



Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Retraction of paper from ARC

21 messages

Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 9, 2013 at 9:24 AM

To: Robert Browne <redlist.arc@gmail.com>, Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Dear Robert,

This is in regards to an unethical paper published in *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation*:

New localities of the Kurdistan newt *Neureergus microspilotus* and Lake Urmia newt *Neureergus crocatus* (Caudata: Salamandridae) in Iraq. 2013. Al-Sheikhly OF, Nader IA, Rastegar-Pouyani N, Browne RK. *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation* 6(4): 42–49 (e68).

Among other questionable activities, data (localities) were published that the author(s) had no official permission to publish. It is recommended that the paper be retracted by a majority of the ARC board and Craig Hassapakis, Editor and Publisher of ARC.

No correspondence has been being received by Robert Browne thus he is in dereliction of his official ARC duties and thus can be considered abandoned the ARC. If this is not true Robert Browne must correspond to me by email regarding important matters of the journal otherwise the ARC board and Craig Hassapakis will make these important decisions for the proper functioning of the journal *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation* without participation of Robert Browne (now or in the future).

Cordially,

Craig Hassapakis, ARC Board Member, Editor, and Publisher

Amphibian & Reptile Conservation

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[Craig Hassapakis, arc.publisher@gmail.com](mailto:arc.publisher@gmail.com)

Editor & Publisher, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation,
Editor, [FrogLog](#) & member of the [IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist](#)

[Group](#)
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Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

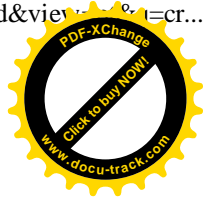
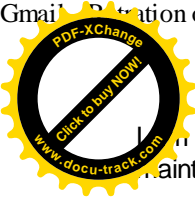
Fri, Aug 9, 2013 at 11:55 AM

To: Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Hi C

You were not publisher of the ARC, I and the website were and are. You owe money to the ARC for the website that have consistently not been paid when due.

The ARC as per my previous email is a partnership in dissolution, and you have no right to send emails to anyone as a representative of the ARC.



I am concerned for the previous authors and those in train for publication by ARC. I will as stated many times maintain the website and upload article until things sort themselves out.

Perhaps you could offer to purchase the ARC from Howard and myself, or we can reach some other agreement.

I cant see any other matters to discuss at the moment.

Sincerely, Robert

[Quoted text hidden]

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Dr Robert Browne
Director - Sustainability for Sarteneja
Director - Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (journal).
CEO Corporate Comfort Ltd.
robert.browne@gmail.com

This e-mail has been sent in confidence to the named addressee(s).
If you are not the intended recipient, you must not disclose or distribute
it in any form, and you are asked to contact the sender immediately.

Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 9, 2013 at 12:01 PM

To: Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>

Sorry Howard I forgot to include you as recipient. If the email seems harsh it is that I dont trust Craig to represent you or my interests, or to be our representative.

Craig seems to have no idea of what he is doing and in any case no expertise to do it.

Best, R

[Quoted text hidden]

Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 9, 2013 at 2:47 PM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Robert,

How much are you asking for me to buy you out completely (not including Howard)?

C

[Quoted text hidden]

Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 9, 2013 at 3:02 PM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Regarding the remaining paper(s) status: I am working on finishing the Corroboree paper and Michoacan paper. I am also waiting to get your final corrections on Part B of the Giant salamander paper so we can finish that one as well. The Colombia issue is just getting going but I can handle that regardless.

[Quoted text hidden]

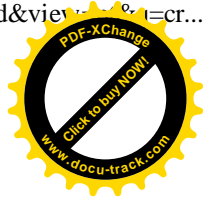
Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 9, 2013 at 6:44 PM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>

Hi Robert,

I just acquired Howard's interest in ARC through a deal I brokered with him. I now own 55% of ARC (My original 45% and Howard's previous 10%). What are you presently asking from me so I can get my journal 100% back?



