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# Nomenclature of supra-generic units within the Family Scincidae (Squamata)

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## Abstract

The modern classification of skinks is based on a nomenclature that dates to the 1970s. However, there are a number of earlier names in the family group that have been overlooked by recent workers. These names are identified and their validity with respect to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature investigated, along with their type genera. In most cases, use of these names to supplant junior synonyms in modern day use is avoidable by use of the Reversal of Precedence articles of the Code, but the names remain available in case of future divisions at the tribe and subtribe level. Other names are unavailable due to homonymy, either of their type genera or the stems from similar but non-homonymous type genera. However, the name Egerniini is replaced by Tiliquini, due to a limited timespan of use of Egerniini. A new classification of the Family Scincidae is proposed, providing a more extensive use of Code-regulated levels of classification, including tribes and subtribes, and a detailed synonymy provided for each taxonomic unit.

**Key words**: Scincidae, Scincinae, Acontiinae, Lygosominae, Lygosomini, Ateuchosaurini, Eugongylini, Mabuyini, Ristellini, Sphenomorphini, Tiliquini

## Introduction

The family Scincidae is the largest family of lizards, with around 1700 species currently recognized, spread over more than 150 genera (Uetz *et al*. 2019). For a family of this size, it is not surprising that attempts have been made to provide a classification below the family level and above the generic level. The modern classification of skinks began with Mittleman (1952) who, as part of his dismantling of the enormous genus *Lygosoma* Hardwicke & Gray 1827 into multiple genera based on the distribution of selected character states, proposed a subfamilial classification. Mittleman listed four subfamilies of skinks, Lygosominae, Mabuyinae, Scincinae and Chalcidinae, with their diagnoses based on a dichotomous key, and only the content of the Lygosominae defined, this being the major topic of his study. No authorship was provided for any of the four subfamilies (although he did provide authorships for genera and species within the Lygosominae), suggesting that Mittleman considered himself as the author of the new names Lygosominae, Mabuyinae and Chalcidinae. Mittleman's subfamilial classification received little attention or acceptance.

Eighteen years later, Greer (1970a) proposed a more explicitly argued subfamilial classification. Although Mittleman had not listed the content of his subfamily Mabuyinae, Greer considered that subfamily to have consisted of what was then five genera: *Corucia* Gray 1856, *Egernia* Gray 1838c, *Mabuya* Fitzinger 1826, *Macroscincus* Barboza du Bocage 1873a, and *Tiliqua* Gray 1825 (the five genera that fit Mittleman's diagnosis and that were not listed as part of the Lygosominae by Mittleman). Greer recognized four subfamilies, treating Mittleman's Mabuyinae to be part of the Lygosominae, and his Chalcidinae to be part of the Scincinae. Greer's other two subfamilies, Acontinae and Feylininae, were small groups of burrowing skinks that had earlier been treated by some as not skinks. For example, Boulenger (1887) placed *Feylinia* Gray 1845 (a member of Greer's Feylininae) and *Typhlosaurus* Wiegmann 1834a (a member of Greer's Acontinae) in the family Anelytropidae. As Boulenger's classification was widely accepted, and Mittleman did not define the content of his subfamilies other than the Lygosominae, it is not possible to determine whether Mittleman's classification included these genera among the Scincidae, or whether he followed some previous authors in excluding them from the Scincidae.

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Greer's subfamilial classification was not based on reciprocal monophyly. He considered the subfamilies Acontinae, Feylininae and Lygosominae to be independently derived from scincine ancestors, making the Scincinae a basal, paraphyletic group.

Again, Greer did not provide authorships for his subfamilial names, and while some are similar to previously created names, others, like Feylininae and Acontinae, are seemingly based on different stems and hence should be considered independently created names.

Several years later, Greer (1979) proposed an informal division of the Australian members of the Lygosominae, partitioning the genera among three "groups", the *Egernia* group, the *Eugongylus* group and the *Sphenomorphus* group. These reflected his earlier treatment (Greer 1974) of the window-eyed skinks previously treated as a single genus *Leiolopisma* Duméril & Bibron 1839 as representing three groups, I, II and III, of which group I belonged to the *Sphenomorphus* group, and II and III represented basal and derived members of the *Eugongylus* group. This informal division was widely accepted, although it left unassigned several lygosomine genera, some very large (what were then *Apterygodon* Edeling 1864, *Dasia* Gray 1839, *Eumecia* Barboza du Bocage 1870, *Lamprolepis* Fitzinger 1843, *Lygosoma*, *Mabuya* and *Macroscincus*) that were not represented in the Australian fauna. Greer (1967, 1970b, 1976, 1977) had earlier considered these to represent five independent derivations from within *Mabuya*.

Although most authors for the next several decades continued to refer to the *Egernia* group, *Eugongylus* group and *Sphenomorphus* group in discussing relationships among lygosomine skinks, Welch (1982) proposed the assignment of formal tribal names for Greer's groups, creating the tribes Egerniini, Eugongylini and Sphenomorphini, and also placing the residual African lygosomine genera into a nominotypic tribe Lygosomini (*Eumecia*, *Lygosoma*, *Mabuya*, and *Macroscincus*), not mentioning *Apgerygodon*, *Dasia* or *Lamprolepis*. However, Welch went further in dividing Greer's *Eugongylus* group into three tribes, with the Eugongylini representing the basal genera, and the Lampropholini and Panaspiini representing the "beta-skink" subgroup (Greer 1979) or Group III (Greer 1974) Greer had recognized, partitioning it into African and Australasian tribes without any reason other than geographic distinction. Welch also created the name Paracontiini for a clade identified by Brygoo (1980) for some of the Malagasy scincines. Brygoo had treated these as a single genus *Paracontias* Mocquard 1894, with three subgenera *Paracontias*, *Malacontias* Greer 1970a and *Angelias* Brygoo 1980, but Welch considered it was more appropriate to treat them as full genera within a named tribe. However, in so doing he did not explicitly allocate any tribe or tribes for the remainder of the scincines, so by inference treating them all as the nominotypic tribe Scincini. Welch's classification did not explicitly define any of his tribes other than to reference previous authors. However, under the Code (Article 13.1.2) his new names can be considered as defined by reference to previous diagnoses: Greer (1974, 1979) for the Egerniini, Eugongylini, Sphenomorphini and Lampropholini; Perret (1975) for the Panaspiini (using Perret's definition of a genus *Panaspis* Cope 1868 with five subgenera, the equivalent to Welch's Panaspiini with five genera) and Brygoo (1980) for the Paracontiini.

Welch's tribal names received little use for the next three decades, with most authors overlooking the paper, and continuing to use Greer's more informal names for three groups in the Lygosominae. Welch himself only used the names once (Welch 1983), and then only Sphenomorphini and Lygosomini, ignoring them all in a later publication (Welch *et al*. 1990). Meanwhile, Greer himself became less convinced that his *Egernia* group was monophyletic, and renamed it the *Mabuya* group, adding the residual genera he had not previously allocated to his three lygosomine tribes and treating it as an assemblage of genera lacking a diagnosis based on synapomorphies (Greer 1989), and later still (Greer & Chong 2007) using the informal term eugongylines to cover all members of his Lygosominae that were not part of the *Sphenomorphus* group, with his *Eugongylus* group nested within the eugongylines.

During this period, the advent of karyological, immunological and genetic sequence data continued to affirm the validity of Greer's three groups within the Lygosominae, with some recognizing a fourth group for *Mabuya* sensu lato plus *Dasia* and *Apterygodon*, and a fifth group for *Lygosoma* sensu lato plus *Lamprolepis* (Honda *et al*. 1999a,b, 2000). Further genetic studies have resulted in division of *Mabuya* and *Lygosoma* into multiple genera, with progressive refinement of these generic concepts.

Hedges & Conn (2012) began a new cycle of research on the suprageneric classification of skinks, with a revision of the Caribbean *Mabuya*, dividing them into multiple genera. Desiring to provide more room for a suprageneric classification, they raised most of the previous groups within Scincidae to families: Mabuyiidae, Egerniiidae, Eugongylidae, Lygosomidae, Sphenomorphidae for the previous informal tribal "groups" within the Lygosominae of Greer (1970a, 1974, 1979) and Honda *et al*. (1999a,b, 2000), and Acontidae and Scincidae for the previous subfamilies Acontinae and Scincinae, and placing all seven families into an Infraorder Scincomorpha (the equivalent

of the previous concept of the Family Scincidae). They further partitioned their Mabuyiidae into four subfamilies: Mabuyiinae for the Neotropical genera, Chioniniinae for the Cape Verde genus *Chioninia* Gray 1845 (into which *Macroscincus* had previously been subsumed); Dasiinae for the Asian taxa that had previously been separated into a genus *Eutropis* Fitzinger 1843, plus *Dasia*, which had long been recognized as related to *Eutropis*, and Trachylepidinae for the African taxa that had previously been separated into a genus *Trachylepis* Fitzinger 1843). Like Welch (1982), they did not provide diagnoses for these taxa other than by bibliographic reference to previous papers; however, unlike previous authors, they did provide authorships for the names that had previously been proposed.

Their proposal for these changes to the higher classification of skinks received criticism (Pyron *et al*. 2013), but was expanded by Hedges (2014) in response, adding two new families (Ristellidae for two small south Indian/Sri Lankan genera; Ateuchosauridae for a single genus of two species) for genera for which affinities were poorly understood, and recognizing a superfamily Lygosomoidea for what had been considered by Greer (1970a, 1974, 1979) a subfamily Lygosominae. Hence, by the time of the 2014 paper, there were seven families corresponding to what had been considered tribes within a subfamily Lygosominae, together with two additional families (Acontidae and Scincidae) for what had long been considered subfamilies. In the only one of the families that Hedges & Conn (2012) recognized subfamilies, the Mabuyidae, two of the four subfamilies, Dasiinae and Trachylepidinae, were unable to be demonstrated to be monophyletic based on the analyses of Pyron *et al*. (2013), and Hedges (2014) suggested that the "content of the subfamilies Dasiinae and Trachylepidinae should be considered unresolved until a more robust phylogeny is obtained". However, subsequent studies (Zheng & Wiens 2016; Karin *et al*. 2016) confirmed that not only were some genera not assignable to the subfamilies Hedges & Conn (2012) had assigned them to, but that the Dasiinae and Trachylepidinae were clearly not monophyletic, with the Mabuyinae of Hedges & Conn being nested as a lineage within the Trachylepididae, *Dasia* (type genus of the Dasiinae) being the sister to the combination of Trachylepidinae and Mabuyinae rather than sister to *Eutropis*, and a slightly revised *Eutropis* (with the removal of *E. novemcarinata* to a monotypic new genus *Toenayar* Karin *et al*. 2016), being the outgroup to all other members of their Mabuyidae. Hence, there seems to be no reason to recognise sublineages within the broader Mabuyidae, as only the neotropical genera form a significant suprageneric cluster, with other lineages being defined as genera. Thus, providing sublineages within the Mabuyidae (subfamilies or below) would only be providing another set of higher-level names for the existing genera.

Curiously, Hedges & Conn (2012) and Hedges (2014) did not consider using the Code-regulated categories below subfamily: tribe and subtribe. Use of these categories would have allowed the long-established subfamilies of a family Scincidae to be maintained, while still giving formal taxonomic recognition to the additional suprageneric lineages they recognized, avoiding confusion between differing concepts of the extent of the family Scincidae and the varying concepts of Lygosominae/Lygosomidae/Lygosomoidea. The primary argument used by Hedges (2014) to raise the previous tribes to familial level was to create taxonomic space and reduce the size of the generic groups, yet their classification compressed the higher-level taxonomy of squamates (order and above), while leaving unused an entire suite of lower-level taxonomic categories. While it could be argued that this freed up space for further named units at low taxonomic levels, recent phylogenetic studies have generally failed to provide convincing support for the relationships of many of the genera within the families proposed by Hedges (2014), with only very low support for many branches (Pyron *et al*. 2013; Zheng & Wiens 2016), and even varying positions of genera between families. Hence, it is not clear that there is a need for an extensive low-level classification among genera under the families recognized by Hedges (2014), with any proposal for such a classification likely to be unstable.

As a consequence, many recent authors have simply treated the families proposed by Hedges (2014) as subfamilies or tribes under a traditional more-inclusive family Scincidae. This does not alter the recognition of the same nested series of monophyletic lineages, but maintains continuity of application of names.

However, the provision of an increasing number of formal taxonomic names in the family group and its subsidiary classificatory levels has been done without consideration for priority of potential earlier names. The formal proposals for subfamilies and tribes by Mittleman (1952), Greer (1970a) and Welch (1982) lacked any synonymies or authorships for those names, suggesting that all three authors may have considered their names as new. Hedges (2014) did provide authorships and dates for the familial names he used in his classification, noting that Lygosomidae (Lygosominae of Mittleman (1952) and Greer (1970a)) antedated both of those studies, and could be traced to Gray (1845). Hedges (2014) did not consider the potential for any prior names for his other recognized families.

There are several earlier names in the family group proposed within what Mittleman (1952) and Greer (1970a) considered the family Scincidae, and Hedges (2014) considered the infraorder Scincomorpha. Some of these were

listed in the synonymy of the family Scincidae by Boulenger (1887), but not all, and some are senior synonyms of existing names being used within the Scincidae.

I review the availability and application of these names below, beginning chronologically, then taxonomically.

## History of family-group names for skinks prior to Mittleman (1952)

The first mention of a family group name for a skink species was Scincoides by Oppel (1811). This was explicitly stated to be a "Familia", and contained four genera: *Scincus* Linné, *Seps* Raii, *Sheltopusik* Lacépède and *Anguis* Linné.

Of these, the *Seps* of Ray (1693) is pre-Linnean and unavailable, but appears to be based on a southern European skink, probably *Chalcides chalcides* (Linnaeus 1758), as Ray had collected specimens from sandy coasts at Livorno in 1664 (Raven 1950), within the distribution of that species. *Seps* has a long history, with the name traceable to Ancient Greek and Latin literature, applied variously to lizards, snakes, centipedes and caterpillars (Bodson 2009). Oppel included in *Seps* at least three entities: "a) Digiti quatuor. b) Digiti tres. c) Digiti duo etc." This implies he was basing his concept of *Seps* on that of Daudin (1802), who similarly divided his own genus *Seps* into species on number of digits: Seps Quadrupède Pentadactyle, Seps Quadrupède Tridactyle, Seps Quadrupede Monodactyle, Seps Bipède Didactyle ou Tridactyle, Seps Bipède Subdidactyle and Seps Bipède Monodactyle.

*Anguis* Linnaeus 1758 included in its original form a number of unrelated species, many of which are snakes. Oppel's restricted use of the name only specifically mentions two species, *Anguis fragilis* Linnaeus 1758 (Anguidae) and *Anguis meleagris* Linnaeus 1758, the latter now *Acontias meleagris*.

Lacépède (1804) did not create a genus *Sheltopusik*. Oppel's use of that name (with the combination *Sheltopusik novaehollandiae* appearing at the end of the account) appears to be his own application of a common name for the anguid *Pseudopus apodus* (Pallas 1775) to the new species that Lacépède (1804) had described as *Bipes lepidopodus*, a pygopod gekkotan, due to Lacépède's vernacular use of "sheltopusick" [sic] in comparing the new Australian species to *Pseudopus*.

Linnaeus similarly did not create a genus *Scincus*, although he did (Linnaeus 1758) describe the species *Lacerta stincus*. This has long been presumed to be an error for *scincus* (see, for example, Kauffeld 1937; Arnold & Leviton 1977; Leviton *et al*. 1992; Anderson 1999; Adler 2012) although if it was an error, Linnaeus did not correct it when preparing the following edition (Linnaeus 1766), where it remains as *stincus*, and he also used it in both the original and the subsequent reprint of the Museum Adopho-Fridericianum ("Balk" [Linnaeus] 1746, 1749), and in Hasselquist's (1757) account of his travels in the Holy Lands (Linneaus provided the species names in that book (Adler 2012), although Hasselquist himself (1751) used *Lacerta scincus*). Linnaeus seems to have deliberately been following Seba (1735) who provided both the names *Stincus* and *Scincus* (p. 112: "Est & alia earum species, in officinis Pharmaceuticis usitata, quam *Stinci*, vel *Scinci marini* nominee distinguunt"; "*Stincus*"; "*Scincum*"), and selected *Stincus* from the two options. *Scincus* is a Latin noun of long use, and it was this that was subsequently used for generic names, independent of Linneaus' *Lacerta stincus*. However, *Stincus* also has a long history of use, particularly in the earlier pharmaceutical literature. The earliest instances I can find of its use are by Vincent of Beauvais in his *Speculum Naturale*, likely written between 1244 and 1260 (I cite the printed version of 1494), Simon of Genoa, in his *Clavis Sanationis*, likely written about 1290 (first printed version 1473; I cite the 1514 version), John Mesue's *In Antidotarium*, likely written in the late 13th century (I cite the 1550 edition), and in an early Latin translation (likely by John of Copua and written about 1300) of Moses Maimonides' On Coitus, originally written in Arabic (Bos *et al*. 2019). It also appears in the version of the *Gart der Gesuntheit* of Prüss (1507) (along with *Scincus*), Mangetus' (1687) *Pharmacopoea Schodero-Hoffmanniana*, Potter's (1702) *Archaeologia Graeca*, and Sidren's (1750) dissertation on the Materia Medica in Linnaeus' *Regno Animali*. Another use of *Stincus* was reported by Sidren (1750) and Gronovius (1756) as from "Rondel. Pisc. 2 p. 231." However, Rondelet (1555; the second volume of his *Libri de Piscibus Marinis*) uses *Scincus*. The subsequent use of the specific epithet *scincus* rather than the original *stincus*, while an unjustified emendation, is in universal use in the modern literature (subsequent to the revival of *scincus* over *officinalis* Laurenti 1768 as a specific epithet by Flower 1933 and Loveridge 1936), and hence to be maintained under Article 33.2.3.1. A Google Scholar search locates 952 uses of the name *Scincus scincus*, but none for *Scincus stincus* as a valid name (the few citations of *Scincus stincus* are to note that the name has been replaced by *Scincus scincus*).

