

Australian Society of Herpetologists Official List of Australian Species

The ASH Taxonomic Committee was established following a motion passed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting. The committee was tasked with establishing a single list of Australian frog and reptile species that are recognised by the Australian Society of Herpetologists. Decisions by the Taxonomic Committee are governed by the motion passed unanimously (abstentions were not recorded) at the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Society which expressed support for the Kaiser *et al.* initiative (2013. *Herp. Rev.* 44:8–23), its support for the *Common Position Statement on Taxonomic Vandalism* by Taxonomy Australia, and the establishment of a Positive List of Journals and other publications to clarify the boundary between scientific publication and non-scientific publications. Additional background information can be found in the *ASH Position Statement on Taxonomy* on the Society's website.

The ASH Taxonomic Committee:

The ASH Taxonomic Committee is comprised of professional biologists, all of whom are experienced and accomplished experts in systematic biology and active researchers in Australian herpetology. Membership is drawn from both museum and university researchers and the committee has at least one member with expertise in each major group of Australian frogs and reptiles.

Dr Andrew Amey, Queensland Museum
Dr Renee Catullo, University of Western Australia
Prof. David Chapple, Monash University
Prof. Steve Donnellan, South Australian Museum
Dr Paul Doughty, Western Australian Museum
Prof. Arthur Georges, University of Canberra
Dr Conrad Hoskin, James Cook University
Dr Mark Hutchinson, South Australian Museum
Prof. Scott Keogh, Australian National University (Chair)

Dr Jane Melville, Museum Victoria
Prof. Craig Moritz, Australian National University
Dr Paul Oliver, Queensland Museum & Griffith University
Dr Mitzy Pepper, Australian National University
Dr Jodi Rowley, Australian Museum & University of New South Wales
Assoc. Prof. Kate Sanders, University of Adelaide
Dr Glenn Shea, University of Sydney & Australian Museum
Dr Joanna Sumner, Museum Victoria

The process of compiling the ASH Species List:

The Committee went through a number of steps to ensure that all species were thoroughly vetted and all members of the committee had multiple opportunities to comment. Below is a summary of the steps that were followed.

1. Species were broken up into sub-groups (“pygopodid lizards”, “terrestrial elapid snakes”, etc.) and assigned to 1–3 experts in that particular group. These experts produced the first draft of a species list for their group, including any explanatory comments and common names.
2. Each draft list was then sent to 1–3 different committee members for an initial cross check of the details. These committee members provided comments on the draft list. For some groups, draft lists also were sent to experts who were not on the committee.
3. Comments were then sent back to the original drafters of the list so they could revise the list based on the comments.
4. The updated version was then sent to the full committee to provide additional comments.
5. Comments were then sent back to the original drafters of the list for further revision based on the comments.
6. Once a final vetted draft was available for each sub-group, it was again sent to the full committee for a final check and endorsement by the full committee.

Disagreements:

If there was any disagreement on particular species, or the phrasing of comments, mutually agreeable compromise wording was found. In the very few cases where agreement could not be reached, the full committee voted to reach an outcome. For these species, detailed comments are included and the phrase “*In coming to this decision, the committee was not unanimous*” is included in the Comments section, even if only one member of the committee disagreed. Importantly, the committee was in unanimous agreement for the vast majority of species (>99%).

Common names:

There are a wide variety of common names in use and there is no convention for how to choose among them. For every species we have suggested a single primary common name based, primarily, on usage. Slight modification have been made for some species for consistency within and between groups and to make the names more descriptive, where possible. Additional secondary common names are listed by this list not exhaustive.

Updates to the ASH Official List of Australian Species:

The ASH Official List of Australian Species will be monitored and updated regularly. It will be formally updated prior to each ASH AGM but the list is a living document and regular updates will include taxonomic and associated nomenclatural changes as they appear in the peer-reviewed literature and come to be accepted. All updates will appear on the Australian Society of Herpetologists website and will be communicated to the *Australian Faunal Directory* and the international *Reptile Database* for implementation on these lists.

How to cite the ASH Official List of Australian Species:

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