Look forward to making progress quickly.

Sincerely,

Craig Hassapakis, Majority owner of ARC
Amphibian & Reptile Conservation

On Fri, Aug 9, 2013 at 11:55 AM, Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 12, 2013 at 7:19 AM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>

Date: 12 August 2013.

Robert,

Still waiting for your reply. Much to do and decisions to be made but I am awaiting your reply before I proceed. In the event I don't hear from you by 13 August 2013 I will assume managing the ARC since I now own the majority of ARC (55%) and deal with all the editing, graphic design and the website is moving thus no need for you to be involved with ARC at all soon.

Craig

[Quoted text hidden]

Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 12, 2013 at 3:14 PM

To: Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Craig

I wish that we could work this out. The whole process has been very destructive and time consuming.

From my standpoint, the first step in any reconciliation is for you to formally, through an email with a letter attached, apologise for the defamatory emails you sent concerning me.

This email must go to all parties that you have sent defamatory emails to.

I will consider you buying me out. How much have you paid Howard?

R

[Quoted text hidden]

Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

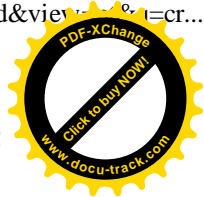
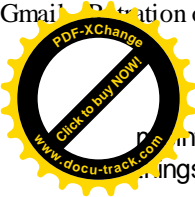
Mon, Aug 12, 2013 at 4:19 PM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Robert,

The only emails I sent out concerning ARC were to James Lewis, Candace Hansen, (you brought them into the conversation) and Howard Clark regarding our official votes concerning moving the website and the board vote to dissolution of the ARC, etc. These are straight forward emails and thus no need to apologize for anything I can think of (but there may be something). Let me know and we'll work through this together.

As far as the plagiarism in the paper I feel the best thing is to retract the paper and remove it from the website. If this is done I will make a formal apology for anything that was untrue (can't think of anything but there may be some



interpretations, etc. that a formal letter by me could clear up). Again, I'll work with you on this matter to get things straightenout so we can both move forward on our respective projects.

I paid zero money to Howard.

I am not interested in taking over the ARC website but moving it so let's come up with a reasonable figure for this to happen.

Looking forward to hearing from you asap.

Craig

[Quoted text hidden]

Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 14, 2013 at 1:53 PM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Robert,

Still waiting to hear from you but in the interim I must move the ARC website to the new site (you no longer have to do any work for ARC and are free to pursue your interests in Belize). This decision is in accord to an official vote of the ARC board in July and now my decision as the majority holder of the ARC ownership at 55%.

Also, still interested in working something out for your efforts with ARC.

Craig Hassapakis, Majority owner of ARC

[Quoted text hidden]

Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 15, 2013 at 2:16 PM

To: Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Hi C

The ARC is a partnership and either partner can end it at any time by a simple letter of notice. In this case one partner can buy out the other, or the partnership assets have to be sold.

You do not need any panel to act anyway you want or to do nothing, within the intent of the partnership, and neither do I. So you better keep me happy or you will receive notice.

I am getting some emails with article submissions. If you present proof of the capacity to produce and publish them (ie. name and email address of web producer and producer of proof) I will send through?

Will we publish the cryptobranchid article? or shall I send to another journal. Same for a new article for the Neurergus Issue.

R

[Quoted text hidden]

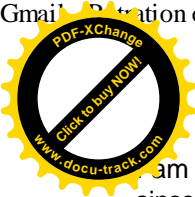
Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 15, 2013 at 5:13 PM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Hi R

I am working with two new graphic designers and another web designer for the new ARC website. The first demonstration of our abilities will be the Corroboree paper which I hope to have in two weeks or so.



I am still awaiting your final changes to the cryptobranchid paper for which we have been close to finishing ever since the Cryptobranchid meetings in Chattanooga. Send the needed changes to me and I'll finish that paper and we will publish in ARC as planned.

