Varanusia nom. nov., a replacement name for Lizardia Nogueira, Hutchings & Carrerette, 2015 (Annelida: Terebellidae), preoccupied by Lizardia Pleijel & Rouse, 2005

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Nogueira et al. (2015) proposed the generic name Lizardia to accommodate L. quasimodo Nogueira, Hutchings & Carrerette, 2015, an abranchiate terebellid from Lizard Island with only 9 pairs of notopodia beginning from segment 4 and bearing both distally smooth and distally serrated notochaetae, and neuropodia beginning from segment 6.

Although the taxon clearly differs from all other previously known genera of Terebellidae, the generic name Lizardia is pre-occupied by another polychaete, a hesionid described by Pleijel & Rouse (2005). Thus, in accordance with Article 60.3 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999), a replacement name for Lizardia Nogueira, Hutchings & Carrerette, 2015, is required. Curiously, the “Lizardia” genera differ in gender, since Lizardia Pleijel & Rouse, 2005 is masculine, differently from Lizardia Nogueira, Hutchings & Carrerette, 2015, but this does not prevent homonymy.

Nogueira et al. (2015) named the genus after the type locality, Lizard Island. More than half of Lizard Island is covered in grasslands. Eucalypt and acacia woodlands, heaths, paperbark swamps and mangroves are also found there. The island's best-known animal is a lizard, the yellow-spotted monitor Varanus panoptes Storr, 1980. Lieutenant James Cook named the island for this lizard during his exploration of the east coast of Australia in 1770.

Thus we propose herein Varanusia nom. nov. (gender: feminine) as a replacement name for Lizardia Nogueira, Hutchings & Carrerette, 2015. The genus currently includes only the type species, V. quasimodo.

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