



Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Re: ARC, Neurergus

11 messages

omar Al-Sheikhly <alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 2:07 PM

To: nasrullah rastegar <nasrullah.r@gmail.com>

Cc: arc.coeditor1@gmail.com, jplewis@amphibians.org, cmhansen@amphibians.org, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com, asaccus@aol.com, barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk, asiaherp@berkeley.edu, farhang_torki@yahoo.com, Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>, Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>, Ammar Zakri <ammar.zakri@natureiraq.org>, nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org

Dear Craig and all

Thank you Dr. Nasruallah for forwarding me this post.

Dear Mr. Craig , I really surprised that you have spreading out this post to everybody without investigating with me first about such issue.

I'm responsible on every single details published in this paper.

First of all, I can see that the complain had come from Mrs. Elnaz Najafi Majed (Iran), which she is CCed and Anna Bachman (USA) as well .

first of all, I discovered this animal in 2008 (which that gives me all the rights) and I send the first email about that to Dr. Brown, Dr, Nasruallah Poyani , Dr. Muzafar Sharifi, and Dr, Guran Nilson to confirm my identification of this species in Iraq (Please Dr. Brwn and Dr. Nasruallah) can you please forward this email to Dr. Craig to let him be able see the details/and dates). Also you can check with others please

after that I invited Mrs. Elnaz to come to Iraq and I took her by myself to the site when I found the Kurdistan Newt in Mawat Area (*I Dear Elnaz can you deny that ?*) which was in 2012, and she was not aware where we are going at all, beside we agreed to publish a joined paper with Mrs. Elnaz about the findings in Northern Iraq and I sent her at least several reminding emails reminding her about where/when publishing our joint work (but she never answered me at all- and I argue her to deny that) which it was about more than one year of her visit to Iraq and never replayed to me at all), also I supersized why she did not contacted me first before sending this email to Mr. Carig?.

Beside that (after she left to Turkey I called her to confirm her back to Iraq to complete our joint working Erbil and Duhok provinces) and she never come back to me gain and it was a bad behavior when she came alone later and Dr. Sulaiman from Dukok told me that she was coming- *would you deny that also?*) see<http://koarp.org/>

I only surprised that I supported her companionship to me as I paid to her and her father their travelling and transportation to studying sites by my own coast and dear Craig you can check about that from NI finance manger who checked with me all the coast of her transportation to Iraq and he is cced , beside Mr. Nadheer Abood NI CEO in 2012 and the current NI CEO is cced her as well to let everybody check about that. Therefore the current work is originally supported by myself beside it was my initiative.

Myself has invited Ms. Elnaz which she questioning my abilities in her email to ARC editor to the committee I formed for NI at the time (2012) (Nature Iraq Reptiles and Amphibians Advising Committee), and I invited her to be a member after Dr. Brwon recommended her to me beside I send her my sightings to the Kurdistan Newt I found. <http://neurergus.org/Researchers-and-Herpetoculturalists/Omar-Fadhil.html>

Beside that , if you return back to the paper, we did not published any details of the species biology or their environmental requirements, it was only a new locations and even I'm I ornithologist (I'm holding an M.Sc. in Animal Ecology and I can send you my certificate) I can identify the Kurdistan Newt from Lake Uremia Newt which both I've knew before Ms. Elnaz come to Iraq in period of 6 years. please check the paper and my initial email to previous

expert in 2012.

For Nature Iraq, I left the work with them about 7 months ago and my contract was supplying data on birds, and beside that when I paid my own field trip to study Newt of Iraq and another field trip paid by Dr. Georg Ferhaofe from Germany and discovered more sites and collected data is officially belong to me as well as the photographs (Please NI CEO you can check with Mr. Nadheer Abood who was involved in this issue form the beginning which he CCed and he will acknowledge that I paid the Newt trip?), beside my contract did not enforcing me to supply my own data I gained through my field work to NI (all photographs and data were taken/collected by my own equipment - Please NI CEOs confirm that?) beside Nature Iraq and Ms. Elnaz was acknowledged in the current paper.

Finally, the first discovery in Iraq was made by me (Three experts confirmed that beside Ms. Elnaz) , and the field work has paid by me, photographs were taken by my own camera and lenses, in addition I've consulting with Dr. Nasruallah, Dr. Brwon, Dr. Muzhafar Sharifi, Dr. Guran Nilson since my first discovery.