Send me the Neurergus paper for me to send out for peer-review.

The journal will continue and not be sold.

Again for the ninth time, what are you asking for your contribution to ARC since you have been involved?

Other issues such as the retraction of the paper to discuss but let's do the above first.

C

[Quoted text hidden]

Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 16, 2013 at 10:46 AM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Robert,

The failed partnership has ended long ago. No corporation was formed even though you lied and said it was. This speaks to your character and thus Howard and I severed ties with you weeks ago by official votes of the board and now me as majority owner (55%), publisher, and editor of ARC. You have constructed an amateurish website that is riddled with errors and that you never correct even though I have sent numerous requests for corrections.

I don't have to give you anything but am trying to negotiate with you but you have failed (again) to reason out something that will work for you. If we never negotiate reasonably then you and I are wasting our time. Bottom line. All you have done is run a poor website and focus your time on your activities in Belize. Good luck.

I am also demanding you take the paper down from the website for which data was published that was not yours to publish. Again, something that speaks of your true character. Any reputable scientist would comply with the data owners request of retracting the paper. You have a very distorted view of the world of websites, publishing, and scientific ethics and should never pursue consider publishing in the future.

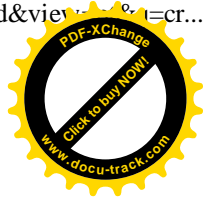
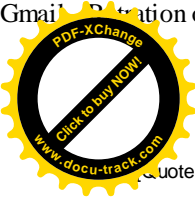
Scientific community is based on trust and you have proven to be untrustworthy. If you can't answer and comply with ethical and simple request(s) I guess this will be my last email to you.

If you plan to have any respectability at all to your professional commitments then I need the following complied with immediately:

- 1) A retraction of the Neurergus paper from the ARC website.
- 2) The last corrections to the Part B cryptobranchid paper.
- 3) Listing of me as the editor of the journal on the first page of the old ARC website and my email address: arc.publisher@gmail.com
Article submissions go to the editor not the journal.
- 4) Any new submissions.

If you can't do these simple and ethical requests we have nothing to discuss and I will continue to run ARC the proper way and you can continue to pay for a unauthorized and illegal website.

Craig



[Quoted text hidden]

Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 17, 2013 at 4:14 AM

To: Robert Browne <redlist.arc@gmail.com>, Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Official notices will be posted and distributed through herpetological publications (FrogLog, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, and others) online and in print of the official move of the ARC website and editorship. These notices will also declare that Robert K. Browne of Belize (aka Dr. Robert Browne redlist.arc@gmail.com or to Isla Road, Sarteneja, Corozal Distric, Belize) no longer is associated with the journal by official vote of the board and that no papers and/or communication should be continued with the old website at: www.redlist-ARC.org.

Official notices with also continue about the retraction of the paper from ARC:

*New localities of the Kurdistan newt [Neurergus microspilotus](#) and Lake Urmia newt [Neurergus crocatus](#) (Caudata: Salamandridae) in Iraq. 2013. Al-Sheikhly OF, Nader IA, Rastegar-Pouyani N, Browne RK. *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation* 6(4): 42–49 (e68).*

and your unethical behaviors and involvement as editor of the paper (major conflict of interests), unwillingness to retract the paper from the ARC website, and unauthorized and illegal activities running an official ARC website in Belize.

We will also publish the Part B cryptobranchid paper as is if no changes are submitted to us this week.

Good luck with your activities (outside of ARC) in Belize.

[Quoted text hidden]

Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 17, 2013 at 11:34 AM

To: James Lewis <jplewis@amphibians.org>

Hi James

Craig is clearly trying to defame me and intimidate me so as to take over the ARC. He has been sending malicious emails, sending emails asking about me to persons, etc.

It is quite clear that the ARC is a partnership between Craig and I. In a partnership any partner can close the partnership by simple notice and rights to the partnership can be sold publicly or to the other partner.