A post-Linnaean generic name *Scincus* appears to have first been created by Gronovius (1763), who included

four species: Scincus pedibus pentadactylis, unguiculatis, digitis teretibus; Scincus pedibus pentadactylis inermibus: digitis lobatis; Scincus pedibus brevissimis, pentadactylis, unguiculatis; cauda truncoque longissimis, cylindraceis, and Scincus pedibus posticis brevissimis subulatis, monodactylis; anticis nullis; caudae apice nudo. Gronovius himself based the name on his earlier pre-Linnaean work (Gronovius 1756), where only two species were described. Gronovius (1763) was suppressed for the purposes of nomenclature by Opinion 89 (Anonymous 1925), due to the non-binomial nature of the work.

The next appearance of a generic name *Scincus* was by Garsault (1764), based on an illustration, and that illustration was subsequently identified as *Scincus scincus* var. *laterimaculatus* Werner 1914 by Dubois & Bour (2010), and thus *laterimaculatus* Werner is the type species by monotypy of Garsault's *Scincus*, by subsequent designation (Article 67.2.2). Most authors have overlooked this earlier creation of a genus *Scincus* in favour of a later *Scincus* by Laurenti (1768) (e.g., Stejneger 1936). Laurenti (1768) listed two species in the genus: *Scincus officinalis* and *S. stellio*. Laurenti referred to illustrations with descriptions by Seba (1735), a pre-Linnaean source, and hence, both by providing diagnoses and bibliographic reference to a description with an illustration, Laurenti is the author of both species names.

*Scincus officinalis* Laurenti is considered a synonym of *Lacerta stincus* Linnaeus (Flower 1933; Loveridge 1936), and it has been subsequently assumed (Stejneger 1936) that because of this synonymy, the type of *Scincus* is Linnaeus' *Lacerta scincus*/*stincus* due to tautonymy. However, this is not the case, as there is no mention of Linnaeus' term *scincus* or *stincus* in Laurenti's genus *Scincus* (Article 68.4), precluding direct tautonymy. As there are two species in Laurenti's *Scincus*, a type species by subsequent designation is required, and this was provided by Fitzinger (1843) (Laurenti's second species, *stellio*, is based in part on Seba's Plate 10, Nos 4 & 5, which relate to lizards with imbricate scales from America and Ambon, and must be a composite of two unrelated species). Some authors (Leviton *et al*. 1992; Anderson 1999) state that *officinalis* was proposed by Laurenti to avoid tautonomy with the generic name *Scincus*, and that it is a replacement name for *Lacerta stincus*, but this is incorrect. Laurenti lists a species *scincus* within his genus *Seps*, but does not attribute that name to Linnaeus, nor did he have any issue with such tautonymy, recognizing a species *Scincus stellio* along with a genus *Stellio*. Instead, his creation of the specific epithet *officinalis* within *Scincus* is likely based on Seba (1735), cited by Laurenti, and in reference to Seba's statement "Est & alia earum species, in officinis Pharmaceuticis usitata…", referring to the use of skinks for pharmaceutical functions (hence based on the Latin officium = function, referring to its use as described in ancient pharmacopeias).

In the absence of a genus *Scincus* created by Linneaus, it is not clear which concept of the genus Oppel was following, as he merely stated "Genus hoc omnes fere in systema suum receperunt herpetology" [Almost all men have accepted this genus into their system of herpetology]. Hence, he appears to be treating all subsequent uses of the genus *Scincus* as equal, and based on this statement, I treat *Scincus* Garsault (1764), currently the earliest post-Linnaean author to have created such a genus in a work that is still available under the Code, as the type genus, even if Oppel may not have seen that work.

Oppel recognized three subdivisions within *Scincus*, the first represented by *Sc. Galliwasp*, the second by *Sc. Mabouya* and the third by *Sc. Schneideri*. Although none of these names were attributed to an author, all correspond to names used within *Scincus* by Daudin (1802), although Daudin spelt *Scincus galliwasp* as *S. gallivasp* and *Scincus schneideri* as *S. schneiderii*. Curiously, Oppel does not mention either *stincus* Linnaeus or *officinalis* Laurenti among the species in the genus, although he must be considered to have included *stincus* Linnaeus as part of the genus through his attribution of the name *Scincus* to Linnaeus. Of the three species that Oppel explicitly lists in *Scincus*, type genus of his family Scincoides, *Scincus Galliwasp* is now considered a synonym of *Celestus occiduus* (Shaw 1802), a diploglossid, *Scincus Mabouya* is now *Mabuya mabouya*, and *S. schneiderii* is now *Eumeces schneiderii*.

Under Article 11.7 of the Code, Oppel's Scincoides is an available name in the family-group, being based on *Scincus*, formed from the stem of an available generic name indicated by express reference to the generic name. While the suffix -oides is not a currently recognized suffix at any level in the family-group (Article 29.2), it is clear that Oppel used it as a formal name, not a vernacular name. Under Article 32.5.3, the incorrectly formed suffix does not prevent recognition of the name as presented by Oppel, but the suffix must be corrected. Gray (1838c) first presented it in the correct form, Scincidae.

Rafinesque (1815) also created a family-group name based on *Scincus*, listing a subfamily Scincidia (and subfamilies Sepsidia and Bipedinia) under a family Meguria. No definition was provided for the family name Meguria,

but he did list (under the subfamily Sepsidia) a genus *Megurus*, without diagnosis or included species. While the lack of included species does not in itself preclude that generic name from being available (Article 67.2.2), the additional lack of any diagnosis for that genus to distinguish it from the other genera in the subfamily Sepsidia or the family Meguria does appear to invalidate the name *Megurus* (Article 12.1), and hence the family name Meguridae (Article 11.7.1.1). However, Scincidia is given the briefest of diagnoses (Queue conique, doigts onguiculés [tail conical, digits clawed]) and Rafinesque lists five genera within it: *Scincus* Daudin, *Eltroplepurus* Rafinesque, *Lupeurus* Rafinesque, *Mabuya* Rafinesque, and *Meiodactis* Rafinesque. The latter four names have no definitions or associated species, and remain nomina nuda, although *Mabuya* Rafinesque is presumably the same entity as the later *Mabuya* Fitzinger. *Scincus* Daudin 1802, as an available generic name, must be considered the type genus of Rafinesque's Scincidia and, along with the brief diagnosis, validates that name.

The second family created by Oppel (1811) for a skink genus was Chalcidici, which he stated to be based on *Chalcides* Lacepede [Lacépède], but also included the genera *Bipes* (attributed to Latreille, and now *Bipes* Latreille 1801, Amphisbaenidae), *Ophisaurus* (attributed to Daudin, and now *Ophisaurus* Daudin 1802, Anguidae) and *Bimanus* (attributed to Lacepede, and now treated as *Bimanus* Oppel 1811, a synonym of *Bipes* Latreille). "Lacepede" is presumably with reference to the *Histoire Naturelle des Quadrupèdes Ovipares et des Serpens* (Lacépède 1788). As was the case with Oppel's attribution of the type genus of his Scincoides, his attribution of a generic name *Chalcides* to Lacépède is incorrect, as Lacépède only uses *chalcides* as a species name. Oppel's full statement is "Lacepede [sic] huic generi primus nomen dedit, quod deinde Brongniart, Latreille, Daudin et Duméril characteribus propriis optime distinxerunt" (Lacépède first gave the name for this genus, which Brongniart, Latreille, Daudin et Duméril then optimally distinguished with particular features). These references seem to be to Brongniart (1800), Sonnini & Latreille (1801), Daudin (1802) and Duméril (1805), all of whom defined a genus *Chalcides*. Brongniart (1800) must be considered the first of these to have defined the genus in the sense used by Oppel (1811). However, Brongniart's use of the generic name does not specifically identify a type species, but lists "Ex. d'esp." [Examples of species]: "*Ch*. *pentadactyla*; (*Lac. chalcides*. L.). *Seps*, *serpens*, *anguina*, *bipes*, *apus*, etc." While no authors are cited for these names, they can be readily linked to species of *Lacerta* (at the time the default genus for all lizards) and *Anguis* described by Linnaeus (1758, 1766) (*L*. *chalcides*, *L*. *seps*, *L*. *anguina*, *A*. *bipes*), Bloch (1776) (*L*. *serpens*) and Gmelin (1789) (*L*. *apus*). Brongniart likely obtained all six names from Gmelin (1789), where they are listed as species of *Lacerta*, with all but *seps* listed in sequence as the last five species of *Lacerta*. Brongniart does not cite Laurenti (1768), who first created a genus *Chalcides*. However, as with Laurenti's *Chalcides*, that of Brongniart includes *Lacerta chalcides* (though providing it with a replacement name, *Chalcides pentadactyla*) and so the concept is the same for both, with *Lacerta chalcides* being the type species by tautonymy (Article 68.4).

One could try to argue that *Chalcides* Brongniart 1800 is a junior homonym of *Chalcides* Laurenti 1768, and hence unavailable for selection as a type genus (Article 39), but this would be splitting hairs. Chalcidici Oppel, like Scincoides Oppel, has an unconventional form for the suffix for a family group, but this in itself does not invalidate the name.

Complicating the application of Chalcidici (or Chalcididae as emended) are later homonyms for very different concepts. Among squamates, Daudin (1802), to whom Oppel (1811) also attributed the generic name, created a second *Chalcides*. He specifically excluded *Lacerta chalcides* from his genus (placing it in his genus *Seps*) and stated that his *Chalcides* was not that of Laurenti. *Chalcides* Daudin instead included four species: *Chalcides tetradactylus* Daudin 1802 (now *Tetradactylus tetradactylus*, a gerrhosaurid), *Chalcides tridactylus* Daudin 1802, now *Bachia flavescens* (Bonnaterre 1789), a gymnophthalmid, *Chalcides monodactylus* Daudin 1802 (now also *Bachia flavescens*), and *Chalcides propus* Daudin 1802 (based on *Chamaesaura propus* Schneider 1801, now a synonym of *Bipes canaliculatus,* an amphisbaenian). The creation of *Chalcides* Daudin led to a long period when the generic name *Chalcides* was applied to gymnophthalmids rather than scincids, only reverting back to application to the current skink genus in the latter part of the 19th century (e.g., Boulenger 1887). During the period when *Chalcides* was applied to gymnophthalmids, Gray (1825) created another family name Chalcididae, with three genera, *Chalcides* Daudin, *Chirotes* Cuvier 1816, and *Cophias* Gray 1825, while Fitzinger (1826) created a similar family Chalcidoidea, based on *Chalcides* Cuvier 1816 [= *Chalcides* Daudin], *Brachypus* Merrem 1820, *Cophias* Merrem 1820 (the latter two based on divisions of Chalcides Cuvier) and *Heterodactylus* Spix1825. Chalcididae Gray and Chalcidoidea Fitzinger must be considered unavailable as family-group names, as *Chalcides* Daudin is a junior homonym, but not a synonym, of *Chalcides* Laurenti, and hence not available for use as a type genus (Article 39). In Scincidae, Chalcidici Oppel is either both a senior synonym and homonym of Chalcidinae Mittleman 1952 (if it is considered

that Mittleman's name is independent), or the first creation of a name subsequently resurrected (without attribution) by Mittleman.

Chalcidici Oppel and Scincoides Oppel are both based on genera now recognised as skinks, and were published in the same work. I can find no subsequent author who cited both names and determined relative priority. Boulenger (1887), who provided synonymies for family group names and finalized the use of *Chalcides* for the skink genus to which it is now applied, overlooked Oppel's work, attributing Scincidae to Gray (1825), and used Gray's (1825) concept of Chalcididae, referring the latter name, along with the gymnophthalmids, to the family Teiidae. Hence, using the principle of First Reviser (Article 24.2) I give Scincoides Oppel priority over Chalcidici Oppel for the lineage to which skinks belong.

Gray (1825), who next presented a familial classification of lizards that recognised skinks or subunits of skinks as distinct entities with formal names, recognized a family Sincidae, containing the genera *Sincus* [sic], *Cicigna* Gray 1825, *Gymnophtalmus* [sic] Merrem 1820, *Tiliqua* and *Trachydosaurus* Gray 1825, but made no mention of the earlier Scincoides Oppel or Scincidia Rafinesque. Gray attributed the name *Sincus* to Daudin (1802) and included the species *Lacerta sincus* Linnaeus 1758. Hence, he appears to have simply mis-spelt the original *Scincus* of Daudin (1802) and *Lacerta stincus* of Linnaeus, and his Sincidae must be corrected to Scincidae (Article 35.4.1). This concept of the Scincidae, like that of Oppel, includes some taxa no longer considered to be skinks (*Gymnophthalmus* (type genus of the family Gymnophthalmidae) and *Cicigna*, based on *Scincus sepiformis* Schneider 1801, now a synonym of *Tetradactylus seps* (Linnaeus 1758), a gerrhosaurid).

Gray (1825) also recognized one other genus that is now considered a skink: *Acontias* Cuvier 1816, which he placed in his family Angudidae (now Anguidae). Being based on the genus *Anguis*, the latter name is not an available family group name for any scincid sublineage.

Fourteen years later, Gray (1838a–c, 1839), proposed a classification of the "slender-tongued saurians" including his next opinion of skink taxonomy. Most skink genera (*Chiamela* Gray 1839, *Dasia*, *Egernia*, *Hagria* Gray 1839, *Herinia* Gray 1839, *Lygosoma*, *Riopa* Gray 1839, *Ristella* Gray 1839, *Scincus*, *Seps*, *Siaphos* [a mis-spelling of *Saiphos* Gray 1831], *Sphaenops* Wagler 1830, *Tachydosaurus* [a mis-spelling of *Trachydosaurus*], *Tetradactylus* Cuvier 1829, *Tiliqua* and *Tridactylus* Cuvier 1829) were placed in a family Scincidae, along with *Anguis*, *Aprasia* Gray 1839 (Pygopodidae), *Celestus* Gray 1838c (now in Diploglossidae), *Dorfia* Gray 1839 (possibly an anguid—see Gray 1845), *Ophiodes* Wagler 1830 (Diploglossidae), *Siguana* Gray 1839 (possibly an anguid—see Wermuth 1969), and *Stenostoma* Wagler 1824 (Leptotyphlopidae).

However, the newly described skink genus *Rhodona* Gray 1839 (now a synonym of *Lerista* Bell 1833) was considered to form a distinct family Rhodonidae, in which he also tentatively placed *Soridia* Gray 1839 (also now a synonym of *Lerista*), and *Lerista* itself, although he had not at that time been able to examine specimens of the latter genus.

A third family, Acontiadae, was created for *Acontias*, together with the Sri Lankan burrowing scincines that Gray placed in *Nessia* Gray 1839 and *Evesia* Gray 1839 (the latter now a synonym of *Nessia*), along with *Bipes* (the content of which in Gray's concept consisted of two species now in the scincine genus *Scelotes* Fitzinger 1826, and is hence different to *Bipes* Latreille 1801, an amphisbaenid), while the scincid genera *Ablepharus* Fitzinger 1824 and *Cryptoblepharus* Wiegmann 1834b were both placed in the family Gymnophthalmidae. Both Rhodonidae and Acontiadae (later corrected to Acontiidae, using the correct Latinised stem, by Cope 1864) are validly published names in the family group, and have type genera based on type species that are in the Scincidae.

Rhodonidae was also used by Gray (1841a,b), this time consisting of *Rhodona*, *Soridia* and *Chelomeles* Duméril & Bibron 1839 (the latter now a synonym of *Hemiergis* Wagler 1830). Gray placed other genera now in *Hemiergis* (*Chiamela* [part], *Tetradactylus* and *Tridactylus*) in the Scincidae.

In his final major foray into lizard classification, Gray (1845) continued to recognize an ever-expanding family Scincidae, now including 46 genera (*Anguis*, *Ateuchosaurus* Gray 1845, *Brachymeles* Duméril & Bibron 1839, *Camilia* Gray 1845, *Carlia* Gray 1845, *Celestus* Gray 1845, *Chelomeles*, *Chiamela*, *Cyclodus* Wagler 1830, *Dasia*, *Diploglossus* Wiegmann 1834a, *Egernia*, *Elania* Gray 1845, *Eumeces* Wiegmann 1834a, *Euprepis* Wagler 1830, *Hagria* Gray 1845, *Hemiergus* (mis-spelling of *Hemiergis*), *Heteropus* Fitzinger 1826, *Hinulia* Gray 1845, *Keneuxia* Gray 1845, *Lardella* Gray 1845, *Leiolopisma*, *Lipinia* Gray 1845, *Lygosoma*, *Mabouya* Duméril & Bibron 1839, *Microlepis* Gray 1839, *Mocoa* Gray 1845, *Norbea* Gray 1845, *Omolepida* Gray 1845, *Ophiodes*, *Otosaurus* Gray 1845, *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839, *Podophis* Wiegmann 1834a, *Rhodona*, *Riopa*, *Scincus*, *Senira* Gray 1845, *Siaphos*, *Silubosaurus* Gray 1845, *Soridia*, *Tetradactylus*, *Tiliqua*, *Trachydosaurus*, *Tribolonotus* Duméril & Bibron

1839, *Tropidolepisma* Gray 1845, *Tropidophorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839, and tentatively *Ristella*), and some 124 species. This concept resulted in the subsuming under Scincidae of the type genus of his previous Rhodonidae, and the transfer to the Scincidae (by creation of the genus *Tribolonotus*) of *Zonurus novaeguineae* Schlegel 1834, which he had previously (Gray 1838b) left in *Zonurus* Merrem, 1820 in the family Zonuridae (now Cordylidae). Of the genera listed by Gray in his Scincidae, six (*Anguis*, *Camilia*, *Celestus*, *Diploglossus*, *Microlepis* and *Ophiodes*) are now not considered skinks, and *Lardella* is a nomen nudum, rejected later in the same work, p. 271)

With such a diversity of skinks, Gray provided a complex ramifying key as an organizing framework. The first version of this key, presented on pp. 70–73, divided the family into five initial groups, with further divisions of each of these groups. I provide a compilation of the first two divisions:

I. Scales thin, smooth, not striated not keeled. Nostrils in a single smooth plate, without any lunate groove behind. Tail round, tapering, unarmed.

A. Toes depressed, fringed on the sides. Head wedge-shaped. Rostral depressed, keeled in front. Nostril in the middle of the upper edge of the nasal, with a triangular supranasal above the rostral.

B. Toes compressed, simple. Head subquadrangular. Rostral erect, triangular. Nostril in the middle of a shield.

II. Scales thick, bony, rugose, striated, or 1 or more keeled. Rostral rounded in front. Body fusiform. Limbs 4, strong. Toes 5-5, compressed.

C. Tail compressed, keeled above. Scales of the tail keeled, spinose, of the body smooth. Head-shields rugose, closely applied to the skull. Temples shielded. Lower eyelid scaly. Preanal plates few, large.