Further more, on the next Sunday hopfully , I will deliver an official complain to the Iraqi Minister of Environment and Iraqi Minister of Higher education which both are an official scientific authorities for Iraq arguing their law committees to take an action about this false accusation which confiemd by NI to my reputation, in addition Dr. Brown and Dr. Nasraulla has only advised and scientifically supported this issue since it was discovered in 2005-6.

Finally, It is pity from you Ms.Elnaz after all the kindness I've made to your visit to Iraq and you ignores to my all posts to you, but thank you've raised this issue among everybody.

All the best.

Omar

Forwarded message -----

From: **Craig Hassapakis** <>

Date: Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 10:02 PM

Subject: Fwd: ARC, Neurergus

To: "James P. Lewis" <jplewis@amphibians.org>, Candace M Hansen <cmhansen@amphibians.org>, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, Elnaz Najafi Majd <elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com>, nasrullah rastegar <nasrullah.r@gmail.com>, "Steve C. Anderson" <asaccus@aol.com>, Barbod Safaei <barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk>, Ted Papenfuss <asiaherp@berkeley.edu>, Hanyeh Ghaffari <herpetology_hghaffari@yahoo.com>, Farhang Torki <farhang_torki@yahoo.com>

On Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 9:04 PM, nasrullah rastegar <nasrullah.r@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Omar

Please read the message by Craig Hassapakis (ARC editor) and tell me your idea bout that.

Please try to answer Craig and if you have committed anything wrong, you have to apologize and fully explain everything for us.

I am looking to hear from you soon.

Regards,

NASRULLAH

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

From: **Craig Hassapakis** <arc.coeditor1@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 10:02 PM

Subject: Fwd: ARC, Neurergus

To: "James P. Lewis" <jplewis@amphibians.org>, Candace M Hansen <cmhansen@amphibians.org>, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, Elnaz Najafi Majd <elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com>, nasrullah rastegar <nasrullah.r@gmail.com>, "Steve C. Anderson" <asaccus@aol.com>, Barbod Safaei <barbodsafaei2000@yahoo.co.uk>, Ted Papenfuss <asiaherp@berkeley.edu>, Hanyeh Ghaffari <herpetology_hghaffari@yahoo.com>, Farhang Toriki <farhang_torki@yahoo.com>

RE:

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

REF: http://www.redlist-arc.org/Article-PDFs/Neurergus%20in%20Iraq_ARC_6%284%29_42-49_high.pdf

Dear All (and to be passed to others with an interest in this matter),

Here are the ethical violations that Omar Fadhil Al-Sheikhli, Robert Browne, and others have evidently conspired to commit and subsequently successfully executed by publishing a paper that never should have been published (at the very least in its current form). Through good evidence of an eye witness (**Elnaz NAJAFI MAJD**) to actual parts of the field work and intimate knowledge of the participants the facts are numbered below in emails by Elnaz NAJAFI MAJD and Anna Bachmann).

Results were published by those will no official permission, authors (Robert Browne and possibly others) involved who made no intellectual contribution to the paper (with the possible acception of editing) and allowed these false and unethical results to be attributed to those who had no right in disclosing and subsequently published (Robert Browne as the section editor and peer-review editor for the paper in question).

This has caused a disturbance and crisis within the Iranian herpetology community and the journal *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* (ARC) must respond. It is suggested that the paper possibly be retracted from the journal but at the very last a full Erratum detailing the mistakes and corrections so as to set the record straight within the literature.

This has in part (and other blunders, work ethic issues, and other work related matters of importance) has prompted the ARC acting board to vote in the affirmative to disassociate (and dissolution of activities between Craig Hassapakis, Editor and Publisher, *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* and Howard Clark, Graphic Designer and Associate Editor, *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* and Robert Browne---"former" journal associate) from any and all involvement with the journal *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* by an official vote to do so. This means that Robert Browne henceforth has no official standing in the journal *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* outside what little contribution he has in finishing the current articles accepted for publication in the journal.

The publisher Craig Hassapakis will finish all current articles accepted to be published in the journal and will continue the activities of the journal. Any comments and/or communications should be directed to Craig Hassapakis, Editor and Publisher, *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* at: arc.coeditor1@gmail.com.

The journal *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* and its publisher and editor Craig Hassapakis apologize profoundly for these unfortunate events and will rectify them to the best of its ability as soon as possible (in printed form) to set the literature record straight and attribute correctly the authors' of the original work and intellectual contributions. These types of negative behaviors exhibited are in no way supported by the journal *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* and actions will be taken swiftly to ameliorate and/or correct them.

