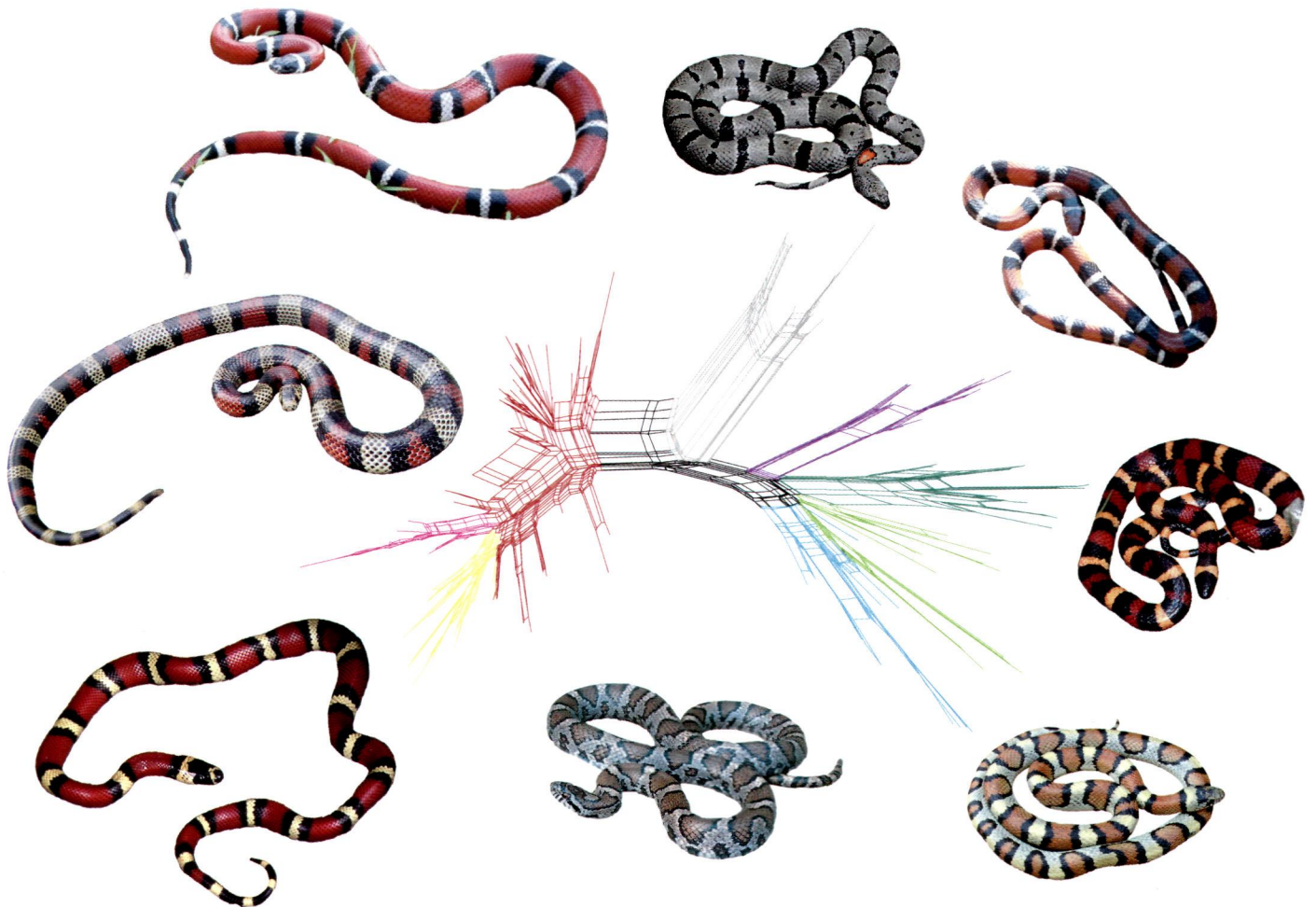


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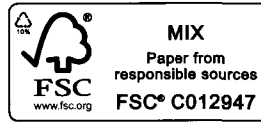
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Cover Illustration: The diversity found within the milksnake, formerly *Lampropeltis triangulum*. Although milksnakes are among the most well-known New World snakes and have long been considered a single species ranging from Southeastern Canada, across the United States and south as far as Ecuador, our study suggests that there are at least seven species of milksnake that diversified during the Pliocene and Pleistocene and these species do not form a single clade within *Lampropeltis*. Additionally, our analyses, such as this nuclear gene neighbor-network, indicate that the gray-banded kingsnake (*L. alterna*), which has similar/identical mitochondrial haplotypes as sympatric milksnakes, is a distinct species; further tests support hybridization as the most likely reason for shared mtDNA haplotypes. From the upper left hand corner clockwise species are as follows: *L. polyzona*, *L. alterna*, *L. elapsoides*, *L. annulata*, *L. gentilis*, *L. triangulum*, *L. abnormalis*, and *L. micropholis*. Details can be found in Ruane et al., pages 231–250. Photos by S. Ruane, R. Hansen, D. Sheperd, M. Graziano, L. Porras, and J. Streicher.