# A phylogeny for side-necked turtles (Chelonia: Pleurodira) based on mitochondrial and nuclear gene sequence variation 

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#### Abstract

Aspects of the phylogeny of pleurodiran turtles are contentious, particularly within the Chelidae. Morphological analyses group the long-necked Australasian Chelodina and the longnecked South American Chelus and Hydromedusa into a single clade, suggesting a common derived origin of the long neck and associated habits that predated the separation of Australia from South America. In contrast, published analyses of $12 S r R N A$ and cytochrome $b$ sequences suggest that the long-necked Chelodina are more closely related to the short-necked Australasian genera than to cither Chelus or Hydromedusa. This paper adds partial sequences of $16 S \sim R N A$ and COI mitochondrial genes and partial sequences of the nuclear oncogene c-mos to test a range of previous hypotheses on the phylogenetic relationships among chelid turtles. In total, 1382 nucleotides were available for each of 25 taxa after elimination of ambiguously aligned regions. These taxa included representatives of all the genera of the turtle families Chelidae and Pelomedusidae, the three sub-genera of Phrynops, and recognized sub-generic groups of Elseya and Chelodina. Of the four genes examined, $12 S r$ RNA was the most informative, followed by c-mos with $16 S r$ RNA and CO the least informative. The molecular data support the currently accepted arrangement for pelomedusid genera, that is, a sister relationship between the African Pelusios and Pelomedusa and a clade comprising the South American Peltocephalus and Podocnemis with the Madagascan Evymochelys. However, there is also support for Enymochelys and Podocnemis as sister taxa to the exclusion of Peltocephalus (bootstrap values of $69-80 \%$ ) which is at odds with the most commonly accepted arrangement. The South American chelids are monophyletic ( $76-82 \%$ ). This clade includes the long-necked Chelus and Hydromedusa, but excludes the Australasian long-necked Chelodina. Furthermore, the South American long-necked chelids are not themselves monophyletic, with $98-100 \%$ bootstrap values for the node supporting Chelus and the remaining South American chelids to the exclusion of Hydromedusa. Hence, the hypothesis of a monophyletic grouping of the longnecked genera of South America and Australasia is not supported by the molecular data. Although reciprocal monophyly of the South American and Australasian chelid faunas was the most likely and the most parsimonious arrangement in all but one analysis, bootstrap support for the monophyly of the Australasian chelids was low ( $52-66 \%$ ). The South American chelids, Chelodina and the short-necked Australasian chelids form an unresolved trichotomy. The genera Phrynops and Elseya are paraphyletic, leading to a recommendation


[^0]to elevate the three sub-genera of Phrynops to generic status and support for previous suggestions to erect a new genus for Elseya latistermum and close relatives. A revised classification of the extant Pleurodira is presented, consistent with the phylogenetic relationships that emerge from this study.
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ADDITIONAL KEY WORDS:-Turtle - mtDNA - c-mos - phylogeny - systematics Chelidae - Pelomedusidae.

## CONTENTS

Introduction . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 214
Material and methods . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 216
Sources of DNA . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 216
DNA isolation, PCR amplification and sequencing . . . . . . . . . 216
Analysis of sequence data . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 218
Specimens examined . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 219
Results . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 220
Sequence data . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 220
Phylogenetic analyses . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 221
Consensus of all analyses . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 227
Discussion . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 228
Acknowledgements . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 235
References . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 235
Appendix . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 239

## INTRODUCTION

Two living families of side-necked turtles (sub-order Pleurodira) have traditionally been recognized. The Chelidae is represented by eleven genera-Acanthochelys, Chelus, Hydromedusa, Phrynops and Platemys of South America and Chelodina, Emydura, Elseya, Elusor, Pseudemydura and Rheodytes of the Australasian region. Their fossil record extends back to the Upper Cretaceous of South America (de Broin, 1987) and the Miocene of Australia (Gaffney, Archer \& White, 1989), but no fossil chelids are known from outside the present range of the family (Williams, 1953a, b; Gaffney, 1991). All but one species of Australian freshwater turtle are chelids, which is the only clear Gondwanan group of Australian reptiles. The second family, Pelomedusidae, comprises five extant genera from South America (Podocnemis, Peltocephalus), Africa (Pelusios, Pelomedusa) and Madagascar (Erymnochelys). Its fossil record is far more extensive than that of the chelids, being drawn from deposits in Europe, North and South America, Africa, India and Asia, and their fossil record dates back to the Cretaceous (Pritchard, 1979).

Several aspects of the phylogeny of these animals are contentious, particularly within the Chelidae. The very early literature splits the Chelidae into two groups those with a neck shorter than the shell (Phrynops, Platemys, Elseya and Emydura) and those with longer necks (Chelus, Hydromedusa and Chelodina) (Boulenger, 1888). More recently, Gaffney (1977) presented the first comprehensive phylogeny of chelid turtles, based on a cladistic analysis of cranial and postcranial skeletal characters. Consistent with the earlier view, his analysis grouped the long-necked Australasian Chelodina and the long-necked South American Chelus and Hydromedusa into a single clade. Similarly, de Broin and Fuente (1993) grouped Chelodina and Hydromedusa
together on consideration of fossil material from Argentina. This suggests a common derived origin of the long neck and associated habits that predated or was coincident with the separation of Australia and Antarctica from South America. Pritchard (1984) took a more functional approach to his interpretation of characters. For example, the development of a long neck requires expansion of the anterior plastral lobe and the anterior carapace to accommodate and protect the neck when withdrawn. Pritchard argues that turtles in the three genera have achieved this in fundamentally different ways, indicating independent origins of the long neck, with supporting evidence from a range of other characters. Pritchard does not regard any of the genera as being particularly closely related, but regards Hydromedusa as more closely related to Chelus than to Chelodina.

Seddon et al. (1997) used partial $12 S r R N A$ mitochondrial gene sequences to establish a phylogeny in which the Australasian chelids form a monophyletic assemblage, the long-necked Chelodina being more closely related to the short-necked Australasian genera than to either Chelus or Hydromedusa. Hydromedusa is ambiguously placed as one branch of an unresolved trichotomy, with the Australasian chelids representing a second branch and the other South American chelids a third. Chelus is the sister taxon to the subgenus Phrynops (Phrynops) (see also Kasper, 1903). In a broader analysis involving all turtle families and both molecular and morphological data, Shaffer, Meylan \& McKnight (1997) found that the morphological data consistently grouped Chelodina with Chelus, whereas the molecular data ( $12 \mathrm{~S} r \mathrm{RNA}$ and cytochrome $b$ combined) supported the monophyly of each of the Australasian and South American forms. The morphological analyses of Gaffney (1977), Pritchard (1984), de Broin and Fuente (1993) and Shaffer et al. (1997) are equivocal, and the molecular data are limited in terms of either the number of chelid genera examined (Shaffer et al., 1997 lacked Hydromedusa) or the number of genes examined (Seddon et al., 1997 examined 12S rRNA only). The issue of the monophyly of each of the Australasian and South American chelid turtles in general, and the relationships among the long-necked chelid turtles in particular, is yet to be satisfactorily resolved.

The study of Seddon et al. (1997) failed to resolve a series of important questions, tantalizingly suggested by the parsimony analysis but receiving insufficient support following bootstrapping and majority consensus. Hydromedusa, a taxon of considerable antiquity (early Eocene; Wood \& Moody, 1976), could not be placed reliably in the chelid phylogeny, and remained part of a deep unresolved trichotomy. Nor could the analysis unambiguously resolve any relationships among the short-necked Australian genera Emydura, Elseya, Rheodytes and Elusor. At issue here also is the paraphyly of the genus Elseya, first indicated by allozyme electrophoresis (Georges \& Adams, 1992), supported by the parsimony analysis of Seddon et al. but not their bootstrap consensus. It may well be that these genera arose from a series of rapid cladogenic events, with little time for the accumulation of character states that could potentially resolve the branching patterns. Further data are required to make a convincing case for intractable rapid cladogenesis on the one hand, or to reveal the phylogenetic relationships among these taxa on the other.

In this paper, we increase the molecular data available to establish a phylogeny for the side-necked turtles, with the addition of partial sequences of $16 \mathrm{~S} r \mathrm{RNA}$ and COl mitochondrial genes and partial sequences of the nuclear oncogene c-mos to the $12 S r R N A$ sequences of Seddon et al. (1997). Sequences of $12 S r R N A$ for two additional lineages of Australian chelids identified by Georges and Adams (1992, 1996) were also added. We test a range of previous hypotheses on the phylogenetic
relationships among chelid turtles, including those of Gaffney (1977), Burbidge, Kirsch \& Main (1974), Seddon et al. (1997), and Shaffer et al. (1997) for consistency with this expanded data set. We attempt to resolve several polytomies in these earlier phylogenies and make recommendations for altering the current chelid classification to remove instances of paraphyly at the generic level.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

## Sources of DNA

Blood or liver was available from 25 taxa representing all the currently recognized genera of the turtle families Chelidae and Pelomedusidae, the three sub-genera of Phrynops and the sub-generic groups within Elseya and Chelodina (sensu Legler, 1981). Acanthochelys pallidipectoris (Freiberg, 1945), Chelus fimbriata (Schneider, 1783), Hydromedusa tectifera Cope, 1869, Phrynops (Batrachemys) nasutus (Schweigger, 1812), Phrynops (Mesoclemmys) gibbus (Schweigger, 1812), Phrynops (Phrynops) geoffroanus (Schweigger, 1812), and Platemys platycephala (Schneider, 1792) of the Chelidae, and Peltocephalus dumerilianus (Schweigger, 1812) and Podocnemis expansa (Schweigger, 1812) of the Pelomedusidae are from South America. Chelodina longicollis (Shaw, 1794), Chelodina oblonga Gray, 1841, Chelodina rugosa Ogilby, 1890, Elseya dentata (Gray, 1863), Elseya georgesi Cann, 1997, Elseya purvisi Wells \& Wellington, 1985, Elseya latisternum Gray, 1867, Elusor macrurus Cann \& Legler, 1994, Emydura macquarï (Gray, 1830), Emydura macquarii (formerly signata Ahl, 1932), Pseudemydura umbrina Siebenrock, 1901, and Rheodytes leukops Legler and Cann, 1990 of the Chelidae are from Australia. Pelomedusids Pelomedusa subrufa (Bonaterre, 1789) and Pelusios sinuatus (Smith, 1838) are from Africa and Erymnochelys madagascariensis (Grandidier, 1867) is from Madagascar. Hereinafter, the binomial names of these taxa will be abbreviated to their genus or to their genus and subgenus, unless two or more taxa from the same genus have been sequenced.

## DNA isolation, $P C R$ amplification and sequencing

Partial sequences of $16 S r R N A$ and $C O 1$ were obtained for each of the 25 taxa. Sequences of $12 S r R N A$ were obtained from Seddon et al. (1997), supplemented by additional sequences for a sibling species pair (Georges \& Adams, 1996), Elseya georgesi (Cann 1997) and Elseya purvisi (Wells \& Wellington, 1985). The c-mos gene was sequenced for the following 12 taxa only: Chelodina oblonga, C. rugosa, Elseya dentata, Elusor, Rheodytes, Hydromedusa, Chelus, Phrynops (Phrynops), Phrynops (Mesoclemmys), and Acanthochelys as ingroup taxa; the pelomedusids Pelomedusa and Podocnemis as outgroup taxa. These taxa were considered sufficient to address the central hypothesis of the reciprocal monophyly of the South American and Australasian chelid faunas, and specifically the relationships amongst long-necked forms. Although they would be relevant to such hypotheses, reliable c-mos sequences could not be obtained for Pseudemydura.

