiji Island of Taveuni and potentially Vitu Levu.

Etymology: Named in honour of Steve Bennett of Narre Warren, Victoria, Australia for services to herpetology and wildlife conservation in general, including through logistical assistances to Snakebusters: Australia's best reptiles shows and as a personal fitness trainer for members of our team.

CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS LUCYBENNETTAE SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:58EB4678-DC35-490A-9039-26EA5D9109A7

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the United States National Museum (now National Museum of Natural History; Smithsonian Institution; Washington, DC), USA, specimen number: USNM 333943, collected at Efate, Vanuatu.

The National Museum of Natural History; Smithsonian Institution; Washington, DC, USA, allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 28 preserved specimens at the United States National Museum (now National Museum of Natural History; Smithsonian Institution; Washington, DC), USA, specimen numbers: USNM 333941, 333944-49, 333959-62, 333953-66, 333968, 333970, 333972-73 collected at Efate, Vanuatu.

Diagnosis: *Caeruleocaudascincus lucybennettiae* sp. nov. known only from Efate, Vanuatu and immediately adjacent islands is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a deep sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. stevebennetti sp. nov. known only from the Fiji Islands, is readily separated from all other species in the genus

Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 8-10, supraciliaries, 7-12 scales on the eyelid, 6-8 infralabials, 56-60 dorsals, 31-36 mid-body rows, 25-28 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 33-41 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 56-59 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. clivebennetti sp. nov. known only from San Cristobal Island and other nearby islands in the Solomons, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettiae* sp. nov. and *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. from Bougainville by adult males lacking any obvious mid-dorsal stripe and no well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks and adult females also without well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows

parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. craigbennetti sp. nov. from Bougainville, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti sp. nov.*, *C. lucybennettae sp. nov.* and *C. clivebennetti sp. nov.*, by adult males being characterised by a well-defined light coloured mid-dorsal stripe of about one scale's width, usually with little or no blue on the tail and females with a well-defined dorsal pattern of stripes and including a well-defined white line demarcating darker zones on the lower flanks. This demarcation line is light orangeish white. Females are further defined by having a well defined orange stripe running down the upper surface of all four limbs and distinctive banding on the toes of all four feet.

C. brettbarnetti sp. nov. from the New Georgia group of Islands in the Western Province of Solomon Islands are similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* but separated from that taxon by the presence of significant peppering of grey on the rear lower labials in males (versus immaculate in *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.*) and the presence of well defined dark blackish-blue etchings at the rear of each scale on the mid section of the dorsal surface of the tail giving barred appearance. These bars expand in width so that the tip of the tail is almost blackish in appearance.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 is similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* but whereas a black mid-dorsal stripe runs from just behind the pelvis down about half the tail of *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* this is not the case for *C. caeruleocauda*. Adult *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* are characterised by a mainly pale aqua blue tail, versus strong and generally immaculate aqua in *C. caeruleocauda*.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 has 40-49 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot and 52-57 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. williambennetti sp. nov. from the Bismark Archipelago is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* by the following unique combination of characters: 37-43 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 50-58 scale rows parietals to tail, 31-35 mid body rows (an average number much higher than for all other species in the genus), well defined immaculate yellowish stripes on the dorsal surface and flanks, which are otherwise an immaculate chocolate brownish black, legs scaly in pattern and not striped and immaculate white lower labials.

C. kamahlbennetti sp. nov. from St. Matthias is similar in most respects to *C. williambennetti sp. nov.* as defined herein, but is separated from that species by 44-54 lamellae on the fourth rear toe (versus 37-43) and 53-64 scale rows parietals to tail (versus 50-58). The combined suite of characters thus separates these two species from all others in the genus.

C. wernerii Vogt, 1912 from the Mariana Islands, is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* by the following suite of characters: 36-45 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot; 52-59 scale rows parietals to tail; the colour consists of mid dorsal and dosolateral stripes being light brown and broken by darker scales in a peppered manner, stripes on th flanks are very indistinct and the rest of the upper body is a peppered chocolate brown on a blackish background, but by any view, far from immaculate. Limbs and feet lack any obvious stripes or makings, save for a few indistinct spots or specks on the upper hind limbs. The blue on the tail is often broken with brown and there is no obvious dark stripe running down the midline of the anterior part of the tail. The front of the head is mottled light brown in colour becoming whiteish at the top of the snout.

C. drubennetti sp. nov. from the Gulf province of southern New Guinea and nearby areas is readily separated from all others in the genus by 8-10 supraciliaries, 9-13 scales on the eyelid, 6-7 infralabials, 53-59 dorsals, 27-33 mid body rows, 21-28 lamellae on the fourth finger of the toe and 30-39 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot, 53-59 scale rows parietals to tail, and body stripes becoming blue anterior to the tail, versus posterior to the tail in *C. triviale* (Schütz, 1929) which is otherwise similar and would identify as the same species in terms of separation from the rest.

In both species *C. drubennetti sp. nov.* and *C. triviale* the toes are banded black and yellow, the dorsal pattern of stripes on a dark background is immaculate and the rear end of the tail is usually a deep aqua colour. The dorsolateral black stripe running from behind the pelvic girdle is only short and invariably at best runs no more than 20 per cent of the tail length.

C. jaibennetti sp. nov. from north of Borneo and the Philippines is readily separated from the other species in the genus by colouration including a general absence of any black line running down the anterior part of the upper part of the tail and the lower flanks having distinctive upward incursions of white from the belly up the lower flanks. The tail is bright aqua blue at the anterior end, becoming sky blue towards the rear; the front of the snout becomes yellowish and the upper rear legs have distinctive yellow spots. *C. jaibennetti sp. nov.* is further characterised by having 51-59 scale rows parietals to tail and 31-43 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot.

The species *C. danielbennetti sp. nov.* is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti sp. nov.* (see above) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti sp. nov.*). *C. danielbennetti sp. nov.* also has some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C. drubennetti sp. nov.*). *C. danielbennetti sp. nov.* has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti sp. nov.*.

The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-called superspecies known until now as *Emoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Known only from Efate, Vanuatu and immediately adjacent islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of Lucy Bennett, wife of Steve Bennett of Narre Warren, Victoria, Australia, for her services to herpetology and wildlife conservation in general, including through logistical assistances to Snakebusters: Australia's best reptiles shows and moving bulky materials used to maintain our scientific research facility.

CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS CLIVEBENNETTI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B33EA1E5-3D32-4363-BD6B-1C92240B7C88

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number: R69554 collected at Kira Kira, San Cristobal, Solomon Islands, Latitude 10.50 S., Longitude 161.93 E. The government-owned Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 57 preserved specimens all from San Cristobal, Solomon Islands, specimen numbers, AMS R69555-56, R80155-58 and R93496 all at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South

Wales, Australia, specimen numbers, CAS 72228-29 at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA and specimen numbers MCZ 14552-60, 14562-71, 14573-76 and 14595-619 all at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

Diagnosis: *Caeruleocaudascincus clivebennetti* sp. nov. known only from San Cristobal Island and other nearby islands in the Solomons, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettiae* sp. nov. and *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. from Bougainville by adult males lacking any obvious mid-dorsal stripe and no well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks and adult females also without well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. stevebennetti sp. nov. known only from the Fiji Islands, is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 8-10, supraciliaries, 7-12 scales on the eyelid, 6-8 infralabials, 56-60 dorsals, 31-36 mid-body rows, 25-28 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 33-41 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 56-59 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. lucybennettiae sp. nov. known only from Efate, Vanuatu, and immediately adjacent islands is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a deep sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. craigbennetti sp. nov. from Bougainville, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettiae* sp. nov. and *C. clivebennetti* sp. nov., by adult males being characterised by a well-defined light coloured mid-dorsal stripe of about one scale's width, usually with little or no blue on the tail and females with a well-defined dorsal pattern of stripes and including a well-defined white line demarcating darker zones on the lower flanks. This demarcation line is light orangeish white. Females are further defined by having a well defined orange stripe running down the upper surface of all four limbs and distinctive banding on the toes of all four feet.

C. brettbarnetti sp. nov. from the New Georgia group of Islands in the Western Province of Solomon Islands are similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. but separated from that taxon by the presence of significant peppering of grey on the rear lower labials in males (versus immaculate in *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov.) and the presence of well defined dark blackish-blue etchings at the rear of each scale on the mid section of the dorsal surface of the tail giving barred appearance. These bars expand in width so that the tip of the tail is almost blackish in appearance.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent

becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 is similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. but whereas a black mid-dorsal stripe runs from just behind the pelvis down about half the tail of *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. this is not the case for *C. caeruleocauda*. Adult *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. are characterised by a mainly pale aqua blue tail, versus strong and generally immaculate aqua in *C. caeruleocauda*.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 has 40-49 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot and 52-57 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. williambennetti sp. nov. from the Bismark Archipelago is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following unique combination of characters: 37-43 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 50-58 scale rows parietals to tail, 31-35 mid body rows (an average number much higher than for all other species in the genus), well defined immaculate yellowish stripes on the dorsal surface and flanks, which are otherwise an immaculate chocolate brownish black, legs scaly in pattern and not striped and immaculate white lower labials.

C. kamahlbennetti sp. nov. from St. Matthias is similar in most respects to *C. williambennetti* sp. nov. as defined herein, but is separated from that species by 44-54 lamellae on the fourth rear toe (versus 37-43) and 53-64 scale rows parietals to tail (versus 50-58). The combined suite of characters thus separates these two species from all others in the genus.