D. Tail rounded, tapering, rarely spinose, not keeled above, thick, bony, rugose, or 3 or 5 keeled, rarely smoothish.

E. Tail round, tapering, unarmed, not keeled above. Scales minutely striated, and sometimes 1-keeled. Supranasals two pair.

To the first of these groups (I. A.), Gray (1845: 70) appended the name Scincina, but no names were applied to the other four groups in this version.

Following this initial synopsis, Gray provided a similar categorization of the genera into groups scattered among his descriptions of the genera and species on pp. 74–120, though with slightly different statements of character states and combinations. This time, he provided names to the five major groups. I provide the full second classification, with a list of the genera included in each category, and the group names boldened:

I. Scales thin, smooth, not striated nor keeled, unarmed. Nasal flat, smooth, without any lunate groove behind. Tail round, tapering, unarmed.

A. Toes depressed, fringed on the sides. Head wedge-shaped. Rostral depressed, keeled in front. Nostril in the middle of the upper edge of the nasal, with a triangular supranasal above the nostril. **Scincina**.

[genus *Scincus*]

B. Toes compressed, simple. Head subquadrangular. Rostral erect, triangular. Nostril in the middle of nasal shield. **Lygosomina**.

a. Supranasal plate none. Body fusiform. Lower eyelid covered with scales. Frontoparietal separate.

[genera *Elania*, *Hinulia*, *Keneuxia*]

b. Supranasal plate none. Body fusiform. Lower eyelid with a transparent disk.

* Frontoparietal plate single, lozenge-shaped [genus *Mocoa*, part]

** Interparietal plates 2, separate [genera *Mocoa*, part; *Leiolopisma*, *Lipinia*]

*** Supernasal plates none. Body and tail elongate, subcylindrical. Limbs 4, weak, far apart. Rostral erect, triangular.

† Toes elongate, rather compressed, unequal.

[genera *Chelomeles*, *Hemiergis*, *Lygosoma*, *Ristella*, *Tetradactylus*]

†† Toes short, thick, cylindrical

[genera *Omolepida*, *Podophis*]

d. Supranasal plates none. Body and tail cylindrical, elongate. Limbs rudimentary or wanting. Rostral rather produced and depressed in front. Frontonasal rudimentary, the internasal and frontal being separated

by a broad straight suture. Head half conical.
[genera *Rhodona*, *Siaphos*, *Soridia*]
e. Supranasal plates 2, Body fusiform. Tail tapering.
[genera *Eumeces*, *Mabouya, Otosaurus*, *Plestiodon*]
f. Supranasal 2. Body and tail subcylindrical, elongate. Limbs 4, short, weak, or rudimentary.
[genera *Brachymeles*, *Chiamela*, *Hagria*, *Riopa*, *Senira*]
g. Supranasals 4 or 6. Body and tail subcylindrical, elongate. Limbs 2 or none. Scales placed in transverse lines on the back, and in oblique ones on the sides.
[genera *Anguis*, *Ophiodes*]

II. Scales thick, bony, rugose, 1 or more keeled, or closely longitudinally striated. Rostral rounded in front. Body fusiform. Limbs 4, generally strong. Toes 5-5 (rarely 4-5), compressed.

C. Tail compressed, keeled above. Scales of the tail keeled, spinose. Head-shields rugose, closely applied to the skull. Temple shielded. Lower eyelid scaly. Preanal plates few, large. Tympanum superficial. **Tropidophorina.**
[genera *Norbea*, *Tribolonotus*, *Tropidophorus*]

D. Tail rounded, tapering, rarely spinose, not keeled above. Scales thick, bony, rugose, or 3- or 5-keeled, rarely smoothish. Drum of ear deep. **Tiliquina.**

* Supranasal shields none.

† Lower eyelid scaly. Toes 5-5. Nostril with a curved groove behind it.
[genera *Cyclodus*, *Egernia*, *Silubosaurus*, *Trachydosaurus*, *Tropidolepisma*]

†† Lower eyelid scaly. Toes 5-5, compressed. Nasal shield flat, without any groove behind the nostril.
[genus *Ateuchosaurus*]

††† Lower eyelid transparent. Toes 4-5. Body and tail cylindrical, elongate.
[genus *Heteropus*]

** Supranasal shields 2, distinct. Scales 3- or 5-keeled. Palate toothed. Nasal oblong, with the nostril in its hinder end, and a small nasoloreal behind it.
[genera *Dasia*, *Euprepis*, *Tiliqua*]

E. Tail round, tapering, unarmed, not keeled above. Scales minutely striated, and sometimes 1-keeled. Supranasals two pair. **Diploglossina**.
[genera *Camilia*, *Celestus*, *Diploglossus*, *Microlepis*].

In addition to the genera within the Scincidae, Gray continued to treat the skinks *Ablepharus* and *Cryptoblepharus* as part of the family Gymnophthalmidae, adding to that family four more skink genera (*Lerista*, *Menetia* Gray 1845, *Miculia* Gray 1845 and *Morethia* Gray 1845), and maintained recognition of a family Acontiadae, now restricted to just *Acontias*, *Nessia* and *Evesia*. Additionally, he created three more families for genera now considered skinks: Ophiomoridae (for *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839), Sepsidae (for the genera *Amphiglossus* Duméril & Bibron 1839, *Gongylus* Wagler 1830, *Heteromeles* Duméril & Bibron 1839, *Scelotes*, *Seps*, *Sphaenops* and *Thyrus* Gray 1845), and Typhlinidae (for the genera *Feylinia*, *Typhline* Wiegmann 1834a and *Dibamus* Duméril & Bibron 1839; the latter now in Dibamidae).

The subunits within the Scincidae (Scincina, Lygosomina, Tropidophorina, Tiliquina and Diploglossina) are new formal names within the family group, and are acceptably formed under the Code, from type genera *Scincus*, *Lygosoma*, *Tropidophorus*, *Tiliqua* and *Diploglossus*, using the -ina termination for subtribes in modern form, although clearly Gray was treating these groups as the next category below family, i.e., subfamily. Only one of these is problematic. Tiliquina included the ten genera *Ateuchosaurus*, *Cyclodus*, *Dasia*, *Egernia*, *Euprepis*, *Heteropus*, *Silubosaurus*, *Tiliqua*, *Trachydosaurus*, and *Tropidolepisma*, with *Tiliqua* implicitly the type genus for the Tiliquina.

However, Gray's concept of *Tiliqua* changed over time. The generic name was first created by Gray (1825), at which time it consisted of just two nominal species: *Tiliqua tuberculata* Gray and *Lacerta sincoides* White [sic]. No definitions were provided for either species by Gray, leaving *Tiliqua tuberculata* Gray as a nomen nudum at the time. However, an extended description of *Tiliqua tuberculata* was provided by Gray (1827), based on what is evidently, from the combination of morphology and locality (Seal Island in King George the Third's Sound), *Egernia kingii* (Gray 1838c). Gray included in the synonymy of his description of *Tiliqua tuberculata* both *Lacerta*

*scincoides* and *Scincus tuberculatus* Merrem, 1820, the latter name also based on *Lacerta scincoides*. Hence, Gray's (1827) description of *Tiliqua tuberculata*, though nominally a synonym of *Tiliqua scincoides*, was based on a misidentification of this species. *Lacerta scincoides* was subsequently designated the type species of *Tiliqua* by Cogger *et al*. (1983) avoiding any potential confusion.

Two years later (Hardwicke & Gray 1827), Gray had begun to expand his original concept of *Tiliqua*, adding two species from India to the genus, *Tiliqua carinata* (Schneider 1801) and a new species, *Tiliqua trivittata*, both now placed in the genus *Eutropis*.

A few years later, Gray (1831) had expanded *Tiliqua* to 26 species: *T. aenea* Gray 1831, now *Copeoglossum nigropunctatum*; *T. bellii* Gray 1831, now *Leiolopisma telfairii* (Desjardin 1831); *T. bicolor* (Harlan 1825), now *Plestiodon laticeps*; *T. bistriatus* (Spix 1825), now *Varzea bistriata*; *T. bistriatus* Gray 1831, now *Trachylepis gravenhorstii* (Duméril & Bibron 1839), *T. capensis* Gray 1831, now *Trachylepis capensis*; *T. carinatus* (Schneider 1801), now *Eutropis carinata*; *T. crotaphomelas* (Lacépède 1804), now a synonym of *T. scincoides*; *T. cyprius* (Cuvier 1829) [as *cyprinus*], now *Eumeces schneiderii*; *T. erythocephala* (Gilliams 1818), now *Plestiodon laticeps* Schneider 1801; *T. fasciatus* Gray 1831, now *Diploglossus fasciatus*; *T. homolocephalus* (Wiegmann 1828), now *Trachylepis homalocephala*; *T. lateralis* (Say 1822), now *Scincella lateralis*; *T. mabouya* (Shaw 1802), now *Mabuya mabouya* (Bonnaterre 1789); *T. microlepis* Gray 1831, now *Diploglossus microlepis*; *T. multiseriatus* (Cuvier 1829) [as *multiscutatus*], now *Eumeces schneiderii* (Daudin 1802); *T. nigroluteus* (Quoy & Gaimard 1824); *T. nigropunctatus* (Spix 1825), now *Copeoglossum nigropunctatum*; *T. occidua* (Shaw 1802), now *Celestus occiduus*; *T. ocellatus* (Schneider 1801), now *Chalcides ocellatus* (Forskål 1775); *T. quinquelineatus* (Linnaeus 1766), a likely synonym of *Plestiodon fasciatus* (Linnaeus 1758); *T. sloanii* (Daudin 1802), now *Spondylurus sloanii*; *T. taeniolata* (White 1790), now *Ctenotus taeniolatus*; *T. tenuis* Gray 1831, now *Concinnia tenuis*; *T. trivittatus* Hardwicke & Gray 1827, now *Eutropis trivittata*, and *T. whitii*, now *T. scincoides*). This concept included species now spread amongst 15 genera and two families (Scincidae and Diploglossidae).

Eight years later, Gray (1838c) had expanded the genus to 50 species. Of the 26 species in 1831, 17 (*T. aenea*, *T. bellii*, *T. bistrigata* Gray (emendation of his earlier *bistriatus*), *T. capensis*, *T. carinata*, *T. cyprinus*, *T. erythrocephala*, *T. fasciata*, *T. multiseriatus*, *T. nigrolutea*, *T. occidua*, *T. ocellatus*, *T. sloanii*, *T. taeniolata*, *T. tenuis*, *T. trivittatus* and *T. whitii*) remained, and were joined by 33 additional species: *T. affinis* Gray 1838c, now *Trachylepis affinis*; *T. albolabris* Gray 1838c [current identity uncertain—Hedges & Conn 2012]; *T. ascensionis* Gray, 1838c [current identity uncertain—Mausfeld *et al*. 2002]; *T. australis* Gray 1838c, now *Ctenotus australis*; *T. bibronii* Gray 1838c, now *Eutropis bibronii*; *T. buchanani* Gray 1838c, now *Cryptoblepharus buchanani*; *T. chinensis* Gray 1838c, now *Plestiodon chinensis*; *T. cyanurus* (Lesson 1830), now *Emoia cyanura*; *T. duperreyi* Gray 1838c, now *Acritoscincus duperreyi*; *T. elegans* Gray 1838c, now *Concinnia tenuis*; *T. entrecasteaux* Gray 1838c (nomen nudum), now *Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii* (Duméril & Bibron 1839); *T. fernandi* Burton 1836, now *Mochlus fernandi*; *T. interruptopunctata* Gray 1838c [current identity unknown]; *T. jamaicensis* Gray 1838c, now *Diploglossus monotropis* (Kuhl 1820); *T. kingii*, now *Egernia kingii*; *T. labillardii* Gray 1838c (nomen nudum), now *Ctenotus labillardieri* (Duméril & Bibron 1839); *T. leucopsis* Gray 1838c, now *Liopholis whitii* (Lacépède 1804); *T. maculata* Gray 1838c, now *Trachylepis maculata*; *T. microcephala* Gray 1838c, now *Chalcides ocellatus*; *T. napoleonis* Gray 1838c, now *Egernia napoleonis*; *T. punctata* Gray 1838c, now *Trachylepis atlantica* (K. Schmidt 1945); *T. punctata* Gray 1838c [not the same species as described under this name on p. 289, the previous page; current identity uncertain]; *T. quinquestriata* Gray 1838c, now *Trachylepis quinquetaeniata* (Lichtenstein 1823); *T. reevesii* Gray 1838c, now *Scincella reevesii*; *T. richardi* Gray 1838c, now *Spondylurus sloanii*; *T. similis* Gray 1838c (nomen nudum), *T. striata* Gray 1838c, now *Celestus hewardii* Gray 1845; *T. stoddartii* Gray 1838c [current identity uncertain—Cogger *et al*. 1983]; *T. subrufa* Gray 1838c [current identity uncertain, possibly *Trachylepis homalocephalus*—see Fitzsimons, 1943]; *T. trilineata* Gray 1838c, now *Acritoscincus trilineatus*; *T. vachellii* Gray 1838c [current identity uncertain—Cogger *et al*. 1983], and *T. vanicoriensis* Lesson [never published by Lesson, and a nomen nudum as listed by Gray].

Gray's 1845 version of *Tiliqua* was reduced to just four species: *Tiliqua fernandi*, now *Mochlus fernandi*; *Tiliqua grisea* Gray 1845, now *Dasia grisea*; *Tiliqua multicarinata* Gray 1845, now *Eutropis multicarinatus* (Gray tentatively attributes the species to Kuhl 1820, although no such species name is provided there, only *Scincus multifasciatus*, now *Eutropis multifasciatus*), and *Tiliqua rufescens* (Shaw 1802), now *Eugongylus rufescens* (although Gray's concept of that species included both *Eugongylus rufescens* and several *Eutropis* and *Trachylepis* species), while the type species of *Tiliqua* was considered to be part of *Cyclodus*, along with *C. nigroluteus*.

While it could be argued that Gray's (1845) concept of *Tiliqua* was a misidentification of that genus, and there-

fore that Gray's Tiliquina applied to what is now a mixture of *Eugongylus*, *Dasia*, *Eutropis* and *Mochlus* species, under Article 65.1, the type genus of a family name is assumed to be correctly identified. As the type species of *Tiliqua* was also considered part of the Tiliquina (but assigned to *Cyclodus* at the time), Tiliquina should be treated as having the correct application of the genus *Tiliqua* as its type genus.

Of the other three scincid families created by Gray (1845), Ophiomoridae is an available name in the family group, accompanied by a diagnosis on its original creation. Sepsidae is not available, due to the type genus being a junior homonym (Article 39). Gray attributed the generic name *Seps* to Daudin (1802), which is a junior homonym of *Seps* Laurenti 1768. Daudin explicitly stated that his *Seps* was different to that of Laurenti, with Laurenti's genus not including *Lacerta seps* Linnaeus 1758, while Daudin's genus was framed around that species, which becomes the type species of *Seps* Daudin by tautonomy. The type species of Laurenti's *Seps* was subsequently designated by Stejneger (1936) as *Seps caerulescens* Laurenti 1768, a synonym of *Lacerta agilis* Linnaeus 1758, making Laurenti's genus a synonym of *Lacerta*. Further, *Lacerta seps* Linnaeus 1758 is not a skink but a gerrhosaurid (now *Tetradactylus seps*), even though Gray (1845) did not explicitly include this species among the members of his genus *Seps* and all species included by Gray in the genera in his Sepsidae are skinks.

Typhlinidae is a more complex situation, and one that has not been subsequently considered. Wiegmann (1834a), in a footnote corrigendum on the last page of his monograph, apparently overlooked by Gray (1845), considered his *Typhline* preoccupied by *Typhline* Wagler 1830, and so provided a replacement name *Typhlosaurus* for *Typhline* Wiegmann, and *Typhlosaurus* has been universally used since. While this would appear to make Gray's Typhlinidae unavailable due to the type genus being a junior homonym, Wagler (1830) actually spelt his generic name *Typhlina*, not *Typhline* (though he did state that it was derived from the Greek Typhline). This one-letter difference in the spelling of the two generic names is sufficient to avoid homonymy (Article 56.2). *Typhlina* Wagler was the subject of a case before the ICZN due to priority over *Leptotyphlops* Fitzinger 1843 (Stimson *et al*. 1977) and has been suppressed (Melville 1982) for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for the Law of Homonymy. While this means *Typhlina* remains an available name as a homonym, this does not affect the false claim of homonymy with *Typhline* Wiegmann. However, in that *Typhlosaurus* has been universally used for over a century (notwithstanding recent changes to the generic boundary between *Typhlosaurus* and *Acontias* by Lamb *et al*. 2010), while *Typhline* has not, *Typhlosaurus* should not be replaced by *Typhline* at the generic level (Article 23.9). In order to invoke Article 23.9, *Typhlosaurus* has been used in the following 25 papers by more than 10 authors in the preceding 50 years: Rieppel (1981, 1982); Haacke (1986); Jacobsen (1987); Bates (1988); Broadley (1990); Bates *et al*. (1998); Bauer *et al*. (1999); Bauer & Branch (2001); Daniels *et al*. (2002, 2006); A. Schmidt (2002); Michels & Bauer (2004); Brandley *et al*. (2005); B. Branch & Kyle (2005); Goldberg (2006); Heidemann *et al*. (2008); V. Schneider & Bauer (2009); Lamb *et al*. (2010); Moch & Senter (2011); Bauer (2014a–d), and Zhao *et al*. (2020). This reversal of priority only affects the relative priority of *Typhline* and *Typhlosaurus* when both names are regarded as belonging to the same taxon. It does not prevent *Typhline* being used for a family-group name.