Sincerely,

Craig Hassapakis, Editor and Publisher
Amphibian & Reptile Conservation
arc.coeditor1@gmail.com

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

From: **elnaz najafy** <elnaz_najafy@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 6:09 AM
Subject: ARC, Neurergus
To: Craig Hassapakis <arc.coeditor1@gmail.com>
Cc: Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>, Hanyeh Ghaffari <herpetology_hghaffari@yahoo.com>, "asaccus@aol.com" <asaccus@aol.com>

Dear Craig

There is some thing that i want you know about the last paper in your journal "Neurergus in Iraq_ARC_6(4)_42-49"

Omer (the author) is an ornithologist, as a member of Nature Iraq he accompanied me 3 days in my field studied in sulaimaniya Province in Iraq in May 2012, and he had seen the newt randomly in the field. He didn't have any idea about the male and female, eggs and larvae of the newt! Some of the localities that you see here was my field results too! Robert knew that i had surveys in the area! I'm sorry for him and people who provoked him to do this!
Also i want to ask Robert Browne and Dr. Rastegar-Pouyani, what was your role in this study?!
What you do is not science!!! its highly unethical and you are developing bad reputation by publishing paper like these!

About the text ,there was some errors,

- at first check the name of the species here " <http://research.amnh.org/vz/herpetology/amphibia/?action=references&id=32081> "

the name was changed to *Neurergus derjugini* (Nesterov, 1916)

- According the Schnider & Schnide 2011, *Neurergus derjugini* was first record by Nesterove on 1914!
- Intensive field study from 2007-2012 means that they have done surveys every year during the time that this newt is active! But as we see just one survey in 2007 and two surveys in 2012! It is a joke!

Thanks in advance for your considerations
Sincerely

Elnaz NAJAFI MAJD

Ph.D candidate. Section of Zoology. Department of Biology. Faculty of Science. Ege University
35100 Bornova. İzmir/ Turkey

Phone: +905069350015
email: elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com
elnaz_najafy@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>
To: elnaz najafy <elnaz_najafy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2013 3:56 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Research collaboration

well, Elnaz, I'm not sure if it would be valuable to add anything to what you wrote ... I just would say that Omar did not represent himself properly. He did this work as an employee of NI but did not get permission to use NI data in this way. He also reported data collected

while working for NI that he never turned in to NI. These show poor judgement and dubious ethics but don't speak to the issue of whether the information in the paper is good or not.

I can say that any data collected prior to 2012 is a big surprise to me. I really was not away of Omar doing any such work and there certainly was not a program focused on this newt that NI (or Omar) was involved in.

I'd be curious to see anything you write about the article though.

Anna

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Join the campaign to protect the Tigris River. Support the [Tigris River Flotilla](#)

.....
Anna Sophia Bachmann
Program Manager
Nature Iraq
Project manager for:
 Key Biodiversity Areas Project,
 Waterkeepers Iraq

Mailing address: Nature Iraq, P.O. Box 249, Sulaymaniyah, Iraq
[+964 7704615071](#) (Iraq cell)
[\(646\) 519 0878](#) (US cell)
skype: anna_bachmann

There are a thousand hacking away at the branches of evil
To one who is striking at the roots - Thoreau

.....

----> Think before you print.

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Craig Hassapakis, arc.coeditor1@gmail.com
Editor & Publisher, [Amphibian and Reptile Conservation](#),
Editor, [FrogLog](#) & member of the [IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist](#)
[Group](#)

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Nasrullah Rastegar-Pouyani (PhD; Professor),
 Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Razi University,
 6714967346 Kermanshah, Iran
 Director, Iranian Plateau Herpetology Research Group (IPHRG), Razi University,
 6714967346 Kermanshah, Iran
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 E-mail: nasrullah.r@gmail.com

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Omar F. Al-Sheikhly
 M.Sc. Animal Ecologist
 Wildlife Expert - Pro. Wildlife Photographer
 Assistant Teacher
 Department of Biology - College of Science
 University of Baghdad
 Wildlife Expert
 Iraqi Natural Research Center and Museum INHRCM
 Baghdad - Iraq

IUCN/SSC - Otter Specialists Group OSG/ member
 Sociable Lapwing National Expert
 E.mail: alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com
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وقفتُ وما في الموت شكٌ لواقفِ كأنك في عين الردى وهو نائمٌ
 تمرُّ بك الأبطالُ كلمي هزيمةً و وجهك وضاحٌ وتغركَ باسمُ

المتنبي

omar Al-Sheikhly <alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 2:46 PM