C. wernerii Vogt, 1912 from the Mariana Islands, is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following suite of characters: 36-45 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot; 52-59 scale rows parietals to tail; the colour consists of mid dorsal and dosolateral stripes being light brown and broken by darker scales in a peppered manner, stripes on the flanks are very indistinct and the rest of the upper body is a peppered chocolate brown on a blackish background, but by any view, far from immaculate. Limbs and feet lack any obvious stripes or markings, save for a few indistinct spots or specks on the upper hind limbs. The blue on the tail is often broken with brown and there is no obvious dark stripe running down the midline of the anterior part of the tail. The front of the head is mottled light brown in colour becoming whiteish at the top of the snout.

C. drubennetti sp. nov. from the Gulf province of southern New Guinea and nearby areas is readily separated from all others in the genus by 8-10 supraciliaries, 9-13 scales on the eyelid, 6-7 infralabials, 53-59 dorsals, 27-33 mid body rows, 21-28 lamellae on the fourth finger of the toe and 30-39 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot, 53-59 scale rows parietals to tail, and body stripes becoming blue anterior to the tail, versus posterior to the tail in *C. triviale* (Schütz, 1929) which is otherwise similar and would identify as the same species in terms of separation from the rest.

In both species *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. and *C. triviale* the toes are banded black and yellow, the dorsal pattern of stripes on a dark background is immaculate and the rear end of the tail is usually a deep aqua colour. The dorsolateral black stripe running from behind the pelvic girdle is only short and invariably at best runs no more than 20 per cent of the tail length.

C. jaibennetti sp. nov. from north of Borneo and the Philippines is readily separated from the other species in the genus by colouration including a general absence of any black line running down the anterior part of the upper part of the tail and the lower flanks having distinctive upward incursions of white from the belly up the lower flanks. The tail is bright aqua blue at the anterior end, becoming sky blue towards the rear; the front of the snout becomes yellowish and the upper rear legs have distinctive yellow spots. *C. jaibennetti* sp. nov. is further characterised by having 51-59 scale rows parietals to tail and 31-43 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot.

The species *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. (see above) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. also has some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C.*

drubennetti sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov..

The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-called superspecies known until now as *Emoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Known only from San Cristobal, Solomon Islands and immediately adjacent smaller islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of the late Clive Bennett of Kempsey, New South Wales, Australia, formerly a wildlife officer with the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS/NSW) for his services to wildlife conservation in Australia by way of exposing serious endemic corruption within his government bureaucracy and the associated business at Taronga Park Zoo in Mosman, New South Wales, Australia.

CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS CRAIGBENNETTI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:EF0F7F2B-8A15-4D0A-97E2-2B3067D4678E

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number: R11466 collected at Buin, South Bougainville, Latitude 6.83 S., Longitude 155.73 E. The government-owned Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: 87 preserved specimens all from Bougainville, specimen numbers, AMS R11467, R18812, R42012 and R55986-87 all at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen numbers, CAS 94006. 107410-15, 108380-421, 108982, 108984-87 and 110166-200 all at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA.

Diagnosis: *Caeruleocaudascincus stevebennetti* sp. nov. known only from the Fiji Islands, is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 8-10, supraciliaries, 7-12 scales on the eyelid, 6-8 infralabials, 56-60 dorsals, 31-36 mid-body rows, 25-28 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 33-41 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 56-59 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. lucybennettae sp. nov. known only from Efate, Vanuatu, and immediately adjacent islands is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a deep sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. clivebennetti sp. nov. known only from San Cristobal Island and other nearby islands in the Solomons, is separated from all of *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettae* sp. nov. and *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov. from Bougainville by adult males lacking any obvious mid-dorsal stripe and no well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks and adult females also without well-defined

white demarcation on the lower flanks.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. craigbennetti sp. nov. from Bougainville, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettae* sp. nov. and *C. clivebennetti* sp. nov., by adult males being characterised by a well-defined light coloured mid-dorsal stripe of about one scale's width, usually with little or no blue on the tail and females with a well-defined dorsal pattern of stripes and including a well-defined white line demarcating darker zones on the lower flanks. This demarcation line is light orangeish white. Females are further defined by having a well defined orange stripe running down the upper surface of all four limbs and distinctive banding on the toes of all four feet.

C. brettbarnetti sp. nov. from the New Georgia group of Islands in the Western Province of Solomon Islands are similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. but separated from that taxon by the presence of significant peppering of grey on the rear lower labials in males (versus immaculate in *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov.) and the presence of well defined dark blackish-blue etchings at the rear of each scale on the mid section of the dorsal surface of the tail giving barred appearance. These bars expand in width so that the tip of the tail is almost blackish in appearance.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 is similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. but whereas a black mid-dorsal stripe runs from just behind the pelvis down about half the tail of *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. this is not the case for *C. caeruleocauda*. Adult *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. are characterised by a mainly pale aqua blue tail, versus strong and generally immaculate aqua in *C. caeruleocauda*.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 has 40-49 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot and 52-57 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. williambennetti sp. nov. from the Bismark Archipelago is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following unique combination of characters: 37-43 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 50-58 scale rows parietals to tail, 31-35 mid body rows (an average number much higher than for all other species in the genus), well defined immaculate yellowish stripes on the dorsal surface and flanks, which are otherwise an immaculate chocolate brownish black, legs scaly in pattern and not striped and immaculate white lower labials.

C. kamahlbennetti sp. nov. from St. Matthias is similar in most respects to *C. williambennetti* sp. nov. as defined herein, but is separated from that species by 44-54 lamellae on the fourth rear toe (versus 37-43) and 53-64 scale rows parietals to tail (versus 50-58). The combined suite of characters thus separates these two species from all others in the genus.

C. wernerii Vogt, 1912 from the Mariana Islands, is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following suite of characters: 36-45 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot; 52-59 scale rows parietals to tail; the colour consists of mid dorsal and dorsolateral stripes being light brown and broken by darker scales in a peppered manner, stripes on the flanks are very indistinct and the rest of the upper body is a peppered

chocolate brown on a blackish background, but by any view, far from immaculate. Limbs and feet lack any obvious stripes or markings, save for a few indistinct spots or specks on the upper hind limbs. The blue on the tail is often broken with brown and there is no obvious dark stripe running down the midline of the anterior part of the tail. The front of the head is mottled light brown in colour becoming whitish at the top of the snout.

C. drubennetti sp. nov. from the Gulf province of southern New Guinea and nearby areas is readily separated from all others in the genus by 8-10 supraciliaries, 9-13 scales on the eyelid, 6-7 infralabials, 53-59 dorsals, 27-33 mid body rows, 21-28 lamellae on the fourth finger of the toe and 30-39 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot, 53-59 scale rows parietals to tail, and body stripes becoming blue anterior to the tail, versus posterior to the tail in *C. triviale* (Schütz, 1929) which is otherwise similar and would identify as the same species in terms of separation from the rest.

In both species *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. and *C. triviale* the toes are banded black and yellow, the dorsal pattern of stripes on a dark background is immaculate and the rear end of the tail is usually a deep aqua colour. The dorsolateral black stripe running from behind the pelvic girdle is only short and invariably at best runs no more than 20 per cent of the tail length.

C. jaibennetti sp. nov. from north of Borneo and the Philippines is readily separated from the other species in the genus by colouration including a general absence of any black line running down the anterior part of the upper part of the tail and the lower flanks having distinctive upward incursions of white from the belly up the lower flanks. The tail is bright aqua blue at the anterior end, becoming sky blue towards the rear; the front of the snout becomes yellowish and the upper rear legs have distinctive yellow spots. *C. jaibennetti* sp. nov. is further characterised by having 51-59 scale rows parietals to tail and 31-43 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot.

The species *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. (see above) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. also has some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov.

The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. has until now been treated as being part of *Eomoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-called superspecies known until now as *Eomoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Eomoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Known only from Bougainville Island in the territory of Papua New Guinea.

Etymology: Named in honour of Craig Bennett of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia who in his youth, while living at St. Ives assisted this author in fieldwork studying Death Adders *Acanthopis antarcticus* (Shaw and Nodder, 1802) in the 1970's and 1980's and who in later life has become a well-known show-biz commentator on daytime television on Network Ten Australia.

CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS BRETTBARNETTI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:4A17FFB0-824E-4B56-9D76-1F6DD6A3B92E

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA, specimen number: FMNH 41317

collected at New Georgia, Solomon Islands, Latitude 8.13 S., Longitude 157.52 E. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: Two preserved specimens at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA, specimen number: FMNH 41317 collected at Kolombangara Island in the New Georgia group in the Solomon Islands, Latitude 8.02 S., Longitude 157.05 E.

Diagnosis: *Caeruleocaudascincus stevebennetti* sp. nov. known only from the Fiji Islands, is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 8-10, supraciliaries, 7-12 scales on the eyelid, 6-8 infralabials, 56-60 dorsals, 31-36 mid-body rows, 25-28 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 33-41 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 56-59 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. lucybennettae sp. nov. known only from Efate, Vanuatu, and immediately adjacent islands is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a deep sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. clivebennetti sp. nov. known only from San Cristobal Island and other nearby islands in the Solomons, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettae* sp. nov. and *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. from Bougainville by adult males lacking any obvious mid-dorsal stripe and no well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks and adult females also without well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. craigbennetti sp. nov. from Bougainville, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettae* sp. nov. and *C. clivebennetti* sp. nov., by adult males being characterised by a well-defined light coloured mid-dorsal stripe of about one scale's width, usually with little or no blue on the tail and females with a well-defined dorsal pattern of stripes and including a well-defined white line demarcating darker zones on the lower flanks. This demarcation line is light orangeish white. Females are further defined by having a well defined orange stripe running down the upper surface of all four limbs and distinctive banding on the toes of all four feet.