Total cellular DNA was extracted from frozen liver by the standard phenolchloroform method (Sambrook, Fritsch \& Maniatis, 1989). Portions of the mitochondrial $12 S r R N A, 16 S r R N A$ and cytochrome oxidase 1 (CO1) genes were amplified

Table 1. Details of the PCR and sequencing primers designed in the present study. Letter in parentheses after each primer name represents strand (L, H) or direction (R,F)

| Gene | Primer | Sequence |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 16S rRNA | M89 (L) | 5'-AGGAGTGATGCCTGCCCAGTGAC-3' |
| $16 S$ rRNA | M90 (H) | 5'-CCTTAATAGCGGCTGCACCATTAGGA-3' |
| COI | M72 (L) | $5^{\prime}$-TGATTCTTCGGGTCACCCAGAAGTGTA-3' |
| COI | M73 (H) | 5'-CCTATTGATAGGACGTAGTGGAAGTG-3' |
| c-mos | G136 (F) | $5^{\prime}$-AAGCAGGTGAAGAAATGCAG-3' |
| c-mos | G137 (R) | $5^{\prime}$-TCCAATCTTGCACACACCC-3' |

and sequenced with the following primer pairs: L1091/H1478 (Kocher et al., 1989) for $12 S r R N A, 16 s a r / 16 s b r$ (Cunningham, Blackstone \& Buss, 1992) and M89/90 (Table 1) for 16 S rRNA, and COlf-L/COla-H (Palumbi et al., 1991) and M72/ M73 (Table 1) for CO1. Partial c-mos sequences were obtained with primers G73/ G74 (Saint et al., 1998) or G136/G137 (Table 1). The PCR conditions were: 50100 ng of DNA, $0.25 \mu \mathrm{M}$ of each primer, 0.2 mM of each dNTP, 4 mM of $\mathrm{MgCl}_{2}$, $5 \mu$ l of $10 \times$ Promega Taq buffer and 0.75 units of Promega Taq DNA polymerase in a reaction volume of $50 \mu$ l. PCR cycling conditions on a FTS-320 Thermal Sequencer (Corbett Research) were: cycle $1\left(94^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ for $3 \mathrm{~min}, 48^{\circ}$ or $55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 45 sec , $72^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 min$)$; cycles 2 to $35\left(94^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ for $45 \mathrm{sec}, 48^{\circ}$ or $55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for $45 \mathrm{sec}, 72^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for $1 \mathrm{~min})$; cycle $36\left(72^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ for 6 min , hold at room temperature). PCR products were purified using Bresa-Clean Nucleic Acid Purification Kit (Bresatec). Sequences of both strands were obtained with the same PCR primers by direct sequencing of the double-stranded PCR product using Perkin Elmer ABI PRISM Dye Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Kit. Sequence reactions were electrophoresed on the ABI Model 373A DNA Sequencer or the ABI Model 377 PRISM DNA Sequencer. GenBank accession numbers are: c-mos AF109200-9; 12S AF095893-4; 16S AF113620-43; CO1 AF113644-67.

To test whether sequences were nuclear paralogues of mitochondrial genes (Zhang \& Hewitt, 1996) rather than the target mitochondrial genes, we carried out the following procedures. First, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) was enriched from frozen liver of Chelodina longicollis [188, refer to Specimens Examined below] by the caesiumchloride ultra-centrifugation method of Dowling et al. (1996). Sequences for the three mitochondrial genes were obtained from this enriched mtDNA template and compared to sequences obtained from total cellular DNA amplifications.

Second, long-range PCR was used to amplify an almost complete copy of the mitochondrial genome for three other DNA samples (Elseya purvisi [130], Emydura macquarii (formerly signata $[33,34]$ )) on the assumption that intact entire mitochondrial genomes are far less likely to be translocated to the nucleus. The long-range PCR products were then diluted and used as templates for the nested amplification of $16 S r R N A$ genes and CO1 genes. Direct sequences of these products were compared with sequences obtained from total cellular DNA amplifications. The long range PCR was carried out with primer pair H1478 and M89 (op cit.) using the XL PCR kit (Perkin Elmer) containing the enzyme rTth Polymerase. The PCR cycling conditions on a FTS-320 Thermal Sequencer (Corbett Research) were: cycles 1 to $16\left(94^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ for $90 \mathrm{sec}, 68^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 10 min$)$; cycles 17 to $28\left(94^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ for $30 \mathrm{sec}, 68^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 10 min and increments of 15 sec per cycle for 12 cycles); cycle $29\left(72^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$ for 10 min , hold at room temperature).

We verified that the long-range PCR product was the only template amplified in the nested PCR of the $16 \mathrm{~S} r \mathrm{RNA}$ and $\mathrm{CO1}$ genes. The original total cellular DNA template was diluted to a level equivalent to that which the total cellular DNA would have undergone in the passage through the long range and nested PCR amplifications described above. When PCR was applied to this diluted solution, no amplification of $16 S r R N A$ or $\mathrm{CO1}$ was observed. This indicates that the original total cellular DNA did not contribute to the nested amplification from the diluted long-range product.

Finally, the protein encoding sequences of COl were translated with MEGA (Kumar, Tamura \& Nei, 1993)) to detect possible shifts in reading frame and premature stop codons likely to be characteristic of nuclear paralogues.

## Analysis of sequence data

The mitochondrial and nuclear coding sequences were aligned by eye and noncoding sequences were aligned using CLUSTAL W (Thompson, Higgins \& Gibson, 1994). For the ribosomal RNA sequences, regions where the alignment was ambiguous, that is, regions that required large numbers of indels to optimize the alignment, were deleted from the analyses (see Appendix).

The phylogenetic analysis was undertaken in three stages. The first stage involved analyses of a restricted taxon set for which c-mos sequences were available (the 12 taxa listed above), in addition to sequences for $12 \mathrm{~S} r$ RNA, $16 \mathrm{~S} r$ RNA and CO1. Analysis by Shaffer et al. (1997) gave strong additional support for the wellaccepted notion of reciprocal monophyly of the Chelidae and its sister lineage, the Pelomedusidae. Hence, the pelomedusids were used as the outgroup for analysis of relationships within the Chelidae. Where possible, data from separate genes were combined in the phylogenetic reconstructions. The sequence data for different genes was tested for combinability using the Partition Homogeneity Test (Huelsenbeck, Bull \& Cunningham, 1996) implemented in test version 4.0 d 60 of PAUP* written by D.L. Swofford and executed on a Sun Sparc Station and an Apple LC630. If the data partitions failed this test, they were analysed separately rather than in a combined analysis (Bull et al., 1993).

The second stage of the analysis involved the 25 taxa for which sequences of mitochondrial $12 S r R N A, 16 S r R N A$ and CO 1 were available. For 16 taxa (those for which material was available), two individuals were sequenced to identify potential mislabeling or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) contamination. In most cases, sequences of the two specimens of the same taxon did not differ. To reduce the number of taxa in the interests of efficiency of analysis, all but one of the specimens of Elseya purvisi [130] were discarded from the analysis, as they differed by only one base substitution over all sequences. Similarly, Emydura macquarii (formerly signata) was removed from the analysis as it differed by only ten substitutions from $E$. macquarii proper over all sequences and in preliminary analyses they were always strongly supported sister lineages. Thus 23 taxa remained for analysis. Again, pelomedusids were used as the outgroup for the analysis of chelid relationships. Sequences for all five extant pelomedusid taxa were included. Partition homogeneity tests of combinability were again applied to determine if sequence data from different genes could be pooled for analysis.

The third stage involved analyses of monophyletic subsets of taxa for which a
clear outgroup taxon was available. Both the monophyly of the ingroup and the status of the outgroup were established in stages 1 and 2 of the analysis. This enabled us to combine the sequence data of different genes for the reduced subset of taxa, data that were heterogeneous across the full range of taxa in the stage 2 analysis.

Phylogenetic tree-building algorithms were based on both a maximum parsimony (MP) analysis, with and without weightings for transition/transversion ( $\mathrm{ts} / \mathrm{tv}$ ) ratios, and a maximum likelihood (ML) analysis using PAUP*. The ts/tv ratios, estimated separately for each of the sequence data sets using maximum likelihood were applied to each dataset in the weighted parsimony analyses. Branch and bound searches were used for smaller data sets, and heuristic searches with the ACCTRAN option were used for larger data sets. In the ML analysis, the mean ts/tv ratio was calculated across genes in the analysis to obtain weightings. The Hasegawa-Kishino-Yano (1985) twoparameter model for unequal base frequencies was implemented using empirical base frequencies, and equal rates were assumed for all sites unless otherwise specified.

The above approach of using MP analysis, with and without weightings, and ML analysis can generate many trees, with considerable differences among topologies. Clades to emerge from these analyses were tested for their robustness using bootstrapping ( 2000 pseudoreplicates for MP and 100 pseudoreplicates for ML) (Felsenstein, 1985). Bootstrapping can provide a relative ranking of the degree of support in an analysis for the recovered clades (Hills \& Bull, 1993). Throughout this paper, we refer to bootstrap values $<50 \%$ as not supported, bootstrap values between 50 and $70 \%$ as weakly supported, values $\geq 70 \%$ as strongly supported. Our approach was to accept only strongly supported nodes (those with $\geq 70 \%$ bootstrap support), because in simulations such nodes accurately reflect true underlying nodes $95 \%$ of the time, under not too restrictive assumptions (Hillis \& Bull, 1993, but see Felsenstein \& Kishino, 1993). We then obtained a consensus of strongly supported results over all analyses to construct a single well-supported hypothesis of relationships among the pleurodiran turtles.

We also compared the weighted MP hypotheses obtained in the present study with published alternative phylogenetic hypotheses (e.g. Burbidge et al., 1974; Gaffney, 1977; Legler, 1981; Seddon et al., 1997). In cases where the published hypothesis was not a fully specified tree, the hypothesis was defined as a constraint in a subsequent search for the most parsimonious tree(s). We then compared the resultant constrained MP trees with the most parsimonious solution to emerge from our unweighted analysis of the same genes, using a Templeton test (Templeton, 1983). We typically used a one-tailed test because the constrained tree can only be equal to or longer than the branch and bound solution for the MP tree. In cases where an heuristic search was used to obtain the MP tree, it is possible for the constrained tree to be shorter, so a two-tailed test was applied.

In a final analysis, allozyme data of Georges and Adams (1992) were re-analysed, treating loci as characters and alleles as character states, using PAUP* where multistate characters were interpreted as polymorphisms. The allozyme data were then combined with the sequence data for taxa with both forms of data available.