To: nasrullah rastegar <nasrullah.r@gmail.com>

Cc: arc.coeditor1@gmail.com, jplewis@amphibians.org, cmhansen@amphibians.org, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com, asaccus@aol.com, barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk, asiaherp@berkeley.edu, farhang_torki@yahoo.com, Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>, Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>, Ammar Zakri <ammar.zakri@natureiraq.org>, nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org

Dear All

Hope you are well again,

Below is the sites Ive reported as the first sites for Iraq and I was accused that I falsly reported them as there were not discovered by me:

Sulaymaniya Sharbazher Mawat - Isawa village N 35°56' E 45°23' microspilotus 1 - *
 Sulaymaniya Halabja Sargate N 35°17' E 46° 6' microspilotus 1 - -
 Sulaymaniya Halabja Ahmad Awa Area N 35°18' E 46° 5' microspilotus 1 - 31
 Sulaymaniya Halabja Byara N 35°13' E 46° 7' microspilotus 7 4 208
 Sulaymaniya Pshdar Qara and Abubakra Area N 36°24' E 45° 3' microspilotus 1 1 163
 Sulaymaniya Pshdar Halsho N 36°12' E 45°16' microspilotus - - 23
 Sulaymaniya Pshdar Hero N 36° 7' E 45°17' microspilotus 1 1 17 Total 12 6 442
 Erbil Shaqlawa Doli Smaquli Area N 36°21' E 44°19' crocatus 1 - -
 Erbil Choman Grtk N 36°46' E 44°52' crocatus 1 1 -
 Duhok Duhok Area Ashawa - Sarsank N 37°0' E 43°17' crocatus 1 1 -

Duhok Amedi Sulav N 37° 5' E 43°27' crocatus 1 - - Total 4 2 -

Dear Elnaz and anybody please would you tell me/us which site that you were part of alone or compind me with?

I/ we all appreciate your answer please? As it will b essential to make this issue clear,?

All the best

Omar

[Quoted text hidden]

Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 4:21 PM

To: omar Al-Sheikhly <alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com>

Cc: nasrullah rastegar <nasrullah.r@gmail.com>, arc.coeditor1@gmail.com, jplewis@amphibians.org, cmhansen@amphibians.org, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com, asaccus@aol.com, barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk, asiaherp@berkeley.edu, farhang_torki@yahoo.com, Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>, Ammar Zakri <ammar.zakri@natureiraq.org>, nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org

Hi Omar

I can understand your distress at Craigs email and Elnaz's accusations. We are clearly in the right and Ennaz and Craig in a very dubious position.

I appologise for introducing you to Elnaz.

Craigs email is clearly defamatory to quite a number of people, and particularly directed to my self.

I am dealing with the situation in the ARC.

Sincerely, Robert

[Quoted text hidden]

--

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.

asaccus@aol.com <asaccus@aol.com>

Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 4:21 PM

To: robert.browne@gmail.com

Automated Away Message: I will not be accepting editing, review, or rewriting requests until I finish the current tasks. Following that I will be working to complete five of my own papers,including a book-length ms.

omar Al-Sheikhly <alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 5:05 PM

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

Cc: nasrullah rastegar <nasrullah.r@gmail.com>, arc.coeditor1@gmail.com, jplewis@amphibians.org, cmhansen@amphibians.org, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com, asaccus@aol.com, barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk, asiaherp@berkeley.edu, farhang_torki@yahoo.com, Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>, Ammar Zakri <ammar.zakri@natureiraq.org>, nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org

Dear Dr. Brwon

Thank you very much indeed for your post, I was just astonished, frustrated, could not able to sleep because I received a bad attitude toward my kindness when hosted Ms. Elnaz and her father her in my country which 85-90% of the new discovered localities were made by me after her departure to Turkey and I've told her that. Your current post her is much appreciated.

First of all, please accept my apology for any nuisance I made to you, Dr. Nasruall and even to Dr. Craig who may miss-judged me which he may do not know the full story and that his right.

Second, I informed one of our colleagues who is working at the Iraqi scientific counsel her in Baghdad will help to draft a letter to the Scientific Bureau of Iraqi Prime Minster which we will take an action of this indeed. Initially, we can think that we will forward a letter to Ege University in Turkey explaining the situation of conflict , also I've sent a post to Nature Iraq previous and current CEOs arguing them to investigate about this disappointing issue as the confirmed of the accusation was made by one of NI staff.

However, the matter is should be related to the species conservation itself as we presented more information for Iraq and science and all participating parties were acknowledged. It seems her that personal interests are motivating. I do not care if this paper published or withdrawn, but I should care about accusing my scientific ethics that made me leave my own family and travel in the middle of unstable and unsecured country looking for rarities.

