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Simon T. Maddock, Aaron Childerstone, Bryan Grieg Fry, David J. Williams, Axel Barlow, Wolfgang Wüster

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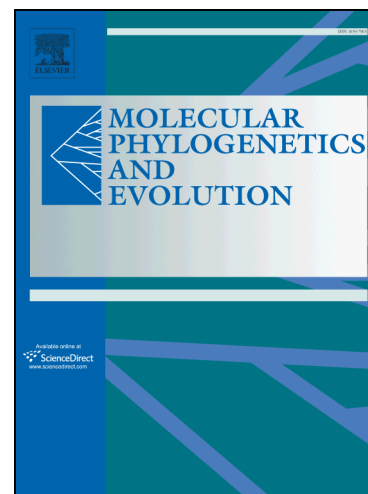
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**Multi-locus phylogeny and species delimitation of Australo-Papuan blacksnakes
(*Pseudechis* Wagler, 1830: Elapidae: Serpentes)**

Simon T. Maddock^{1,2,3,4,*}, Aaron Childerstone³, Bryan Grieg Fry⁵, David J. Williams^{6,7}, Axel Barlow^{3,8}, Wolfgang Wüster³

¹ Department of Life Sciences, The Natural History Museum, London, SW7 5BD, UK.

² Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment, University College London, London, WC1E 6BT, UK.

³ School of Biological Sciences, Environment Centre Wales, Bangor University, Bangor, LL57 2UW, United Kingdom.

⁴ Department of Animal Management, Reaseheath, College, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF, UK.

⁵ Venom Evolution Lab, School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland, St Lucia QLD, 4072 Australia.

⁶ Australian Venom Research Unit, Department of Pharmacology, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic, 3010, Australia.

⁷ School of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of Papua New Guinea, Boroko, NCD, 121, Papua New Guinea.

⁸ Institute for Biochemistry and Biology, University of Potsdam, 14476 Potsdam (Golm), Germany.

* corresponding author: s.t.maddock@gmail.com

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

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