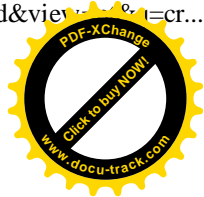
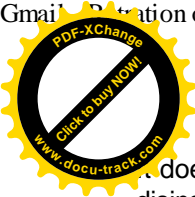
In fact the article Craig is referring to is not the one misusing data but that of Elnaz. Senior officials from Iraq are addressing this problem with the university where Elnaz is doing her PhD. Prof Rastegar and I will also be addressing the issue of defamation with Elnaz's university.

In respect to "Official notices" these are meaningless as there was never any board. Howard has had enough and has quit.

In respect to the official notice

"Official notices will be posted and distributed through herpetological publications ([FrogLog](#), Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, and others) online and in print of [the official move of the ARC website and editorship](#). These notices will also declare that Robert K. Browne of Belize (aka Dr. Robert Browne redlist.arc@gmail.com or to Isla Road, Sarteneja, Corozal Distric, Belize) no longer is associated with the journal by [official vote of the board](#) and that no papers and/or communication should be continued with the old website at: www.redlist-ARC.org."

does the Craig represent the ASG, and does the ASG support Craig.



... does not seem appropriate for the ASG to support a person who is conducting a malicious and clearly disingenuous campaign to defame a conservationist of global reach and high academic achievement, to cause problems for major conservation programs for threatened amphibian species, and who is clearly trying to defraud his business partner.

Craig has never published a scientific paper in a credible journal, I do not think even has a science degree, supports himself by working in establishments like "Hooters", and has no training in editing.

He seems a strange person to represent the ASG, as he is by the email below and his email attributions in his email address.

Could you clearly reply (CCd to Craig) of his position in respect to the ASG.

Sincerely, Robert

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Craig Hassapakis** <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Aug 17, 2013 at 5:14 AM

Subject: Re: Retraction of paper from ARC

[Quoted text hidden]

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Dr Robert Browne
Director - Sustainability for Sarteneja
Director - Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (journal).
CEO Corporate Comfort Ltd.
robert.browne@gmail.com

This e-mail has been sent in confidence to the named addressee(s).
If you are not the intended recipient, you must not disclose or distribute
it in any form, and you are asked to contact the sender immediately.

Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>
To: Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 17, 2013 at 11:47 AM

Hi C

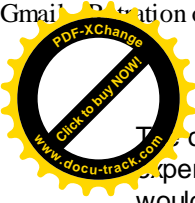
Good luck with your endeavors.

I will consult with the other authors about the Crypto paper. But at the moment, because of the instability of the ARC, they favor the journal "Herpetological Biology and Conservation". Same for the other publications in line for the ARC subjects of Neurergus salamanders, conservation breeding, and giant salamanders.

In fact the way things are going perhaps all articles from now on should be presented for ARC should be recommended to authors for that journal.

To me our primary responsibility is to our authors and perhaps we should stop arguing and simply ask "Herpetological Biology and Conservation" to archive the ARC, and shut the ARC down.

I could not sell you my share of the ARC without a certainty that it will be run responsibly.



The only way I can see that that could be done is to have maybe three or four equal co-owners, with reasonable expertise such as editors for credible journals, professional scientists with good publication records, etc. There would also have to be a responsible panel or whatever to oversee the journal management.

Sincerely, Robert

[Quoted text hidden]

Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

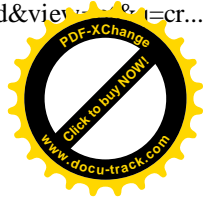
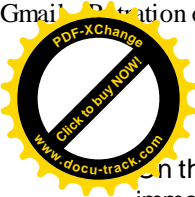
Sat, Aug 17, 2013 at 1:03 PM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Robert,

The Part B cyrtobranchid paper has been submitted to ARC and remains its right to publish. All we need is the last few changes and we can finish and publish that paper. This is your responsibility to get these changes to us (which you have failed to do to date). It has been two months or longer since the symposium in Chattanooga and where are the small changes needed to finish this paper?