## Specimens examined

Australian Chelidae: Chelodina longicollis, Gwydir R., NSW, AMS R123051[188], R123052[189], R123056[194]; Chelodina oblonga, Perth Region, WA, AMS

R125478[229], R125479[230]; Chelodina rugosa, South Alligator R., NTM R13434[262], R13437[266], R13439[271]; Elseya dentata, Victoria River, NT, NTM R13521 [258], R13523[261]; Elseya georgesi, Bellinger R., NSW, AMS R123046[159]; Elseya latisternum, Tweed R., NSW, AMS R123032[172], Burnett R., Qld, QM J48017[80], J48024[81]; Elseya purvisi, Manning R., NSW, AMS R120966[129], R120967[130], R123040[140]; Elusor macrurus, Mary R., Qld, AM R125484[280], AMS R125485[281]; Emydura macquarii, Murray R, NSW, AMS R120953[119], R120956[122]; Emydura macquarii (formerly signata), Brisbane R., Qld QMJ48053[34], J48056[33], Clarence R., NSW, AMS R123008[137]; Pseudemydura umbrina, Perth, WA, no voucher specimen, [o29LIV]; Rheodytes leukops, Fitzroy R., Qld., AMS R125481[232]. South American chelids: Acanthochelys pallidipectoris, Chaco Region, Argentina, MCC [574], [548]; Chelus fimbriata, Guyana, MCC [839], [842], [896]; Hydromedusa tectifera, Rio Santa Lucia, Uruguay, MCC [575], [579], [587]; Phrynops (Batrachemys) nasutus, Guyana, MCC [838]; Phrynops (Mesoclemmys) gibbus, Surinam/ Guyana, MCC [Y021]; Phrynops (Phrynops) geoffroanus, Guyana, MCC [576], [598], [PG89-64]; Platemys platycephala, Surinam/Guyana, MCC [550], [572], [885]. Pelomedusidae: Eyymnochelys madagascariensis, Madagascar, MCC [850]; Pelomedusa subrufa, Togo, West Africa, MCC [866] [898]; Peltocephalus dumerilianus; San Carlos, Venezuela, MCC [860]; Pelusios sinuatus, Tanzania, MCC [835], [879]; Podocnemis expansa, Brazil, MCC [874], [877]. Abbreviations: AMS, Australian Museum, Sydney; QM, Queensland Museum, Brisbane; NTM, Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin; MCC, live specimen collection of William P. McCord; NSW, New South Wales; Qld, Queensland; NT, Northern Territory. Museum voucher specimens were not lodged for specimens held by William McCord. Diagnostic photographs are held at the University of Canberra by the senior author. Numbers in square brackets are tissue label numbers.

## RESULTS

## Sequence data

Lengths of the aligned sequences were 394 base pairs (bp) for $12 S r R N A, 474 \mathrm{bp}$ for $16 S r R N A, 345 \mathrm{bp}$ for $\mathrm{CO1}$ and 365 bp for c-mos. Excluding ambiguously aligned sequences reduced the base pairs available for analysis to 352 for $12 S r R N A$ and to 368 for $16 S r R N A$ (Appendix). There was a 6 base-pair (two codon) indel starting at position 209 in the c-mos alignment. No stop codons or reading frame shifts were detected in the either of the two protein encoding sequences, CO1 and c-mos.

There were no differences between the sequences of CO 1 and $16 S$ rRNA derived from total cellular DNA and those derived from purified mtDNA, for Chelodina longicollis. Similarly, sequences derived from PCR amplification of long-range PCR template and total cellular template did not differ for Emydura macquarii (formerly signata) or Elseya purvisi. These results, together with the absence of frame shifts or premature stop codons in the $\mathrm{CO1}$ sequence data, provide no evidence that nuclear paralogues of mitochondrial genes have been amplified in place of the target gene sequences.

Transition/transversion (ts/tv) ratios were estimated for each of the genes, using the entire data at hand for each gene. They were 2.4 for $\mathrm{CO1}, 1.9$ for $16 \mathrm{~S} r \mathrm{RNA}$
1.55 for $12 S r R N A$ and 2.02 for c-mos. For analyses of data combined across two or more genes, we used the average $\mathrm{ts} / \mathrm{tv}$ ratios of the included genes.

## Phylogenetic analyses

## Reduced taxon set (mitochondrial and nuclear data)

A total of 1382 characters from the $12 S$ and $16 \mathrm{~S} r \mathrm{RNA}, \mathrm{CO1}$ and c-mos genes were available after elimination of ambiguously aligned regions. For COl sequences, the total number of sites available, the number of sites that were invariant, the number of sites that were variable but cladistically uninformative and the number of sites that were informative in the unweighted parsimony analyses were 344/214/ 39/91 overall, 229/202/17/10 for the first and second codon positions only and $115 / 12 / 22 / 81$ for the third position only. For $12 S r R N A$ the corresponding figures were $331 / 161 / 77 / 93$, for $16 S r R N A$ they were $342 / 230 / 65 / 47$ and for c-mos they were $365 / 293 / 41 / 31$. We also estimated the relative information in each gene by conducting bootstrap analyses separately on each of the genes under the same conditions as the combined dataset. The $12 S r R N A$ gene provided the greatest resolution (had the most concordant information) with between five (weighted and unweighted MP) and seven (ML) of eight possible nodes receiving 70\% or greater bootstrap support within the chelid clade. The c-mos gene supported between four (unweighted MP) and five (weighted MP, ML) nodes, the $16 S r R N A$ gene between two (ML) and four (unweighted MP) nodes, and the CO1 gene between two (unweighted MP) and four (weighted MP) nodes.

Partition homogeneity tests revealed significant heterogeneity when data for all four genes were included in the comparisons ( $P<0.02$ ). Topological comparisons revealed that two of four supported nodes in the CO 1 chelid trees were in conflict with both the $12 S r R N A$ and c-mos trees. All conflicts were amongst the South American taxa, excluding Hydromedusa. No significant heterogeneity among genes remained after the removal of $\mathrm{CO1}(P=0.56)$. Data for the $\mathrm{CO1}$ gene were therefore analysed separately, with the analysis deferred until all taxa were considered (see below).

The weighted and unweighted parsimony analyses for the two ribosomal rRNA genes and the c-mos gene combined yielded the same equally most parsimonious trees (two trees only, with length of the unweighted trees $=599$ steps). The strict consensus of these two MP trees, the bootstrap consensus tree for the MP analysis and the bootstrap consensus tree for the ML analysis were topologically identical (Fig. 1). Where they were significant ( $\geq 70 \%$ ), bootstrap proportions for the weighted MP analysis were usually greater than those of the unweighted MP analysis (Fig. 1), indicating that the influence of homoplasy was reduced by the down-weighting of transitions, the class of substitutions more likely to be influenced by saturation.

There are two substantive conclusions to be drawn here. First, the South American chelids are monophyletic (bootstrap values of $77 / 70 / 89 \%$ for the unweighted MP, weighted MP and ML analyses respectively - this order will be followed in presenting bootstrap values from hereon). This clade includes the long-necked Chelus and Hydromedusa, but excludes the Australasian long-necked Chelodina. Furthermore, the South American long-necked chelids are not monophyletic, with 99-100\% bootstrap values for the node supporting monophyly of Chelus and the remaining South American chelids to the exclusion of Hydromedusa. Unfortunately, the analyses were


Figure 1. A phylogeny for 10 genera of pleurodiran turtles generated from partial sequences of mitochondrial $12 S r R N A$ and $16 S r R N A$ and the nuclear oncogene c-mos using the criterion of maximum likelihood. The three values shown on each of several nodes are the bootstrap percentages for maximum parsimony analysis (unweighted), maximum parsimony analysis (weighted) and maximum likelihood analysis respectively. Bootstrap values are shown only for nodes with $70 \%$ or greater bootstrap support in one or more analyses. Taxa shown in parentheses are subgenera of Phrynops.
uninformative on the question of the monophyly of the Australasian chelids (Fig. 1). One of the unweighted MP trees, the weighted MP tree and the ML tree had the Australasian and South American chelids as reciprocally monophyletic, as shown in Figure 1. The second unweighted MP tree had Chelodina as sister to all other chelids. Neither of these arrangements received strong bootstrap support in any analysis ( $52 / 66 / 65 \%$ for reciprocal monophyly), so we failed to resolve a trichotomy involving the South American chelids, Chelodina and the short-necked Australian chelids (excluding Pseudemydura). The second substantive conclusion to emerge from this analysis is that the genus Phrynops is paraphyletic. There was very strong bootstrap support (93/89/90\%) for the node uniting Phrynops (Mesoclemmys) with Acanthochelys to the exclusion of Phrynops (Phrynops) in all analyses (Fig. 1).

Our unweighted, unconstrained MP trees were both significantly shorter at 599 steps than the most parsimonious trees constrained by Gaffney's (1977) hypothesis of a close relationship between Chelodina, Chelus and Hydromedusa ( 620 steps, $\mathrm{z}=3.01$, $P<0.003, n=37$ ). Our MP trees provided a better explanation for 29 characters whereas Gaffney's hypothesis provided a better explanation for eight characters. Overall, our trees were 21 steps shorter. Our MP trees were both also significantly shorter than those constrained by Gaffney's fully specified phylogenetic hypothesis ( 632 steps, $\mathrm{z}=3.70,3.76, P<0.0002, n=58,56$ ). Our MP trees provided a better explanation for $44-45$ characters whereas Gaffney's hypothesis provided a better explanation for 12-13 characters. Overall, our trees were 33 steps shorter. Clearly, Gaffney's hypothesis of sister relationships among the long-necked chelids is not supported.

All taxa (mitochondrial data only)
A total of 1017 characters from the CO1, $12 S r R N A$ and $16 S r R N A$ sequences were available for analys after elimination of ambiguously aligned regions. For CO 1 sequences from the 23 taxa, the total number of sites available, the number of sites that were invariant, the number of sites that were variable but cladistically uninformative and the number of sites that were informative in the unweighted parsimony analyses were $344 / 182 / 46 / 116$ overall, $229 / 175 / 35 / 19$ for the first and second codon positions only and 115/7/11/97 for the third position only. For $12 S$ $r R N A$ the corresponding figures were 331/118/79/134 and for $16 S r R N A$ they were 342/195/78/69 with a total of 203 informative sites in the combined rRNA data.

Partition homogeneity tests of the $12 S r R N A$ and $16 S r R N A$ data sets revealed no significant heterogeneity $(P=0.28)$, allowing the two data sets to be combined for an overall analysis. CO1 was excluded on the basis of significant heterogeneity in the restricted taxon dataset described above, and has been analysed separately.

Owing to the relatively large number of taxa, all searches were heuristic. For the ribosomal RNA genes, we initially used 46 random stepwise additions of the input order of the taxa to test the efficiency of the heuristic search mode. All 46 searches found the same tree, so further heuristic searches were conducted with a single taxon input order. However, random stepwise additions were implemented in all heuristic searches of the CO1 data, as single taxon input order searches were less efficient, presumably due to the larger number of equally most parsimonious trees.

Both the weighted and the unweighted parsimony analyses for the two ribosomal rRNA genes combined yielded the same single most parsimonious tree (length 823 steps) which differed topologically from the ML tree (Fig. 2) in only one respect. In the MP tree, Elseya dentata was the sister taxon to a clade comprising Emydura macquari, Elseya latisternum and Elseya georgesi whereas the ML tree had Elseya dentata as the sister taxon to all short-necked Australasian species excluding Pseudemydura. Neither of these arrangements received significant bootstrap support however (<54\%), with the Elseya, Elusor, Emydura and Rheodytes forming an unresolved polytomy in both the MP and ML analyses. As the topological difference between the ML and MP trees is not supported by bootstrapping, only the ML tree is presented, though it shows bootstrap support from all three analyses (Fig. 2).

The South American and Australasian chelids were reciprocally monophyletic in all three analyses, although this result was not supported or only weakly supported by bootstrapping. There was strong bootstrap support for the monophyly of the South American chelids $(82 / 76 / 79 \%)$ and even stronger support for the monophyly of the South American forms excluding Hydromedusa $(98 / 99 / 100 \%)$. There was also strong bootstrap support for sister relationships between Acanthochelys and Platemys (95/95/93\%) and between Phrynops (Batrachemys) nasutus and P. (Mesoclemmys) gibbus (100\%).