C. brettbarnetti sp. nov. from the New Georgia group of Islands in the Western Province of Solomon Islands are similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. but separated from that taxon by the presence of significant peppering of grey on the rear lower labials in males (versus immaculate in *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov.) and the presence of well defined dark blackish-blue etchings at the rear of each scale on the mid section of the dorsal surface of the tail giving barred appearance. These bars expand in width so that the tip of the tail is almost blackish in appearance.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue

in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 is similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. but whereas a black mid-dorsal stripe runs from just behind the pelvis down about half the tail of *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. this is not the case for *C. caeruleocauda*. Adult *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. are characterised by a mainly pale aqua blue tail, versus strong and generally immaculate aqua in *C. caeruleocauda*.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 has 40-49 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot and 52-57 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. williambennetti sp. nov. from the Bismark Archipelago is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following unique combination of characters: 37-43 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 50-58 scale rows parietals to tail, 31-35 mid body rows (an average number much higher than for all other species in the genus), well defined immaculate yellowish stripes on the dorsal surface and flanks, which are otherwise an immaculate chocolate brownish black, legs scaly in pattern and not striped and immaculate white lower labials.

C. kamahlbennetti sp. nov. from St. Matthias is similar in most respects to *C. williambennetti* sp. nov. as defined herein, but is separated from that species by 44-54 lamellae on the fourth rear toe (versus 37-43) and 53-64 scale rows parietals to tail (versus 50-58). The combined suite of characters thus separates these two species from all others in the genus.

C. wernerii Vogt, 1912 from the Mariana Islands, is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following suite of characters: 36-45 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot; 52-59 scale rows parietals to tail; the colour consists of mid dorsal and dorsolateral stripes being light brown and broken by darker scales in a peppered manner, stripes on the flanks are very indistinct and the rest of the upper body is a peppered chocolate brown on a blackish background, but by any view, far from immaculate. Limbs and feet lack any obvious stripes or markings, save for a few indistinct spots or specks on the upper hind limbs. The blue on the tail is often broken with brown and there is no obvious dark stripe running down the midline of the anterior part of the tail. The front of the head is mottled light brown in colour becoming whiteish at the top of the snout.

C. drubennetti sp. nov. from the Gulf province of southern New Guinea and nearby areas is readily separated from all others in the genus by 8-10 supraciliaries, 9-13 scales on the eyelid, 6-7 infralabials, 53-59 dorsals, 27-33 mid body rows, 21-28 lamellae on the fourth finger of the toe and 30-39 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot, 53-59 scale rows parietals to tail, and body stripes becoming blue anterior to the tail, versus posterior to the tail in *C. triviale* (Schütz, 1929) which is otherwise similar and would identify as the same species in terms of separation from the rest.

In both species *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. and *C. triviale* the toes are banded black and yellow, the dorsal pattern of stripes on a dark background is immaculate and the rear end of the tail is usually a deep aqua colour. The dorsolateral black stripe running from behind the pelvic girdle is only short and invariably at best runs no more than 20 per cent of the tail length.

C. jaibennetti sp. nov. from north of Borneo and the Philippines is readily separated from the other species in the genus by colouration including a general absence of any black line running down the anterior part of the upper part of the tail and the lower flanks having distinctive upward incursions of white from the belly up the lower flanks. The tail is bright aqua blue at the anterior end, becoming sky blue towards the rear; the front of the snout becomes yellowish and the upper rear legs have distinctive yellow spots. *C. jaibennetti* sp. nov. is further characterised by having 51-59 scale rows parietals to tail and 31-43 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot.

The species *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. (see above) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. also has

some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov..

The species *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. (see above) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. also has some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov..

The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-called superspecies known until now as *Emoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Known only from the new Georgia group of islands in the Solomon Islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of Brett Barnett of Ardeer in Victoria, Australia for services to herpetology spanning some decades including in particular his excellent logistical support for activities by the Victorian Herpetological Society (VHS), including the organisation of and running of reptile expos on an annual basis, including in terms of security, noting that the ongoing threats of disruptions, thefts of reptiles and other forms of attack of wildlife displays by people seeking to undermine them for their own commercial self-interest is a serious problem in Australia in the period post-dating about 2006 to present (2019).

CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS WILLIAMBENNETTI SP. NOV.
LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:7EFB2D83-B1F1-4D32-81C9-6B9482BB8D43

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen number R28906 collected at Talasea, New Britain, Latitude 5.30 S., Longitude 150.05 E. This government-owned facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: Six preserved specimens at the Australian Museum in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, specimen numbers R28930-31 and R28962-65 collected at Talasea, New Britain, Latitude 5.30 S., Longitude 150.05 E.

Diagnosis: *Caeruleocaudascincus williambennetti* sp. nov. from the Bismark Archipelago is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following unique combination of characters: 37-43 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 50-58 scale rows parietals to tail, 31-35 mid body rows (an average number much higher than for all other species in the genus), well defined immaculate yellowish stripes on the dorsal surface and flanks, which are otherwise an immaculate chocolate brownish black, legs scaly in pattern and not striped and immaculate white lower labials.

C. kamahlbennetti sp. nov. from St. Matthias is similar in most respects to *C. williambennetti* sp. nov. as defined herein, but is separated from that species by 44-54 lamellae on the fourth rear toe (versus 37-43) and 53-64 scale rows parietals to tail (versus 50-58). The combined suite of characters thus separates these two species from all others in the genus.

C. stevebennetti sp. nov. known only from the Fiji Islands, is readily separated from all other species in the genus

Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 8-10, supraciliaries, 7-12 scales on the eyelid, 6-8 infralabials, 56-60 dorsals, 31-36 mid-body rows, 25-28 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 33-41 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 56-59 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. lucybennettiae sp. nov. known only from Efate, Vanuatu, and immediately adjacent islands is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a deep sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. clivebennetti sp. nov. known only from San Cristobal Island and other nearby islands in the Solomons, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti sp. nov.*, *C. lucybennettiae sp. nov.* and *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* from Bougainville by adult males lacking any obvious mid-dorsal stripe and no well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks and adult females also without well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. craigbennetti sp. nov. from Bougainville, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti sp. nov.*, *C. lucybennettiae sp. nov.* and *C. clivebennetti sp. nov.*, by adult males being characterised by a well-defined light coloured mid-dorsal stripe of about one scale's width, usually with little or no blue on the tail and females with a well-defined dorsal pattern of stripes and including a well-defined white line demarcating darker zones on the lower flanks. This demarcation line is light orangeish white. Females are further defined by having a well defined orange stripe running down the upper surface of all four limbs and distinctive banding on the toes of all four feet.

C. brettbarnetti sp. nov. from the New Georgia group of Islands in the Western Province of Solomon Islands are similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* but separated from that taxon by the presence of significant peppering of grey on the rear lower labials in males (versus immaculate in *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.*) and the presence of well defined dark blackish-blue etchings at the rear of each scale on the mid section of the dorsal surface of the tail giving barred appearance. These bars expand in width so that the tip of the tail is almost blackish in appearance.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 is similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* but whereas a black mid-dorsal stripe runs from just behind the pelvis down about half the tail of *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* this is not the case for *C. caeruleocauda*. Adult *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* are characterised by a mainly pale aqua blue tail, versus strong and generally immaculate aqua in *C. caeruleocauda*.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 has 40-49 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot and 52-57 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. werneri Vogt, 1912 from the Mariana Islands, is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* by the following suite of characters: 36-45 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot; 52-59 scale rows parietals to tail; the colour consists of mid dorsal and dorsolateral stripes being light brown and broken by darker scales in a peppered manner, stripes on the flanks are very indistinct and the rest of the upper body is a peppered chocolate brown on a blackish background, but by any view, far from immaculate. Limbs and feet lack any obvious stripes or markings, save for a few indistinct spots or specks on the upper hind limbs. The blue on the tail is often broken with brown and there is no obvious dark stripe running down the midline of the anterior part of the tail. The front of the head is mottled light brown in colour becoming whiteish at the top of the snout.

C. drubennetti sp. nov. from the Gulf province of southern New Guinea and nearby areas is readily separated from all others in the genus by 8-10 supraciliaries, 9-13 scales on the eyelid, 6-7 infralabials, 53-59 dorsals, 27-33 mid body rows, 21-28 lamellae on the fourth finger of the toe and 30-39 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot, 53-59 scale rows parietals to tail, and body stripes becoming blue anterior to the tail, versus posterior to the tail in *C. triviale* (Schütz, 1929) which is otherwise similar and would identify as the same species in terms of separation from the rest.

In both species *C. drubennetti sp. nov.* and *C. triviale* the toes are banded black and yellow, the dorsal pattern of stripes on a dark background is immaculate and the rear end of the tail is usually a deep aqua colour. The dorsolateral black stripe running from behind the pelvic girdle is only short and invariably at best runs no more than 20 per cent of the tail length.

C. jaibennetti sp. nov. from north of Borneo and the Philippines is readily separated from the other species in the genus by colouration including a general absence of any black line running down the anterior part of the upper part of the tail and the lower flanks having distinctive upward incursions of white from the belly up the lower flanks. The tail is bright aqua blue at the anterior end, becoming sky blue towards the rear; the front of the snout becomes yellowish and the upper rear legs have distinctive yellow spots. *C. jaibennetti sp. nov.* is further characterised by having 51-59 scale rows parietals to tail and 31-43 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot.

The species *C. danielbennetti sp. nov.* is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti sp. nov.* (see above) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti sp. nov.*). *C. danielbennetti sp. nov.* also has some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C. drubennetti sp. nov.*). *C. danielbennetti sp. nov.* has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti sp. nov.*.

The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-called superspecies known until now as *Emoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Known only from the Bismark islands of New Britain and New Ireland and immediately adjacent small islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of the late William (Bill) Bennett of Saint Clair in western Sydney, New South Wales, later of Young in

New South Wales, Australia for services to herpetology and wildlife conservation in general, including through logistical assistances to this author when conducting fieldwork in remote areas, including in the form of emergency car repairs and the like in the 1970's and 1980's.

CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS KAMAHLBENNETTI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:14D35B4D-8381-4FDF-A781-0F8E68674668

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA., specimen number MCZ 144390 collected at Mussau Island in the St. Matthias Group in the New Ireland Province of Papua New Guinea, Latitude 1.41 S., Longitude 149.61 E. This facility allows inspection of its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA., specimen number MCZ 156186 collected at Mussau Island in the St. Matthias Group in the New Ireland Province of Papua New Guinea, Latitude 1.41 S., Longitude 149.61 E.

Diagnosis: *Caeruleocaudascincus williambennetti sp. nov.* from the Bismark Archipelago is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* by the following unique combination of characters: 37-43 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 50-58 scale rows parietals to tail, 31-35 mid body rows (an average number much higher than for all other species in the genus), well defined immaculate yellowish stripes on the dorsal surface and flanks, which are otherwise an immaculate chocolate brownish black, legs scaly in pattern and not striped and immaculate white lower labials.

C. kamahlbenneti sp. nov. from St. Matthias is similar in most respects to *C. williambennetti sp. nov.* as defined herein, but is separated from that species by 44-54 lamellae on the fourth rear toe (versus 37-43) and 53-64 scale rows parietals to tail (versus 50-58). The combined suite of characters thus separates these two species from all others in the genus.

C. stevebennetti sp. nov. known only from the Fiji Islands, is readily separated from all other species in the genus

Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 8-10, supraciliaries, 7-12 scales on the eyelid, 6-8 infralabials, 56-60 dorsals, 31-36 mid-body rows, 25-28 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 33-41 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 56-59 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. lucybennettae sp. nov. known only from Efate, Vanuatu, and immediately adjacent islands is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a deep sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. clivebennetti sp. nov. known only from San Cristobal Island and other nearby islands in the Solomons, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti sp. nov.*, *C. lucybennettae sp. nov.* and *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* from Bougainville by adult males lacking any obvious mid-dorsal stripe and no well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks and adult females also without well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue

in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. craigbennetti sp. nov. from Bougainville, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti sp. nov.*, *C. lucybennettae sp. nov.* and *C. clivebennetti sp. nov.*, by adult males being characterised by a well-defined light coloured mid-dorsal stripe of about one scale's width, usually with little or no blue on the tail and females with a well-defined dorsal pattern of stripes and including a well-defined white line demarcating darker zones on the lower flanks. This demarcation line is light orangeish white. Females are further defined by having a well defined orange stripe running down the upper surface of all four limbs and distinctive banding on the toes of all four feet.

C. brettbennetti sp. nov. from the New Georgia group of Islands in the Western Province of Solomon Islands are similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* but separated from that taxon by the presence of significant peppering of grey on the rear lower labials in males (versus immaculate in *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.*) and the presence of well defined dark blackish-blue etchings at the rear of each scale on the mid section of the dorsal surface of the tail giving barred appearance. These bars expand in width so that the tip of the tail is almost blackish in appearance.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 is similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* but whereas a black mid-dorsal stripe runs from just behind the pelvis down about half the tail of *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* this is not the case for *C. caeruleocauda*. Adult *C. craigbennetti sp. nov.* are characterised by a mainly pale aqua blue tail, versus strong and generally immaculate aqua in *C. caeruleocauda*.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 has 40-49 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot and 52-57 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. weneri Vogt, 1912 from the Mariana Islands, is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov.* by the following suite of characters: 36-45 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot; 52-59 scale rows parietals to tail; the colour consists of mid dorsal and dorsolateral stripes being light brown and broken by darker scales in a peppered manner, stripes on the flanks are very indistinct and the rest of the upper body is a peppered chocolate brown on a blackish background, but by any view, far from immaculate. Limbs and feet lack any obvious stripes or markings, save for a few indistinct spots or specks on the upper hind limbs. The blue on the tail is often broken with brown and there is no obvious dark stripe running down the midline of the anterior part of the tail. The front of the head is mottled light brown in colour becoming whiteish at the top of the snout.

C. drubennetti sp. nov. from the Gulf province of southern New Guinea and nearby areas is readily separated from all others in the genus by 8-10 supraciliaries, 9-13 scales on the eyelid, 6-7 infralabials, 53-59 dorsals, 27-33 mid body rows, 21-28 lamellae on the fourth finger of the toe and 30-39 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot, 53-59 scale rows parietals to tail, and body stripes becoming blue anterior to the tail, versus posterior to the tail in *C. triviale* (Schütz, 1929) which is otherwise similar and would identify as the same species in terms of separation from the rest.

In both species *C. drubennetti sp. nov.* and *C. triviale* the toes are banded black and yellow, the dorsal pattern of stripes on a dark background is immaculate and the rear end of the tail is usually a deep aqua colour. The dorsolateral black stripe running from behind the pelvic girdle is only short and invariably at best runs no more than 20 per cent of the tail length.

C. jaibennetti sp. nov. from north of Borneo and the Philippines is readily separated from the other species in the genus by

colouration including a general absence of any black line running down the anterior part of the upper part of the tail and the lower flanks having distinctive upward incursions of white from the belly up the lower flanks. The tail is bright aqua blue at the anterior end, becoming sky blue towards the rear; the front of the snout becomes yellowish and the upper rear legs have distinctive yellow spots. *C. jaibennetti* sp. nov. is further characterised by having 51-59 scale rows parietals to tail and 31-43 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot.

The species *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. (see above) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. also has some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov.

The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-called superspecies known until now as *Emoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Known only from Mussau Island in the St. Matthias Group of Islands, New Ireland Province in Papua New Guinea.

Etymology: Named in honour of Kamahl Bennett of St. Clair, New South Wales, Australia, son of the late William (Bill) Bennett of Saint Clair in western Sydney, New South Wales, later of Young in New South Wales, Australia also for services to herpetology and wildlife conservation in general, including through logistical assistances to this author when conducting fieldwork in remote areas, assisting in photographic assignments and the like.

CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS DRUBENNETTI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:969C68D5-F98A-4FBE-BC12-C3FA46D5BCAD

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA., specimen number R-139526, collected at Emeti on the Bamu River, Western Province, Papua New Guinea, Latitude 7.87 S., Longitude 143.25 E.

This facility allows inspection of its holdings.

Paratype: Two preserved specimens at the at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA., specimen numbers R-139527-28, collected at Emeti on the Bamu River, Western Province, Papua New Guinea, Latitude 7.87 S., Longitude 143.25 E.

Diagnosis: *Caeruleocaudascincus williambennetti* sp. nov. from the Bismark Archipelago is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following unique combination of characters: 37-43 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 50-58 scale rows parietals to tail, 31-35 mid body rows (an average number much higher than for all other species in the genus), well defined immaculate yellowish stripes on the dorsal surface and flanks, which are otherwise an immaculate chocolate brownish black, legs scaly in pattern and not striped and immaculate white lower labials.

C. kamahlbennetti sp. nov. from St. Matthias is similar in most respects to *C. williambennetti* sp. nov. as defined herein, but is separated from that species by 44-54 lamellae on the fourth rear

toe (versus 37-43) and 53-64 scale rows parietals to tail (versus 50-58). The combined suite of characters thus separates these two species from all others in the genus.

C. stevebennetti sp. nov. known only from the Fiji Islands, is readily separated from all other species in the genus

Caeruleocaudascincus gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 8-10, supraciliaries, 7-12 scales on the eyelid, 6-8 infralabials, 56-60 dorsals, 31-36 mid-body rows, 25-28 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 33-41 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 56-59 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. lucybennettiae sp. nov. known only from Efate, Vanuatu, and immediately adjacent islands is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a deep sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. clivebennetti sp. nov. known only from San Cristobal Island and other nearby islands in the Solomons, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettiae* sp. nov. and *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. from Bougainville by adult males lacking any obvious mid-dorsal stripe and no well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks and adult females also without well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. craigbennetti sp. nov. from Bougainville, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettiae* sp. nov. and *C. clivebennetti* sp. nov., by adult males being characterised by a well-defined light coloured mid-dorsal stripe of about one scale's width, usually with little or no blue on the tail and females with a well-defined dorsal pattern of stripes and including a well-defined white line demarcating darker zones on the lower flanks. This demarcation line is light orangeish white. Females are further defined by having a well defined orange stripe running down the upper surface of all four limbs and distinctive banding on the toes of all four feet.

C. brettbarnetti sp. nov. from the New Georgia group of Islands in the Western Province of Solomon Islands are similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. but separated from that taxon by the presence of significant peppering of grey on the rear lower labials (versus immaculate in *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov.) and the presence of well defined dark blackish-blue etchings at the rear of each scale on the mid section of the dorsal surface of the tail giving barred appearance. These bars expand in width so that the tip of the tail is almost blackish in appearance.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 is similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. but whereas a black mid-dorsal stripe runs

from just behind the pelvis down about half the tail of *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. this is not the case for *C. caeruleocauda*. Adult *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. are characterised by a mainly pale aqua blue tail, versus strong and generally immaculate aqua in *C. caeruleocauda*.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 has 40-49 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot and 52-57 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. werneri Vogt, 1912 from the Mariana Islands, is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following suite of characters: 36-45 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot; 52-59 scale rows parietals to tail; the colour consists of mid dorsal and dosolateral stripes being light brown and broken by darker scales in a peppered manner, stripes on th flanks are very indistinct and the rest of the upper body is a peppered chocolate brown on a blackish background, but by any view, far from immaculate. Limbs and feet lack any obvious stripes or makings, save for a few indistinct spots or specks on the upper hind limbs. The blue on the tail is often broken with brown and there is no obvious dark stripe running down the midline of the anterior part of the tail. The front of the head is mottled light brown in colour becoming whiteish at the top of the snout.