Gray's subunits within his Scincidae other than Lygosomina have been largely unused. Charles Walter De Vis, working at the Queensland Museum, seems to be the only person to use the names in the form that Gray provided. De Vis (1886), in describing as new *Calyptotis flavienter*, now *Calyptotis scutirostrum* (Peters 1874), used Lygosomina. De Vis (1888), in a paper describing new skink species, used the name Tiliquina under the family Scincidae, preceding a description of a new species of *Tiliqua*, *T. longicauda* [now a synonym of *Cyclodomorphus gerrardii* (Gray 1845)], and Lygosomina prior to the description of seven new skinks: *Anomalopus lentiginosus*, now a synonym of *Anomalopus leuckartii* (Weinland 1862); *Heteropus vertebralis*, now a synonym of *Liburnascincus mundivensis* (Broom 1898); *Hinulia ambigua*, now *Eremiascincus* sp.; *Hinulia domina* [current identity uncertain—Cogger *et al*. 1983]; *Hinulia tigrina*, now *Concinnia tigrina*; *Mocoa delicata*, now *Lampropholis delicata*; *Mocoa spectabilis*, now *Saproscincus spectabilis*, and *Ophioscincus frontalis*, now *Coeranoscincus frontalis*. De Vis (1890), dealing with a collection of reptiles from New Guinea, used Tiliquina for *Tiliqua gigas* (Schneider 1801) and Lygosomini for *Heteropus bicarinatus* Macleay 1877, now *Carlia bicarinata*, *Heteropus fuscus* Duméril & Bibron 1839 (now in *Carlia*, though the species reported under that name by De Vis is now *Carlia luctuosa* (Peters & Doria 1878)) and *Hinulia jobiensis* Meyer 1874 , now *Sphenomorphus jobiensis*, as well as three new species: *Emoa cuneiceps*, now a synonym of *Emoia longicauda* (Macleay 1877); *Emoa pallidiceps*, now *Emoia pallidiceps* (De Vis 1890), and *Homolepida englishi*, now a synonym of *Sphenomorphus muelleri* (Schlegel 1837). However, De Vis (1888) also provided the name Egernina prior to describing three new species in that genus, *E. bungana*, now *E. major* (Gray, 1845), *E. lauta*, now a synonym of *Lissolepis luctuosa* (Peters 1866), and *E. rugosa*. This seems to have created a

new name in the family group. While there is no separate diagnosis for De Vis' Egernina, it is validated by being used in combination with the genus *Egernia* (Article 12.2.4).

While John Edward Gray was gradually partitioning the ever-increasing number of skink species, herpetologists in continental Europe were working independently.

Cuvier (1816, 1829) recognised six families of lizards, of which "Les Scincoidiens" was one. As a vernacular name, this family name is not available nomenclaturally. Cuvier's concept of a skink was, as with other workers of his era, composite, including various species now placed in the families Amphisbaenidae, Cordylidae, Diploglossidae, Gymnophthalmidae and Pygopodidae.

Merrem (1820) recognised 11 genera in a lineage for which he used the name Chalcidici. Although he did not attribute the name to any author and did not specifically refer to it as a family, it would appear likely that Merrem's Chalcidici was that of Oppel (1811), and that he considered Oppel's Scincoides a synonym. While most of the genera in Merrem's Chalcidici were not skinks, the lineage included as its largest genus *Scincus*. Other genera representing skinks in the lineage were *Bipes* Merrem 1820 (not *Bipes* Latreille 1801), *Pygodactylus* Merrem 1820, and *Seps* (though seemingly not the *Seps* of Daudin 1802), all monotypic. Merrem's *Seps* consisted only of *Seps chalcidica* [= *Lacerta chalcides* Linnaeus], under which species name Merrem included *Chalcides tetradactyla* Laurenti 1768, *Chamaesaura chalcis* Schneider 1801, *Chalcides seps* Latreille 1801 and *Seps tridactylus* Daudin 1802, although Daudin (1802) had included *Lacerta chalcides* Linnaeus under his *Seps pentadactylus*, and placed *Chamaesaura chalcis* and *Chalcides seps* under his *Seps tridactylus*.

Fitzinger (1826), in his first attempt at a classification of the Reptilia, placed nine genera (*Heteropus* Fitzinger 1826 (a nomen nudum as first coined), *Mabuya*, *Pygodactylus*, *Scelotes*, *Scincus*, *Seps*, *Spondylurus* Fitzinger 1826, *Tiliqua* and *Zygnis* Oken 1816) in a family Scincoidea, most of them skinks, and also recognised a family Chalcidoidea for the South American gymnophthalmids, a similar arrangement to Gray (1825).

Wagler (1830) included 10 genera of skinks (*Ablepharus*, *Cyclodus*, *Euprepis*, *Gongylus*, *Lygosoma*, *Scincus*, *Seps*, *Sphaenops*, *Trachysaurus* and *Zygnis* Oken 1816) amongst a variety of other genera now placed in other families in a family Autarchoglossae, a much more inclusive family concept than that of previous authors. Again, this name is unavailable in the family-group, as it was not based on a type genus forming the stem of the family name, although it has been widely used (as Autarchoglossa) at the suborder level or as a clade name outside Linnaean classification.

Wiegmann (1834a), in a preliminary classification of reptiles prefacing his *Herpetologia Mexicana*, recognised a family Scinci, containing the skink genera *Acontias*, *Cyclodus*, *Euprepes*, *Lygosoma*, *Peromeles*, *Podophis*, *Pygodactylus*, *Scelotes*, *Scincus*, *Seps*, *Sphenops*, *Spondylurus*, *Trachysaurus* and *Zygnis*, along with *Anguis* (Anguidae) and *Otophis* (Anguidae). Other skink genera (*Ablepharus*, *Lerista*, *Typhline*) were placed in the Gymnophthalmi (now Gymnophthalmidae), along with *Gymnophthalmus* and *Pygopus* (Pygopodidae).

In Paris, Duméril & Bibron (1839) covered the skinks in Volume 5 of their Erpetologie Generale. They based their skink classification on an unpublished manuscript, *Tabulae Synopticae Scincoideorum* compiled by Jean-Théodore Cocteau, who had died in the previous year. Cocteau's classification, as outlined by Duméril & Bibron (1839: 520–525) used vernacular names for the classification of skinks above genera. Duméril & Bibron (1839) similarly used vernacular names for higher classification, placing the majority of their skink genera into a single family Scincoïdiens or Lépidosaures, the former originally coined by Cuvier (1829), and the latter newly formed. Lépidosaures itself was a replacement for the name Lépidosomes, which they proposed in the preliminary classification for lizards that they presented in the second volume of their encyclopedic work (Duméril & Bibron 1835: 595), but which they considered subject to confusion with the generic name *Lepidosoma* Spix, 1825. Within the family Scincoidiens, they proposed three named subunits, based on the form of the eyelids: Saurophthalmes, Opiophthalmes and Typhlophthalmes. Most skink genera, with scaly eyelids, were in the Saurophthalmes. Those genera with the lower eyelid replaced by a spectacle were placed in the Ophiophthalmes, and the two genera (*Dibamus* and *Typhline*) with the eye covered by a scale, were placed in the Typhlophthalmes. Being vernacular names, and with no type genera bearing a stem for those names, the subfamily names proposed by Duméril and Bibron must be considered unavailable for nomenclatural purposes in modern nomenclature (Article 11.7.1).

However, the next author to deal with skink classification, Leopold Fitzinger in Vienna, did create names that are available, being Code-compliant. Fitzinger (1843), in his second attempt at a classification of the Reptilia, worked with a system that attempted to classify genera into higher categories based on a numerical pattern, following the Naturphilosophie school, using in his case the numbers 3 and 5. The result was a proliferation of names in the

family group and at higher levels. At the higher levels, Fitzinger adopted the names of Duméril and Bibron (1839), formalizing these names in Latin rather than vernacular form, giving a Sectio Lepidosomata (using the earlier name coined by Duméril & Bibron (1835), and with content largely equivalent to the modern family Scincidae, with a few genera now placed in other families), with three tribes, Saurophthalmi, Ophiophthalmi and Typhlophthalmi, with these three names being attributed to Cocteau. Two of these group names (Saurophthalmi, Typhlophthalmi) lack a type genus providing the stem for the names, so that they remain unavailable names (Article 11.7.1). However, within the other tribe, Fitzinger created a genus *Ophiophthalmus* for *Lialis burtonis* Gray 1835, a pygopod, thus creating a valid type genus for his Ophiophthalmi, and for the first time creating an available name (while Article 11.7.2 of the Code allows for authorship of a vernacular name subsequently validated by conversion to a non-vernacular name to remain with the original author, Ophiophthalmes Duméril & Bibron was not created with an available type genus, and so it remains invalid, leaving Fitzinger as the author of Ophiophthalmi in the family-group). For the purposes of this paper further consideration of this is not relevant, although is it is a junior synonym of Pygopodidae Gray 1841b, a gekkotan family.

Within these three tribes, Fitzinger's philosophical framework required where possible five groups, and thus he created five families in both the Saurophthalmi and Ophiophthalmi. The former tribe contained the families Eutropides (with genera *Eutropis*, *Heteropus*, *Trachylepis* and *Tropidophorus*), Euprepae (with genera *Eulamprus* Fitzinger 1843, *Euprepis*, *Gongylomorphus*, *Leiolopisma*, and *Liosoma* Fitzinger 1843), Eumecae (with genera *Amphiglosus*, *Anguis*, *Brachymeles*, *Chelomeles*, *Cyclodus*, *Gongylus*, *Heteromeles*, *Leptosoma*, *Lygosoma*, *Ophiomorus*, *Podophis*, *Pygodactylus*, *Seps*, *Sphenosoma* and *Trachysaurus*), Scinci (with genera *Brachystopus*, *Preapeditus*, *Scincus*, *Sphenops* and *Zygnis*) and Acontiae (with genera *Acontias* and *Ramphosaurus* Fitzinger 1843, now a junior synonym of *Nessia*). Ophiophthalmi included the five families Cryptoblephari (for the genus *Cryptoblepharis*, a misspelling of *Cryptoblepharus*), Gymnophthalmi (for *Gymnophthalmus*), Ablephari (for *Ablepharus*), Ophiopses (for *Ophiopsis* Fitzinger 1843, a junior synonym of *Lerista*) and Pygopoda (for *Pygopus* and *Ophiophthalmus* Fitzinger 1843, now a junior synonym of *Lialis*). For Typhlophthalmi, with many fewer species and genera to work with, Fitzinger was only able to create a single family, Typhlomorphi, for the genera *Dibamus* and *Typhlomorphus* Fitzinger 1843 (now *Typhlosaurus*).

Again, while the terminations of the names are not those used in modern nomenclature, this does not prevent their validity (Article 11.7.1.1), as they are proposed along with clearly stated type genera (Articles 12.2.4), either available names previously published, or newly proposed. The latter generic names, while not provided with diagnoses, are themselves available under the Code (Article 12.2.5) due to being accompanied by explicitly stated type species, all species names previously available.

Of the new family names, Ablephari, Cryptoblephari, Eumecae, Euprepae, Eutropides, Ophiopses and Typhlomorphi relate to type genera that are now skinks. Six of the seven antedate names that are currently in use for subfamilies and tribes of skinks. Ablephari and Ophiopses are based on type genera that are now considered part of the Sphenomorphini/Sphenomorphinae/Sphenomorphidae of various authors (first dating back to Welch 1982), although Ophiopses is not available due to *Ophiopsis* Fitzinger 1843 being a junior homonym of *Ophiopsis* Agassiz 1834; Cryptoblephari is based on a type genus now considered part of the Eugongylini/Eugongylinae/Eugongylidae (first dating back to Welch 1982) and Euprepae and Eutropides are based on type genera that are now considered part of the Mabuyinae/Mabuyidae (dating back to Mittleman 1952)—this issue of senior synonyms will be considered below. The sixth name, Eumecae, is more problematic.

Fitzinger's concept of the genus *Eumeces*, a name correctly attributed to Wiegmann (1834a), lists as the type species of that genus *Eumeces rufescens* Wiegmann. However, while Wiegmann included the species *Scincus rufescens* Merrem 1820, along with *Scincus pavimentatus* Geoffroy Saint Hilaire 1827 and *Scincus punctatus* Schneider 1801, as the three original species in *Eumeces* (originally proposed as a subgenus of *Euprepes*), Fitzinger's listing of *rufescens* as the type species is invalid. Wiegmann (1835) himself rapidly altered the content of *Eumeces*, stating that he was in error in including *Scincus punctatus* and *S. rufescens* in that subgenus, while Duméril & Bibron (1839) had designated *S. punctatus* as the type species, four years before Fitzinger. Stejneger (1926) and Taylor (1935) both argued that Wiegmann's (1835) removal of both *punctatus* and *rufescens* from the subgenus excluded them from being chosen as type species, and used this argument to apply the name to the genus to which it has been applied since. However, Article 69.4 precludes typification by elimination, seemingly leaving the type species designation by Duméril & Bibron (1839) as the first Code-compliant designation. As *Scincus punctatus* Schneider is *Lacerta punctata* Linnaeus, 1758, the name *Eumeces* would therefore seem to be based on that species. Bauer (2013) con-

sidered the identity of *Lacerta punctata*, noting that the description was composite and had been applied both as the type species of *Euprepis* (where it was considered a synonym of *Scincus homolocephalus* Wiegmann 1828) and to the Indian *Riopa punctata*, and stabilized that nomenclatural issue by lectotype designation, fixing *Lacerta punctata* to the *Riopa* species, and noting the existence of the earlier designation by Loveridge (1957) of *Scincus agilis* Raddi 1823 as the type species of *Euprepis* Wagler 1830, thus making that genus a synonym of *Mabuya*. However, if *Lacerta punctata* were also the type species of *Eumeces* through the action of Duméril & Bibron (1839), the name *Eumeces* would need to transfer to the Lygosomini sensu stricto, as a senior synonym of *Riopa* Gray 1839. Luckily, both Stejneger (1926) and Taylor (1935) overlooked another commentary, by Weigmann (1836), that specifically states that *Scincus pavimentatus* is the type species of *Eumeces* ("die typische Art") avoiding the nomenclatural issue and maintaining the current application of that genus name.

Hence, Fitzinger had been the third person to nominate a genotype and chose the third of the original species listed as his genotype. Fitzinger's invalid selection of *Scincus rufescens* as the type species of the genus has no effect on the subsequent application of the generic name, but it does create a problem with use of Fitzinger's concept of the type genus of his family Eumecae. *Scincus rufescens* Merrem is currently considered part of the genus *Eugongylus*, type genus of the Eugongylini, within the subfamily Lygosominae, but *Eumeces*, in its current application, is a scincine. Family-group names are considered to have had their type-genera correctly applied (Article 65.2), but this may not be the case in this instance. Fitzinger's (1843) classification is unfortunately incomplete, with the published component for skinks consisting only of the Schema Systematis, listing family group names as defined only by their type genera, and the type genera only by their type species – the full text only includes the first "Sectio", Amblyglossae, while skinks were placed in the second "Sectio", Leptoglossae. Fitzinger did not list *pavimentatus* among the type species of the 61 genera and subgenera in his Lepidosomata, so it is not clear to which family or genus he considered that species to be assigned. The only definition that can be interpreted is that Fitzinger considered his genotype for Eumecae as being framed around a species that is not a member of the genus *Eumeces*. Hence, under Article 65.2.1, Fitzinger's Eumecae is unable to be applied in the family-group without a ruling by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, although its potential priority over Eugongylidae Welch, 1982 can also be avoided by reversal of precedence (see below), leaving it incertae sedis but not problematic for the stability of nomenclature. As will be seen below, the existence of Eumecae Fitzinger in turn will resolve another problematic family-group name with deliberately misidentified type species of the genotype.

In addition to the issues with Fitzinger's Ablephari, Cryptoblephari, Eumecae, Euprepae and Ophiopses antedating Eugongylini, Mabuyini and Sphenomorphini, all of these names antedate Lygosomina of Gray (1845), now used for the umbrella category of which Eugongylini, Mabuyini and Sphenomorphini are part. Typhlomorphi is a junior objective synonym of Acontinae/Acontidae (dating back to Gray 1839) and hence of less significance.

Fitzinger's names subsequently appeared in an encyclopedia by Kollar (1847) to which Fitzinger contributed, and in a summary of his classification in *Isis von Oken* in the same year (Fitzinger 1847), while Eutropides and Eumecae were also used by Tschudi (1845) when describing new genera and species from Peru. They have not been used in the literature since then.

Following about two decades after Gray and Fitzinger's contributions, Cope (1864) considered skinks when discussing family-level and higher relationships among reptiles. Although he did not mention the previous literature or provide the generic content of the families he recognised, the families appear to largely be based on those of Gray (1845). He recognised a Chalcididae, grouped with Teidae, Lacertidae and Ecpleopidae on the basis of fused premaxillary bones (p. 228), but while diagnosing the latter three families, he states (p. 229) "I do not know the complete characters of the Chalcidae [sic] but they are very near the Lacertidae". Hence, his Chalcididae is presumably that of Gray (1845) and represents the Gymnophthalmidae of modern authors, rather than being based on the scincid genus *Chalcides*. Cope also recognised and distinguished families Scincidae, Sepsidae and Acontiidae, as well as a subfamily Opheomorinae ([sic] based on a genus *Opheomorus*, placing it within the Anguidae. I presume that Cope's *Opheomorus* and Opheomorinae are respectively mis-spellings of *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839 and Ophiomoridae Gray 1845. Cope (1864) also created the new family name Anelytropidae, adding to *Typhlosaurus*, *Feylinia* and *Dibamus*(?), the basis of Gray's Typhlinidae (thought to be preoccupied, presumably due to the assumed homonymy of the type genus), the new genus *Anelytrops* Duméril 1856. Unfortunately, *Anelytrops* was rapidly synonymized with *Feylinia* by Barboza du Bocage (1873b) and Cope (1885) attempted to restore this loss by adding to the family a new genus, *Anelytropsis* for a new species from Mexico, no longer considered confamilial with *Feylinia*, apparently hoping that *Anelytropsis* would instead become the type genus to maintain his name

Anelytropidae. The Code (Article 40.1) allows generic synonyms to remain the type genera for family-group names, and does not allow for replacement of the type genus. However, before adopting this path, Cope (1875) altered the name of his original Anelytropidae to Feyliniidae, although he subsequently reverted to using Anelytropidae, not even mentioning his Feyliniidae in a subsequent synonymy (Cope 1900).

Boulenger (1887), in a major work that would have ongoing influence on lizard systematics for more than half a century, largely accepted the framework of Cope, based on internal anatomical features, but recognised an expanded Scincidae, incorporating Gray's Rhodonidae, Sepsidae, Acontiidae and Ophiomoridae in its synonymy, without recognizing any subfamilies, but still treated *Feylinia* and *Typhlosaurus* as part of the Anelytropidae, although he overlooked Gray's Scincina, Lygosomina, Tiliquina, Tropidophorina, and Diploglossina and Cope's Feyliniidae. Boulenger also returned the generic name *Chalcides* to the Scincidae, finalizing the change from Gray's usage of that name for a genus of gymnophthalmids. Boulenger (1885) summarized the family-level classification he used in a short paper preceding the main Catalogue of the Lizards.