The current ARC board, editors, and new additions such as two new graphic designers and a web designer are fully capable of running the ARC and its administration. Once we have the new site up I'll let you know. My name needs to go on the website as editor ASAP. If this is not done immediately official notices will start again from the publishing headquarters of ARC to the herpetological community. I will give you to the end of today and if not done then the notices go out tonight!



On the point of responsible running of ARC (and to its readership and herpetology community in general) is the immediate retraction of the paper from the website:

New localities of the Kurdistan newt *Neuregus microspilotus* and Lake Urmia newt *Neuregus crocatus* (Caudata: Salamandridae) in Iraq. 2013. Al-Sheikhly OF, Nader IA, Rastegar-Pouyani N, Browne RK. *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation* 6(4): 42–49 (e68).

If this is not done immediately official notices will start again and in addition to the notice above from the publishing headquarters of ARC to the herpetological community of its official retraction of the paper and your refusal to take it off the ARC website. ARC does not support plagiarism and any conflicts of interest within its editorial board. You infringed on your professional responsibilities as an editor of ARC and that was a major consideration in your being voted off the board of ARC and the dissolution of any ARC partnership.

WE are also finishing the Corroboree paper and working on editing others that are coming into the ARC publishing headquarters at: arc.publisher@gmail.com. Please forward any papers you wish for us to consider for publication.

At least I feel good you are trying to do the right thing but I wish to have no involvement with you regarding the official functioning of ARC. You were voted off the ARC board for a reason by the two people who have worked with you intensively and probably know you best. The ARC has no need for your involvement accept beyond tying up loose ends with papers and moving of the ARC website.

Your help with these activities is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Craig Hassapakis, Editor and Publisher

Amphibian & Reptile Conservation

[Quoted text hidden]

James Lewis <jplewis@amphibians.org>

Mon, Aug 19, 2013 at 8:25 AM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>, Craig Hassapakis <arc.coeditor1@gmail.com>

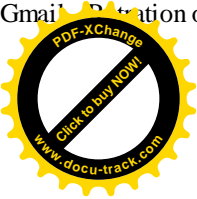
Robert/Craig,

In light of recent emails I would like to suggest that you both consider not Ccing Candace Hansen and myself on ARC internal communications. Neither the ASG nor the ASA currently have any formal agreements with ARC and there is no clear reason for us to be included in these emails. If in the future you would like to discuss further how we can work together I would be happy to discuss this. As previously indicated, both the ASG and ASA have a number of partnerships with organizations around the world and we would be happy to work with you once your internal challenges have been resolved.

I should also like to take this opportunity to confirm that Craig's involvement with FrogLog is independent of any organizational conversations we might have in the future.

Kind Regards,

James



James P. Lewis
 Programme Officer
 IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group



PO Box 129 | Austin | TX 78767 | USA | Tel (703) 772-5626

[Website](#) | [FrogLog](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Linkedin](#)

Confidentiality Note: This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and may be protected by legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this e-mail or any attachment is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify us immediately by returning it to the sender and delete this copy from your system. Thank you for your cooperation.

Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>
 To: Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 19, 2013 at 3:22 PM

Hi C

My comments below.

On Sat, Aug 17, 2013 at 2:03 PM, Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Robert,

The Part B cyrtobranchid paper has been submitted to ARC and remains its right to publish. All we need is the last few changes and we can finish and publish that paper. This is your responsibility to get these changes to us (which you have failed to do to date). It has been two months or longer since the symposium in Chattanooga and where are the small changes needed to finish this paper?

The ARC has no copyright agreement to that paper, and no right to demand proof changes be returned at any particular time. However, I will try to expedite things as it seems appropriate that the article is included with the others.