C. drubennetti sp. nov. from the Gulf province of southern New Guinea and nearby areas is readily separated from all others in the genus by 8-10 supraciliaries, 9-13 scales on the eyelid, 6-7 infralabials, 53-59 dorsals, 27-33 mid body rows, 21-28 lamellae on the fourth finger of the toe and 30-39 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot, 53-59 scale rows parietals to tail, and body stripes becoming blue anterior to the tail, versus posterior to the tail in *C. triviale* (Schütz, 1929) which is otherwise similar and would identify as the same species in terms of separation from the rest.

In both species *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. and *C. triviale* the toes are banded black and yellow, the dorsal pattern of stripes on a dark background is immaculate and the rear end of the tail is usually a deep aqua colour. The dorsolateral black stripe running from behind the pelvic girdle is only short and invariably at best runs no more than 20 per cent of the tail length.

C. jaibennetti sp. nov. from north of Borneo and the Phillipines is readily separated from the other species in the genus by colouration including a general absence of any black line running down the anterior part of the upper part of the tail and the lower flanks having distinctive upward incursions of white from the belly up the lower flanks. The tail is bright aqua blue at the anterior end, becoming sky blue towards the rear; the front of the snout becomes yellowish and the upper rear legs have distinctive yellow spots. *C. jaibennetti* sp. nov. is further characterised by having 51-59 scale rows parietals to tail and 31-43 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot.

The species *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. (see above) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. also has some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov..

The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-called superspecies known until now as *Emoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint

or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Known only from southern Papua New Guinea in the region of the Gulf and Western provinces.

Etymology: Named in honour of Dru Bennett of St. Clair, New South Wales, Australia, son of the late William (Bill) Bennett of Saint Clair in western Sydney, New South Wales, later of Young in New South Wales, Australia also for services to herpetology and wildlife conservation in general, including through logistical assistances to this author when conducting fieldwork in remote areas, organising specimens for inspection and study and the like in the 1970's and 1980's.

CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS JAIBENNETTI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:8D301157-D468-4330-891A-9DBCE71D531D

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the at the Field Museum of Natural History, 1400 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, Illinois, 60605, USA., specimen number FMNH 63692, collected at Kechil Island off the north coast of Borneo, Sabah, Malaysia. This facility allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the at the Field Museum of Natural History, 1400 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, Illinois, 60605, USA., specimen number FMNH 63693, collected at Kechil Island off the north coast of Borneo, Sabah, Malaysia.

Diagnosis: *Caeruleocaudascincus jaibennetti* sp. nov. from north of Borneo and the Phillipines is readily separated from the other species in the genus by colouration including a general absence of any black line running down the anterior part of the upper part of the tail and the lower flanks having distinctive upward incursions of white from the belly up the lower flanks. The tail is bright aqua blue at the anterior end, becoming sky blue towards the rear; the front of the snout becomes yellowish and the upper rear legs have distinctive yellow spots. *C. jaibennetti* sp. nov. is further characterised by having 51-59 scale rows parietals to tail and 31-43 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot.

C. williambennetti sp. nov. from the Bismark Archipelago is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following unique combination of characters: 37-43 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 50-58 scale rows parietals to tail, 31-35 mid body rows (an average number much higher than for all other species in the genus), well defined immaculate yellowish stripes on the dorsal surface and flanks, which are otherwise an immaculate chocolate brownish black, legs scaly in pattern and not striped and immaculate white lower labials.

C. kamahlbennetti sp. nov. from St. Matthias is similar in most respects to *C. williambennetti* sp. nov. as defined herein, but is separated from that species by 44-54 lamellae on the fourth rear toe (versus 37-43) and 53-64 scale rows parietals to tail (versus 50-58). The combined suite of characters thus separates these two species from all others in the genus.

C. stevebennetti sp. nov. known only from the Fiji Islands, is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 8-10, supraciliaries, 7-12 scales on the eyelid, 6-8 infralabials, 56-60 dorsals, 31-36 mid-body rows, 25-28 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 33-41 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 56-59 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. lucybennettiae sp. nov. known only from Efate, Vanuatu, and immediately adjacent islands is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a deep sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25

percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. clivebennetti sp. nov. known only from San Cristobal Island and other nearby islands in the Solomons, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettae* sp. nov. and *C. craighbennetti* sp. nov. from Bougainville by adult males lacking any obvious mid-dorsal stripe and no well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks and adult females also without well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. craighbennetti sp. nov. from Bougainville, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettae* sp. nov. and *C. clivebennetti* sp. nov., by adult males being characterised by a well-defined light coloured mid-dorsal stripe of about one scale's width, usually with little or no blue on the tail and females with a well-defined dorsal pattern of stripes and including a well-defined white line demarcating darker zones on the lower flanks. This demarcation line is light orangeish white. Females are further defined by having a well defined orange stripe running down the upper surface of all four limbs and distinctive banding on the toes of all four feet.

C. brettbarnetti sp. nov. from the New Georgia group of Islands in the Western Province of Solomon Islands are similar in most respects to *C. craighbennetti* sp. nov. but separated from that taxon by the presence of significant peppering of grey on the rear lower labials in males (versus immaculate in *C. craighbennetti* sp. nov.) and the presence of well defined dark blackish-blue etchings at the rear of each scale on the mid section of the dorsal surface of the tail giving barred appearance. These bars expand in width so that the tip of the tail is almost blackish in appearance.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 is similar in most respects to *C. craighbennetti* sp. nov. but whereas a black mid-dorsal stripe runs from just behind the pelvis down about half the tail of *C. craighbennetti* sp. nov. this is not the case for *C. caeruleocauda*. Adult *C. craighbennetti* sp. nov. are characterised by a mainly pale aqua blue tail, versus strong and generally immaculate aqua in *C. caeruleocauda*.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 has 40-49 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot and 52-57 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. wernerii Vogt, 1912 from the Mariana Islands, is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following suite of characters: 36-45 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot; 52-59 scale rows parietals to tail; the colour consists of mid dorsal and dosolateral stripes being light brown and broken by darker scales in a peppered manner, stripes on th flanks are very indistinct and the rest of the upper body is a peppered chocolate brown on a blackish background, but by any view, far from immaculate. Limbs and feet lack any obvious stripes or makings, save for a few indistinct spots or specks on the upper hind limbs. The blue on the tail is often broken with brown and there is no obvious dark stripe running down the midline of the anterior part of the tail. The front of the head is mottled light brown in colour becoming whiteish at the top of the snout.

C. drubennetti sp. nov. from the Gulf province of southern New Guinea and nearby areas is readily separated from all others in the

genus by 8-10 supraciliaries, 9-13 scales on the eyelid, 6-7 infralabials, 53-59 dorsals, 27-33 mid body rows, 21-28 lamellae on the fourth finger of the toe and 30-39 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot, 53-59 scale rows parietals to tail, and body stripes becoming blue anterior to the tail, versus posterior to the tail in *C. triviale* (Schütz, 1929) which is otherwise similar and would identify as the same species in terms of separation from the rest.

In both species *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. and *C. triviale* the toes are banded black and yellow, the dorsal pattern of stripes on a dark background is immaculate and the rear end of the tail is usually a deep aqua colour. The dorsolateral black stripe running from behind the pelvic girdle is only short and invariably at best runs no more than 20 per cent of the tail length.

The species *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. (see above) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. also has some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov.

The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-called superspecies known until now as *Emoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Known only from the north of Borneo and the Philippines, including adjacent islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of Jai Bennett of St. Clair, New South Wales, Australia, son of the late William (Bill) Bennett of Saint Clair in western Sydney, New South Wales, later of Young in New South Wales, Australia also for services to herpetology and wildlife conservation in general, including through logistical assistances to this author when conducting fieldwork in remote areas in the 1970's and 1980's, as well as in the early 1980's protecting the breeding and research facility at 170 Lawson Street, Redfern, New South Wales, Australia from attacks and thefts.

CAERULEOCAUDASCINCUS DANIELBENNETTI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:271F9DA1-08DA-451D-AF56-0796C5077D04

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Natural History, London, UK, specimen number

1980.940-941, collected from Pasir Pandjang, East of Tamuranko, Sulawesi, Indonesia. The Museum of Natural History, London, UK allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Natural History, London, UK, specimen number

1985.1316 collected from Toraut, Dumoga-Bone National Park, Sulawesi, Indonesia at 300 metres elevation.

Diagnosis: The species *Caeruleocaudascincus danielbennetti* sp. nov. is similar in most respects to *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. (see detail below) but is separated from that taxon by having 29 or more mid-body scale rows (versus 27 or more in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. also has some peppering on the white upper labials, (not seen in *C. drubennetti* sp. nov.). *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov. has more dark pigment at the rear of each of the head-shields than anterior, versus fairly evenly distributed in *C. danielbennetti* sp. nov..

Caeruleocaudascincus williambennetti sp. nov. from the Bismark Archipelago is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following unique combination of characters: 37-43 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 50-58 scale rows parietals to tail, 31-35 mid body rows (an average number much higher than for all other species in the genus), well defined immaculate yellowish stripes on the dorsal surface and flanks, which are otherwise an immaculate chocolate brownish black, legs scaly in pattern and not striped and immaculate white lower labials.

C. kamahlbennetti sp. nov. from St. Matthias is similar in most respects to *C. williambennetti* sp. nov. as defined herein, but is separated from that species by 44-54 lamellae on the fourth rear toe (versus 37-43) and 53-64 scale rows parietals to tail (versus 50-58). The combined suite of characters thus separates these two species from all others in the genus.