Fürbringer (1900) included *Acontias* in his concept of Scincidae, thus by inference synonymizing the Acontiidae with Scincidae, but retained Anelytropidae as a distinct family, adding *Voeltzkowia* to it.

Camp (1923) used a variety of characters, mostly internal, and adding musculature to the osteology utilized by Cope (1864) to re-examine lizard higher systematics. He left the Scincidae as the expansive group of Boulenger (1887) and Fürbringer (1900), but recognised that *Feylinia* and *Anelytropsis* were not closely related, splitting a family Feyliniidae from Anelytropsidae, although apparently treating the former name Anelytropidae Cope as unavailable. Camp was not explicit about the placement of *Typhlosaurus*, the other genus of the Boulenger's and Cope's Anelytropidae, but did list *Typhlosaurus* as a feyliniid when listing the taxonomic distribution of some character states of the hyoid apparatus (p. 340). He was similarly coy about the placement of *Voeltzkowia*, mostly referring to it as a member of the Scincomorpha or Scincoidea. However, at one point he does list it as a scincid (p. 386) implying he treated it as a member of the Scincidae. Camp did not give any authorship for his Feyliniidae, and did not mention Cope (1875), so presumably thought he was creating a new replacement name.

**Recent divisions within the Scincinae and Acontiinae**

While Scincidae sensu Hedges (2014) (formerly Scincinae of Greer, 1970a) has now subsumed the former Feyliniidae of Cope (1875) and Feylininae of Greer (1970a), following Whiting *et al*. (2003), and the current concept is monophyletic in some analyses (Pyron et al. 2013) or nearly so (e.g., J. Austin & Arnold 2006; Brandley *et al*. 2012; Zheng & Wiens 2016), contra Greer's (1970a) evolutionary hypothesis, it does show multiple divergent sublineages and further divisions of this lineage may be recommended in the future. The type genus, *Scincus*, consistently groups with *Eumeces* and *Scincopus* Peters 1864 (Brandley *et al*. 2005, 2008, 2012; Pyron *et al*. 2013; Zheng & Wiens 2016). The Madagascan genera (*Amphiglossus*, *Brachyseps* Erens *et al*. 2017, *Flexiseps* Erens *et al*. 2017, *Grandidierina* Mocquard 1894; *Madascincus* Brygoo 1981, *Paracontias*, *Pseudoacontias* Barboza du Bocage 1889; *Pygomeles* Grandidier 1867 and *Voeltzkowia* Boettger 1893) consistently cluster together, though with varying arrangements within that cluster (Whiting *et al*. 2004; Brandley *et al*. 2005, 2012; Schmitz *et al*. 2005; Crottini *et al*. 2009; Pyron *et al*. 2013; Erens *et al*. 2017; Zheng & Wiens 2016). *Feylinia*, *Melanoseps* Boulenger 1887 and *Typhlacontias* Barboza du Bocage 1873b consistently cluster together, as do *Scelotes* and *Proscelotes* de Witte & Laurent 1943 (Whiting *et al*. 2003, 2004; Brandley *et al*. 2005, 2008; Pyron *et al*. 2013; Zheng & Wiens 2016). However, other genera float, with different placements in different analyses. The large genera *Brachymeles* and *Plestiodon* are variously sequentially basal to the rest of the scincines and lygosomines, or in an unresolved polychotomy with the rest of the scincines and lygosomines (Brandley *et al*. 2005, different analyses; Zheng & Wiens 2016), in an unresolved basal polychotomy with all other skinks (Brandley *et al*. 2008), or sister taxa, but with a largely unresolved polychotomy with other scincines (J. Austin & Arnold 2006; Pyron *et al*. 2013). *Chalcides* is generally linked to the three major sub-Saharan African scincine clusters (the three lineages represented by *Feylinia* and its relatives, *Scelotes* plus *Proscelotes*, and the Madagascan genera), but variously as part of an unresolved basal polychotomy with them (Brandley *et al*. 2005, 2008), sister to the *Feylinia* and *Scelotes* lineages (Brandley *et al*. 2008), sister to the Malagasy genera plus *Melanoseps* (Brandley *et al*. 2012), basal to them all (Pyron *et al*. 2013), or with very weak support for the latter arrangement (Zheng & Wiens 2016). The two Seychelles genera, *Pamelaescincus* Greer 1970c and *Janetaescincus* Greer 1970c, are consistently sister taxa (Brandley *et al*. 2005; J.

Austin & Arnold 2006; Pyron *et al*. 2013; Zheng & Wiens 2016), and this genus pair, *Gongylomorphus* Fitzinger 1843, *Sepsina* Barboza du Bocage 1866 and the monotypic *Hakaria* Steindachner 1899 also consistently cluster with the sub-Saharan African scincines, but float within that group (Whiting *et al*. 2003, 2004; Brandley *et al*. 2005, 2012; J. Austin & Arnold 2006; Pyron *et al*. 2014; Zheng & Wiens 2016). *Ophiomorus*, *Mesoscincus* Griffith, Ngo & Murphy 2000 and *Eurylepis* Blyth 1854 float around near the base of the scincines in different analyses, mostly without strong support, although Brandley *et al*. (2012) recovered strong support for a sister relationship between *Eurylepis* and the lineage consisting of *Scincus*, *Scincopus* and *Eumeces*, while Pyron *et al*. (2013) recovered strong support for a sister-pair relationship of *Ophiomorus* and *Mesoscincus*. Despite the strong support in this one analysis, *Ophiomorus* and *Mesoscincus* are morphologically and geographically very different, and I suspect this result is unlikely to be maintained in future analyses.

Unfortunately, four south Asian scincine genera (*Barkudia* Annandale 1917, *Chalcidoseps* Boulenger 1887, *Ophioseps* Beddome 1870 and *Nessia*) and the poorly-known east African genus *Scolecoseps* Loveridge 1920 remain to be included in any phylogenetic analysis. When relationships among the sampled genera become more stable, and the missing genera are added, it may be appropriate to recognize tribes within the Scincinae, and if so, Ophiomoridae, Anelytropidae (with Feyliniidae/Feylinidae as a synonym) and Paracontiini are sequentially available for application to major scincine lineages, but not Chalcidinae, due to homonymy of type genus.

Despite the uncertainty about relationships within the Scincinae, two recent papers have created additional names in the family group for scincines and acontiines, but both are problematic. Griffith *et al*. (2000) explored the relationships among what was the genus *Eumeces* sensu lato, using cladistic analyses of morphology, and recovered a polyphyletic *Eumeces*, dividing that genus into four genera. As one of the genera was recovered as outside the lineage consisting of Lygosominae plus other scincines, including *Scincus*, they created a subfamily Eumecinae for that genus to maintain monophyly of both Lygosominae and Scincinae. However, they incorrectly assigned the generic name *Eumeces* to the lineage occurring in North America and East Asia, rather than the genus containing the type species of *Eumeces* (naming the latter *Novoeumeces*)—they hoped to be able to transfer the generic name *Eumeces* to the most species-rich genus rather than the one to which the name belonged under the Code of Zoological Nomenclature, in the expectation that the ICZN would change the type species for *Eumeces*, an action that has not been supported. Hence, their Eumecinae is deliberately not based on the genus *Eumeces*, but to the genus now known as *Plestiodon*. This creates a nomenclatural issue, and if Eumecinae is used in future, application of that name will require a decision by the Commission (Article 65.2.1). However, recent phylogenetic analyses have not recovered *Plestiodon* as being outside the group consisting of other skinks, but instead have recovered a monophyletic Scincinae (Pyron *et al*. 2013) or a Scincinae that includes *Plestiodon* in the same major lineage as *Scincus* (Zheng & Wiens 2016), obviating any need for recognition of a subfamily Eumecinae for *Plestiodon*. Further, Eumecinae Griffith *et al*. 2000 is a homonym of Eumecae Fitzinger 1843 when terminations are corrected (itself based on a misapplication of the generic name *Eumeces*), invalidating it.

In one of many poorly-written diatribes he has penned, Hoser (2015a,b) proposed a new tribal and subtribal classification of the Scincinae and Acontiinae. Hoser's self-aggrandising works have long been controversial, and many authors have recommended they be ignored due to their poor quality and dubious ethics (e.g., Kaiser *et al*. 2013, Wüster *et al*. 2021). However, in that they are in general published in accordance with the Code of Zoological Nomenclature, many of the names he has coined are available names under the Code, whether or not the taxonomy they reflect warrants recognition. Hoser appears to suffer from an extreme case of what has been termed the Mihi itch (Evenhuis 2008) or nomenclatural mihilism (Dubois 2008), seeking recognition by the abundance of his names. Hoser's self-published works largely involve searching the literature for phylogenetic trees and coining names for any previously unnamed branches, using often-plagiarised listings of morphological characters to attempt to justify recognition of the lineages (e.g., Denzer *et al*. 2016). His classification of the acontiines and scincines is nomenclaturally worse than usual for his labours. Most of the new tribal and subtribal names he has proposed are based on type genera he creates in the same papers, splitting long-recognised genera in line with any previous indication for subgroupings rather than using the long-recognised generic names as type genera, clearly wanting to scratch his itch. However, in attempting to provide morphological justification for the genetic groupings (which he generally fails to acknowledge as the source of his classifications), he has often had to resort to diagnosing his tribal and subtribal lineages by diagnoses of the genera contained within. In many cases, these "diagnoses" do not fulfil the requirements of Article 13.1, in that they diagnose the multiple genera contained by the higher group, but no attempt has been made to diagnose the higher lineage by a diagnosis that "states in words characters that are purported to differentiate the [tribal or subtribal] taxon", nor are such names accompanied by "a bibliographic reference to such

a published statement". Hoser has also divided the Scincinae into multiple tribes and subtribes without identifying a nominotypic tribe, overlooks the numerous existing names at the family-group level within the Acontiinae and Scincinae, and has often used incorrectly formed tribal and subtribal names, both by using incorrect suffixes, and by incorrectly forming the stem of the name from the type genus.

To begin the consideration of Hoser's proposal, I first present the taxonomy he proposed, as the names are scattered through the text of his work without any overarching summary:

Subfamily Acontinae
- Tribe Acontinini
  - Subtribe Acontinini (for the genus *Acontias* sensu lato, which Hoser divides into two genera, one with an additional subgenus).
  - Subtribe Typhlosauriina (for the genus *Typhlosaurus* sensu lato, which Hoser divides into three subgenera)

Subfamily Scincinae
- Tribe Starkeyscinciini
  - Subtribe Starkeyscinciina (based on the genus *Ophiomorus* sensu lato, which Hoser divides into five genera)
  - Subtribe Culexlineatascinciina (based on the genus *Mesoscincus* sensu lato, which Hoser divides into two genera)
- Tribe Parabrachymeliini (based on the genus *Brachymeles* sensu lato, which Hoser divides into two genera, one with a subgenus)
- Tribe Adelynhoserscinciini (based on the genus *Plestiodon* sensu lato, which Hoser divides into 8 genera, with an additional 12 subgenera, which he partitions among three subtribes)
  - Subtribe Adelynhoserscinciina (part of *Plestiodon* sensu lato)
  - Subtribe Asiascinciina (part of *Plestiodon* sensu lato)
  - Subtribe Funkiskinkiina (part of *Plestiodon* sensu lato)
- Tribe Eumeciini (based on the sum of *Eumeces*, *Eurylepis*, *Scincopus* and *Scincus*)
- Tribe Janetaescincus (based on *Janetaescincus* and *Pamelascincus*)
- Tribe Gongylomorphiini (based on *Gongylomorphus* plus *Chalcides*)
  - Subtribe Gongylomorphiina (based on *Gongylomorphus*)
  - Subtribe Chalcidiina (based on *Chalcides*, within which Hoser recognises four subgenera)
- Tribe Sloppyscinciini (based on the sum of most of the remaining African scincines, from among which Hoser names numerous new genera)
  - Subtribe Sloppyscinciina (based on the Malagasy scincines *Amphiglossus* sensu lato, *Pygomeles* and *Voeltzkowia*; Hoser creates an additional four genera and six subgenera)
  - Subtribe Feyliini (based on *Feylinia*, *Malacontias*, *Sepsina* and *Typhlacontias*)
  - Subtribe Hakariina (based on *Hakaria*)
  - Subtribe Paracontiina (based on the genera *Madascincus* sensu lato, *Pseudoacontias* and *Paracontias*; Hoser creates two new genera and two new subgenera from *Madascincus*, but with one of the subgenera also referred to as a full genus in various parts of the paper)
  - Subtribe Scelotiina (based on the sum of *Scelotes* and *Proscelotes*, from among which Hoser recognises one new monotypic genus and a new monotypic subgenus; Hoser also includes in the subtribe a genus *Pseudoacontias* Bocage 1899, a name and author/year combination which does not exist, but appears to be a duplication of *Pseudoacontias* Barboza du Bocage 1889, which he also places in his Sloppiscinciina)
  - Subtribe Sirenoscinciina (based on *Sirenoscincus* Sakata & Hikida 2003)
- Tribe Nessiini (consisting only of *Nessia*).

Hoser does not mention the scincine genera *Barkudia*, *Chalcidoseps*, *Scolecoseps* or *Sepsophis*; it is not clear whether he overlooked them, or had no idea where to put them into his classification, as they had not been previously included in any phylogeny.

Of the tribal and subtribal names created by Hoser, many are incorrectly formed. Hoser seems to believe that either the suffix -iini and -iina are correct for these two classification levels, rather than the Code-compliant -ini and -ina, or that the stem of his type genera terminate in -i in each case. I deal with the formation of the names in the next section.

However, he has also incorrectly used the termination -iini for his subtribe Acontinina (as well as incorrectly forming the stem). He similarly uses the spelling Gongylomorphiini when formally erecting a subtribe for Gongylomorphus (though correctly spelling it as Gongylomorphina in the textual use of the name), and Feyliniini in the formal heading when creating that subtribe for *Feylinia* (though correctly spelling it as Feyliniina in diagnosing that entity).

He overlooks the existence of Typhlomorphi Fitzinger 1843 and Typhlinidae Gray 1845 as senior synonyms of his Typhlosauriina and Ophiomoridae Gray 1845 as a senior synonym of both his Starkeyscinciini and Starkeyscinciina (bizarrely, Hoser attempts to justify use of his new generic name *Starkeyscincus* as the type genus because "the term Ophiomorpha is already in widespread use in zoology" (Hoser 2015a: 50) apparently confusing *omorus* (neighbour) with *morphus* (form)). His Eumeciini, although incorrectly formed from an erroneous stem, is a junior homonym of both Eumecae Fitzinger 1843 and Eumecinae Griffith *et al*. 2000, and unwarranted as the earliest available name for that tribe, if recognised, would be Scincini, the nominotypic tribe for the subfamily. His Chalcidiina, again incorrectly formed, is a junior homonym of Chalcidinae Mittleman 1952 and Chalcidici Oppel 1811. His tribe Sloppyscinciini is a junior synonym of Anelytropidae Cope 1864, Feyliniidae Cope 1875, Feyliniinae Camp 1923 and Paracontiini Welch 1982, and his subtribe Paracontiina is a junior homonym of Paracontiini Welch 1982. However, his subtribe Feyliniina is not a junior homonym of Feylininae Camp 1923, due to the different stem employed in creating the name, not based on a Greek or Latin word, but is a junior homonym of Feyliniidae Cope 1875, in turn an unwarranted replacement name for Anelytropidae Cope 1864.

In the cases where Hoser has created new tribal or subtribal names for lineages that were formerly treated as single genera, he has been able to diagnose those entities by repeating existing morphological diagnostic character states, although he generally has not cited his sources for these (see a similar pattern of unattributed plagiarism in his writings on agamids; Denzer *et al*. 2016). However, for the following names, he has been unable to come up with a single unifying diagnosis, and simply attempts to "diagnose" those entities by a formulaic approach that states that they may be diagnosed by the separate diagnoses for each of the multiple included genera, an approach that does not satisfy Article 13.1: Eumeciini, Feyliniina, Janetaescinciini, Paracontiina, Scelotiina, Sloppyscinciini and Sloppyscinciina. Two other names, Gongylomorphiini and Starkeyscinciini are also only diagnosed by the sum of the separate diagnoses for the included taxa, but in this case, those taxa include subtribes that consist of only previously defined broader genera, and thus under Article 36.1, the names were validly created by the valid creation of their subtribes Gongylomorphiina and Starkeyscinciina. The diagnosis for Gongylomorphiina is an exact duplicate of (with one minor change to avoid reference to a subsequent diagnosis in the original source), but does not reference, Greer's (1970c) diagnosis for the sole included genus *Gongylomorphus*. Starkeyscinciina is validated by a diagnosis that exactly duplicates the generic diagnosis for the genus *Ophioscincus* (which Hoser has divided to create a different type genus for the subtribe) provided by Boulenger (1887), again a source not referenced by Hoser for this diagnosis.

## Formation and spelling of the names in the family group

A few of the names proposed within the family group by previous authors have been incorrectly formed, either originally or subsequently.

The most obvious of these is Lygosomina Gray 1845, now variously Lygosomini (sensu Welch 1982), Lygosominae (sensu Greer 1970a), Lygosomidae (sensu Hedges & Conn 2012) and Lygosomiodea (sensu Hedges 2014), based on an incorrectly formed stem. The Greek neuter noun σομα (soma) has the stem somat- for formation of names in the family group (ICZN 1985: 217). However, in that Lygosominae and the alternatives have been in almost universal use (I can find only 15 uses of Lygosomatinae or alternative levels in the literature: Lang & Böhme (1990); Nussbaum & Raxworthy (1995); Stewart & Thompson (1996, 2003, 2009a,b); Spawls & Rotich (1997); Shine *et al*. (1998); Razzetti & Mzuya (2002); Bourquin (2004); Stewart *et al*. (2009); Stewart & Ecay (2010); Datta-Roy *et al*. (2013); Sánchez-Martínez *et al*. (2019), and Zhao *et al*. (2020), and one of these, Sánchez-Martínez *et al*. (2019), uses it inconsistently, with majority use of Lygosominae), under Article 56.2, the dominant spelling is to be retained (see also Allen *et al*. 2017). A search of the Zoological Record finds 73 uses of Lygosominae between 1979 and 2021, and three uses of Lygosomidae, while Google Scholar identifies over 1130 uses of Lygosominae and 27 uses of Lygosomidae (as of 4 May, 2021), and these numbers are by no means comprehensive, excluding much of the non-scientific literature.