The current ARC board, editors, and new additions such as two new graphic designers and a web designer are fully capable of running the ARC and its administration. Once we have the new site up I'll let you know.

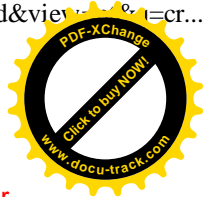
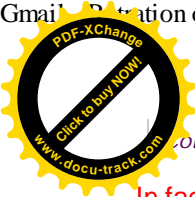
As is quite clear the ARC is a partnership and you can do what you want, until I demand its dissolution through a lack of agreement between partners.

My name needs to go on the website as editor ASAP. If this is not done immediately official notices will start again from the publishing headquarters of ARC to the herpetological community. I will give you to the end of today and if not done then the notices go out tonight!

As above, and more threats of defamation here.

On the point of responsible running of ARC (and to its readership and herpetology community in general) is the immediate retraction of the paper from the website:

New localities of the Kurdistan newt *Neurergus microspilotus* and Lake Urmia newt *Neurergus crocatus* (Caudata: Salamandridae) in Iraq. 2013. Al-Sheikhly OF, Nader IA, Rastegar-Pouyani N, Browne RK. *Amphibian and Reptile*



Amphibian & Reptile Conservation 6(4): 42–49 (e68).

In fact Elnaz is the one guilty of plagiarism for not including Omar on her paper. In addition both Elnaz and Omar were at the sites so I cant think why either can have precedence for finding them. Both papers are best left up or if anything Elnaz's should be retracted. Elnaz's university is being sent a letter asking for a full apology. We will also probably send a letter to you for your part in your disingenuous endeavors.

If this is not done immediately official notices will start again and in addition to the notice above from the publishing headquarters of ARC to the herpetological community of its official retraction of the paper and your refusal to take it off the ARC website. ARC does not support plagiarism and any conflicts of interest within its editorial board.

I think that the conflict of interest is in your relationship to Elnaz including a demand by you because you "really like this girl" for her to be placed on the editorial board.

You infringed on your professional responsibilities as an editor of ARC and that was a major consideration in your being voted off the board of ARC and the dissolution of any ARC partnership.

There never was a board as such things do not exist within partnerships.

WE are also finishing the Corroboree paper and working on editing others that are coming into the ARC publishing headquarters at: arc.publisher@gmail.com. Please forward any papers you wish for us to consider for publication.

As a partner I can simply go ahead and publish ARC papers within ethical guidelines for scientific publication.

At least I feel good you are trying to do the right thing but I wish to have no involvement with you regarding the official functioning of ARC. You were voted off the ARC board for a reason by the two people who have worked with you intensively and probably know you best. The ARC has no need for your involvement accept beyond tying up loose ends with papers and moving of the ARC website.

I am part owner of the ARC and can do whatever I want, until the partnership is dissolved. Try to make sure that you do not upload multiple versions of the same paper.

Your help with these activities is greatly appreciated.

No problems, I do my best.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 19, 2013 at 4:57 PM

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Your a lunatic certifiable Robert! You fail to accept what you have done (major unethical actions on your part of ARC i.e., conflict of interest in publishing papers and others as well) and not done (nothing at all professional but scandalous).

I'm the editor and publisher of *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* and you're not! I'm the majority (55%) owner of ARC and you're not! I do not want to work with you beyond moving the website and finishing the papers we are committed to (BTW, you are doing nothing anyway its all me and others; exactly how your involvement with ARC was in the past and that is why we are no longer associated with you or want to be).

You are currently managing the soon to be old ARC website for which you were directed by the board and the majority owner of ARC to not do. You have no authority to make any decisions on your own; these must be done correctly thru boards and the majority owner of the journal, etc. I (people who have the vested authority). Again, the changes to the old ARC website which you did were unauthorized and illegal. Taking away my access to the gmail account is also beyond your authority as well. You are not working with me at all so why should I or want to work with you? Answer this question will you!



the majority owner of ARC I demand that I be listed as editor!!! I am the editor! And the publisher! Also, we agreed that the website is being moved to another site so your services are no longer needed or wanted.