Bootstrap support for the monophyly of the Australasian chelids was weak (62/ $54 / 66 \%)$. The short-necked Australasian forms, Chelodina, and the South American chelids essentially form an unresolved trichotomy. Within the Australasian chelids, a monophyletic Chelodina lineage was highly supported (100/99/100\%). Within Chelodina, there was strong support for a sister species relationship between Chelodina longicollis and Chelodina oblonga (82/89/82\%), despite Chelodina oblonga superficially being more similar to Chelodina rugosa on morphological grounds (Legler \& Georges 1993). There was poor bootstrap support for the monophyly of the short-neck Australasian chelids in all but the ML analysis ( $64 / 58 / 77 \%$ ). This result arose


Figure 2. A phylogeny for the genera of pleurodiran turtles generated from partial sequences of mitochondrial $12 S r R N A$ and $16 S r R N A$ using the criterion of maximum likelihood. The three values shown on each of several nodes are the bootstrap percentages for maximum parsimony analysis (unweighted), maximum parsimony analysis (weighted) and maximum likelihood analysis respectively. Bootstrap values are shown only for nodes with $70 \%$ or greater bootstrap support in one or more analyses. Taxa shown in parentheses are subgenera of Phrynops.
primarily because of Pseudemydura, as bootstrap support for the monophyly of the other short-neck forms was strong ( $95 / 94 / 96 \%$ ). None of the relationships among the short-neck forms (Fig. 2), excluding Pseudemydura, received strong support from bootstrapping.

Two relationships within the outgroup Pelomedusidae received strong bootstrap support from the weighted and unweighted MP analyses and the ML analysis. The first was a sister relationship between Pelomedusa and Pelusios ( $100 \%$ in all three cases). The second was a sister relationship between Erymnochelys and Podocnemis, which was strongly supported by bootstrapping of the unweighted MP tree ( $80 \%$ ) and the ML analysis ( $76 \%$ ) but with moderate support from the weighted MP analysis ( $69 \%$ ). Monophyly of the group comprising Peltocephalus, Erymnochelys and Podocnemis is strongly supported by bootstrapping of the ML tree ( $72 \%$ ) but receives less support from the unweighted MP analysis ( $62 \%$ ) and the weighted MP analysis (65\%).

The unweighted parsimony analysis of COl produced eight equally parsimonious trees of length 565 steps. The weighted analysis produced a single most parsimonious tree. Only two nodes received unanimous bootstrap support across the two MP analyses and the ML analysis, namely a clade comprising Pelusios and Pelomedusa (94/99/100\%) and a clade comprising Phrynops (Mesoclemmys) and P. (Batrachemys) ( $100 \%$ ). Neither of these nodes were in conflict with the topology established by the

Table 2. Comparisons of five published hypotheses of chelid relationships with the unweighted MP hypothesis to emerge from this study using mt ribosomal genes only. The single MP tree had a length of 823 steps. Statistical comparisons were made with Wilcoxon Sign-Rank tests (Templeton, 1983) as implemented in PAUP*. $\mathcal{N}$ is the sample size, $Z$ is the test statistic, $P$ is the two-tailed probability of obtaining the observed result by chance, the two values in the column headed steps are the number of sites at which each tree provides more parsimonious explanation (our tree listed first)

| Hypothesis | Tree | Length | $\mathcal{N}$ | Z | $P$ | Steps |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Gaffney (Pseudemydura) | 1 | 827 | 24 | 0.71 | 0.47 | $14 / 10$ |
|  | 2 | 827 | 22 | 0.74 | 0.45 | $13 / 9$ |
|  | 3 | 827 | 18 | 0.82 | 0.40 | $11 / 7$ |
|  | 4 | 827 | 26 | 0.68 | 0.49 | $15 / 11$ |
|  | 5 | 827 | 18 | 0.82 | 0.40 | $11 / 7$ |
| Burbidge (Pseudemydura) | 1 | 831 | 20 | 1.56 | 0.11 | $14 / 6$ |
| Legler (Pseudemydura) | 1 | 855 | 52 | 3.86 | $0.0001^{*}$ | $42 / 10$ |
| Gaffney (Long-neck) | 1 | 840 | 50 | 1.97 | $0.04^{*}$ | $33 / 17$ |
| Gaffney (Full) | 2 | 840 | 43 | 2.15 | $0.03^{*}$ | $30 / 13$ |
|  | 1 | 850 | 55 | 2.95 | $0.003^{*}$ | $40 / 15$ |
|  | 2 | 850 | 51 | 3.05 | $0.002^{*}$ | $38 / 13$ |

analysis of 12 S and $16 \mathrm{~S} r \mathrm{RNA}$. A further three nodes received significant support in at least one of the analyses-a clade comprising the Australasian short-necks (excluding Pseudemydura) (64/71/56\%), a Chelodina clade (65/91/69\%), and a clade uniting Chelus and Acanthochelys ( $56 / 87 / 74 \%$ ). Only the last is in conflict with the topology established by the analysis of $12 S$ and $16 S r R N A$. The $C O 1$ gene was uninformative on the questions of reciprocal monophyly of the South American and Australasian chelids, the monophyly of Chelodina and Hydromedusa and indeed, the reciprocal monophyly of the pelomedusids and chelids.

We compared the tree lengths of constrained trees under five hypotheses derived from the literature: (1) Gaffney's (1977) placement of Pseudemydura as sister to all other chelids; (2) Burbidge et al.'s (1974) placement of Pseudemydura as sister to the remaining Australasian chelids; (3) Legler's (1981) suggested close relationship between Pseudemydura and Platemys; (4) Gaffney's hypothesis of the monophyly of the long-necked chelids; and (5) Gaffney's fully specified phylogeny. We obtained the unweighted most parsimonious tree subject to the constraints dictated by each of the five hypotheses using the combined data for $12 S r R N A$ and $16 S ~ r R N A$ only. We then compared the resultant constrained MP trees with the most parsimonious solution to emerge from our unweighted analyses of the same genes, using Templeton tests (Templeton, 1983) (Table 2). We were unable to reject either Gaffney's (1977) hypothesis on the placement of Pseudemydura as the sister to all other chelids or the hypothesis derived from the study of Burbidge et al. (1974) which places Pseudemydura as the sister to the other Australian chelids. This reflects the low bootstrap values among the basal nodes of the chelid phylogeny. However, Legler's (1981) suggested close relationship between Pseudemydura and Platemys is soundly rejected by our data ( $P<0.0001$ ). Gaffney's hypothesis of a monophyletic long-necked chelid lineage (incorporating Chelodina, Chelus and Hydromedusa) is rejected by our analysis ( $P<0.04$ ). Similarly, Gaffney's almost fully specified model is firmly rejected by our analysis ( $P<0.003$ ).

We used MacClade (Maddison \& Maddison, 1992) to reconstruct the most parsimonious distribution of the character states 'short-neck' and 'long-neck' on the combined ribosomal RNA unweighted MP tree. This character changes its state
ambiguously on the three deepest branches within the chelid radiation, that is, the common ancestor of chelids is equally likely to have had a long or a short neck. Either way, three character state changes are required to explain the current distribution of long and short-necked forms across our phylogeny.

## Separate analyses for South American chelids, pelomedusids, and Australasian chelids

 (mitochondrial data only)Our intention was to analyse separately the relationships within each of three major lineages, the South American chelids, the Australasian short-necked chelids and the pelomedusids using the combined data from all genes if possible. Combinability tests involving all mitochondrial genes revealed significant heterogeneity for South American chelid lineage (using Hydromedusa as the outgroup) when CO1 was included ( $P<0.01$ ). As separate analyses have already been conducted for CO1 and the ribosomal genes, we did not consider the question of relationships among South American chelids any further.

For the pelomedusids, with Chelodina rugosa and Phrynops (Phrynops) geoffroanus as the outgroup, combinability tests revealed no heterogeneity among the data for all three genes ( $P=0.52$ ), so the data for $12 S r R N A, 16 S r R N A$ and $C O 1$ were pooled. Unweighted and weighted branch and bound analyses each produced single most parsimonious trees. There was very strong support for a sister relationship between Pelomedusa and Pelusios ( $100 \%$ ) and for a clade comprising Peltocephalus, Podocnemis and Erymnochelys ( $63 / 75 / 80 \%$ ), but unlike previous analyses, there was no supported arrangement within this later clade. Hence, these analyses failed to provide support for any arrangements additional to those supported in the previous analyses of all taxa.

For the Australasian short-necked chelids, with the three species of Chelodina as outgroup, combinability tests revealed no heterogeneity among the data for all three genes ( $P=1.0$ ), so again the data for $12 S r R N A, 16 s r R N A$ and $C O 1$ were pooled. Unweighted and weighted branch and bound analyses each produced single most parsimonious trees. The two MP trees and the ML tree differed in the relationships among the short-necks (excluding Pseudemydura) but none of these differences survived bootstrap analysis. The results of the bootstrapping are shown on the ML tree in Figure 3. Bootstrapping provided support for a sister relationship between Chelodina oblonga and C. longicollis ( $85 / 91 / 86 \%$ ), and strong support for a monophyletic assemblage of all short-necked species excluding Pseudemydura (95/97/98\%), as do all previous analyses. However, it also provided support for an Emydura/Elseya latisternum/Elseya georgesi clade ( $72 / 76 / 83 \%$ ), leading to the conclusion that, like Phrynops, the genus Elseya is paraphyletic (Fig. 3).

## Combined allozyme and DNA data

Reanalysis of the allozyme data set of Georges and Adams (1992), with taxa restricted to those for which we had DNA sequences, yielded four equally parsimonious trees each of length 188 steps. A consistent feature of all four trees was the grouping of Elseya latisternum, E. georgesi and E. purvisi ( $80 \%$ bootstrap value), with $E$. latisternum and $E$. georgesi as sister taxa $(76 \%)$. This is in contrast with the outcome of the mtDNA analyses, which had Emydura macquarii, Elseya latisternum and Elseya georgesi in a strongly supported clade ( $72 / 76 / 83 \%$ ) to the exclusion of Elseya purvisi. This conflict in topologies eliminated significant support for any topological structure


Figure 3. A phylogeny for the Australasian chelid turtles generated from partial sequences of mitochondrial CO1, $12 S r R N A$ and $16 S r R N A$ using the criterion of maximum likelihood. The three values shown on each of several nodes are the bootstrap percentages for maximum parsimony analysis (unweighted), maximum parsimony analysis (weighted) and maximum likelihood analysis respectively. Bootstrap values are shown only for nodes with $70 \%$ or greater bootstrap support in one or more analyses.
within the short-necked Australasian species (excluding Pseudemydura) when data for the three mitochondrial genes and the allozymes were combined (combinability test $P=0.13$ ). There were three equally parsimonious trees ( 583 steps) with no clear consensus on the arrangement of the short-necked taxa.

## Consensus of all analyses

A consensus of the results of all the analyses excluding CO1, with $70 \%$ or greater bootstrap support, is shown in Figure 4. Relationships among the pelomedusids and South American chelids are fully resolved, establishing the previously uncertain affinities of Hydromedusa as sister to the remaining South American chelids and the paraphyly of Phrynops. Reciprocal monophyly of the Australasian and South American chelids could not be unequivocally established, though it was a feature of the majority of analyses, so the Australasian short-necked chelids, the long-necked Chelodina and the South American chelids form an unresolved trichotomy in the final consensus tree. Pseudemydura is shown as the sister to the remaining Australian short-necked species, a consistent topological feature of the MP and ML analyses, though support for this result is tenuous, resting upon a single substantive bootstrap value $(77 \%$, ML). The genus Elseya is paraphyletic, as their closest common ancestor includes Emydura among its descendants. No other relationships could be established among the short-necked Australian forms (excluding Pseudemydura), and they collectively form an unresolved polytomy. Results to emerge with bootstrap support from the


Figure 4. A consensus of nodes in the pleurodiran phylogeny to receive $70 \%$ or greater bootstrap support in one or more of the maximum parsimony (weighted and unweighted) or maximum likelihood sub-analyses. Numbers shown in parentheses give the analyses that provide the support: 1, restricted taxon set using $12 S r R N A, 16 S r R N A$ and c-mos; 2, all taxa using $12 S r R N A$ and $16 S r R N A$ only; 3, Australasian chelids using $12 \mathrm{~S} r R N A, 16 S r R N A$ and $C O 1$. Numbers bearing an asterisk indicate that bootstrap support was equal to or greater than $70 \%$ only in some of the three sub-analyses.
separate analysis of the CO1 gene are in conflict with this consensus topology only in placing Acanthochelys as the sister taxon to Chelus.