While the Code has rigid specifications for how the stem of a generic name is to be determined for formation of family-group names when the generic names are based on Greek or Latin words, the requirements are less precise for generic names that are arbitrary combinations of letters or based on words in languages other than Greek or Latin, and many of the generic names proposed by John Edward Gray are arbitrary combinations of letters rather than being based on Greek or Latin words. Those names that are combinations of letters and that have been involved in the creation of names in the family group are *Chioninia*, *Dasia*, *Egernia*, *Feylinia*, *Ristella*, *Rhodona* and *Tiliqua*. For names in this situation, the author of a family-group name can form the stem either using the entire genus name, the entire genus name with the ending elided, or the entire generic name with one or more appropriate linking letters incorporated to form a more euphonious family-group name (Article 29.3.3). Hence, the stems Chionini-, Dasi-, Egern-, Feylini-, Rhodon-, Ristell- and Tiliqu- (endings elided from the full generic name) are all acceptable for names proposed by Gray, de Vis, Cope, Hedges & Conn, and Hedges, as well as Feylin- for the Feylinidae of Greer (1970a) and Egerni- for the Egerniini proposed by Welch (1982). *Mabuya* Fitzinger is from unspecified native languages of the Caribbean (Hedges & Conn 2012), and hence Mabuy- is acceptable (as would have been Mabuya-).

The varying forms of Scincidae (Scincoides, Scincidia, Sincidae) have been discussed above where these names were introduced. As the names are all based on *Scincus* (or misspellings of *Scincus*), which is a Latin masculine noun, borrowed from the Greek σκίγκος (skingkos) (Lewis & Short 1891; Liddell & Scott 1882), the stem is Scinc-.

The remaining generic names from which family-group names by early authors were derived are either pure Greek nouns transliterated without change of termination, and hence taking the stem of the original Greek word (Article 29.3.1), or Greek nouns latinized with a change of termination, and hence taking the stem appropriate to the changed Latin ending (Article 29.3.2).

In the first category are Ακοντίας (*Acontias*), ἀσπίς (aspis, as in *Panaspis*), εὐμήκης (*Eumeces*), ὤψ (ops, as in *Anelytrops*), φωλίς (pholis, as in *Lampropholis*), τρόπις (tropis, as in *Eutropis*), and τυπλίνης (*Typhline*). Despite the similarity, *Anelytrops* and *Eutropis* are derived from unrelated Greek words.

The genitive of acontias is acontiou, giving the stem aconti-, which would give the family-group name Acontiidae, as used by Cope (1864), not Acontinae/Acontidae, as subsequently used by Greer (1970a), Hedges & Conn (2012) and Hedges (2014). There is extensive use of both -iidae/inae and -idea/inae in the recent literature. A Google Scholar search identified 11 uses of Acontiidae and 45 uses of Acontiinae against 14 uses of Acontidae and 171 uses of Acontinae. Hence, under one interpretation of Article 33.3.1, in which "prevailing" could be considered as the spelling in most frequent use no matter what the absolute numbers are, Acontidae and Acontinae, if treated as incorrect subsequent spellings, should not be rejected and should supplant the correct original spelling. An alternative nomenclatural view would be that as Greer (1970a), the first modern author to use Acontinae, did not provide any authority for that name, he was intending to use it as a new name, in which case he created a different family group name to that of Gray, based on a different (incorrectly formed) stem from the genus *Acontias*. This would make Acontiidae Gray (original spelling Acontiadae, corrected to Acontiidae by Cope 1864) and Acontinae Greer independent names based on different stems, with Acontinae being the junior synonym. Adopting this view would require the earlier name Acontiidae Gray 1839 to be used, as the use of both forms in the recent literature precludes use of Article 23.9 to reverse precedence.

Eumekes is a Greek adjective (meaning of good length or great) and would have the stem eumek-, giving Eumec- for the transliterated *Eumeces*).

While the genitives of aspis and pholis are respectively aspidos and pholidos, giving the stems aspid- and pholid- (and hence Panaspididiae and Lampropholididae), Article 29.3.1.1 allows for elision of the terminal letters -id from the stem. Thus, the elided stems would be Panasp- and Lamprophol-, giving Panaspini and Lampropholini for the two tribes created by Welch (1982), not Panaspiini and Lampropholiini, although neither have been subsequently used. Tropis is similarly formed, with Eutropides Fitzinger using the unelided stem Eutropid-.

There are no nomenclatural issues with the creation of Anelytropidae from a type genus *Anelytrops*, with the genitive of ops being opos, and the stem op-, or Typhlinidae from the type genus *Typhline*, with the genitive of typhline being typhlines, and the stem typhlin-

In the second category are blepharus (*Ablepharus*, *Cryptoblepharus*) from the Greek βλέφᾰρον (blepharon = eyelid), euprepis (*Euprepis*) from the Greek εὐπρεπής (euprepes = beautiful), gongylus (*Eugongylus*), from the Greek γογγύλος (gongylos = round), morphus (*Sphenomorphus, Typhlomorphus*) from the Greek μορφή (morphe = form), omorus (*Ophiomorus*), from the Greek ὅμορος (homoros = a neighbour), phorus (*Tropidophorus*), from the Greek φορός (phoros - bearing), and saurus (*Ateuchosaurus*), from the Greek σαῦρος (sauros - lizard). Most of these

have been given a Latin masculine termination (Article 30.1.3), and have the stems (respectively) blephar-, gongyl-, morph-, omor- and saur- in their Latinised form (with gongylus being an adjective).

Euprepes is an adjective (the original Greek word meaning beautiful), but if treated as if it were a noun in its Latinised form (Article 11.8), the new termination provided could be considered as being that of a Latin third declension noun, of uncertain gender (male, common or feminine) as the word does not exist in Latin. Unfortunately, Wagler (1830) did not associate any adjectival species epithets in combination with *Euprepis* (all were used in combination with original generic combinations), precluding use of specific epithets to determine intended gender (Article 30.1.4.2). As a result, the name reverts to masculine gender, giving a genitive of euprepidis, and the stem euprepid-, or with the stem having the terminal id- elided, euprep-. Thus, the family-group name could be created as either Euprepididae, or Euprepidae. Fitzinger's use of Euprepae would thus become Euprepidae if the name were to be used.

Of the names coined by Hoser, those based on genera in turn based on *Scincus* (Adelynhoserscinciina, Adelynhoserscinciini, Asiascinciina, Culexlineatascinciina, Janetaescinciini, Sirenoscinciina, Sloppyscinciini, Sloppyscinciina, Starkeyscinciini, Starkeyscinciina), on *morphus* (Gongylomorphiini, Gongylomorphiina), on *saurus* (Typhlosauriina), and on *meces* (Eumeciini) have a stem scinc-, morph-, saur- and mec- and hence the -iini and -iina terminations provided by Hoser are incorrect, and would be required to be corrected should those names be used. However, most if not all of those names are either invalid (no diagnosis) or identify lineages that are unlikely to warrant recognition at the tribe or subtribe level or higher, and so correction is not needed. Acontinini is also incorrect, as noted above, while Paracontiina is correctly formed.

Scelotiina is derived from the genus *Scelotes*, which seems to be based on the Greek Σκελος (leg) plus the feminine suffix –οτης (referring to the nature of; R.W. Brown 1956) Duméril & Bibron (1839) give the combined form Σκελοτης, with the meaning "which has only thighs or hind limbs", although the original author, Fitzinger (1826), does not give a derivation. In combined form, this would be a feminine third declension noun, for which the genitive would be scelotetes in transliterated form (cf Giles 1840, using the example κακοτης, similarly derived from the combination of κακός [bad] + -οτης [the nature of], with the new meaning "vice"), giving a stem Scelotet-, and a family name Scelotetidae. However, under Article 29.4, for a family-group name created after 1999, when a name is based on a Greek or Latin term but incorrectly formed, the original spelling is to be maintained provided the stem is treated as an arbitrary combination of letters (Article 29.4.2), in accordance with Article 29.3.3. Under the latter Article, the stem would be required to be one of three choices: the original full generic name (Scelotes-), the generic name with the termination elided (Scelot-) or the full generic name with one or more additional linking letters added to form a more euphonious family name (Scelotes- + linking letter(s)). Hence, Scelot- (the generic name with termination elided) is acceptable rather than the classically correct Scelotet-

Parabrachymeliini is from a type genus *Parabrachymeles*, itself based on *Brachymeles*. In creating the latter generic name, Duméril & Bibron (1839) gave the derivation as being from the Greek βραχὺς (brachys, = short) plus μέλη (mele, = limbs), with the given meaning short limbs ("court et …membres" in the original French). The Greek μέλη is the plural of μέλος (melos), and of neuter gender. The termination -ης could be considered to be adjectival (masculine/feminine), meaning "short-limbed", and a genitive of μέλους (L. Raty, pers. comm.). The gender of the original adjective *Brachymeles* is not defined by Duméril & Bibron, who only combined with it the species name *bonitae*, a noun in the genitive case named for a ship. However, Duméril & Bibron did create two other generic names for skinks on the immediately preceding pages, *Heteromeles* and *Chelomeles* with the same derivation from mele, and both considered to be masculine, being proposed in combination with masculine adjectival specific epithets (*mauritanicus* and *quadrilineatus* respectively). Hence, I consider *Brachymeles* to be masculine, and the stem for the family name would be Brachymel- (or in this case Parabrachymel-).

*Nessia* is one of the meaningless names coined by Gray, while *Hakaria*, as formed by Steindachner (1899) is based on the locality Hakari, a village on Socotra, and is not a Latin or Greek word. and hence it is up to Hoser to determine the stem. Under Article 29.3.3, the choices he could select from are the entire generic name, the entire generic name with the ending elided, or the entire generic name with one or more linking letters incorporated to form a more euphonious family-group name. Thus Nessiini, which could be considered based on Nessi-, and Hakariina, which could be considered based on Hakari-, are acceptable.

*Funkiskinkus*, presumably based on an Anglicised "skink" by Hoser, would have to be treated as a random combination of letters, and hence the stem is up to the original author, being either Funkiskinkus- or Funkiskink- + ina. However, Funkiskinki- + -ina is not acceptably formed, being both the termination elided plus an additional

connecting vowel not present in the generic name. Given that all other authors have considered the entity named *Funkiskinkus* to be treated as part of the genus *Plestiodon*, without any need for a subtribe for part of *Plestiodon*, no emendation is as yet necessary.

**Relative priority of some names in the family group**

While most of the early family-group names within the Scincidae do not affect names in current usage, there are a few exceptions. Firstly, if Lygosominae/Lygosomidae/Lygosomoidea are attributed to Gray (1845, as Lygosomina), as assumed by Hedges (2014) rather than to Mittleman (1952) (and this is by assumption that Mittleman was aware of Gray's earlier name rather than independently coining a subfamily Lygosominae, based on what, until Mittleman's work, had been the largest genus of skinks, comprising 42.5% of the 374 species in the family in Boulenger's (1887) influential generic classification), then it antedates many of the other names associated with genera related to *Lygosoma*, leaving few priority issues. The stem is certainly the same (incorrectly formed in both cases). One issue remaining with Lygosomina Gray is that it was synchronously published with Tiliquina and Tropidophorina, each of which could equally apply to the more inclusive category that was termed the Lygosominae by Mittleman (1952) and Greer (1970a) and Lygosomoidea by Hedges (2014). I act in the sense of First Reviser under the Code to give priority to Lygosomina over Tiliquina and Tropidophorina when they are considered to represent the same higher taxon (Article 24.2).

Lygosominae Gray 1845 is antedated by the following family group names proposed by Fitzinger (1843): Ablephari, Cryptoblephari, Euprepae and Eutropides, as well as Rhodonidae Gray 1839. I do not consider Ophiopses Fitzinger, due to its unavailability because the type genus is a junior homonym (there is an additional complexity due to Ophiopses in the family-group being a senior homonym of Ophiopsidae Bartram 1975, based on *Ophiopsis* Agassiz 1834, but the unavailability of Ophiopses Fitzinger avoids the issue).

Due to the lengthy period of use of Lygosominae as one of the subfamilies of Scincidae by Greer (1970a) and subsequently as a superfamily Lygosomoidea by Hedges (2014), it is possible to invoke Article 23.9 to reverse precedence of the older names. Google Scholar reports 1130 uses of Lygosominae and 13 uses of Lygosomoidea, while Zoological Record cites 72 publications using Lygosominae. I specifically list the following 25 papers by more than 10 authors over the past 50 years that use Lygosominae to allow Article 23.9 to be used: Rawlinson (1974), Hardy (1979), Zweifel (1979), Ingram & Ehmann (1981), Rieppel (1981), Blackburn (1982), Perret & Wuest (1982), Greer (1986), Ouboter (1986), Hutchinson *et al*. (1990), Stewart & Thompson (1994), Swain & Jones (1997), R.M. Brown *et al*. (1999), Böhme *et al*. (2000), Honda *et al*. (2000), Mausfeld *et al*. (2002), Whiting *et al*. (2003), Brandley *et al*. (2005), Couper *et al*. (2005), J. Austin & Arnold (2006), Goodman & Isaac (2008), Harvey *et al*. (2008), C. Austin *et al*. (2010), Skinner *et al*. (2011), and Sadlier *et al*. (2015). This selection of papers covers all decades over the past 50 years, and with study species from most continents and nearby oceanic island groups inhabited by the Lygosominae. It also deliberately excludes the more recent, restricted use of the name Lygosominae/Lygosomidae to cover only a few genera (Hedges & Conn 2012; Hedges 2014). In contrast, Ablephari, Cryptoblephari, Euprepae and Eutropides, either in their original form or in the modern form of Ablepharidae, Cryptoblepharidae, Euprepidae or Ophiopsidae (or -inae), have not been used since 1850.

The next issue is that there are three earlier family-group names for the taxon to which the names Sphenomorphini/Sphenomorpinae/Sphenomorphidae have been applied: Ablephari Fitzinger 1843, Rhodonidae Gray 1839 and Tropidophorini Gray 1845.

Due in part to the wide-spread distribution of the Sphenomorphini, across Australia, Pacific Oceania, East and South-east Asia and the Americas, and the high species diversity of this lineage, with many newly recently described species, resulting in a large number of papers dealing with members of the lineage, it is also possible to invoke Article 23.9 to reverse the relative priority of Rhodonidae and Sphenomorphini. While the majority of literature prior to Hedges & Conn (2012) simply referred to this group by the informal name *Sphenomorphus* group of Greer (1979), there are a few uses of Sphenomorphini prior to 2012, and a number of uses of Sphenomorphinae and Sphenomorphidae following Hedges & Conn (2012) sufficient to reach the requirement for 25 publications by 10 authors over the preceding 50 years, and over not less than 10 years. I have been able to locate the following 72 papers that use Sphenomorphidae (n = 52): Hedges & Conn (2012); Alvarado-Díaz *et al*. (2013); Ramírez-Bautista & Cruz-Elizalde (2013); Zug (2013); Amey & Worthington Wilmer (2014); Hedges (2014); Ramírez-Bautista *et al*. (2014, 2020);

Solís *et al*. (2014); Sunyer (2014); Townsend (2014); Badillo-Saldaña *et al*. (2015); Johnson *et al*. (2015a,b, 2017); Lloyd (2015); Mata-Silva *et al*. (2015, 2019); Bahmani *et al*. (2016, 2018); Cruz Elizalde *et al*. (2016, 2019); Feizi *et al*. (2016); Goicoechea *et al*. (2016); Hofman *et al*. (2016); Reyes *et al*. (2016); Tenorio-Mendoza *et al*. (2016); Terán-Juárez *et al*. (2016); Vyas & Parasharya (2016); Cruz-Sáenz *et al*. (2017a,b); Fraga-Ramírez *et al*. (2017); Gonzalez-Sanchez *et al*. (2017); Lorvelec *et al*. (2017); Paluh & Bauer (2017); Prasopsin *et al*. (2017); Wilson *et al*. (2017); Woolrich- Piña *et al*. (2017); Berriozabal-Islas *et al*. (2018); García Grajales *et al*. (2018, 2019); Manhas *et al*. (2018); Medina-Fitoria *et al*. (2018); Contreras-Lozano *et al*. (2019); Galdamez *et al*. (2019); Hedges *et al*. (2019a); Krysko *et al*. (2019); Lazcano *et al*. (2019); McCranie *et al*. (2019); Sengupta *et al*. (2019); Čerňaňský & Syromyatnikova (2021); L. Chen *et al*. (2021); Sphenomorphinae (n = 11): Hitchmough *et al*. (2016); Rabosky *et al*. (2017); Title & Rabosky (2017); Foster *et al*. (2018); Chapple *et al*. (2019, 2021); Leenders (2019); Thorn *et al*. (2019, 2021); M. Chen *et al*. (2020); O'Shea (2021) or Sphenomorphini (n = 9): Welch (1983); Greer (2001, 2002); McAllister *et al*. (2014); Mead *et al*. (2014); Grismer *et al*. (2016); Batuwita (2019); Poyarkov *et al*. (2019); Shea (2019), and have found no uses of Ablephari (or that family-group name emended with a modern termination -idae, -inae, ini or ina), Rhodonidae or Tropidophorina since the 1840s, and hence Ablephari (as Ablepharidae or equivalent at lower levels), Rhodonidae and Tropidophorina are nomina oblita. This does not preclude these names being used for sublineages of the Sphenomorphini in the future, should further subdivision be deemed necessary.

Similarly, Cryptoblephari Fitzinger 1843 and Eumecae Fitzinger 1843, neither in use since the middle of the 19th century, antedate Eugongylini Welch 1982. While Eugongylini (or at higher levels Eugongylinae/Eugongylidae, the latter as used by Hedges & Conn 2012), is in less common use than the equivalent lineage Sphenomorphini, there are still sufficient uses to be able to invoke Article 23.9, and as was the case for Sphenomorphini, there are a few uses prior to 2012 that allow for the citations to extend beyond 10 years. I have been able to identify 12 uses of Eugongylidae (Hedges & Conn 2012; Zug 2013; Hedges 2014; W. Schmidt 2014; Bahmani *et al*. 2016, 2018; Jablonski 2016; Lorvelec *et al*. 2017; Paluh & Bauer 2017; Čerňaňský *et al*. 2020; Speybroeck *et al*. 2020; Čerňaňský & Syromyatnikova 2021), 27 uses of Eugongylinae (Safaei-Mahroo *et al*. 2015; Čerňaňský 2016; Chapple 2016a,b; Chapple & Hitchmough 2016; Gartrell 2016; Hitchmough *et al*. 2016; Lettinck & Hare 2016; Medina *et al*. 2016; Worthy 2016; Eftekharian *et al*. 2017; Worthy *et al*. 2017; Caldwell *et al*. 2018; Foster *et al*. 2018; Rahnama & Jojati 2018; W. Branch *et al*. 2019; Ortiz *et al*. 2019; Thorn *et al*. 2019, 2021; Weinell *et al*. 2019; Bozkurt & Olgun 2020; Hare *et al*. 2020; Bernstein *et al*. 2021; Chapple *et al*. 2021; L. Chen *et al*. 2021; O'Shea 2021; Patterson & Hitchmough 2021) and three uses of Eugongylini (Greer 2001, 2002; Batuwita 2019).