Wish you all the best and please accept my apology.

Omar

[Quoted text hidden]

Farhang Torki <farhang_torki@yahoo.com>

Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 5:26 PM

Reply-To: Farhang Torki <farhang_torki@yahoo.com>

To: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>, omar Al-Sheikhly <alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com>

Cc: "arc.coeditor1@gmail.com" <arc.coeditor1@gmail.com>, "jplewis@amphibians.org" <jplewis@amphibians.org>, "cmhansen@amphibians.org" <cmhansen@amphibians.org>, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, "elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com" <elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com>, "asaccus@aol.com" <asaccus@aol.com>, "barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk" <barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk>, "asiaherp@berkeley.edu" <asiaherp@berkeley.edu>, Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>, Ammar Zakri <ammar.zakri@natureiraq.org>, "nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org" <nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org>

Dear all

than you for this email.

i attached few papers. please see all. you can adjudication easily. Rastegar published my paper about spermatogenesis after 4 years. he changed figures same as Newt paper.

ARC paper about *N. derjugini* is very weak. we can see analogy between Schneider paper with Omar paper (especially about map and dates).

I convicted this unethical work.

Thank you

Farhang Torki

FTEHCR (Farhang Torki Ecology and Herpetology Center for Research)

68319-16589, P.O.Box: 68315-139 Nourabad City , Lorestan Province , Iran

FTEHCR Tel. +98-6637222319; Mobiles : +98-9168593485, +98-9167173551; e-mails: (1) torkifarhang@yahoo.com ; (2)

frherpet@yahoo.com

Webs: (1) <http://ftehcr.page.tl>; (2) http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/resources/farhang_torki/index.html

Head of FTEHCR & ZNPGBP Corp.

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

To: omar Al-Sheikhly <alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com>

Cc: nasrullah rastegar <nasrullah.r@gmail.com>; arc.coeditor1@gmail.com; jplewis@amphibians.org;
cmhansen@amphibians.org; Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>; elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com;

asaccus@aol.com; barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk; asiaherp@berkeley.edu; farhang_torki@yahoo.com; Anna
Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>; Ammar Zakri <ammar.zakri@natureiraq.org>; nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org

Sent: Saturday, August 3, 2013 2:51 AM


Subject: Re: ARC, Neurergus

[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments

 **Schneider_Schneider_Neurergus_Irak_[2].pdf**
2673K

 **Schneider_Schneider-Neurergus_Turkey[1].pdf**
4236K

 **Torki__2007_SALAMANDRA.pdf**
483K

 **Rastegar_RJH_2010.pdf**
74K

 **Neurergus in Iraq_ARC_6(4)_42-49_high.pdf**
2404K

omar Al-Sheikhly <alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 5:57 PM

To: Farhang Torki <farhang_torki@yahoo.com>

Cc: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>, "arc.coeditor1@gmail.com" <arc.coeditor1@gmail.com>, "jplewis@amphibians.org" <jplewis@amphibians.org>, "cmhansen@amphibians.org" <cmhansen@amphibians.org>, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, "elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com" <elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com>, "asaccus@aol.com" <asaccus@aol.com>, "barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk" <barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk>, "asiaherp@berkeley.edu" <asiaherp@berkeley.edu>, Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>, Ammar Zakri <ammar.zakri@natureiraq.org>, "nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org" <nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org>

Dear Dr. Torki

Thank you for your post her, I do not know you sir, and I believe you bot either, but I appreciate your comments.

If they paper is week (*which it is not the matter of debate- as we are accusing the ethics and I was accused to claim sites discovered by Ms. Elnaz, are you agreeing with me on that?*), if the paper is week (which is not; I believe, you or any other field worker worked in Iraq can publish a very better one than us, and denied everything we mentioned in it, and by this way the sciences is progressing).

For your information , since the first time I discovered this animal in Iraq (*are you agreeing with me that I who discovered Kurdistan newt in additional new locality not anybody Else? Have you read the paper?*) Dr. Brown sent me in 2012 the S&S (2010) paper and I immediately contacted the Schneider's and told them that I've discovered this animal in a brand new site deep in Iraq and they congratulated me about that, I told them their paper was amazing as you know they had discussed all aspects in Germany (mainly biology) and recorded both Kurdistan and Uremia Lake Newts for Iraq, even more I asked for their helpful notes about my discovery and they were very helpful to me. [You can check with them and put me and all in CC please?](#)

Thank you indeed for your prompt response and hope you can re-check this issue scientifically.

All the best.

Omar

P.s.