WE have many things to work through if you want to remain a somewhat reputable person in the field of science but you continue to show your true character by your unethical and illegal activities toward a journal you have had little involvement and professional efforts toward creating.

Pull your head out of your rectum and realize what you are doing to your career! Do you think this is going to gain you respect once the entire scientific community is aware of your behaviors as a previous editor for ARC? Most people don't even know who you are but they will and it will not be good if you continue to be uncooperative and side step constantly the true issues in this matter.

Again, you can't make any editorial or publishing decisions based on your past experience as the ARC website manager, so no you can't publish any papers without working with the editors of the journal and for which you are not a part and self proclaimed that you had given up the editorship to work on ways to make money for ARC as business manager. And even if this were to continue you have to approve all decisions through the proper channels and for which you have no authority to do. That is the editors job. You have some input as a minority associate but no authority to do anything you are doing!

Also, we had both agreed on putting Elnaz on the editorial board and she was listed until recently when you again took an unauthorized decision to remove her! At best you are a minority owner that has contributed almost nothing in the form of professionalism and in creating a professional journal. Your uninspired efforts the past 2 years or so gain you little in my book but I still am confident we can come to some reasonable decision regarding these less than noble efforts of yours but you must make an honesty effort here.

Stop side stepping the issues and address the issues I have brought up above and below. This and only this will allow us to move forward. Please answer these questions specifically:

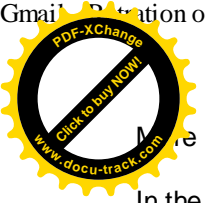
- 1) Who is the present editor of ARC?
- 2) Who is editing papers for the journal presently?
- 3) Who is working with graphic designer(s) to get papers ready to publish that we have in press?
- 4) Who is working to finish papers we had layout previous and were ready to publish accept for minor corrections?
- 5) Who is working on future issues of the journal?
- 6) Who is the majority owner of ARC?
- 7) Who founded the journal?
- 8) Who has worked since 1996 in publishing and editing the journal?
- 9) Who got things done that needed to be done so we could publish papers professionally and something we could be proud of?

When you start coming to terms with these questions and the reality of your scandalous behaviors in the field of science, and specially publishing, then you will see why I want nothing to do with you beyond finishing up our papers in press professional and ethically. You have shown your true nature and work ethic so what else can I say?

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Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>
To: Craig Hassapakis <arc.publisher@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 20, 2013 at 1:40 PM



More abuse and threats Craig! Your email content is harassment.

In the interests of our authors, conservation, and the many that have without pay contributed to the ARC in the past, I would prefer not to dissolve the ARC.

It may be best for us to simply go our own ways rather than to dissolve the ARC. I think that is what happened with your previous partner.

To achieve security for the authors we could simply agree to independently archive the ARC as it is up to date (after finishing our current article commitments).

Then we could both take the journal from there, perhaps under similar but clearly different names, by our independent means. If you would like to continue with the ARC name perhaps you could contribute some money directly to the community program here, that would be OK by me.

The community here is very upset by the possibility of such an innovative and supportive program, as formally published in our Froglog article, being stopped. They have already put considerable resources into the program such as purchasing some computers and are building rooms to house the computer training.

It would be a tragedy to see their hopes for support dashed, as the community is poor and needs the assistance, and embraces the concept of biodiversity conservation within sustainability as per our published program.

If anywhere needs support for herpetological biodiversity conservation it is in the highly biodiverse regions of the neo-tropics.

If the program is prevented by going ahead they may, through their government and US development agencies, submit a formal complaint to the US Embassy.

So let's put our differences aside and continue the great work and tradition of the ARC, by following our previous, and clearly stated commitments.

Sincerely, Robert

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