## DISCUSSION

It seems likely that the Australasian and South American chelid turtles are reciprocally monophyletic, this being the case in all but one of our analyses, and in the analysis of sequence variation in the cytochrome $b$ gene by Shaffer et al. (1997). Certainly, we have demonstrated the monophyly of the South American chelids, including Hydromedusa. This was the main new result to emerge from the analysis involving the restricted taxon set and both mitochondrial and nuclear genes. Furthermore, all published hypotheses in conflict with the notion of reciprocal monophyly (Gaffney, 1977; Legler, 1981) were rejected by our analyses, whereas hypotheses of reciprocal monophyly (Burbidge et al., 1974; Seddon et al., 1997; Shaffer et al. 1997) were consistent with the present larger molecular dataset. However, we cannot be definitive on this point because there is only weak bootstrap support for the monophyly of the Australasian chelids in the analyses of Seddon et al. (1997) (64\%), Shaffer et al. (1997) (58-69\%) and in the present study (52-66\%).

Strictly speaking, there is now an unresolved trichotomy comprised of the South American chelids, Chelodina, and the Australasian short-necks, including Pseudemydura. Similarly, Elseya/Emydura, Rheodytes and Elusor remain as an unresolved polytomy, despite extensive investigation involving allozyme electrophoresis and analyses of sequences from three mitochondrial genes.

There are three possibilities to consider in explaining these unresolved polytomies, the first two representing one end and the third representing the other end of a continuum of possibilities. The first possibility is that the groups involved represent a true polytomy, having evolved from three allopatric drainages of their parent species. The sequence of isolation of these parent populations may have been sequential, but happened in such rapid succession that no differential accumulation of mutations occurred to reflect that sequence of events. In this case, synapomorphies available to support a dichotomous branching structure simply may not exist, and no further addition of data will resolve the issue. Evidence that would appear to resolve the polytomy would have either arisen through homoplasy or through the coincident retention of polymorphisms present in the ancestral species. The polytomy is a real feature of the evolutionary history of the organisms.

The second possibility is that the species arose from a series of dichotomous speciation events, but that they happened in rapid succession (rapid cladogenesis). If the three groups radiated rapidly, the short time available for molecular or morphological character evolution between speciation events would provide little evidence for deducing their sequential pattern of cladogenesis. Furthermore, what evidence there was could be obscured by convergent evolution among the lineages since their divergence (Kraus \& Miyamoto, 1991). Under this scenario, our ability to extract what evidence survives to the present is severely limited, requiring large suites of characters to ensure reasonable representation of those that evolved along the short ancestral branches connecting the taxa. Without such extensive sampling, we are unlikely to resolve the polytomy. $16 \mathrm{~S} r \mathrm{RNA}$ and c-mos provided the additional data needed to resolve the relationship of Hydromedusa among the Chelidae, thus breaking what was previously an unresolved polytomy (Seddon et al., 1997). However, we must also admit that in other cases, as a result of homoplasy, the information required to resolve a polytomy may simply no longer exist.

The third possibility in the continuum is that the radiation of the three groups was not particularly rapid, but that the divergence of the three is very deep. Under this scenario, any evidence in the form of synapomorphies that could be used to reconstruct the branching structure has been overwritten by homoplasy in the substantial time that elapsed since the last group emerged. Good molecular evidence for the branching structure of relationships among the groups may have once existed in abundance, but because much of the genome used in phylogenetic studies evolves in roughly clocklike fashion, unequivocal evidence no longer exists. We could look for conservative sequence characters that have persisted to the present day, such as the relatively conservative exons from nuclear genes (Shaffer et al., 1997), but such characters are conservative because they change infrequently. If they change so infrequently as to survive the long periods that followed divergences deep in a phylogeny, they probably accumulate too infrequently to occur often enough during the relatively brief period that contained the branching events of interest. So again, we are unlikely to resolve the trichotomy through the addition of further gene sequence data. However, morphological evidence (or for that matter, isozyme characters [Buth \& Rainboth, 1999] may be superior to gene sequences under these
circumstances, because a morphological innovation can permanently make its presence known by locking the organism into a particular evolutionary trajectory. Such morphological innovation may indeed be a partial cause of the rapid radiation, and the refinement of the characters involved in the innovation may accompany the radiation. The search for such morphological evidence to confirm or refute the phylogenetic relationships of Hydromedusa and Pseudemydura among the chelids in general, to establish the relationships of the Chelodina and the short-necked Australasian chelids, and to establish the relationships of Elusor and Rheodytes among the short-necked Australian chelids, is currently under way (Thomson and Georges, unpubl. data)

Strongly conflicting phylogenies for the same taxa derived independently from morphological and molecular data sets are rare (Goodman, Miyamoto \& Czelusniak, 1987; Hillis, 1987; Shaffer, 1991; Shaffer et al., 1997). Nevertheless, chelid phylogenies derived from morphological analyses (Gaffney, 1977; Shaffer et al., 1997) differ dramatically from those derived from molecular analyses in this paper and elsewhere (Seddon et al., 1997; Shaffer et al., 1997). In the preferred phylogeny of Gaffney and in two other trees broadly consistent with his data (Gaffney, 1977), the long-necked chelid turtles of Australasia and South America form a single clade, an outcome confirmed by a morphological analysis of the same data by Shaffer et al. (1997). Molecular analyses prior to the present study have failed to resolve the relationship of Hydromedusa within the Chelidae. When bootstrap support is taken into account, Seddon et al. (1997) were unable to resolve a polytomy between Hydromedusa, Chelodina, the Australasian short-necked turtles, and the remaining South American chelids. Hence they were not able to unequivocally reject the monophyly of long-necked forms across continental boundaries because they were unable to establish unequivocally the nature of the relationship between Chelodina and Hydromedusa. In contrast, our analyses firmly reject any notion of close relationships among any combination of the three long-necked lineages, even between the South American taxa.

These two phylogenetic arrangements of long-necked chelids, that of Gaffney (1977) and that of the present study, are irreconcilable, insofar as both cannot be a reflection of the true pattern of ancestry and descent among these turtles. Congruence between morphological and molecular studies is strong evidence that the underlying phylogenetic history has been uncovered; conflict may indicate theoretical or procedural problems in one or both analyses (Hillis, 1987). We believe that the way in which the above morphological analyses have been conducted, though common practice, is fundamentally flawed.

The common evolutionary descent of species imposes a nested hierarchical pattern of evidence for groups within groups on their morphological and molecular variation (Larson, 1994). Correlation among characters arises because character states are jointly inherited down a bifurcating branch of phylogeny. Hierarchical correlation among characters is thus interpreted as evidence of common ancestry (Jones, Kluge \& Wolf, 1993) and phylogenetic analysis aims to recover the historical pattern of ancestry by identifying congruent hierarchical patterns of variation in morphological and molecular characters. (Larson, 1994). The more characters that are correlated in support of a synapomorphy, the greater is the support for the associated node in the phylogeny. However, there are many causes of correlation among characters in addition to common ancestry (Kluge, 1989). In particular, correlation among characters may arise because of a functional relationship among them, such as when the occurrence of one (shape of the octogossal in salamanders) depends in part on
occurrence of another (junction of octogossal with the radial, in Jones et al., 1993). Another example might be the possible convergent evolution of the biochemical, physiological, morphological and behavioural traits functionally correlated with homeothermy in birds and mammals (Chippindale \& Weins, 1994).

In the absence of homoplasy, the topology of a tree will be unaffected by functional relationships among the characters used to support it (Jones et al., 1993); however, the weight of evidence in support of some nodes will be inflated (Shaffer, 1991). Scoring two functionally correlated characters as independent inflates the contribution made by information they jointly contain. In an extreme case of $100 \%$ correlation (vomer contacting the pterygoids vs palatines entirely separated by vomer of turtles, for example), the contribution that each character makes to the phylogenetic analysis is held in common. Giving equal weighting to each character effectively doubles the weight given to their common contribution to recovering the phylogeny.
In the presence of homoplasy, both the topology and the support for particular nodes can be affected by functional correlation among characters. The inflated contribution of functionally correlated characters in support of a false synapomorphy (the result of convergence) could potentially overwhelm evidence to the contrary. It is the combination of homoplasy and lack of independence of characters, not homoplasy on its own, that results in potential distortion of the resulting phylogeny.

In the studies of Gaffney (1977) and Shaffer et al. (1997), morphological characters and states are identified and scored across all taxa, then subjected to a parsimony analysis. In order to maintain objectivity, no differential weightings are assigned to characters, the implication being that all characters are equally weighted. However, if the characters are functionally correlated, their contribution to resolving the phylogeny is inadvertently differentially weighted (Donoghue \& Sanderson, 1992). A long neck, attenuated strike-and-gape mode of feeding and piscivorous habits necessarily involve a suite of correlated character changes (such as those suggested by Pritchard, 1984; Pritchard \& Trebbau, 1984) and there are a finite number of options for achieving this condition. In those forms that have been examined, the cervical vertebrae (2-8 in pleurodires; 2-7 in cryptodires) are elongated with attendant modifications associated with the mechanical consequences of this elongation. The atlas-axis complex is fused and elongated, presumably to contribute to elongation of the neck and provide mechanical stability to the head during the strike action. The longissimus dorsi muscles which drive the strike are enlarged and accommodated by lateral expansion of the rib heads. Neural bones, present as subsurface elements in most chelids (Thomson \& Georges, 1996), are expanded, perhaps as a consequence of the laterally expanded rib heads below or to provide greater stability to the mid shell sutures and counter the torsion that results from an asymmetric strike action of side-necked turtles (Thomson \& Georges, 1996). The anterior of the shell must be expanded to provide protection for the greater bulk of the head and neck, with a series of attendant changes to the anterior scutes and plates of carapace and plastron (Pritchard, 1984). The skull is depressed to reduce its resistance to rapid passage through water and the position of the orbits is modified to facilitate binocular vision. While there is some scope for achieving these adaptive changes by altering characters in fundamentally different ways, development of a long neck will require a suite of related changes to cranial and post-cranial characters. Scoring each separately may have greatly inflated the contribution a long neck and associated characters make to establishing a long-neck clade in the resulting phylogeny. If the long necks of the South American and Australasian chelids are a result of convergence,
this greatly inflated contribution may have overwhelmed evidence in the data set to that contradicts their presumed close relationship.

Of course, molecular characters are not entirely independent. Compensatory changes in paired nucleotides of the stem regions of ribosomal RNA (Wheeler \& Honeycutt, 1988) and concerted evolution of multiple copies of nuclear rRNA genes (Hillis \& Dixon, 1991) are examples. In $18 S r R N A$ of vertebrates, both avian and mammalian lineages have a higher GC content than non-homeotherms which may have constrained the pattern of substitution which will artificially enhance relatedness of birds and mammals in comparison with other vertebrates (Hedges, Moberg \& Maxson, 1990; Huelsenbeck et al., 1996). However, correlated sequence change is not a widespread phenomenon, especially across multiple genes, nor is it predicted to be from current knowledge of the causes and functional consequences of gene sequence variation. We regard the potentially distorting combination of homoplasy and lack of independence of characters to be much less prevalent in molecular data sets than in morphological data sets.