C. stevebennetti sp. nov. known only from the Fiji Islands, is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 8-10, supraciliaries, 7-12 scales on the eyelid, 6-8 infralabials, 56-60 dorsals, 31-36 mid-body rows, 25-28 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 33-41 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 56-59 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. lucybennettae sp. nov. known only from Efate, Vanuatu, and immediately adjacent islands is readily separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. as defined herein by the following unique combination of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a deep sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. clivebennetti sp. nov. known only from San Cristobal Island and other nearby islands in the Solomons, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettae* sp. nov. and *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. from Bougainville by adult males lacking any obvious mid-dorsal stripe and no well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks and adult females also without well-defined white demarcation on the lower flanks.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. craigbennetti sp. nov. from Bougainville, is separated from all of *C. stevebennetti* sp. nov., *C. lucybennettae* sp. nov. and *C. clivebennetti* sp. nov., by adult males being characterised by a well-defined light coloured mid-dorsal stripe of about one scale's width, usually with little or no blue on the tail and females with a well-defined dorsal pattern of stripes and including a well-defined white line demarcating darker zones on the lower flanks. This demarcation line is light orangeish white. Females are further defined by having a well defined orange stripe running down the upper surface of all four limbs and distinctive banding on the toes of all four feet.

C. brettbarnetti sp. nov. from the New Georgia group of Islands in the Western Province of Solomon Islands are similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. but separated from that taxon by the presence of significant peppering of grey on the rear lower labials in males (versus immaculate in *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov.) and the presence of well defined dark blackish-blue etchings at the rear of each scale on the mid section of the dorsal surface of the tail giving barred appearance. These bars expand in width so that

the tip of the tail is almost blackish in appearance.

It is also defined by the following suite of characters: 7-9, supraciliaries, 8-11 scales on the eyelid, 5-6 infralabials, 52-58 dorsals, 29-33 mid-body rows, 21-26 lamellae on the fourth front toe (the first proximal lamella counted is the first scale wider than long in contact with a large lateral/dorsal digit scale on at least one side), 32-38 lamellae on the fourth rear toe, 51-60 scale rows parietals to tail, the tail blue is a sky blue (as opposed to aqua blue in the other species in the genus) and with the last 15-25 percent becoming a distinct brown in colour in both sexes.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 is similar in most respects to *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. but whereas a black mid-dorsal stripe runs from just behind the pelvis down about half the tail of *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. this is not the case for *C. caeruleocauda*. Adult *C. craigbennetti* sp. nov. are characterised by a mainly pale aqua blue tail, versus strong and generally immaculate aqua in *C. caeruleocauda*.

C. caeruleocauda De Vis, 1892 has 40-49 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot and 52-57 scale rows parietals to tail.

C. werneri Vogt, 1912 from the Mariana Islands, is separated from all other species in the genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. by the following suite of characters: 36-45 lamellae on the fourth toe of the hind foot; 52-59 scale rows parietals to tail; the colour consists of mid dorsal and dosolateral stripes being light brown and broken by darker scales in a peppered manner, stripes on the flanks are very indistinct and the rest of the upper body is a peppered chocolate brown on a blackish background, but by any view, far from immaculate. Limbs and feet lack any obvious stripes or markings, save for a few indistinct spots or specks on the upper hind limbs. The blue on the tail is often broken with brown and there is no obvious dark stripe running down the midline of the anterior part of the tail. The front of the head is mottled light brown in colour becoming whiteish at the top of the snout.

C. drubennetti sp. nov. from the Gulf province of southern New Guinea and nearby areas is readily separated from all others in the genus by 8-10 supraciliaries, 9-13 scales on the eyelid, 6-7 infralabials, 53-59 dorsals, 27-33 mid body rows, 21-28 lamellae on the fourth finger of the toe and 30-39 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot, 53-59 scale rows parietals to tail, and body stripes becoming blue anterior to the tail, versus posterior to the tail in *C. triviale* (Schütz, 1929) which is otherwise similar and would identify as the same species in terms of separation from the rest.

In both species *C. drubennetti* sp. nov. and *C. triviale* the toes are banded black and yellow, the dorsal pattern of stripes on a dark background is immaculate and the rear end of the tail is usually a deep aqua colour. The dorsolateral black stripe running from behind the pelvic girdle is only short and invariably at best runs no more than 20 per cent of the tail length.

C. jaibennetti sp. nov. from north of Borneo and the Philippines is readily separated from the other species in the genus by colouration including a general absence of any black line running down the anterior part of the upper part of the tail and the lower flanks having distinctive upward incursions of white from the belly up the lower flanks. The tail is bright aqua blue at the anterior end, becoming sky blue towards the rear; the front of the snout becomes yellowish and the upper rear legs have distinctive yellow spots. *C. jaibennetti* sp. nov. is further characterised by having 51-59 scale rows parietals to tail and 31-43 lamellae on the fourth finger of the foot.

The genus *Caeruleocaudascincus* gen. nov. has until now been treated as being part of *Emoia* Gray, 1845 and includes the so-called superspecies known until now as *Emoia caeruleocauda* De Vis, 1892. In line with the findings of others, this taxon as recognized to date is treated as a composite of several species. All are readily separated from *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11, Dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 39-87; midbody scale rows 22-44. Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Palate beta-type. Nasal bones not fused. Subdigital fourth toe lamellae rounded; 33-54 (rarely more than 48 except for

populations in the Admiralty and St. Matthias islands); color pattern: dorsally black with pale, narrow vertebral stripe (golden in life) from tip of snout to near base of tail but not merging into blue of tail, pale dorsolateral stripes; or more brownish with stripes faint or absent (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: Sulawesi and immediately adjacent offshore islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of Daniel Bennett a UK-based monitor (Varanidae) enthusiast, in recognition of his excellent texts on monitor lizards including Bennett (1998).

VENTRIPALLIDUSSCINCUS GRAYSONOCONNORI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:619962A1-2F2B-4A78-B9CA-187F81D1D336

Holotype: A preserved specimen in the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA, reptile collection, specimen number: CAS 156058 collected at Gizo Island in the New Georgia Group of the Solomon Islands, Latitude 8.08 S., Longitude 156.81 E.

The California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA allows access to its holdings.

Paratypes: Three preserved specimens in the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA, reptile collection, specimen numbers: CAS 156059, 156060 and 156061 collected at Gizo Island in the New Georgia Group of the Solomon Islands, Latitude 8.08 S., Longitude 156.81 E.

Diagnosis: *Ventripallidusscincus graysonoconnori sp. nov.* has until now been treated as an island population of *V. schmidti* Brown, 1953. *V. graysonoconnori sp. nov.* is however readily separated from *V. schmidti* by the colouration of the tail, in which it is noticeably arranged into paired spots. *V. graysonoconnori sp. nov.* also is distinguished from *V. schmidti* by having significant flecking on the lower back and both fore and rear limbs.

Both *V. graysonoconnori sp. nov.* and *V. schmidti* are separated from all other species of *Emoia sensu lato* and the other genera formally described in this paper by the following unique suite of characters: Premaxillary teeth 11; Parietal eye present. Anterior loreal distinctly shorter and higher. Nasal bones not fused; palate beta-type; scale rows between parietals and base of tail 49-64; Interparietal fused with frontoparietals. Pale, narrow middorsal stripe absent from head and usually from body (if present on body, grayish tan to golden light brown in colour, not less than two scale rows in breadth and not well-defined on the upper edge). Midbody scale rows 30-36; number of thin, blade-like fourth toe lamellae is 69-83; ground color of middorsal region (two full-scale rows and two half-scale rows) grayish tan to golden light brown, which merges anteriorly with the bronze-brown of the neck and head. The narrow, pale dorsolateral stripes begin in the supraciliary region; upper lateral surfaces dark brown to blackish with scattered pale scales. The tail is grey to blue-green and with darker markings which in *Ventripallidusscincus graysonoconnori sp. nov.* forms a pattern of paired spots (modified from Brown 1991).

Distribution: *V. graysonoconnori sp. nov.* is known only from Gizo in the Solomons. *V. schmidti* occurs elsewhere in the New Georgia group of islands to the east and south-east of Gizo.

Etymology: Named in honour of Grayson O'Connor, of Box Hill, Victoria, Australia owner of the Bush Channel for services to wildlife conservation through his active promotion of wild regions and outdoor camping activities in his various movies including via the Youtube Channel (bushchannel), which features material from various parts of the world, in particular biodiverse parts of tropical south-east Asia.

ANTEMIOIA MICHAELGUIHENOFI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:6E2C427B-A251-49F0-9016-2E02050DAF20

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA, specimen number: AMNH Herpetology R-29015, collected from Aiwa, in the Lau group of islands, Fiji.

Paratypes: 8 preserved specimens at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA, specimen numbers: AMNH Herpetology R-29017-29022 and 29031-32 collected from Aiwa, in

the Lau group of islands, Fiji.

Diagnosis: *Aintemoia michaelguihenofi sp. nov.* and *A. rossadlieri sp. nov.* have until now been regarded as outlier populations of *Emoia trossula* Brown and Gibbons, 1986, herein placed in the genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.*

Aintemoia michaelguihenofi sp. nov. is from the island of Aiwa in the Lau Group of islands, Fiji and may be restricted to this island, although only further fieldwork in the island group will establish the extent of distribution.

A. rossadlieri sp. nov. is from the island of Kadavu, Fiji.

Aintemoia michaelguihenofi sp. nov. is readily separated from both *A. rossadlieri sp. nov.* and *A. trossula* Brown and Gibbons, 1986 by the following suite of characters: less than 34 lamellae on the fourth finger, versus more than 35 in the other two species; less than 48 lamellae on the fourth (rear) toe, versus 49-51 in *A. rossadlieri sp. nov.* and more than 52 in *A. trossula*.

A. michaelguihenofi sp. nov. is further separated from both other species by having a belly that is heavily flecked with black, versus moderate peppering in *A. rossadlieri sp. nov.* and limited flecking in *A. trossula*.

A. rossadlieri sp. nov. differs from both *A. trossula* and *A. michaelguihenofi sp. nov.* by having a dorsal pattern including intense dark somewhat broken crossbands and including white streaks on the dorsum, versus a semidistinct dorsal pattern in the other two species including crossbands on the dorsum not being obvious.