Dear Dr. Torki, in any scientific communications as I learned when I was studding in Canada, we used to communicate with full awarded degree of philosophy PH.D. according to their academic abbreviation such as Dr. Brown and Dr. Poyani which is scientifically more ethical than their necked names as they are not friend or close partners. But it seems that you have a personal problem with Dr. Poyani created a diagram to get things correctly which clearly affected your judgment Sir.

[Quoted text hidden]

omar Al-Sheikhly <alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 6:46 PM

To: Farhang Torki <farhang_torki@yahoo.com>

Cc: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>, "arc.coeditor1@gmail.com" <arc.coeditor1@gmail.com>, "jplewis@amphibians.org" <jplewis@amphibians.org>, "cmhansen@amphibians.org" <cmhansen@amphibians.org>, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, "elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com" <elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com>, "asaccus@aol.com" <asaccus@aol.com>, "barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk" <barbodsafae2000@yahoo.co.uk>, "asiaherp@berkeley.edu" <asiaherp@berkeley.edu>, Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>, Ammar Zakri <ammar.zakri@natureiraq.org>, "nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org" <nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org>

Dear Dr. Torki

Despite, it is not a matter of our discussion, but it is somehow closely related.

Ms. Elnaz has accused me that how come an ornithologist (which obviously me) knows about Amphibians? *am I right?* Check her email please?

I vide you website and I saw that you've done a great work on the Vulnerable *Iranocypris typhlops* and I believe there was nobody accused you that you have hijacked this discovery form anybody else? *Ok, R you with me sir?*

Incidentally, I have discovered one of the same cave dwelling species in desert of western Iraq, The Iraqi Blind Barb *Typhlogarra widowsoni* (attached) and I presented for Iraq as well.

It was a cooperation work with on of the best fresh water experts in the region, perhaps you know him or want to know more about another discovery we are made in Iraq by viding Al-Sheikhly & freyhof (2012) The recent status of Iraq endemic blind Cave fishes.

As you will see I've worked many in Iraq and many were discovered, or you just judge it as an ethical?

All the best.

Omar

Sat, Aug 3, 2013 at 2:26 AM, Farhang Torki <farhang_torki@yahoo.com> wrote:

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The Iraqi Blind Barb *Typhlogarra widdowsoni* the endemic species © Omar F. Al-Sheikhly 2012..jpg
60K

elnaz najafi <elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 3, 2013 at 3:46 PM

To: omar Al-Sheikhly <alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com>

Cc: Farhang Torki <farhang_torki@yahoo.com>, Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>, "arc.coeditor1@gmail.com" <arc.coeditor1@gmail.com>, "jplewis@amphibians.org" <jplewis@amphibians.org>, "cmhansen@amphibians.org" <cmhansen@amphibians.org>, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, "asaccus@aol.com" <asaccus@aol.com>, "asiaherp@berkeley.edu" <asiaherp@berkeley.edu>, Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>, Ammar Zakri <ammar.zakri@natureiraq.org>, "nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org" <nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org>

First, I would like to thank all the people and organizations that have helped me with my field studies of the ecology and conservation of *Neurergus crocatus* and *Neurergus derjugini* (2009 to now). At times I have conducted my field work myself and at other times with the help of people and organizations. I must manage my field studies and do my best work. To clarify the course of events better I have included all the emails before I left on my trip to Iraq.

You could also see the report of field work on Nature Iraq news part as "Range Extention" but unfortunately it was removed (we could ask N.I to verify that).

Omar as a member of Nature Iraq accompanied me 3 days in my field studied in Sulaimaniya Province in Iraq in May 2012 by Nature Iraq Car and driver, He took us to Mawat area to the locality that he claimed he had seen newt there, but we could not found any things, so we searched the area and finally we found it in an other place, you could see this locality in the paper as Mawat area. we also visit Galadiza and found 2 new localities in Hero and Halsho, that he published in the paper.

Last year he asked me to publish data but as i have many data and it doesn't happen quick . I explain that will inform him and N.I any time it is ready to publish.

Now i see he have published these data without informing me!
I just want to know is it true and ethic?

Regards

Elnaz NAJAFI MAJD

Ph.D candidate. Section of Zoology. Department of Biology. Faculty of Science, Ege University
35100 Bornova. İzmir/ Turkey

Phone: +905069350015
email: elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com
elnaz_najafy@yahoo.com

Dear Elnaz

OK , in this case I would like to let you in full frame.

12th of May (Saturday) as a start of your field work and it will be OK with me as I assume you will be in Iraq on 11th.