We have used multiple genes including three samples of the mitochondrial genome and an independent sample of the nuclear genome and regard the phylogeny most strongly supported by our molecular data to be the best working hypothesis. The evolution of morphological traits, such as the long neck, can then be interpreted in the context of this phylogeny, an approach recommended by Hedges and Maxson (1996). If the more pluralistic view of phylogenetic reconstruction is to prevail, where molecules and morphology are to work as equal partners (Lee, 1997), then the morphological analyses of Gaffney (1977) should be revisited with a view to in some way eliminating the functional overlap among characters. Few share Pritchard's optimism that this can be achieved without descending into the realms of rampant speculation. Functional correlations among characters are notoriously difficult to demonstrate, requiring solid developmental or functional evidence, which is usually lacking. This is not to say that functionally related morphological character complexes are rare, or that in combination with convergent structures, they rarely influence the phylogenies that are recovered. Regardless of the practical difficulties, we need be reasonably sure that both the molecular and morphological approaches are providing unbiased estimates of the true phylogeny, or that they are at least statistically congruent (Bull et al., 1993; de Queiroz, 1993), before we combine data sets, whether by consensus (Mickevich, 1978) or pooling ( $=$ total evidence) (Miyamoto, 1985; Kluge, 1989).

The most parsimonious reconstructions are ambiguous about the ancestral state (long or short neck) in chelids, there being three equally parsimonious scenarios. As the pelomedusids have short necks, one possibility is that the long neck evolved somewhere along the stem branch leading to the chelids. If so, two reversals to the short-necked state would have had to have occurred along the branches leading to the Australasian short-necks and the South American short-necks respectively (three steps in total). However, Pritchard (1984) has argued convincingly for independent origins of the long-necked state of Chelodina, Chelus and Hydromedusa. Indeed, if a long neck is the ancestral state, and the ancestor had associated modifications of the shell to accommodate its greater bulk when withdrawn, it is difficult to explain how Chelodina and Hydromedusa could have achieved such modifications in such fundamentally different ways without a reversal to a short neck then again to a long neck in at least one lineage (then four steps in total). This, we believe, eliminates the option of a long-necked chelid ancestor from the set of three most parsimonious
scenarios. A second and now favoured possibility is that the ancestral state for the chelids is a short neck, having been retained in the Australasian short-necked chelids and secondarily derived in the South American short-necked chelids (three steps). The long necks of the Chelodina would have been independently derived, with the long necks of Chelus and Hydromedusa inherited from their common ancestor. A third possibility is that the ancestral state for the chelids is a short neck, with independent origins for the long necks of each of Chelodina, Chelus and Hydromedusa (three steps), the option most favoured by Pritchard (1984)). The highly specialized body form and feeding habits of Chelus make it difficult to distinguish between these latter two possibilities.

The genus Phrynops has a confusing taxonomic history, and is not particularly well defined, having been a receptacle for those South American chelids that do not have some overt morphological peculiarity (Pritchard, 1984). Earlier this century, species that are now in the genus were grouped into three genera: Phrynops for $P$. geoffroanus and related forms (Wagler, 1830), Mesoclemmys for P. gibbus (Gray, 1873) and Batrachemys for P. nasutus and related forms (Stejneger, 1909). These genera were reduced to subgeneric rank by Zangerl and Medem (1958), an arrangement that is widely accepted today, though at least one author has recommended that the subgenera be abandoned (Bour, 1973).

In Gaffney's (1977) cladistic analysis of skull characters, he was unable to find unique derived characters to establish monophyly of Phrynops, but nor could be demonstrate that it was paraphyletic. The phylogenies of Seddon et al. (1997) and those presented here are congruent in putting Acanthochelys as the sister to Platemys (except for CO1), and Phrynops (Batrachemys) as the sister to Phrynops (Mesoclemmys), but they differ in the relative placement of Phrynops (Phrynops). Seddon et al. reported that the genus Phrynops is paraphyletic, with Chelus as the sister taxon to Phrynops (Phrynops), though bootstrap support for this conclusion was only $60 \%$. In contrast, our analyses place Chelus as the sister to the other South America genera (Hydromedusa excluded) with $98-100 \%$ bootstrap support and $77-85 \%$ support for a clade containing Phrynops (Phrynops) to the exclusion of Chelus. The analysis involving 12 S $r R N A, 16 S r R N A$ and c-mos provided strong support for a sister relationship between Phrynops (Mesoclemmys) and Acanthochelys to the exclusion of Phrynops (Phrynops) (89-93\% bootstrap support). We regard this as conclusive evidence that the genus Phrynops is paraphyletic, there being no strong evidence to the contrary in our other analyses.

Assuming the paraphyly of Phrynops is unacceptable as a taxonomic arrangement, it can be resolved by elevating the sub-genera to generic status, in which case we will have come full circle. Alternatively, given the well-supported sister relationship between Phrynops (Batrachemys) and Phrynops (Mesoclemmys), these two taxa could be regarded as comprising a single genus (Mesoclemmys has precedence), with the genus Phrynops retained for forms in the subgenus Phrynops (Phrynops). We have no strong views on this, but given that the three sub-genera are well recognised and accepted, we believe that taxonomic stability is best served by elevating these three sub-genera to genera. This is our recommendation. Further work on the relationships between species within the new Mesoclemmys and Batrachemys will decide whether their separate generic identity should stand.

Parsimony analyses of allozyme data (Georges \& Adams, 1992) and $12 S r R N A$ sequence data (Seddon et al., 1997) indicate that, like Phrynops, the Australian genus Elseya is paraphyletic. The common ancestor of species of Elseya has Emydura and possibly Rheodytes and Elusor among its descendants. Georges and Adams, (1992)
recommended that the genus Elseya be redefined to contain Elseya dentata, Elseya novaeguineae and their close but undescribed relatives (Georges \& Adams 1996). Following from their analysis, a new genus would need to be erected to contain the monophyletic assemblage of species closely aligned with Elseya latisternum (Georges \& Adams, 1996), namely E. georgesi, E. purvisi and an undescribed form from the inland tributaries of the Murray-Darling drainage. The results of the present study provide support for this recommendation in the form of $72-83 \%$ bootstrap support for a clade including Emydura, Elseya latisternum and Elseya georgesi to the exclusion of Elseya dentata. However, a new genus defined as suggested by Georges and Adams (1992) would remain paraphyletic, as the supported clade containing Emydura, Elseya latisternum and Elseya georgesi established in the present study excludes Elseya purvisi. The differences in topological arrangement of the sibling species among the other Australian short-necks, as established by allozyme electrophoresis and mitochondrial gene sequences respectively, are difficult to reconcile. Elseya georgesi and Elsey a purvisi are a sibling pair, formerly cryptic. External differences between them are negligible, and involve subtle differences in coloration, although there are substantial internal morphological differences (Thomson \& Georges, 1996). Until the 20\% fixed differences between them were established using allozyme electrophoresis, they were widely regarded as the same species. Their separation in the mtDNA trees is greater than unexpected, and is in stark contrast to the robust results of the allozyme analyses (Georges \& Adams, 1992). This may well be a case of a mitochondrial gene tree, as reflected in the mtDNA sequences, differing from the species tree, as reflected in the multi-locus allozyme analysis ( 54 loci).

There are two additional areas in which the phylogeny presented in this paper is in conflict with other published arrangements. Molecular data are unanimous in their very strong support for a sister relationship between Chelodina oblonga and C. longicollis (Georges \& Adams, 1992; Seddon et al., 1997) to the exclusion of C. rugosa. C. oblonga is superficially more similar in morphology and more similar in habits to species in the $C$. rugosa group and so its affinities are often regarded as lying with C. rugosa (Goode, 1967; Legler, 1981; Legler \& Georges, 1993). A detailed morphological analysis of the relationships among these forms has not been published, and is needed to resolve the issue. A second point of conflict occurs in the relationship between Peltocephalus, Podocnemis and Erymnochelys. Peltocephalus and Podocnemis have well-developed saddle-shaped cervical articulations, regarded by Gaffney (1988) as a shared derived character that unites the two to the exclusion of Erymnochelys. Meylan (1996) has them as an unresolved polytomy in his analysis of 35 morphological characters. Pritchard and Trebbau (1984:38) list a range of other similarities between Erymnochelys and Peltocephalus, but consider it likely that these arose as a result of parallelism rather than an indication of a close relationship. Instead, they cite chromosomal and serological data (Frair, Mittermeier \& Rhodin, 1978) and the existence of fossil forms from Kenya that share characters of both Erymnochelys and Podocnemis (Wood, 1971) as evidence of a close relationship between Erymnochelys and Podocnemis. Our data support this latter arrangement.

Finally, there have been several efforts to establish sub-familial relationships among pleurodiran genera. However, support for separation of South American and Australasian chelid genera in particular, has been equivocal, despite their long separation (Pritchard, 1984). Insofar as a classification should reflect phylogeny, the substantial alterations to the currently accepted phylogeny as a result of the injection of molecular data require corresponding adjustments to Pleurodire classification.

Below is a reclassification of the extant pleurodiran genera consistent with our phylogeny and the analysis of Shaffer et al. (1997). Figure 4 represents the wellsupported outcomes of the present paper, yet fails to resolve a trichotomy comprising the South American chelids, Chelodina, and the remaining Australasian chelids. However, all but one of our analyses had the Chelodina as sister to the remaining Australasian chelids, as the most parsimonious solution. Reciprocal monophyly of the South American and Australasian chelids was also the most parsimonious outcome of the analysis of sequence variation in an additional gene, cytochrome $b$, by Shaffer et al. (1997), though with bootstrap support of only $68 \%$. The following classification of extant forms is tendered with the caveat that further work is required to better establish the sister clade to the Chelodina. Note that the genus Elseya is paraphyletic. Some authors have suggested that the family Pelomedusidae be restricted to the African genera Pelusios and Pelomedusa and that a new family, the Podocnemidae, be erected for the South American Podocnemis and Peltocephalus and the Madagascan Erymnochelys (de Broin 1988), contained within the overarching Hyperfamily Pelomedusoides. Our data show these two groups to be monophyletic, but we retain the traditional arrangement of Pelomedusidae recognized at family level, with the proposed families of de Broin recognized at sub-family level.