The species *A. rossadlieri sp. nov.*, *A. trossula*, *A. michaelguihenofi sp. nov.* and *A. mokolahi* (Zug, Ineich, Preggill and Hamilton, 2012) from Tonga, can be separated from all other species in the genus *Aintemoia gen. nov.* by the following suite of characters: Fourth toe lamellae 34-60; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; rostral forming moderate, slightly concave suture with frontonasal; supranasals slightly broader anteriorly, in contact with anterior loreal; prefrontals narrowly separated to moderately in contact; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad and narrow; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal slightly shorter than, to nearly as long as, posterior and slightly higher, in contact with first and second, second, or first, second and third upper labials; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 66-108 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 43-55; midbody scale rows 32-40 (rarely less than 34); color feature of dorsum usually brownish marked by a few to numerous whitish dashes.

The morphologically similar *A. mokolahi*, the only other species likely to be confused with *A. rossadlieri sp. nov.*, *A. trossula*, and *A. michaelguihenofi sp. nov.* is separated from the other three species by the unique combination of: A well-defined black band running across the dorsum roughly between the front legs, combined with 35 fourth finger lamellae and 48 fourth toe lamellae.

Aintemoia gen. nov. is separated from other species in *Emoia sensu lato* in the formal description in this paper.

Distribution: *A. michaelguihenofi sp. nov.* is known only from the type locality.

Etymology: Named in honour of Michael Guihenof of Park Road, Park Orchards in recognition of the immense work he has done to support the ongoing infrastructure at the reptile conservation and breeding facility at Snakebusters; Australia's best reptiles shows.

ANTEMIOIA ROSSADLIERI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C0DC82DC-F96B-436D-AFE6-59FCDDDB7A7F6

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Smithsonian United States National Museum (USNM), Washington, DC, USA, specimen number USNM 267939, collected from Kadavu, Fiji. The Smithsonian United States National Museum (USNM), Washington, DC, USA, allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the California Academy of Science (CAS), San Francisco, California, USA, specimen number: 158978, collected from Kadavu, Fiji.

Diagnosis: *Aintemoia rossadlieri sp. nov.* and *A.*

michaelguiheneufi sp. nov. have until now been regarded as outlier populations of *Emoia trossula* Brown and Gibbons, 1986, herein placed in the genus *Aintemoia* gen. nov..

A. rossadlieri sp. nov. is from the island of Kadavu, Fiji and believed to be restricted to this place.

Aintemoia michaelguiheneufi sp. nov. is from the island of Aiwa in the Lau Group of islands, Fiji and may be restricted to this island, although only further fieldwork in the island group will establish the extent of distribution.

Aintemoia michaelguiheneufi sp. nov. is readily separated from both *A. rossadlieri* sp. nov. and *A. trossula* Brown and Gibbons, 1986 by the following suite of characters: less than 34 lamellae on the fourth finger, versus more than 35 in the other two species; less than 48 lamellae on the fourth (rear) toe, versus 49-51 in *A. rossadlieri* sp. nov. and more than 52 in *A. trossula*.

A. michaelguiheneufi sp. nov. is further separated from both other species by having a belly that is heavily flecked with black, versus moderate peppering in *A. rossadlieri* sp. nov. and limited flecking in *A. trossula*.

A. rossadlieri sp. nov. differs from both *A. trossula* and *A. michaelguiheneufi* sp. nov. by having a dorsal pattern including intense dark somewhat broken crossbands and including white streaks on the dorsum, versus a semidistinct dorsal pattern in the other two species including crossbands on the dorsum not being obvious. This is in addition to the differences outlined previously between the three relevant species.

The species *A. rossadlieri* sp. nov., *A. trossula*, *A. michaelguiheneufi* sp. nov. and *A. mokolahi* (Zug, Ineich, Preggill and Hamilton, 2012) from Tonga, can be separated from all other species in the genus *Aintemoia* gen. nov. by the following suite of characters: Fourth toe lamellae 34-60; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; rostral forming moderate, slightly concave suture with frontonasal; supranasals slightly broader anteriorly, in contact with anterior loreal; prefrontals narrowly separated to moderately in contact; interparietal distinct (rarely fused or partly fused with frontoparietals); interparietal long, longer than broad and narrow; prefrontals narrowly separated to broadly in contact; one pair of nuchals; anterior loreal slightly shorter than, to nearly as long as, posterior and slightly higher, in contact with first and second, second, or first, second and third upper labials; ground color of dorsum not brown to blackish; SVL at maturity 66-108 mm; number of lamellae under fourth toe 43-55; midbody scale rows 32-40 (rarely less than 34); color feature of dorsum usually brownish marked by a few to numerous whitish dashes.

The morphologically similar *A. mokolahi*, the only other species likely to be confused with *A. rossadlieri* sp. nov., *A. trossula*, and *A. michaelguiheneufi* sp. nov. is separated from the other three species by the unique combination of: A well-defined black band running across the dorsum roughly between the front legs combined with 35 fourth finger lamellae and 48 fourth toe lamellae.

Aintemoia gen. nov. is separated from other species in *Emoia sensu lato* in the formal description in this paper.

Distribution: *A. rossadlieri* sp. nov. is known only from Kadavu Island, Fiji.

Etymology: Named in honour of Ross Sadlier, of Sydney, NSW, Australia, now retired, but who for many years was collection manager at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, in recognition of his immense contribution to herpetology. I should note that the genus *Rosssadliercolotes* Hoser, 2018, as published by Hoser (2018b), was also named in honour of Ross Sadlier, but the etymology in the formal description somehow got chopped from the published final paper so this etymology applies there as well.

SILVAEMOIA ROBVALENTICI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:338E9BE5-FF48-4B2B-B73D-C435D2D20887

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA. specimen number: MVZ Amphibian and reptile specimen 44962, collected from Munda, New Georgia, Western Province, Solomon

Islands, Latitude 8.29 S., Longitude 157.62 E.

This facility allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: The species *Silvaemoia robvalentici* sp. nov. has until now been treated as a population of *Emoia flavigularis* Schmidt, 1932 herein transferred to the genus *Silvaemoia* gen. nov. due to the significant morphological and genetic differences between the relevant species.

Silvaemoia robvalentici sp. nov. is separated from *S. flavigularis* (Schmidt, 1932) by the absence of white flecks on the lower flanks and yellow under the throat as opposed to greenish-yellow.

Both species *S. flavigularis* (Schmidt, 1932) and *S. robvalentici* sp. nov. consist the entirety of the genus *Silvaemoia* gen. nov..

The genus *Silvaemoia* gen. nov. can be separated from the genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 by the following suite of characters: Fourth toe lamellae 34-60; dorsal scale rows between parietals and base of tail 52-72; interparietal fused with frontoparietals; prefrontals usually in contact; dorsal color brown with scattered dark or vague transverse lines posteriorly; lateral surfaces slightly darker; undersurface of head and neck yellowish or yellowish-greenish.

The genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. and *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from species in the genus *Emoia* Gray, 1845, in which they were formerly included, by the following suite of characters: SVL at maturity of 45-122 mm; snout tapered and slightly to moderately depressed; scales smooth; midbody scale rows 26-42; dorsal scale rows 51-84; subdigital lamellae rounded to moderately thinned, fourth toe lamellae 32-81; frontoparietals fused; interparietal nearly always distinct, ranging from long and narrow to small; nasal bones separate; parietal eye present; palate alpha type; dorsal ground color ranges from greenish or greenish tan to light or rarely dark brown, usually with darker markings on dorsal and upper lateral surfaces and sometimes pale spots or dashes.

This is an effective diagnosis also for the so-called *Emoia samoensis* group.

Emoia sensu lato including the newly described genera *Notanemoia* gen. nov., *Cannotbeemoia* gen. nov., *Aintemoia* gen. nov., *Silvaemoia* gen. nov., *Griseolaterus* gen. nov. as well as *Emoa* Girard, 1857 are separated from all other skink genera by the following suite of characters: supranasals present; window in movable lower eyelid; frontoparietals fused; limbs well developed, pentadactyl.

These four characters are shared by all species of the genera. However, one or both of the derived characters (window in movable lower eyelid and frontoparietals fused) also characterize some species of *Lipinia* Gray, 1845 and *Leiopolisma* Duméril and Bibron, 1839 being Lygasomine genera lacking supranasals.

Several additional characters are common to all species of *Emoia sensu lato*. but they are not diagnostic because they are also found in most species of several other genera of skinks. These include: (1) rostral broader than high; (2) frontal as long as or longer than broad and in contact with two anterior supraoculars; (3) four large supraoculars; (4) parietals large and in contact; (5) ear prominent, usually with small lobules anteriorly, but always much smaller than eye; (6) rank of adpressed toes from the shortest to the longest: first, second or fifth, third, fourth; (7) tail slender and much longer than body (modified from Brown, 1991).

Distribution: Known only from the New Georgia group of islands in the Solomon Islands.

Etymology: Named in honour of Robert Valentic of Donnybrook, (Melbourne), Victoria, Australia in recognition of some decades of valuable contributions to herpetology in Australia and elsewhere, including through his excellent photos seen in numerous reptile books and similar publications.

SHIREENHOSERSCINCUS SHIREENHOSERAE SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:79DFA8FC-F5D2-4691-86DD-263F7EFD367A

Holotype: A preserved specimen at the Field Museum of Natural

History at Chicago, Illinois, USA collected at Kapit District, Borneo, specimen number: FMNH Amphibians and Reptiles 138544, listed as "*Sphenomorphus stellatus*". A photo of the holotype was published by Bacon (1967).

The Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago, Illinois, USA allows access to its holdings.

