

# 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on **Biodiversity**

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## **The *Liasis* Lexicon: Breaking-down the genus and its new place in Australasian herpetology**

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The *Liasis* genus represents four-well, now five species of Australasia pythons, all filling various ecological niches; pythons in the *Liasis* genus also represent some of the most successful pythons in the dawn of the Anthropocene. Although all species in the genus are phenotypically speaking, quite similar, there is a great deal of genetic drift and sub-speciation that has been at the center of many taxonomy savvy herpetologist; numerous genera have now been either assimilated into *Liasis* or at one point in time been classified as a monotypic genus outside the parent genus. Such a species, the Papuan python has been in-and-out of the genus for the better part of a century-and-a-half and has recently been stripped of their *Apodora* exclusivity. The Reynolds paper that was officially published in early February of 2014 represents, to date, the most concrete, well-executed attempt at shading the grays within the Pythonidae and Boidae families. By pooling sample animals from a study group that later amounted to a species-level phylogeny of eighty-three-percent, *Toward a Tree-of-Life for the boas and pythons: Multilocus species-level phylogeny with unprecedented taxon sampling* represents a pinnacle shift in both Pythonidae and Boidae nomenclature and the *Liasis* genus subsequently found itself in a game of musical chairs. However, should heavy deforestation and harsh irrigation practices continue to run rampant, there may not be a single chair left for them to occupy when the music is cut-off.

### **Biography**

Matt Charnock is a well-practiced Dynamic Conservationist occupying numerous outreach mediums. He has worked hand-in-hand with various nonprofits from around the world, promoting the connection between a healthier, more stable community and the sustainability of its endemic ecosystem. He also writes for various branding publications and news outlets, totted as being a "creative wordsmith with a passion for preservation". He also participates in speaking engagements hosted by Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department highlighting the state's faunal diversity.

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