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Sub-order Pleurodira Cope, 1868a
    Family Pelomedusidae Cope, 1868b
        Sub-Family Pelomedusinae de Broin, 1988 (new rank)
        Pelusios, Pelomedusa
        Sub-Family Podocneminae de Broin, 1988 (new rank)
        Podocnemis Peltocephalus, Erymnochelys
    Family Chelidae Gray, 1831
    Sub-Family Chelodininae (new)
        Chelodina, Elseya, Emydura
        Pseudemydura, Rheodytes, Elusor
    Sub-Family Chelidinae Gray, 1825
        Chelus, Phrynops, Platemys
        Acanthochelys, Mesoclemmys (new rank),
        Batrachemys (new rank)
    Sub-Family Hydromedusinae, Gaffney 1977 (new rank)
        Hydromedusa
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## APPENDIX

Alignment of $12 S r R N A$ and $16 S r R N A$ gene sequences from 18 chelid and five pelomedusid taxa. Taxon names are abbreviated to the first two letters of the genus name followed by the first three letters of the species name. Other abbreviations are: (.), base same as for first taxon; (-), alignment gap; (?), nucleotide unknown. Sequences are numbered from the first base in the reference sequence. Regions of questionable homology removed prior to analysis are indicated by asterisks. The unaligned sequences for $12 S r R N A, I 6 S r R N A, C O I$ and c-mos are available from GenBank. GenBank accession numbers are: c-mos AF109200-9; 12S AF095893-4; 16S AFI13620-43; COI AFI13644-67.

| 12 SrRNA |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | ***** | ********** | **** | ********** | * |
| Psumb | CCTTAAACC- | TAGATTTTTT | T----ATATA | T-AAAAATTT | ACC-AGAGAA | -CT-ACAAAC |
| Rhleu | . . C . |  | A. . TTT. |  | G | A. |
| Elmac | . C. . . T |  | A. . AA.C.C- | C. | G. |  |
| Emmac | . C. . T. | A | A. .AG. . . C- | T. . | G. |  |
| Ellat | . C. | . A. | A. . . . ? | C. G? | G. |  |
| Elden | . . $C$. | A? |  | . A. . . . . . ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | G.......T. | т...... |
| Elpur | . C . |  | A. | C. . . . . C. | G. |  |
| Elgeo | T?? | A. . . . C. | C. . . A. ? . . | C.???.T. ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | G........ |  |
| Chlon |  | TA..-CC | ACAGCCC. C . | . A. GG. . . CC | G. |  |
| Chobl | . C. ....A. | -CC | ACAACCC. C . | . A.GG . . . CC | G. | ?. |
| Chrug | ..C.....T. | C. . . . --CC | ACAACCC. $C$. | . A. .G. . . CC | G. |  |
| Chfim | . .CC. TTA. | C........ C | . CCA.--. C. | . CC | G. | ......C... |
| Plpla | ..C...TAA. |  | . CAA - . . C . | T. CC | G....... C. | A?....T.TT |
| Acpal | . C. . . . A. | .G. . . . . . $C$ | . ?TACG. . C . | . CC | G. | AT. . TTT. . ${ }^{\text {T }}$ |
| Phgeo | . C..... ${ }^{\text {A }}$ | . T. . . . . C | -CCA.-. . C . | . CC | G....... G . | AT. T. С. |
| Phgib | ..C.....A. |  | -CCA.-.. C. | A. . . . T. CC | G. . . . . . TT | TTT? |
| Phnas | ..C.....A. |  | -CAA. - . A. | A. . . . - . CC | G..C.... T- | ?TTT |
| Hytec | . C . | A. . . . . . . ${ }^{\text {A }}$ | ACA. --. C . | .A. .GG-.CC | G. | A....C. ${ }^{\text {T }}$ |
| Pesub | . . $\mathrm{C} . .$. ? | At...A... $A$ | ACA. .-. . AC | AC. . . T. . CC | G. | G.G. |
| Ermad | ..C...TT.T | C. . . A. . . A | -C.T.-. . C . | ..G. .T. . CC | G. | G |
| Pelsin | . . $C . .$. . | AT...A. . CC | ACAT. -A.C. | T. . CC |  | G.G. |
| Podexp | . . C. | C. . . A--CC | CACT.-..C. | A. G.T. .CC | G. | G. |
| Pedum | . C. . . . A. | .T...A. - ${ }^{\text {C }}$ | . ATT. - . . C . | .G.C. .CC | G. | G.G. |
| Psumb | TAAACGTTTA | AAATTCAAAG | GACTTGGCGG | -TACCTCAA- | ACCCACCTAG | AGGAGCCTGT |
| Rhleu | C. . T...GG | . . C. . . ${ }^{\text {G. }}$ |  | C.G.C. |  |  |
| Elmac | C. . A. . . ${ }^{\text {G }}$ | . C |  | . .G. .C. |  |  |
| Emmac | C...T...GG | C.... G . |  | . G. .C. |  |  |
| Ellat | C. | ?..C....G. |  | .GT.C. |  |  |
| Elden | C...T....G | .C....G. |  | . G . |  |  |
| Elpur | ....A. . . G | . C |  | ..G.C. |  |  |
| Elgeo | C. | C. |  | . .G. C. |  |  |
| Chlon | c. | G. |  | . .G.T. |  |  |
| Chobl | C.? | ?.......G. | .G..G. | . .GTTC. |  |  |
| Chrug | C. . . . . . . | . C |  | .G.T? |  |  |
| Chfim | CCTGAA. . AG | . . C. | A. | . GT | A |  |
| Plpla | C.T. .A. . ? | . .GC. . .GG. | .TT.?..T | . TT | C....A |  |
| Acpal | C.C.AA. | . .TC. . GG . | . TT. . .CG. | . GT | . T...T |  |
| Phgeo | C. CGAA. .GG | . .C....G. | T | . . GTT | A |  |
| Phgib | A. . . AA. .GG | G. . ?....G. | .G? | . GGT | . AT. T. | G..G....T. |
| Phnas | CC. . AA. . . G | G. .C. | . G | .GG? . | CA |  |
| Hytec | C....A...G | C. . . .G. |  | . GT . . . . . |  |  |
| Pesub | CT. CA.C. | .C.T. .G. |  | . GT.C. .T. | A |  |
| Ermad | A. . T. C.CG | ..C....G. | A. | . GT. | C. |  |
| Pelsin | . T.TA.C. | . C. |  | .GT.C..T? | TA |  |
| Podexp | C...T.C. | C. . . G. |  | G |  |  |
| Pedum | -.CC.C..G | C. |  | GT..T |  |  |


| Psumb | TCTATAATCG | ATAACCCACG | ATTAACCTCA | CCACCCCTTG | CCCT-**** | Ctatatacct |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rhleu |  | ...T. | . . C.....G | ....T. . C . | . . A. |  |
| Elmac |  | T | .T.....G | .t..C. | A. |  |
| Emmac |  | T | ?C. | .T. C. | A. |  |
| Ellat |  | T.? | . C . | .T..C. | A. |  |
| Elden |  | T. | . ?CT. | .T.C. | . A. |  |
| Elpur |  | T. | C | .T..C. | . . AC. |  |
| Elgeo |  | T. | . C | . T. .A. | . . AC. AGC. | тAtatac.tc |
| Chion |  | T. | . AC. | ...T.T. A. | . A. |  |
| Chobl | c. | T. | . TG | ..T.T..A. | . A . |  |
| Chrug |  | T. | . . CT. | .T.T.A. | . A . |  |
| Chfim | C.C.A.C. | . T . | . AC. . . A. | . .tT. A. | . A. |  |
| Plpla |  | . Ст. | . . Ст. | . A.A? | ...AT?...T | A. |
| Acpal |  | CT | . . стС. | . A.G. | . ? C . |  |
| Phgeo | . TC. C. | T.T. | . T. | . . . A. | . ${ }^{\text {AAT }}$ |  |
| Phgib | .T.T. | G. . CT. | . T . | ..t.A. | G..A. . . . G | .T.T.T. C |
| Phnas |  | . T | .T. | . T.A. $^{\text {d }}$ | C. |  |
| Hytec |  | . T | . C . | T.T. |  |  |
| Pesub | .G. | T.T. | . . C. . . . T. | T | . A.C. |  |
| Ermad | . G. | .T. | . A. ....T. | .T. | . . At. |  |
| Pelsin | C. .G. | .T. | . . A. . . . T. | T. | . A. ? |  |
| Podexp | . .G. . | . . . T. | . . A. . . . ${ }^{\text {T }}$ | т.TT. | . . CC. |  |
| Pedum | .G. . | . C. . A. | . A.....T. | .T..C. | A. |  |

## Psumb

 Rhleu Elmac Emmac Ellat Elden Elpur Elgeo Chlon Chobl Chrug Chfim Plpla Acpal Phgeo Phgib Phnas Hytec Pesub Erma Pelsin Podexp PedumCCGTCTACAG CTCACTCTAC AA?GAGAT-A AAAGTAAGCC AA?CAATC-- TACATAATTA .....C... ..T..C.G. T.A.GA.... .........A C.AT.G.T.. C.T?C..C.. .....C............ T.G.G..C.. .......... A T.AT.G.T.. ..T.C..C..

 .....C.... ..T..C.... T.A.GA.C.. .........A C.AT.G.T.. ..... C.. C.. .....C.... ..T..C.. G. T.A.GA.... .........A C.AT.G.T.. ..T.C. C.. .GTC.ACAGC T.AC.CTACT ..G..A-... .........A C.AT.G.T.. C...C..C. .................GT G.A.GA..T. .......... T.A. . G.TA. -...C.GC. ...?..C... ..T..C..T G.A.GA.C.. ....C....A T.C..G.TA. -T.. C.GC.
 ......C... .CT..CT..T G.AAGT.C.. .....G..A C.A..G.TAA C---C. C. ..T...C... .CTT....TT GGG?G...A. T........GA CCA. GC.A? C..---.C.C ..C...T... .CT..CT..T G.A.GTT... ..G...G.?A T.AT?GC.AA C.AGC.-C.. ......T... .CT..CT..T G.AAG-.C.. ......G..A C.AT.G..AC A.A.AC.C. ..C...T... .CTC.C..GG G.AAGAT..T ..G..GG..A C.AT.G..AC C.A-GC.C. .....T... .CT..C. GT G.AAG....T ......G..A C.AT.G..AA C.A-GC.C. .......... T.T..CT..T G.AAGT.... .......A.A C.AT.G.TAA C...A.. C. .......A.. .....CT.. T G.AAGCTA.. ..........A...AT.GCT.. ACT.C.GC. ......CT.. .CT..CT.GT G.AAGATC.. ......T...A C.AT.G..C. ACT.C..C. ...................TT G.AAGCTA.. ................AT.GC.C. ATT.C.GC.
 ...C.GC... .CT..CT.GT G.AAGC.C. . T........G ..AT.G.AT. A-A.CC.C..

| Psumb | AtAAGTCAGG | TCAAGGTGTA | GCCAA-TGGG | GTGGAAGAAA | TGGGCTACA- | --TTTTCTAA |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rhleu | ?C. |  | .C. A. |  |  | . C |
| Elmac | . C |  | . C. . A. | A. |  | C |
| Emmac | . C |  | C. A. |  |  | C |
| Ellat | . C . |  | T....C. A. |  |  | C |
| Elden |  | ? | ...C. . . | ? | C |  |
| Elpur |  |  | .C. A. | . C |  | C |
| Elgeo |  |  | C. A. |  |  | C |
| Chlon | . C . |  | . ?C. . A. | A. |  | T |
| Chobl | GC. |  | . C. .A. | A. |  |  |
| Chrug | . C . |  | C. . AA | A. |  | T |
| Chfim | . C . |  | . AA | A. . TGG. .G. |  | C |
| Plpla | .C....G..C |  | C. C? | ?....G |  | CC |
| Acpal | . C . | G | . C . | .? | .c.? | CC |
| Phgeo | . C. . A. |  | ?...T.. ?A. |  |  | TC |
| Phgib | TC. |  | . . TA. | C...G |  | C |
| Phnas | . C . |  | T......TA. |  |  |  |
| Hytec |  |  | ...T.T. A. | A. |  | C |
| Pesub | GA. | . C | A. . | T.T. |  |  |
| Ermad | . A. | . C . | . A. |  |  |  |
| Pelsin | GA. | C. | A. | GT.C |  |  |


