

## Changes to the WA Museum Checklist from May 2023 (updated November 2023)

### Reptiles and frogs

**Blindsnake removed.** The P2 Cape Range endemic blindsnake *Anilius splendidus* (Aplin, 1998) has been synonymised with *A. pinguis* (Waite, 1897) and removed from the checklist.

Tiatragul, S., Brennan, I.G., Broady, E.S., & Keogh, J.S. (2023). Australia's hidden radiation: phylogenomics analysis reveals rapid Miocene radiation of blindsnakes. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 185: 107812. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2023.107812>

**Whipsnake revision.** Nankivell et al. (2023) revised the *Demansia psammophis* complex across Australia. *Demansia reticulata* is raised to a full species and occurs in western Australia; *D. psammophis* is the full species that occurs in eastern Australia. No subspecies are now recognized, including *D. p. cupriceps*, a new species, *D. cyanochasma* occurs in a large area in central Australia, including WA.

Nankivell, J.H., Maryan, B., Bush, B.G. & Hutchinson, M.N. (2003). Whip it into shape: Revision of the *Demansia psammophis* (Schlegel, 1837) complex (Squamata: Elapidae), with a description of a new species from central Australia. *Zootaxa* 5311: 301-309. DOI: 10.11646/ZOOTAXA.5311.3.1

**Military dragon revision.** Edwards & Hutchinson (2023) revised the *Ctenophorus maculatus* complex, including *C. femoralis*, *C. fordi* and *C. spinodomus*. For WA, they raised all four subspecies of *C. maculatus*, thus: *C. badius*, *C. dualis*, *C. griseus* and *C. maculatus*. They also described a new species that was formerly regarded as *C. fordi*: *C. tjakalpa*.

Edwards, D.L. & Hutchinson, M.N. (2023). Sand dragons: Species of the *Ctenophorus maculatus* complex (Squamata: Agamidae) of Australia's southern and western interior. *Journal of Herpetology* 57: 176-196. doi: org/10.1670/22-021

**Burrowing snakes revision.** Maryan et al. (2023). reviewed morphological and molecular evidence for generic arrangements for native WA burrowing snakes of the genus *Neelaps*. They found that a taxonomic arrangement whereby two monotypic genera are recognized best fit the evolutionary patterns. Thus, *Neelaps calonotos* and the resurrected *Narophis* for the species *N. bimaculatus*.

Maryan, B., Bolton, P. & Keogh, J.S. (2023). Phylogeny and morphology of the Australian snake genus *Neelaps* Gunther, 1863 (Squamata: Elapidae), with resurrection of *Narophis* Worrell, 1961. *Australian Journal of Taxonomy* 34: 1-25. doi: 10.54102/ajt.29hub

**Northern laughing frog revision.** The tree frog *Litoria rothii* is widely distributed across the Australian Monsoonal Tropics. Donnellan et al. (2023) recently examined the complex with a morphological, molecular and acoustic study. They found that *L. rothii* is restricted to northeastern Australia and southern New Guinea, *L. everetti* to Indonesian islands and a new species, *Litoria ridibunda*, occurs in the Kimberley of WA and the Top End of the Northern Territory. Accordingly, *L. rothii* is no longer listed as a WA species and *L. ridibunda* has replaced it.

Donnellan, S.C., Catullo, R.A., Rowley, J.J.L., Doughty, P., Price, L., Hines, H.B. & Richards, S.J. (2023). Revision of *Litoria rothii* (Anura: Pelodyadidae) from northern Australia. *Zootaxa* 5352: 73-108. doi: 10.11646/zootaxa.5352.1.3

## Birds

Following IOC changes.

Restore Major Mitchell's Cockatoo to *Cacatua* from *Lophochroa* (Schodde & Mason 1997; HBW/BirdLife). The species is deeply basal within the same clade as the other species in *Cacatua* (Provost et al. 2018). But it shares similar morphological, behavioral, and vocal features as the other species in that genus, suggesting that *Lophochroa* may be more appropriately treated as a subgenus.

Northern Shriketit *Falcunculus whitei* is a split from (Eastern) Shriketit *F. frontatus* based on plumage and vocalizations. (Schodde & Mason 1999; del Hoyo & Collar 2016; HBW/BirdLife).

Western Shriketit *Falcunculus leucogaster* is split from (Eastern) Shriketit *F. frontatus* based on plumage and vocalizations. (Schodde & Mason 1999; del Hoyo & Collar 2016; HBW/BirdLife).

## Mammals

**2 new *Planigale* for WA.** Umbrello et al. (2023) revised the Pilbara *Planigale*, and described two new species, *P. kendricki* and *P. tealei*, formally known as '*Planigale* sp.1 and *Planigale* 'Mt Tom Price'. These two species have been now renamed in the checklist.

Umbrello, L.S., Cooper, N.K., Adams, M., Travouillon, K.J., Baker, A.M., Westerman, M. & Aplin, K.P. (2023). Hiding in plain sight: two new species of diminutive marsupial (Dasyuridae: *Planigale*) from the Pilbara, Australia. *Zootaxa* 5330 (1): 001-046. <https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5330.1.1>

**2 new *mulgaras*.** The *mulgaras* (*Dasyercus*) have been revised by Newman-Martin et al. (2023), and found two new species for Western Australia, *D. woolleyae* and *D. archeri*, both of which are thought to be extinct. These have been added to the checklist. The status of *D. cristicauda* has also been updated to 'Extinct'.

Newman-Martin, J., Travouillon, K.J., Warburton, N., Barham, M. & Blyth, A.J. (2023) Taxonomic review of the genus *Dasyercus* (Dasyuromorphia: Dasyuridae) using modern and subfossil material; and the description of three new species, *Alcheringa: An Australasian Journal of Palaeontology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03115518.2023.2262083>