The first round of your trip will in Sulaymaniya and we can take you to Penjween and Tawala in cooperation with Nature Iraq in 2-3 days helping you if possible providing by field car escorting us for theses 2-3 days. the accommodation at Sylaynamia will be unfortunately on your own as we do not have a guest house yet. Sorry.

I believe that is all waht you need.

Please send your passport scan to me ASAP to let our NI manger kak Araz (cc ed) help us to issue the permission letters for the coopertaive field work.

dear Kak Araz , Please you inputs and helpful suggestions to help Elnaz one of our RAAT advisory team from Iran?

Also, I'm also ccing my collage Hana Ahmad which it might be escorting us during your visit.

When you will be her , we can advice abut your visits to sites in Erbil and Duhok, but no action promised to be from Nature Iraq yet.

Any question please get it back to me ASAP, as I will be in Sylaymniya (Kurdistan) hopefully on 9th.

Omar

On Sun, May 6, 2012 at 11:25 PM, elnaz najafy <elnaz_najafy@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Omar

I have restricted time because after Iraq i have to do sampling in Iran and Turkey too!

As i see some localities with active populations in Iran in my last field survey i guess they will be active in Iraq too.

I would like to visit streams and springs in mountains vicinity of Akre, Barzan, Choman and some places in the vicinity of Sulaymaniyah; Penjwin and Biyare and it may will take about 12-14 days! So 10th or at least 12th in May is good for me if it is acceptable for you?

And i wonder if you say me what should i do in this way!

Thank you
Elnaz

From: omar fadhil <omar.fadhil@natureiraq.org>

To: elnaz najafy <elnaz_najafy@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, May 7, 2012 2:47 AM

Subject: Re: Research collaboration

Dear Elnaz

Thank your replay and welcome in our RAAT and in Iraq any time.

The weather would be warmer on 10th of May, but I think they newts would be so cryptic and less active than end of May and early of June.

We are preparing to accompany a newts sampling team from Uo Razi who will came to do on 30th of May till 5th of June, they have sent me there passports in order to issuing the permission letters for the field work in order to facilitate their trip , they are three Ph.D students and Dr. Nasruallah Poyani and Dr. Mozafar Sharifi all from Iran. they will moving according to my guidance, Nature Iraq has supported them with field car and they should responsible for their international transportation and accommodation in Kurdistan. Would you interested to join?

OR if you are restricted to your dates? pleas let me know you work plan and the sites you would like to visit and how many days you will be able to stay in order to facilitate your trip.

Thank you
Omar

On Sun, May 6, 2012 at 3:27 AM, elnaz najafy <elnaz_najafy@yahoo.com> wrote:
Dear Omar

Thank you for your collaboration in advance, i was in the field about 4 days for *N.microspilotus* too, so I'm sorry for my late in replying.

It is a big honor for me to be in your RAAT team.
I'm not in contact with Razi University team!

As i mentioned i was in the field for *Neurergus* but they were not active completely in Iran, as i don't have enough information about north-western and western Iraq climate and weather conditions, I think Iraq is warmer than Iran and these species (*N.microspilotus* & *N.crocatius*) have started their activities, I would come with my father to start my sampling there in May 10 Thursday!

but dear Omar, let me know if this time is acceptable for you?!
I want to arrange my trip plan.

Sincerely yours

Elnaz

From: omar fadhil <omar.fadhil@natureiraq.org>
To: elnaz najafy <elnaz_najafy@yahoo.com>
Cc: Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 29, 2012 2:59 AM
Subject: Re: Research collaboration

Dear Elnaz

It is interesting to know about your research, and I'm sorry of being late replying to you as I was in the field in western desert of Iraq with very poor resources.

I've already added your name to our advisory team members (attached) in order to be appear on NI website and start working to oversee the herpetology work of Iraq, especially on the Mountain Newts. Please if you have more comments feel free to add them to this draft document in order to revise it for final submission?

Nature Iraq will help you and support you in your proposed visit, but you may interested to know that NI is expecting a visit from sampling team from UoRazi in leadership of Dr. Mozafar Sharifi to study the Iraq population of *N.microspilotus* this May?

Please let me know the exact date you are willing to visit Iraq in order to facilitate your trip and make it successful.

Thank you very much indeed for your time and support

Omar

On Thu, Apr 12, 2012 at 3:03 AM, elnaz najafy <elnaz_najafy@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Omar

Thank you for your help in advance.

I'm Elnaz from Iran and i study my Ph.D degree in Ege University in Turkey on Ecology and conservation of *Neurergus*.