The other name proposed by Gray (1845), Tiliquina, is more problematic. The Egerniini of Welch (1982), and the earlier Egernina of De Vis (1888), which need to be treated as independent due to the different stems employed in the formation of the names, apply to a much more geographically restricted (Australia, the Solomon Islands, New Guinea and the Maluku Archipelago of Indonesia) and less species-rich (62 species in 8 genera) lineage for which there have been many fewer uses of the terms Egerniini/Egerninae/Egernidae (although again the informal name *Egernia* group of Greer (1979) has a much greater usage). While I have been able to identify 40 uses of these names (with or without the double -i) since Welch (1982) created Egerniini (Egerniidae: Hedges & Conn 2012; Pyron *et al*. 2013; Zug 2013; Hedges 2014; Sy 2015; Bahmani *et al*. 2016, 2018; Feizi *et al*. 2016; Paluh & Bauer 2017; Čerňaňský *et al*. 2020; Čerňaňský & Syromyatnikova 2021; Egerniinae: Hitchmough *et al*. 2016; Bull *et al*. 2017; Halliwell *et al*. 2017a-c; Atkins *et al*. 2018, 2020; Foster *et al*. 2018; Norval *et al*. 2018, 2021; Bower *et al*. 2019; Chapple *et al*. 2019, 2021; Ortiz *et al*. 2019; Thorn *et al*. 2019, 2021; Treilibs *et al*. 2019; While *et al*. 2019; Norval & Gardner 2020; Pearson *et al*. 2020; Ridley *et al*. 2020; Stampe *et al*. 2020; Thompson *et al*. 2020; Watson *et al*. 2020, 2021; Frynta *et al*. 2021; O'Shea 2021; Riley *et al*. 2021 and van Blerk *et al*. 2021; no uses of Egernidae, Egerninae, Egerniini or Egernini), they have all been within the 10 years, from the point where Hedges & Conn (2012) used the name (their paper was published 30 April 2012). This more limited time span precludes preserving Egerniinae or Egernina by reversal of precedence, and hence Tiliquina Gray 1845 needs to replace Egerniinae Welch 1982 and Egernina De Vis 1888 for the previous *Egernia* group of Greer (1979).

The use of family-group names based on *Sphenomorphus* shows an interesting difference in distribution to those based on *Egernia*, notwithstanding the geographic differences in distribution of those lineages. The most common use of Sphenomorphidae is for species lists based on local or regional faunal surveys, or checklists (36 of 72 citations), and most of those (n = 33) are from central America and the Caribbean, areas which have only a single genus in the Sphenomorphidae, *Scincella*, and that represented by just a few species (usually one per survey). In

contrast, the most common use of Egerniinae is for studies of species ecology (19 of 40), with no uses in checklists or faunal lists.

The name Eugongylinae/Eugongylidae also shows unique features in its pattern of use: several of the uses (n = 5) are specifically with respect to *Ablepharus* in West Asia, which Hedges (2014) incorrectly placed in his Eugongylidae, while many of the other uses specifically related to the lineage as represented in New Zealand (n = 11, although seven of these are separately authored chapters from a single book). In contrast, there have been almost no uses of this family-group name with respect to Australia and surrounding islands, where the lineage is at its most diverse.

Of the names created by Mittleman (1952), Mabuyinae is potentially threatened by both Eutropides and Euprepae of Fitzinger (1843). Mabuyidae as resurrected by Hedges & Conn (2012), like Eugongylidae, has had a span of use of less than 10 years, although in that time it has been frequently used, with Google Scholar listing 428 uses of Mabuyidae and 229 uses of Mabuyinae between 2012 and 2021. Luckily, there are two uses in the literature from the 1970s that use Mabuyinae following Mittleman (1952) rather than the subsequent taxonomic arrangement of Greer (1970a) that submerged Mabuyinae into the Lygosominae, and that extend the use of Mabuyidae/Mabuyinae beyond 10 years over the past half-century. I cite the following 25 papers by more than 10 authors over the period 1972-2021: Horton (1972); Murthy (1981); Miranda *et al*. (2012); Zug (2013); Hedges (2014); Solís *et al*. (2014); Sunyer (2014); Johnson *et al*. (2015a); Kemp & Hadly (2015); Barré *et al*. (2016); Metallinou *et al*. (2016); Pereira & Schrago (2017); Wilson *et al*. (2017); Novelli *et al*. (2018); Harrison *et al*. (2019); Hedges *et al*. (2019a,b); Weinell *et al*. (2019); Sengupta *et al*. (2019); McCranie *et al*. (2020); Pawar *et al*. (2020); Čerňaňský & Syromyatnikova (2021); Chapple *et al*. (2021); O'Shea (2021); Silva *et al*. (2021).

## The taxonomic position of *Eugongylus*, type genus of the Eugongylini

One recent phylogenetic meta-analysis, by Zheng & Wiens (2016), recovered *Eugongylus* as nested within the Sphenomorphinae rather than the lineage to which the name Eugongylinae has consistently been applied. If accepted, this would result in the two names, proposed at the same time, being applied to the same lineage, and the lineage to which the name Eugongylinae had formerly applied having to change to an emended Cryptoblepharinae. However, the evidence for *Eugongylus* being a member of the Sphenomorphinae is very weak. Zheng & Wiens (2016) recovered *Eugongylus* as sister to *Isopachys*, a reduce-limbed elongate sphenomorphine species with no morphological resemblance to *Eugongylus*. While there are 13 nodes between the placement of *Eugongylus* as sister to *Isopachys* and a placement on the base of the Eugongylidae in their tree, all of those nodes were very poorly supported (Shimodaira-Hasegawa-like support values of 0-18 for each node). The majority of the sequences used by Zheng & Wiens (2016) were the same as used by Pyron *et al*. (2013) with the addition of additional sequences from Wiens *et al*. (2012). However, for skinks, the majority of the additional sequences were from scincine skinks, with only four lygosomines additionally sampled, *E. rufescens*, plus one species each from *Sphenomorphus*, *Tiliqua* and *Trachylepis*, for all of which received between 33 and 38 additional sequences. These additional sequences, with no additional sequence data for other eugongyline or sphenomorphine species, should have provided little opportunity for major changes in the placement of *Eugongylus* compared to the result of Pyron *et al*. (2013), who found *Eugongylus* to be basally placed within the Eugongylinae with strong support (Shimodaira-Hasegawa-like support of 100 for the node consisting of *Eugongylus* plus the remaining eugongylines). Other molecular studies agree with the placement recovered by Pyron *et al*. (2013), with *Eugongylus* either within the Eugongylinae, or closer to other lygosomines tribes than to the Sphenomorphini (Honda *et al*., 2000, 2003; Reeder, 2003; Whiting *et al*., 2003; Brandley *et al*., 2005; J. Austin & Arnold, 2006; Smith *et al*., 2007; Skinner *et al*., 2011). Morphologically, *Eugongylus* is a eugongyline skink rather than a sphenomorphine skink (Greer, 1974, 1979; Greer & Shea, 2001). Hence, I consider the placement recovered by Zheng & Wiens (2016) to be a likely error, and retain *Eugongylus* within and Eugongylini for the lineage to which they are traditionally assigned.

Should the findings of Zheng & Wiens (2016) be corroborated by multiple independent datasets, I act in the sense of First Revisor to give Sphenomorphini precedence over Eugongylini when both are considered to represent the same tribe, and note that Cryptoblepharini would become available for the tribe to which Eugongylini is currently applied.

## The taxonomic position of *Ablepharus*, type genus of Fitzinger's Ablephari

While *Ablepharus* (type species *Scincus pannonicus* Fitzinger 1824, now *Ablepharus kitaibelii fitzingeri* Mertens 1952 and not the senior synonym *Ablepharus pannonicus* (Lichtenstein 1823); see Bauer *et al*., 2003; Gemel & Vergilov 2020) has generally been placed in the Sphenomorphini on morphological grounds (Greer 1974, 1979), two recent phylogenetic analyses have been equivocal about the placement of the genus. Both Pyron *et al*. (2013) and Zheng & Wiens (2016) recovered *A. pannonicus* and *Asymblepharus alaicus* (Elpatjevsky 1901), the latter species formerly part of *Ablepharus*, but separated by Eremchenko and Szczerbak (1980), as basally positioned within the Sphenomorphini, but three other species of *Ablepharus* (*A. budaki* Göçmen *et al*. 1996, *A. chernovi* Darevsky 1953 and *A. kitaibelii* Bibron & Bory 1833) as basally positioned within the Lygosomini (sensu stricto). Hedges (2014) placed all *Ablepharus* species in the Eugongylidae, but gave no reason for this placement—he may have misread the placement from Pyron *et al*. (2013). It is possible that this division of *Ablepharus* across separate lineages may be a sampling artefact. Examination of the sequences on which both analyses are based reveals that there are no shared sequences for the two groups. *Ablepharus pannonicus* and *Asymblepharus alaicus* are represented by a single shared sequence (ND2) along with Rag1 for *A. alaicus* and cMos for *A. pannonicus*, while the other three *Ablepharus* species are represented by 16S sequences, with an additional 12S sequence for *A. kitaibelii* only. The 16S samples were obtained from Poulakakis *et al*. (2005), while the ND2 sequences were obtained from Macey *et al*. (2006). Although Skourtanioti *et al*. (2016) included both *pannonicus* and the other three species in a single phylogenetic analysis (recovering *pannonicus* as the outgroup to the other species), they did not incorporate any other lygosomine skinks in their study, precluding assessment of their assignment to major lineages within the Lygosominae. Until both groups are represented by shared sequences in a broader analysis, I accept the position of *Ablepharus* in the Sphenomorphini, as reflected by morphology.

## Acontiinae Gray 1838, a senior homonym of Acontiinae Guenée 1841

While this paper has primarily been concerned with the nomenclature of skink family group names, I note (see also Hedges 2014) that Acontiinae Gray 1839, a name in common use for a scincid lizard subfamily, is a senior homonym of Acontiinae Guenée 1841, a subfamily of noctuid moths (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) and a name also in common use. Both names are based on the Greek word acontias. In the case of the skink subfamily, the name of the type genus is the full unaltered Greek word (see above). In the case of the moth subfamily, the generic name, created by Ochsenheimer (1816), in his *Die Schmetterlinge von Europa*, is *Acontia*. As was explicitly stated in a later volume in the series (Treitschke 1826), following Ochsenheimer's death in 1822, the generic name is based on the Greek word Acontias. In this case, the name was latinized with a change in termination, avoiding homonymy between the generic names *Acontias* Cuvier 1816 and *Acontia* Ochsenheimer 1816 [while Cuvier (1816) is usually cited as published in 1817, the year on the title page of that volume, it was released prior to December, 1816 fide Roux (1976)]. However, the genitive of the latinized acontia, having a feminine termination, would be acontiae, and the stem aconti-, as for the family-group name based on the original Greek acontias. Thus, both names in the family group have the same stem. Guenée's original spelling for the moth subfamily was Acontidi, but this has been subsequently given the correct family-group termination and Acontiinae has been used since. Under Article 55.3.1, this case must be referred to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for a determination on how the junior homonym is to be altered to avoid homonymy. However, the most appropriate course (following Article 29.6) would be for the Commission to use the whole genus name *Acontia*, giving a subfamily Acontiainae for the moth subfamily (which coincidentally, is similar to Gray's original incorrectly spelt Acontiadae for the skink name). Bizarrely, Hoser (2015a) suggested that it might be the senior homonym, the scincid Acontinae, that might be unavailable, but this is clearly incorrect.

## Chalcidici Oppel 1811, a senior homonym of Chalcididae Latreille 1817

A second homonymous name outside the Reptilia is also problematic. Latreille (1817) created a family name Chalcididae based on the wasp genus *Chalcis* Fabricius 1787. This is a name in common usage in the modern day. The Zoological Record lists 1951 uses of the name Chalcididae within Hymenoptera between 1864 and the time of writ-

ing, and almost 26000 citations at the superfamily level (Chalcidoidea). Chalcididae Latreille is correctly formed from *Chalcis*, a Latin feminine noun, in turn derived without change in termination from the Greek feminine noun χαλκίς (chalkis), for which the genitive is chalkidos in the original Greek, giving the stem chalcid- in the latinized form, the same stem as for the skink genus *Chalcides*.

Chalcididae Latreille is a junior homonym of Chalidici Oppel. Chalcidici Oppel remains unused, unless Chalcidinae Mittleman (1952) is considered to be a resurrection of the same name, in which case both names have been used within the past century, precluding the use of Article 23.9 to reverse precedence. If, however, Chalcidinae Mittleman (1952) is considered an independently created name (a view that is easily justified, as no authors used Chalcididae in application to skinks between Oppel (1811) and Mittleman (1952), and Mittleman did not give any attribution for that name), then the lack of use of Chalcidici Oppel in the literature since 1811 would allow reversal of precedence to be invoked to maintain Latreille's family, with Chalcidinae Mittleman 1952 (as well as Chalcididae Gray 1825 (a synonym of Gymnophthalmidae) and Chalcidiini Hoser 2015b) being junior homonyms of both Chalcidici Oppel and Chalcididae Latreille.

To invoke Article 23.9, I list the following 25 papers by more than 10 authors over the past half-century that have used Chalcididae in the sense of Latreille: Joseph *et al*. (1972); Boucek (1974); Steffan (1976); Habu (1978); Simser & Coppel (1980); Husain & Agarwal (1982); Roy & Farooqi (1984); Halstead (1986, 1990, 2000); Harendran (1988); Qian *et al*. (1992); Graham (1994); Rasplus & Delvare (1996); Kerguelen & Carde (1998); Marchiori *et al*. (2002); Ubaibillah & Kojima (2004); Jennings (2006); Gupta & Poorani (2008); Tinoco *et al*. (2012); Kazemi & Loftalizadeh (2014); Prakash et al. (2016); Abul-Sood & Gadallah (2018); Tavares *et al*. (2019), and Gadallah *et al*. (2020).

The conclusions of this paper may be summarized as the following classification.

**A new family-group classification and synonymy of skinks**

**Family Scincidae Oppel 1811**

Scincoides Oppel 1811: 20 (type genus *Scincus* Garsault 1764, by subsequent designation, this paper)

Scincidia Rafinesque 1815: 76 (type genus *Scincus* Daudin 1802, by presumption from inclusion of genus)

Sincidae Gray 1825: 201 (type genus *Sincus* Daudin 1802, by presumption from inclusion of genus; misspelling of *Scincus* Daudin)

Scincidae—Gray 1838c: 287 (corrected termination of Scincoides Oppel and Scincidia Rafinesque, and corrected spelling of Sincidae Gray)

Scincoidea Fitzinger 1826: 23 (type genus *Scincus* Daudin 1802, by presumption from inclusion of genus)

Scinci Wiegmann 1834a: 11 (type genus *Scincus* Fitzinger 1826, by presumption from inclusion of genus, = *Scincus* Daudin 1802)

Scincoidea—Hedges 2014: 319 (change in rank; homonym of Scincoidea Fitzinger 1826).

Chalcidici Oppel 1811: 41 (type genus *Chalcides* Brongniart 1800, by presumption as the earliest use of that name cited by Oppel = *Chalcides* Laurenti 1768). Nomen oblitum.

Rhodonidae Gray 1839: 335 (type genus *Rhodona* Gray 1839, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Nomen oblitum.

Ablephari Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Ablepharus* Fitzinger 1824, explicitly).

Acontiadae Gray 1839: 336 (type genus *Acontias* Cuvier 1816, by presumption from inclusion of genus).

Acontiae Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Acontias* Cuvier 1816, explicitly).

Cryptoblephari Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Cryptoblepharis* [=*Cryptoblepharus*] Wiegmann 1834b, explicitly).

Eumecae Fitzinger 1843: 22 (type genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann 1834a explicitly, but sensu Fitzinger 1843, by erroneous nomination of type species).

Euprepae Fitzinger 1843: 22 (type genus *Euprepes* Wagler 1830, explicitly).

Eutropides Fitzinger 1843: 22 (type genus *Eutropis* Fitzinger 1843, explicitly).

Ophiopses Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Ophiopsis* Fitzinger 1843 explicitly, = *Lerista* Bell 1833, non *Ophiopsis* Agassiz 1834). Not available due to homonymy of type genus.

Typhlomorphi Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Typhlomorphus* Fitzinger 1843, explicitly = *Typhlosaurus* Wiegmann 1834a).

Lygosomina Gray 1845: 74 (type genus *Lygosoma* Hardwicke & Gray 1827, by presumption from inclusion of genus).

