

Mark Hutchinson – Professional biography notes

Current status

Retired 2019 after 29 years as Curator/ Senior Researcher in Herpetology, SA Museum

Affiliations

Honorary Researcher, South Australian Museum

Affiliate Senior Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences, University of Adelaide

Adjunct Associate Professor, College of Science and Engineering, Flinders University

Tertiary Education/Qualifications

BSc (Honours), PhD – La Trobe University, Melbourne, 1984

Research

- Diversity and evolution of reptiles and amphibians
- Conservation and distribution of reptiles in South Australia; especially the endangered pygmy bluetongue lizard
- Taxonomy of Australian reptiles
- Lizard and snake skeletal anatomy and function
- Fossil history of Australian lizards
- Author/coauthor on over 140 scientific articles and four books.

Research/Career Highlights

- Postdoctoral fellowships to the USA that helped me begin my scientific career
- Being part of a biological collecting expedition to Krakatau
- New species discoveries – with colleagues have described 36 new species, revised or clarified the status of numerous others.
- Fossil descriptions, including one of the last of the extinct temnospondyl amphibians, the first fossil of Australia's endemic legless lizard family, the pygopods, and a giant Ice Age relative of the shingleback lizard.
- Setting up and working on the long-term research (since 1992) that has been aimed at saving the endangered pygmy bluetongue lizard
- Catching and co-describing the first specimen of the western desert taipan, still Australia's rarest dangerous snake
- Field work in Australia in pursuit of reptiles from Tasmanian mountain tops to the heart of the Australian deserts