I congratulate you and Nature Iraq team for your admirable efforts and researches. It's my pleasure to know you and collaborate with you and your team in Iraq.

On 14 April i'll go to Iran for field survey and I'm planning to visit Iraq in about May for *Neurergus crocatus* and *Neurergus microspilotus* localities.

I will inform you later about the exact time that i will come to Iraq.

Sincerely yours

Elnaz

p.s

Dear Robert

Thank you.

You can find my CV and photo in attachment.

I will send you the description of my thesis and *N.microspilotus* study soon.

Sincerely

Elnaz

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Range extinction of the critically endangered Kurdistan Newt *Neurergus microspilotus*

On May 11, 2012, Nature Iraq's Reptile and Amphibians RAAT advisor Mrs. Elnaz Najafi visited Iraqi Kurdistan in order to help the NI team to survey and to locate the Critically Endangered Kurdistan Newt *Neurergus microspilotus*

and the Uremia Yellow Spotted Newt *Neurergus crocatus*. Omar Fadhil, head of NI Other Fauna Section escorted the NIRATT advisor in field surveys along the remote eastern borders of Iraq with Iran.

The four day field survey covered the areas of Mawat, QalaDeza, and Penjween in Sulaymniya province. During the *Neurergus* survey; published locations were visited by the Nature Iraq team. The CR *Neurergus microspilotus* has been found at two new locations. Those will be added to the list of the key biodiversity Areas of Iraq.

Both forms *microspilotus* and *derjugini* have been examined and assessed by Najafi and Fadhil. HD photographs of the adults, larvae, and eggs have been collected. Serious threat impacts on the species have been documented in order to establish the species action plan by Nature Iraq and Iraqi Ministry of Environment.

The range of the Kurdistan Newt was described by Schneider & Schneider (2011), only from Hawraman sector to north east of Iraq. In 2006; Mawat Area was added to the range of this species in Iraq by (Al-Sheikhly, O. in prep). The 2012 cooperative surveys have added two new locations housing the species just upward to the north of Iraq which they believed to be the highest limit of the IUCN proposed range of the Kurdistan Newt in Iraq.

Photo: Omar Fadhil

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Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>
To: Amphibian and Reptile Conservation <redlist.arc@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 3, 2013 at 4:52 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

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omar Al-Sheikhly <alsheikhlyomar@gmail.com>
To: elnaz najafi <elnaz.najafi.majd@gmail.com>
Cc: Farhang Torki <farhang_torki@yahoo.com>, Robert Browne <robert.browne@gmail.com>, "arc.coeditor1@gmail.com" <arc.coeditor1@gmail.com>, "jplewis@amphibians.org" <jplewis@amphibians.org>, "cmhansen@amphibians.org" <cmhansen@amphibians.org>, Howard Clark <hclark.arc@gmail.com>, "asaccus@aol.com" <asaccus@aol.com>, "asiaherp@berkeley.edu" <asiaherp@berkeley.edu>, Anna Bachmann <anna@natureiraq.org>, Ammar Zakri <ammar.zakri@natureiraq.org>, "nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org" <nadheer.abood@natureiraq.org>

Sat, Aug 3, 2013 at 7:05 PM

Dear Ms. Najafimajid

I would argue you to reconsider to re-construct yourself and do not embarrassing yourself worse than its current status.

For the 3 days you are mentioning (2) were paid by me including yours and your father food supplies , except the first day that we travel to Mawat (the area I reported to all experts I mentioned in previous post including the Schneider's who discovered this species to Iraq even before you know it was exist which you simply want to erase by saying we did not find any in your current email!!). Beside the other areas reported in the paper was totally made by me (85-90%) which you described them as a [Joke](#) in your post to Dr. Carig (vide you initial post). Finally, the post you mentioned at Nature Iraq website was created by myself as an initiative /privilege of hosting you helping in the species research in Iraq and everybody can check on that by posting to NI webmaster/editor James Wedal.

Your irresponsible attitude and the way you raised this issue has exhausted our time and disturbed our thoughts.

I 'm confidentially able to answer/embarrassing you with documents, financial receipts, numbers, witness for inside Iraq, and even documented pictures and dates, but DOES NOT WORTH it and you do not deserve any further efforts which you already denied from people who hosted you with kindness. Rather, that all the matter is a personal conflict with an exact figure of Iranian/international experts.

The matter doe not stop at this level, your university will receive an official complaining letter issued by Iraqi senior scientific authorities.

Please, block to my email account and better to be removed, and I do not want to receive any further posts from you.

wish you all the best.

Omar

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