Tiliquina Gray 1845: 102 (type genus *Tiliqua* Gray 1825, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Tropidophorina Gray 1845: 100 (type genus *Tropidophorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Typhlinidae Gray 1845: 128 (type genus *Typhline* Wiegmann 1834a = *Typhlosaurus* Wiegmann 1834a).
Ophiomoridae Gray 1845: 120 (type genus *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839, by monotypy).
Opheomorinae Cope 1864: 228 (type genus *Opheomorus*, incorrect subsequent spelling of *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839), incorrect subsequent spelling of Ophiomoridae Gray 1845.
Anelytropidae Cope 1864: 230 (type genus *Anelytrops* Duméril 1856 by presumption from inclusion of genus, = *Feylinia* Gray 1845). Replacement name for Typhlinidae Gray 1845. Non Anelytropsidae Camp 1923.
Feyliniidae Cope 1875: 20 (type genus *Feylinia* Gray 1845, by monotypy). Replacement name for Anelytropidae Cope 1864.
Egernina De Vis 1888: 813 (type genus *Egernia* Gray 1838c, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Feyliniidae Camp 1923: 296 (type genus *Feylinia* Gray 1845, by presumption from inclusion of the genus). Replacement name for Anelytropidae Cope 1864. Homonym of Feyliniidae Cope 1875.
Chalcidinae Mittleman 1952: 5 (type genus, by presumption due to the name being applied to a skink lineage, *Chalcides* Laurenti 1768; Scincidae, non *Chalcides* Daudin 1802; Gymnophthalmidae). Unavailable due to homonymy with Chalcididae Latreille 1817 (Hymenoptera).
Lygosominae Mittleman 1952: 4 (type genus *Lygosoma* Hardwicke & Gray 1827, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Mabuyinae Mittleman 1952: 4 (type genus *Mabuya* Fitzinger 1826, by presumption from stem of name).
Acontinae Greer 1970a: 158 (type genus *Acontias* Cuvier 1816, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Non Acontiadae Gray 1839.
Feylininae Greer 1970a: 155 (type genus *Feylinia* Gray 1845, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Non Feyliniidae Cope 1875 and Feyliniidae Camp 1923.
Egerniini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Egernia* Gray 1838c, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Non Egernina De Vis 1888.
Eugongylini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Eugongylus* Fitzinger 1843, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Sphenomorphini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Sphenomorphus* Fitzinger 1843 by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Lampropholiini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Lampropholis* Duméril & Bibron 1839, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Panaspiini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Panaspis* Cope 1868, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Paracontiini Welch 1982: 25 (type genus *Paracontias* Mocquard 1894, by presumption due to being based on the former content of that genus).
Eumecinae Griffith, Ngo & Murphy 2000: 9 (type genus *Eumeces* sensu Griffith *et al*. 2000 [= *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839], non *Eumeces* Wiegmann 1834a).
Chioniniinae Hedges & Conn 2012: 29 (type genus *Chioninia* Gray 1845, explicitly).
Dasiinae Hedges & Conn 2012: 29 (type genus *Dasia* Gray 1839, explicitly).
Trachylepidinae Hedges & Conn 2012: 29 (type genus *Trachylepis* Fitzinger 1843, explicitly).
Ateuchosauridae Hedges 2014: 320 (type genus *Ateuchosaurus* Gray 1845 explicitly).
Ristellidae Hedges 2014: 321 (type genus *Ristella* Gray 1845, explicitly).
Acontinini Hoser 2015a: 9 (type genus *Acontias* Cuvier 1816, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Non Acontiadae Gray, 1839.
Adelynhoserscinciini Hoser 2015a: 38 (type genus *Adelynhoserscincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Adelynhoserscinciina Hoser 2015a: 42 (type genus *Adelynhoserscincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Asiascinciina Hoser 2015a: 52 (type genus *Asiascincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Chalcidiina Hoser 2015b: 110 (type genus *Chalcides* Laurenti 1768, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, non *Chalcides* Daudin 1802; non Chalcidinae Mittleman 1952). Junior homonym of Chalcididae Latreille, 1817 (Hymenoptera).

Culexlineatascinciina Hoser 2015a: 9 (type genus *Culexlineatascincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus = *Mesoscincus* Griffith *et al*. 2000).
Eumeciini Hoser 2015a: 38, 54 (type genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann 1834a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Non Eumecae Fitzinger 1843, non Eumecini Griffith *et al*. 2000. Not available under Article 13.1.
Feyliniini Hoser 2015b: 114 (type genus *Feylinia* Gray 1845, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Junior homonym of Feyliniidae Cope 1875 and Feyliniidae Camp 1923. Not available under Article 13.1.
Funkiskinkiina Hoser 2015a: 47 (type genus *Funkiskinkus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Gongylomorphiini Hoser 2015b: 109 (type genus *Gongylomorphus* Fitzinger 1843, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus).
Gongylomorphiina Hoser 2015b: 109, 110 (type genus *Gongylomorphus* Fitzinger 1843, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus).
Hakariina Hoser 2015b: 111, 113 (type genus *Hakaria* Steindachner 1899, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus).
Janetaescinciini Hoser 2015a: 55 (type genus *Janetaescincus* Greer 1970c, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Not available under Article 13.1).
Nessiini Hoser 2015b: 114 (type genus *Nessia* Gray 1845, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus).
Parabrachymeliini Hoser 2015a: 15 (type genus *Parabrachymeles* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Brachymeles* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Paracontiina Hoser 2015b: 110, 113 (type genus *Paracontias* Mocquard 1894, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus; junior homonym of Paracontiini Welch 1982). Not available under Article 13.1.
Scelotiina Hoser 2015b: 111, 114 (type genus *Scelotes* Fitzinger 1826, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Not available under Article 13.1.
Sirenoscinciina Hoser 2015b: 111, 113 (type genus *Sirenoscincus* Sakata & Hikida 2003, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Voeltzkowia* Boettger 1893, fide Miralles *et al*. 2015).
Sloppyscinciini Hoser 2015b: 110 (type genus *Sloppyscincus* Hoser 2015b, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Not available under Article 13.1.
Sloppyscinciina Hoser 2015b: 110, 112 (type genus *Sloppyscincus* Hoser 2015b, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Not available under Article 13.1.
Starkeyscinciini Hoser 2015a: 13 (type genus *Starkeyscincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Starkeyscinciina Hoser 2015a: 13 (type genus *Starkeyscincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Typhlosauriina Hoser 2015a: 9 (type genus *Typhlosaurus* Wiegmann 1834a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus).

**Subfamily Scincinae Oppel 1811**

Scincoides Oppel 1811: 20 (type genus *Scincus* Garsault 1764, by subsequent designation, this paper)
Scincidia Rafinesque 1815: 76 (type genus *Scincus* Daudin 1802, by presumption from inclusion of genus)
Sincidae Gray 1825: 201 (type genus *Sincus* Daudin 1802, by presumption from inclusion of genus; misspelling of *Scincus* Daudin)
Scincina—Gray 1845: 70 (change in rank).
Scincinae—Mittleman 1952: 5 (change in rank).
Ophiomoridae Gray 1845: 120 (type genus *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839, by monotypy).
Opheomorinae Cope 1864: 228 (type genus *Opheomorus*, incorrect subsequent spelling of *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839), incorrect subsequent spelling of Ophiomoridae Gray 1845.
Anelytropidae Cope 1864: 230 (type genus *Anelytrops* Duméril 1856 by presumption from inclusion of genus, = *Feylinia* Gray 1845). Replacement name for Typhlinidae Gray 1845. Non Anelytropsidae Camp 1923.

Feyliniidae Cope 1875: 20 (type genus *Feylinia* Gray 1845, by monotypy). Replacement name for Anelytropidae Cope 1864.
Feyliniidae Camp 1923: 296 (type genus *Feylinia* Gray 1845, by presumption from inclusion of the genus). Replacement name for Anelytropidae Cope 1864. Homonym of Feyliniidae Cope 1875.
Chalcidinae Mittleman 1952: 5 (type genus, by presumption due to the name being applied to a skink lineage, *Chalcides* Laurenti 1768; Scincidae, non *Chalcides* Daudin 1802; Gymnophthalmidae). Unavailable due to homonymy with Chalcididae Latreille 1817 (Hymenoptera).
Feylininae Greer 1970a: 155 (type genus *Feylinia* Gray 1845, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Non Feyliniidae Cope 1875 and Feyliniidae Camp 1923.
Paracontiini Welch 1982: 25 (type genus *Paracontias* Mocquard 1894, by presumption due to being based on the former content of that genus).
Eumecinae Griffith, Ngo & Murphy 2000: 9 (type genus *Eumeces* sensu Griffith *et al*. 2000 [= *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839], non *Eumeces* Wiegmann 1834a).
Adelynhoserscinciini Hoser 2015a: 38 (type genus *Adelynhoserscincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Adelynhoserscinciina Hoser 2015a: 42 (type genus *Adelynhoserscincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Asiascinciina Hoser 2015a: 52 (type genus *Asiascincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Chalcidiina Hoser 2015b: 110 (type genus *Chalcides* Laurenti 1768, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, non *Chalcides* Daudin 1802; non Chalcidinae Mittleman 1952). Junior homonym of Chalcididae Latreille, 1817 (Hymenoptera).
Culexlineatascinciina Hoser 2015a: 9 (type genus *Culexlineatascincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus = *Mesoscincus* Griffith *et al*. 2000).
Eumeciini Hoser 2015a: 38, 54 (type genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann 1834a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Non Eumecae Fitzinger 1843, non Eumecini Griffith *et al*. 2000. Not available under Article 13.1.
Feyliniini Hoser 2015b: 114 (type genus *Feylinia* Gray 1845, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Junior homonym of Feyliniidae Cope 1875 and Feyliniidae Camp 1923. Not available under Article 13.1.
Funkiskinkiina Hoser 2015a: 47 (type genus *Funkiskinkus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Plestiodon* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Gongylomorphiini Hoser 2015b: 109 (type genus *Gongylomorphus* Fitzinger 1843, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus).
Gongylomorphiina Hoser 2015b: 109, 110 (type genus *Gongylomorphus* Fitzinger 1843, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus).
Hakariina Hoser 2015b: 111, 113 (type genus *Hakaria* Steindachner 1899, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus).
Janetaescinciini Hoser 2015a: 55 (type genus *Janetaescincus* Greer 1970c, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Not available under Article 13.1).
Nessiini Hoser 2015b: 114 (type genus *Nessia* Gray 1845, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus).
Parabrachymeliini Hoser 2015a: 15 (type genus *Parabrachymeles* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Brachymeles* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Paracontiina Hoser 2015b: 110, 113 (type genus *Paracontias* Mocquard 1894, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus; junior homonym of Paracontiini Welch 1982). Not available under Article 13.1.
Scelotiina Hoser 2015b: 111, 114 (type genus *Scelotes* Fitzinger 1826, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Not available under Article 13.1.
Sirenoscinciina Hoser 2015b: 111, 113 (type genus *Sirenoscincus* Sakata & Hikida 2003, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Voeltzkowia* Boettger 1893, fide Miralles *et al*. 2015).
Sloppyscinciini Hoser 2015b: 110 (type genus *Sloppyscincus* Hoser 2015b, implicitly by statement of "terminal

taxon", the type species of the genus). Not available under Article 13.1.
Sloppyscinciina Hoser 2015b: 110, 112 (type genus *Sloppyscincus* Hoser 2015b, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Not available under Article 13.1.
Starkeyscinciini Hoser 2015a: 13 (type genus *Starkeyscincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Starkeyscinciina Hoser 2015a: 13 (type genus *Starkeyscincus* Hoser 2015a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus, = *Ophiomorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839).

**Subfamily Acontiinae Gray 1839**

Acontiadae Gray 1839: 336 (type genus *Acontias* Cuvier 1816, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Acontiidae—Cope 1864: 230 (corrected spelling of Acontiadae Gray 1839).
Acontidae—Hedges & Conn 2012: 28 (altered stem of Acontiadae Gray 1839, by conflation with Acontinae Greer 1970a).
Acontoidea—Hedges 2014: 319 (change in rank of Acontiadae Gray, with erroneously altered stem).
Acontiae Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Acontias* Cuvier 1816, explicitly).
Typhlomorphi Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Typhlomorphus* Fitzinger 1843, explicitly = *Typhlosaurus* Wiegmann 1834a).
Typhlinidae Gray 1845: 128 (type genus *Typhline* Wiegmann 1834a = *Typhlosaurus* Wiegmann 1834a).
Acontinae Greer 1970a: 158 (type genus *Acontias* Cuvier 1816, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Non Acontiadae Gray 1839.
Acontinini Hoser 2015a: 9 (type genus *Acontias* Cuvier 1816, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus). Non Acontiadae Gray 1839.
Typhlosauriina Hoser 2015a: 9 (type genus *Typhlosaurus* Wiegmann 1834a, implicitly by statement of "terminal taxon", the type species of the genus).

**Subfamily Lygosominae Gray 1845**

Lygosomina Gray 1845: 74 (type genus *Lygosoma* Hardwicke & Gray 1827, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Lygosomoidea—Hedges 2014: 319 (change of rank of Lygosominae Gray 1845).
Lygosomidae—Hedges & Conn 2012: 28 (change in rank of Lygosominae Gray 1845).
Lygosominae Mittleman 1952: 4 (type genus *Lygosoma* Hardwicke & Gray 1827, by inclusion of genus).
Lygosomini—Welch 1982: 26 (change of rank of Lygosominae Mittleman 1952).
Rhodonidae Gray 1839: 335 (type genus *Rhodona* Gray 1839, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Nomen oblitum.
Ablephari Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Ablepharus* Fitzinger 1824, explicitly). Nomen oblitum.
Cryptoblephari Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Cryptoblepharis* [=*Cryptoblepharus*] Wiegmann 1834b, explicitly). Nomen oblitum.
Eumecae Fitzinger 1843: 22 (type genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann 1834a explicitly, but sensu Fitzinger 1843, by erroneous nomination of type species). Nomen oblitum.
Euprepae Fitzinger 1843: 22 (type genus *Euprepes* Wagler 1830, explicitly). Nomen oblitum.
Eutropides Fitzinger 1843: 22 (type genus *Eutropis* Fitzinger 1843, explicitly). Nomen oblitum.
Ophiopses Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Ophiopsis* Fitzinger 1843 explicitly, = *Lerista* Bell 1833, non *Ophiopsis* Agassiz 1834). Not available due to homonymy of type genus.
Tropidophorina Gray 1845: 100 (type genus *Tropidophorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Nomen oblitum.
Tiliquina Gray 1845: 102 (type genus *Tiliqua* Gray 1825, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Egernina De Vis 1888: 813 (type genus *Egernia* Gray 1838c, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Mabuyinae Mittleman 1952: 4 (type genus *Mabuya* Fitzinger 1826, by presumption from stem of name).
Egerniini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Egernia* Gray 1838c, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Non Egernina De Vis 1888.
Eugongylini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Eugongylus* Fitzinger 1843, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Sphenomorphini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Sphenomorphus* Fitzinger 1843 by presumption from inclusion of

genus).
Lampropholiini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Lampropholis* Duméril & Bibron 1839).
Lampropholiini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Lampropholis* Duméril & Bibron 1839, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Chioniniinae Hedges & Conn 2012: 29 (type genus *Chioninia* Gray 1845, explicitly).
Dasiinae Hedges & Conn 2012: 29 (type genus *Dasia* Gray 1839, explicitly).
Trachylepidinae Hedges & Conn 2012: 29 (type genus *Trachylepis* Fitzinger 1843, explicitly).
Ateuchosauridae Hedges 2014: 320 (type genus *Ateuchosaurus* Gray 1845).
Ristellidae Hedges 2014: 321 (type genus *Ristella* Gray, 1845, explicitly).

**Tribe Lygosomini Gray 1845**

Lygosomina Gray 1845: 74 (type genus *Lygosoma* Hardwicke & Gray 1827, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Lygosomidae—Hedges & Conn 2012: 28 (change in rank of Lygosominae Gray 1845).
Lygosominae Mittleman 1952: 4 (type genus *Lygosoma* Hardwicke & Gray 1827, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Lygosomini—Welch 1982: 26 (change of rank of Lygosominae Mittleman 1952).

**Tribe Ateuchosaurini Hedges 2014**

Ateuchosauridae Hedges 2014: 320 (type genus *Ateuchosaurus* Gray 1845 explicitly).

**Tribe Tiliquini Gray 1845**

Tiliquina Gray 1845: 102 (type genus *Tiliqua* Gray 1825, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Egernina De Vis 1888: 813 (type genus *Egernia* Gray 1838c, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Egerniini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Egernia* Gray 1838c, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Non Egernina De Vis 1888.
Egerniidae—Hedges & Conn 2012: 28 (change in rank of Egerniinae Welch 1982).
Egerniinae—Hitchmough *et al*. 2016: 88 (change in rank of Egerniinae Welch 1982).

**Tribe Eugongylini Welch 1982**

Eugongylini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Eugongylus* Fitzinger 1843, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Nomen protectum.
Eugongylidae—Hedges & Conn 2012: 28 (change in rank of Eugongylini Welch 1982).
Cryptoblephari Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Cryptoblepharis* [=*Cryptoblepharus*] Wiegmann 1834b, explicitly). Nomen oblitum.
Eumecae Fitzinger 1843: 22 (type genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann 1834a explicitly, but sensu Fitzinger 1843, by erroneous nomination of type species). Nomen oblitum.
Lampropholiini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Lampropholis* Duméril & Bibron 1839, by presumption from inclusion of genus).
Panaspiini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Panaspis* Cope 1868, by presumption from inclusion of genus).

**Tribe Ristellini Hedges 2014**

Ristellidae Hedges 2014: 321 (type genus *Ristella* Gray 1845, explicitly).

**Tribe Sphenomorphini Welch 1982**

Sphenomorphini Welch 1982: 26 (type genus *Sphenomorphus* Fitzinger 1843 by presumption from inclusion of genus). Nomen protectum.
Sphenomorphidae—Hedges & Conn 2012: 28 (change in rank of Sphenomorphini Welch 1982).
Sphenomorphinae—Hitchmough *et al*. 2016: 94 (change in rank of Sphenomorphini Welch 1982).
Ablephari Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Ablepharus* Fitzinger 1824, explicitly). Nomen oblitum.
Ophiopses Fitzinger 1843: 23 (type genus *Ophiopsis* Fitzinger 1843 explicitly, = *Lerista* Bell 1833, non *Ophiopsis* Agassiz 1834). Not available due to homonymy of type genus.

Rhodonidae Gray 1839: 335 (type genus *Rhodona* Gray 1839, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Nomen oblitum.

Tropidophorina Gray 1845: 100 (type genus *Tropidophorus* Duméril & Bibron 1839, by presumption from inclusion of genus). Nomen oblitum.

**Tribe Mabuyini Mittleman 1952**

Mabuyinae Mittleman 1952: 4 (type genus *Mabuya* Fitzinger 1826, by presumption from stem of name). Nomen protectum.

Mabuyidae—Hedges & Conn 2012: 28 (change in rank of Mabuyinae Mittleman 1982).

Euprepae Fitzinger 1843: 22 (type genus *Euprepes* Wagler 1830, explicitly). Nomen oblitum.

Eutropides Fitzinger 1843: 22 (type genus *Eutropis* Fitzinger 1843, explicitly). Nomen oblitum.

Lygosomini Welch 1982: 26 (part).

Chioniniinae Hedges & Conn 2012: 29 (type genus *Chioninia* Gray 1845, explicitly).

Dasiinae Hedges & Conn 2012: 29 (type genus *Dasia* Gray 1839, explicitly).

Trachylepidinae Hedges & Conn 2012: 29 (type genus *Trachylepis* Fitzinger 1843, explicitly).

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