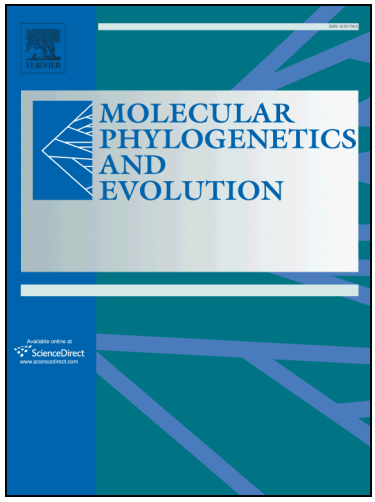

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Multi-locus phylogeny and species delimitation of Australo-Papuan blacksnakes (*Pseudechis* Wagler, 1830: Elapidae: Serpentes)

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Abstract

Genetic analyses of Australasian organisms have resulted in the identification of extensive cryptic diversity across the continent. The venomous elapid snakes are among the best-studied organismal groups in this region, but many knowledge gaps persist: for instance, despite their iconic status, the species-level diversity among Australo-Papuan blacksnakes (*Pseudechis*) has remained poorly understood due to the existence of a group of cryptic species within the *P. australis* species complex, collectively termed "pygmy