| Podexp <br> Pedum | GA.C...... |  | A. |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | ******* | ** | ** | ********** |  |
| Psumb | Attagatata | -ACTAA- | -CGGAAAGAA | CCTTGAAAT- | -ATGGGTCT- | AAAAATAGGA |
| Rhleu | . C. | .TTC. |  |  | . AC . | G. |
| Elmac | CCC. | . TTC. - |  | . C | . AC. .T | G. |
| Emmac | . C . | . TTC. |  | . C . | . AC. | G. |
| Ellat | . C | .TTC. - | G | . TC. | . A.AC. | . GC |
| Elden | . C | . TTA. |  | C. | ACT | G |
| Elpur | . C | .TT. . C |  |  | C. | G. |
| Elgeo | . C. . . . . C . | . TTC. |  | C. | . ${ }^{\text {ct }}$. | . |
| Chion | .C.....T. | TTT. | G | A. | . CATT. CTCT | . GC. |
| Chobl | . C . | CTTC. - | G | . A. | . CATT. CTCT | T. . . GC |
| Chrug | . T . | ACTC- | A. . . . . . . G | . C. . . . A. | . CATT. CTCT | . .GC. |
| Chfim | .A..... $C$. | TCT. . CACTA | A.A. . C.G. | TT | . AACCCGA. | . GA |
| Plpla | CA. | C. . TTA. | A. . . .G.G. |  | . CAA. AC. CA | .C. .GC. |
| Acpal | CAA. .G..AT | CT. CTTA. | A.A.G.G.GG | C. .G | . TA. . AC. CA | T...GC. |
| Phgeo | CA. . TC | CC. CCTA. | A. . . TT.G. | T.A.... C. | . CAATCC. Ca | . GC . |
| Phgib | . A. | . TTCTT. | A. . . GG.C. | . T | . CA. . AC. CA | .T. .GC. |
| Phnas | . A. | . TTCTT. | A. . . GG.C. | . T | . CA. . AC. CA | .T. . GC. |
| Hytec | TA. | TTT- | A. . . . . ACC |  | T......T.A | T. . . GC. |
| Pesub | . A. | .TTC.- | . C. . . C |  | . CA. . A. .A | .T..G.T. |
| Ermad | CA....T. | . GTC. - |  | C | . CAA . . . . A | .G. .GCT.A. |
| Pelsin | . A. . . . . $?$ | .TTC. - | .A.C...C |  | . TA...... T | .G. .G.... |
| Podexp | TA. | . GTC. - | G...G | C | . AA. C. . $C$ | .GC. . A . |
| Pedum | . A | . TT | C | T.C | C | GC |


| Psumb | tttagcagta | AtGtgtganc | AgAGAgCCCA | CAttaAcccg | GACCTGA-GA |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rhleu |  | . AA.?. | ? |  | ..T...G..- C |
| Elmac |  | .A. .G. |  | T. | ..T...G.AG |
| Emmac |  | . AA.G. |  | T. | . .T. . G |
| Ellat |  | AA.G. |  | T. | I |
| Elden |  | AA.G. |  | A. | . 1 |
| Elpur |  | AA.G. |  | т.? | ?????????? |
| Elgeo |  | AA.G. |  | T.? | ?????????? |
| Chlon |  | A. .A. |  | T......AA. | . AG |
| Chobl |  | A. .A. |  | T......AA. | .tag |
| Chrug |  | A. .A...T |  | т......AA. | cag |
| Chfim |  | A...T | TT. | A. | C |
| Plpla | C | A. |  | T.A. | . T. |
| Acpal |  | AA. | .т. | TTA. | C |
| Phgeo | . $\mathrm{A} . . \mathrm{T}$. | .AA. . $T$ | тт. | т.A. |  |
| Phgib |  | . AGA.G. | т. | C.tTA. |  |
| Phnas |  | . AGA.G. |  | тTA. |  |
| Hytec |  | . AA. |  | . . A. | . T |
| Pesub |  | . .C.AA. . T | A. . . ${ }^{\text {T. }}$ | T.....A... | .c....g |
| Ermad |  | . .T.TGA. | T.A. | A. . . . GTA. | . .TA..G |
| Pelsin |  | . .t.AG...T | .T. | T.....G... | .C....G. |
| Podexp |  | T.TG...T | A. | A. . . . A.A. | . AA.... AG C |
| Pedum |  |  |  | A. G. A.A. | . CAA. . . . . . |

16S rRNA
Psumb AGGGGTGATG CCTGCCCAGT GACATTGTTT AA?GGCCGCG GTATACTGAC CGTGCAAAGG

Elmac ...A...... .......... .... C..... .?C....... ..... C..... ...... G....

Ellat ...A..... .............. .....?C ..C....... .......................
Elden ...A...... .................... ..C................................
Elpur ...A..... ....G..... ....A.... .. C..?.... ...CC..... ...... G....
Elgeo ?????????? ?????????? ?????????? ??.???. T. .G?.C..... ....GG...


$\qquad$

Plpla ?????????? ?????????? ?????????? ??.??????. ....T.................

Acpal ?????????? ?????????. ..?.-..?.C .TC..?..T. ....T................




| Psumb | AAGACGAGAA | GACCCTGTGG | AACTTTAAGT | -ACAAGTCGA | CCATTAAAT- | CTT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rhleu |  |  |  | . .TG. . . . A- | TT. CC.--CT | A. ACtaA. . A |
| Elmac |  |  |  | .GT. . . . A- | TA. . . --CT | A. ACTAA. . A |
| Emmac |  |  |  | . .TG....A- | T..CC.--. ${ }^{\text {P }}$ | A. ACCAA. . A |
| Ellat |  |  |  | .T.... . A- | T.. CC. --. T | A. ACCAA. CC |
| Elden |  |  |  | .T.G...A- | .A. . C.--. ${ }^{\text {C }}$ | A. ACCAA. . A |
| Elpur |  |  |  | .GT. . . . A- | . . . CC. --CT | A. ACTAA. . A |
| Elgeo |  |  |  | .T.....A- | T..CC.--. ${ }^{\text {T }}$ | A. ACCTA. . A |
| Chlon |  |  |  | . .T.....A. | .T.C.....T | ACAATAC.AA |
| Chobl |  |  |  | . .T.....A. | .T.C....CT | ACAACAC.AA |
| Chrug |  |  |  | . T.....A. | .T.CC...CT | AAAACTCTAA |
| Chfim |  |  | A. A. | . . AC. . .TA. | AGGA. G---T | AAATTAC. AA |
| Plpla |  |  | ?......A. | . TG.C.AA. | .A. .A.G. | AACCCAC-CA |



Psumb TCCTATA--- -AACTT-TAC CCCTAA-T-T ACTCGACTAT TA-CTTTTGG TTGGGGTGAC
Rhleu CT.A.C.GAA ....AC.... TTA. --. C.C ..CT....C. A.A....C.. ....... C...
Elmac CT.A.C.GAA T...AC.... TTAC..CC.. .TCT...C.A A.A....C.. ....... C...
Emmac CT.A.C.GAA ....AC.... T-AC..CC.. TACT....TC ..A....C.. ....... $C .$.
Ellat CT.A.C.GAA T..TAC.... T.A...CC.C T.CT....T. C.A....C.. ...........
Elden .T.A.C.GAA ....AC.--. .TG...AA.C ..CT....TA A.A....C.. ....... C...
Elpur CT.A...GAG ....AC.C.A TTA...AC.. .. СT....CA A.A....C.. ....... $С$...
Elgeo CT.A.C.GAA.T.ACC.... T.A...CC.. T.CT....TC C.A....C.. ....... C...
Chlon CT...AT.GA ....AC.C.. ATAC.G.... ...T... CT. --A....C.. ........... Chobl CT...CT.GA .....AC.C.. ATAA...... ....T....CT. --A....C.. ............ Chrug CT. C.CTTGA .G..AC.... ATAC...... ...T....CT. --A....C.. .......... Chfim AT.C.ACAGG ....AC.A.G .TAC..C-.C CA.TT.ACCC ...T.................. Plpla A..G.C.CGG .CC.AC.C.A ..AC..TCT. T.ATT.GCC. ...T....C.. ........... Acpal A..A....GG .?C.AC.C.A ..AC..TCCC TACTT.GCC. ...T....C.. ........... Phgeo A..G....GG ..C.AC.... TA-.G.CCAC T.-TT.GCTC ....T...C.. G.......... Phgib ?-.C...GGG ..G?AC.ATA T.A.G.T?.C CACTT.GCC. . .AT...C.. Phnas A-.C...TGG ..G.AC.ATA T.A.G.T..C CACTT.GCC. ..AT...C.. .......... Hytec C.. A. GGAAA ?.TTAC.C.T TAT.G.G... ---TA..CC. --A....?.. ........... Pesub C.TGT?GGGA A.GGAAA..A A.AC.GT?TC C.AT.G-.TA .CA...GG.. .?.... C... Ermad ..TCCCCATG GGT.CA.C.T TAAAC.T..C C.CT..-.TA .TA....C.. ....... C... Pesin C.TA. GGGAA AG.AA..A.A ATT...G.A. CTC.TGG.TA .TC.................... Poexp A.--CCCACG GG..CA.C.T . AAATTT..C C.CT..-.TA .TA....C.. ........... Pedur -.gCCCTACG GG..GA.C.. AAACC.CAAC CTCT..-.TA C.A....C.. ...........

|  |  |  | ****** | ********** |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Psumb | CTCGGAGAAC | AATAAACCCT | CCGAAAAT-- | --TTTTT--- | -ACTGAG | AtACCACAAA |
| Rhleu |  | . A. |  | . AC. | A. | . C.A. |
| Elmac | .......?.. | A | AA. | CAC | A. | . . . A. |
| Emmac |  | . C...A. |  | . AC | AC. | . ${ }^{\text {at }}$ |
| Ellat |  | A. |  | . AC | A. | . GT |
| Elden | G.T | A. . C |  | . AC | CA. | . G . |
| Elpur |  | C. . A. |  | . AC | . A. | . GT |
| Elgeo | A | A. |  | AC | . A. | . C. AT |
| Chlon | . T | A. | . .A.....A. | -A- | CA. | . .TA-....C |
| Chobl | . T. | A. | . . A. . . AA. | -A- | . CA. | . .TA-. . . GC |
| Chrug | T | . C. . A. | . A. . . . A. | -A- | CA. | . . CA- . . C . |
| Chfim | A | . GA. . . A. |  | C. A. | G.CA. | . ACA- . . GG |
| Plpla | ?.A | . . CC. . A. | GA. | . AC. | . C ? | . A.A- |
| Acpal |  | . C. . . A. . $C$ |  | . CA.? | . A. | . ATA - . . . ${ }^{\text {d }}$ |
| Phgeo | ?.A | . . CG. . A. |  | . CC.A. | . A. | . ACA- |
| Phgib | A | . C?. . A. | . ?--GA. | . . ? A? | CA. | . ACA - . . G |
| Phnas |  | . .C...A. | GA. | ..C.AA? | . A. | . ACA-. ?.G. |
| Hytec | ? | . A. .. A. |  | . C.AC. | CA. | . . TA. |
| Pesub |  | . C. С-T. | . ?GA. | ..G.ACATCT | CAT. . . CT. | . .T--. . . CC |
| Ermad |  | A. | G. . AG | GGC.A. . TCT | CCTA.T.A. | . ATG-. . . TT |
| Pesin | .t.A | . C. . A. | GA. | . .G.A-.TCT | CAT. . . . A. | . ATA-. . . CC |
| Poexp | T. | . G. | G. . AG | GAC-AAAA.T | CCAC. . CA. | .AT.-. . . CC |
| Pedur | C. | . A. | . AG | GAC-ACCACT | CCAC. . AA. | . CA - . . C . |
|  | *** | ********** |  |  |  |  |
| Psumb | CCTAAGTGCT | TT-CGGC--A | AAGCGATCCA | A-AAACTTGA | TCAACGAACC | AAGCTACCCC |
| Rhleu | . . C |  | A. | .TTT.AA. |  |  |
| Elmac |  | -. A. | ? | -T.T..A. |  |  |
| Emmac |  | -. A. | . . A. | .T.C. |  |  |
| Ellat | C | -. A. | . A. | .T.T. |  |  |
| Elden | T.......TC | -. A. A. | . A. | .T.T..A. |  |  |
| Elpur |  |  | . A. | .T.T. A. |  |  |
| Elgeo |  | -. A. | A. | .T.T. |  |  |
| Chlon | . .A. . . . . C | C.AAA. | . .A. | .T.CT. |  |  |
| Chobl | A. . . . . C | . AA | A | T.C.T |  |  |





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