Diagnosis: The species *Lygosoma stellatum* Boulenger, 1900 since moved to the genus *Sphenomorphus* and now placed in the genus *Shireenhoserscincus gen. nov.*, was originally described from a holotype specimen from Peninsula Malaysia. A morphologically similar lizard from Vietnam was formally described as *Lygosoma annamiticum* Boettger, 1901, but later synonymised with *Lygosoma stellatum* Boulenger, 1900 by subsequent authors. Morphologically similar lizards, were later found in Thailand, Cambodia and Borneo and were assigned to the same species ("*Sphenomorphus stellatus* Boulenger, 1900") by the relevant authors, these being Bacon (1963), Taylor (1967) and Stuart and Emmett (2006).

This was in the face of evidence they published of significant differences between the relevant forms.

This same evidence in combination is herein relied upon to separate four relevant but closely related species, all of which are diagnosed and separated from one another herein. In the previously cited papers, there is significantly more diagnostic information than is presented here, however I have deliberately distilled it to focus on the simplest and main ways that each can be readily separated from the other, rather than dealing with potentially overlapping and inconsistent characters.

The diagnosis for all four species as genus *Shireenhoserscincus gen. nov.* is given below.

In terms of separating each species with relative ease, the following applies.

Shireenhoserscincus stellatus (Boulenger, 1900) from Peninsula Malaysia is separated from the other three species by the following unique combination of characters: 24 midbody rows, a dorsal pattern including rows of small spots and flecks, but not prominently merging along the midline; without an immaculate venter, 20-23 fourth toe lamellae and in life a bluish or bluish-grey iris.

S. shireenhoserae sp. nov. from east Borneo is separated from the other three species by the following unique combination of characters: 24 midbody rows, a dorsal pattern not including rows of spots; an immaculate venter and 19 fourth toe lamellae.

S. daranini sp. nov. from east Thailand and nearby southern Cambodia is separated from the other three species by the following unique combination of characters: 22 midbody rows, a dorsal pattern including rows of spots; without an immaculate venter and 18 fourth toe lamellae.

S. annamiticum (Boettger, 1901) from Vietnam is separated from the other three species by the following unique combination of characters: 24 midbody rows and 20-22 fourth toe lamellae, a dorsal pattern including rows of spots, tending to merge; an immaculate venter and in life a reddish or reddish-brown iris.

Each species within the genus appears confined to a given mountain region, however within these constraints there is a strong degree of latitude in terms of elevation. Each species is separated from one another by apparently unsuitable flat zones, the constraint most likely being in the form of competing species and/or predators, rather than the physical habitat itself.

Shireenhoserscincus gen. nov. as a genus includes the putative species *Lygosoma stellatum* Boulenger, 1900 (split four ways above) and in effect includes that putative species only as recognized to date by authors who have reviewed the species complex, including most importantly Taylor (1963), Bacon (1967) and more recently Stuart and Emmett (2006).

That putative species is herein split four ways (see above), using two existing names and formally naming two other species for the first time.

The genus *Sphenomorphus sensu lato* Strauch 1887 is a paraphyletic assemblage of species diagnosed as follows: lacking

supranasal scales, has a deeply sunk tympanum, five digits on both limbs, fewer than 30 subdigital lamellae on the fourth toe, two rows of supradigital scales on the fourth toe, inner preanal scales overlapping the outer preanal scales and lower eyelids composed of multiple small scales (Lim 1998; Taylor 1963).

This diagnosis also applies to *Shireenhoserscincus gen. nov.*

Shireenhoserscincus gen. nov. is however separated from *Sphenomorphus* and therefore diagnosed by having an external ear opening present; 22-24 mid-body scale rows; two median rows of dorsal scales that are distinctly widened as opposed to the other dorsal scale; an absence of white edges to the free margins of the upper and lower eyelids; adpressed limbs overlapping; convex rostral; a pair of enlarged preanal scales; bronze-brown coloration above, with scattered, light-colored spots; black spots forming vertebral and dorsolateral longitudinal stripes on body; black spots on upper and lower lips; and tail lighter in coloration than body, with narrow, transverse, black bands not connecting ventrally.

The four species, now comprising the total in this newly named genus are readily separated from one another by the comparative diagnostic characters published in Table 1, at the top of page 28 of Bacon (1967), under the headings "South Viet Nam", "Thailand", "Borneo" and "Malaya", the first and fourth of these corresponding to two previously named species and the other two columns corresponding to the two species named in this paper.

Distribution: So far only known from the type locality, but presumably elsewhere on the island of Borneo, in particular the hillier northern sector.

Etymology: As for the genus (see page 15 in this paper).

SHIREENHOSERSCINCUS DARANINI SP. NOV.

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:959812A8-0170-4D94-9931-D25B9A783D7C

Holotype: A preserved female specimen at the Zoological Collection of the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, specimen number: 35439, collected at Khao Sebab, near Chanthaburi, Chanthaburi Province, Thailand.

The Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, allows access to its holdings.

Paratype: A preserved specimen at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA, specimen number: FMNH Amphibians and Reptiles 267739, collected from the Cardamom Mountains area in Cambodia.

Diagnosis: The species *Lygosoma stellatum* Boulenger, 1900 since moved to the genus *Sphenomorphus* and now placed in the genus *Shireenhoserscincus gen. nov.*, was originally described from a holotype specimen from Peninsula Malaysia. A morphologically similar lizard from Vietnam was formally described as *Lygosoma annamiticum* Boettger, 1901, but later synonymised with *Lygosoma stellatum* Boulenger, 1900 by subsequent authors. Morphologically similar lizards, were later found in Thailand, Cambodia and Borneo and were assigned to the same species ("*Sphenomorphus stellatus* Boulenger, 1900") by the relevant authors, these being Bacon (1963), Taylor (1967) and Stuart and Emmett (2006).

This was in the face of evidence they published of significant differences between the relevant forms.

This same evidence in combination is herein relied upon to separate four relevant but closely related species, all of which are diagnosed and separated from one another herein. In the previously cited papers, there is significantly more diagnostic information than is presented here, however I have deliberately distilled it to focus on the simplest and main ways that each can be readily separated from the other, rather than dealing with potentially overlapping and inconsistent characters.

The diagnosis for all four species as genus *Shireenhoserscincus gen. nov.* is given below.

In terms of separating each species with relative ease, the following applies.

S. daranini sp. nov. from east Thailand and nearby southern Cambodia is separated from the other three species by the

following unique combination of characters: 22 midbody rows, a dorsal pattern including rows of spots; without an immaculate venter and 18 fourth toe lamellae.

Shireenhoserscincus stellatus (Boulenger, 1900) from Peninsula Malaysia is separated from the other three species by the following unique combination of characters: 24 midbody rows, a dorsal pattern including rows of small spots and flecks, but not prominently merging along the midline; without an immaculate venter, 20-23 fourth toe lamellae and in life a bluish or bluish-grey iris.

S. shireenhoserae sp. nov. from east Borneo is separated from the other three species by the following unique combination of characters: 24 midbody rows, a dorsal pattern not including rows of spots; an immaculate venter and 19 fourth toe lamellae.

S. annamiticum (Boettger, 1901) from Vietnam is separated from the other three species by the following unique combination of characters: 24 midbody rows and 20-22 fourth toe lamellae, a dorsal pattern including rows of spots, tending to merge; an immaculate venter and in life a reddish or reddish-brown iris.

Each species within the genus appears confined to a given mountain region, however within these constraints there is a strong degree of latitude in terms of elevation. Each species is separated from one another by apparently unsuitable flat zones, the constraint most likely being in the form of competing species and/or predators, rather than the physical habitat itself.

Shireenhoserscincus gen. nov. as a genus includes the putative species *Lygosoma stellatum* Boulenger, 1900 (split four ways above) and in effect includes that putative species only as recognized to date by authors who have reviewed the species complex, including most importantly Taylor (1963), Bacon (1967) and more recently Stuart and Emmett (2006).

That putative species is herein split four ways (see above), using two existing names and formally naming two other species for the first time.

The genus *Sphenomorphus sensu lato* Strauch 1887 is a paraphyletic assemblage of species diagnosed as follows: lacking supranasal scales, has a deeply sunk tympanum, five digits on both limbs, fewer than 30 subdigital lamellae on the fourth toe, two rows of supradigital scales on the fourth toe, inner preanal scales overlapping the outer preanal scales and lower eyelids composed of multiple small scales (Lim 1998; Taylor 1963).

This diagnosis also applies to *Shireenhoserscincus* gen. nov..

Shireenhoserscincus gen. nov. is however separated from *Sphenomorphus* and therefore diagnosed by having an external ear opening present; 22-24 mid-body scale rows; two median rows of dorsal scales that are distinctly widened as opposed to the other dorsal scale; an absence of white edges to the free margins of the upper and lower eyelids; adpressed limbs overlapping; convex rostral; a pair of enlarged preanal scales; bronze-brown coloration above, with scattered, light-colored spots; black spots forming vertebral and dorsolateral longitudinal stripes on body; black spots on upper and lower lips; and tail lighter in coloration than body, with narrow, transverse, black bands not connecting ventrally.

The four species, now comprising the total in this newly named genus are readily separated from one another by the comparative diagnostic characters published in Table 1, at the top of page 28 of Bacon (1967), under the headings "South Viet Nam", "Thailand", "Borneo" and "Malaya", the first and fourth of these corresponding to two previously named species and the other two columns corresponding to the two species named in this paper.

Distribution: Known only from hillier parts of eastern Thailand and nearby southern Cambodia.

Etymology: Named in honour of Dara Nin, of Ringwood, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, of native Cambodian parents, but born in New Zealand and has never set foot in Asia as of 2018, and aged in his 20's, the species being named in recognition of his monumental work over a decade with Snakebusters; Melbourne Reptile Shows and Reptile Parties, working to educate people and conserve wildlife with the ony hands on wildlife shows in Australia that actually let people hold the animals.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - NONE.

Hoser 2019 - Australasian Journal of Herpetology 40:3-49.

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