

Wells and Wellington

Strophurus taeniatus (Lonnberg and Andersson, 1913).

Strophurus taenicauda (De Vis, 1886) (a).

Strophurus williamsi (Kluge, 1963) (a).

Strophurus wilsoni (Storr, 1983) (a).

Underwoodisaurus Wermuth, 1965.

Underwoodisaurus husbandi sp. nov.

Holotype: Australian Museum Field Series No. 25399. Collected at 12.5 km SW of Milbrodale, N.S.W. (road distance) by R. W. Wells, on 22 September, 1982.

Paratypes: AMFS 25400-25404 — same data as Holotype.

Description of Holotype: A large member of the *Underwoodisaurus milii* complex. SVL (mm): 93.1; VTL (mm): 44.9 (Regenerated); axilla-groin (mm): 42.2; head length (mm): 23.1; head width (mm): 19.1; left hind limb length (mm): 45.4; left forelimb length (mm): 35.9; minute anterior loreals but posterior loreals enlarged; sub-digital lamellae not uniform in size, enlarged on bends of digits with the ultimate sub-digital scales deeply grooved; supradigitals regular; mental and rostral rounded; post mentals slightly enlarged; gulars minute; head depressed, conical scalation minute with those along the postocular folds enlarged, but not like dorsal tubercles; body scalation minute with the exception of numerous randomly arranged tubercles; base of each tubercle surrounded by a circular row of scales which are slightly enlarged as compared with the minute dorsals; regenerated tail relatively free of tubercles, except the base where they are quite elongate and spine-like; tail broad, flat just more than twice as long as broad, and tapering to a point.

Colouration (In Alcohol) *Dorsum*: Head dark grey, irregularly blotched with white; body dark grey with enlarged tubercles being a lighter grey or white (white tubercles tend to be surrounded by white scales. This gives the dorsum a white spotted appearance and where tubercles are transversely aligned a thin irregular white transverse band is produced. Forelimbs are a lighter grey than body, but also dotted with white; the hands (including digits) are white; hind limbs same as forelimbs, except feet (including digits) lighter grey than rest of limb. The regenerated tail is uniform grey.

Venter: Creamish white throughout (except tail) with brilliant white tubercles producing spots on the ventro-lateral margins.

Discussion: *Underwoodisaurus husbandi* is readily distinguished from *U. milii* of Western Australia and the Nullarbor Plain of Western South Australia, by the presence of prominent transversely aligned rows enlarged conical tubercles in *U. milii* — particularly on the original tail. *U. husbandi* not only has more tubercles, but they are heterogeneous and tend to be randomly distributed over the body and tail with only minimal transverse alignment. Colouration in life in *U. husbandi* is spectacular, varying from a base colour of reddish-brown, to purple with the tubercles ranging from ivory white to bright yellow. The tail is distinctly ringed with 5 or 6 white bands (regenerated tails grey to uniform brown without pattern). Occipital region is distinctively banded with whitish-cream to bright yellow — the band being edged with purple.

Colour plates of *Underwoodisaurus husbandi* can be found in the following: Worrell (1963 (c) pl. 9 — defensive posture); Cogger (1967, pl. 8; 1975 (a) cover); Davey (1970, page 42); Swanson (1976, pl. 29 from Wilcannia, N.S.W. — reddish colour form); and McPhee (1979, pl. 36). Additionally, Cogger (1975 (a) pl. 430 — from Sydney, N.S.W.) provides a black and white plate of *U. husbandi*.

Bush (1981) provides a colour plate of *U. milii* from Western Australia.

Underwoodisaurus husbandi ranges from south-east Queensland, throughout New South Wales (with the exception of the cool montane region of the south east), through north-western Victoria and into eastern South Australia. *U. milii* has been taken on the western edge of the Nullarbor Plain in South Australia, but *U. husbandi* is not known to occur on the Nullarbor Plain. The habitat of *U. husbandi* varies from open red sand plains to mallee heath, (marginally) riparian woodland communities through to the east coastal dry sclerophyll forest associations in granitic, sandstone and limestone areas. While most often found active on the surface at night, *U. husbandi* is readily found beneath objects such as exfoliated rocks and logs in suitable habitats. It has also been located inside hollow stumps and is known to form winter aggregations in deep rock crevices in the Sydney Basin, N.S.W. In some areas of N.S.W. this species is experiencing considerable loss of habitat due to the

Synopsis of Reptilia

removal of sandstone and granite exfoliations for 'bush' gardens, and by the widespread clearing of the remaining Mallee heathland. See Wells, (1983) for details on the collection of the type series.

U. husbandi is an insectivore (cockroaches and moths are readily consumed in captivity) and has been known to practice communal egg-laying (McPhee 1979); clutch size is two.

Etymology: Named for Mr Grant Husband of Sydney in recognition of his many contributions of reptile specimens to the Australian Museum.

Underwoodisaurus milii (Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1825): Herein regarded as being confined to Western Australia and western South Australia.

Underwoodisaurus sphyrurus (Ogilby, 1892).

PYGOPODIDAE

Aclys Kluge, 1974.

Aclys concinna Kluge, 1974.

Aprasia Gray, 1839.

Aprasia aurita Kluge, 1974.

Aprasia fusca Storr, 1979 (a): Herein formally elevated to specific status.

Aprasia glauerti Parker, 1956: Herein formally resurrected from the synonymy of *Aprasia striolata* and elevated to specific status. Confined to the south west of Western Australia.

Aprasia haroldi Storr, 1978 (c).

Aprasia inaurita Kluge, 1974.

Aprasia parapulchella Kluge, 1974.

Aprasia pseudopulchella Kluge, 1974.

Aprasia pulchella Gray, 1839.

Aprasia repens (Fry, 1914).

Aprasia rostrata Parker, 1956: Herein regarded as confined to Monte Bello Group, Western Australia.

Aprasia smithi Storr, 1970 (b).

Aprasia striolata Lutken, 1863.

Delma Gray, 1831.

Delma australis Kluge, 1974.

Delma borea Kluge, 1974.

Delma elegans Kluge, 1974.

Delma fraseri Gray, 1831 (a).

Delma grayii Smith, 1849.

Delma impar (Fischer, 1882).

Delma inornata Kluge, 1974.

Delma mollerii Lutken, 1863.

Delma nasuta Kluge, 1974.

Delma pax Kluge, 1974.

Delma plebeia De Vis, 1888.

Delma tinctoria De Vis, 1888.

Delma torquata Kluge, 1974.

Lialis Gray, 1835.

Lialis burtonis Gray, 1835.

Lialis bicatenata Gray, 1842 (b): Herein formally resurrected from the synonymy of *L. burtonis*; *L. bicatenata* is confined to the Northern Territory.

Ophidiocephalus Lucas and Frost, 1897.

Ophidiocephalus taeniatus Lucas and Frost, 1897.

Pletholax Cope, 1864.

Pletholax gracilis Cope, 1864.

Pletholax edelensis Storr, 1978 (c): Herein formally elevated to specific status.

Pygopus Merrem, 1820. We herein synonymise *Paradelma* Kinghorn, 1926 with *Pygopus*.

Pygopus lepidopodus (Lacepede, 1804).

Pygopus nigriceps (Fischer, 1882): Herein regarded as being confined to Western Australia.