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TITLE: Shedding light on the Imps of Darkness: an integrative taxonomic revision of the Galápagos marine iguanas (genus *Amblyrhynchus*)

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ABSTRACT:

Marine iguanas are among the most highly emblematic taxa of the Galápagos archipelago but have paradoxically received little attention from taxonomists. *Amblyrhynchus* is currently considered as a monotypic genus with a total of seven subspecies, *A. cristatus cristatus*, *A. c. nanus*, *A. c. venustissimus*, *A. c. albemarlensis*, *A. c. hassi*, *A. c. mertensi* and *A. c. sielmanni*. Although consensually followed for more than half a century, this classification does not properly reflect the main natural subdivisions inferred by more recent molecular evolutionary studies. We integrate population genetics, phylogenomics and comparative morphology to propose an updated taxonomy reflecting the evolutionary history of this group. We recognize a single species with 11 divergent population clusters at the level of subspecies: *A. c. albermarlensis* is recognized as a junior synonym of *A. c. cristatus*, and five new subspecies are described: *A. c. godzilla* subsp. nov. (San Cristóbal-Punta Pitt), *A. c. jeffreysi* subsp. nov. (Wolf and Darwin), *A. c. hayampi* subsp. nov. (Marchena), *A. c. trillmichi* subsp. nov. (Santa Fé) and *A. c. wikelskii* subsp. nov. (Santiago). Recognizing the genetically divergent population clusters as subspecies also highlights several of them as management units in need of conservation efforts, such as the two subspecies endemic to San Cristóbal.

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