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Afrisal M, Iwatsuki Y and Burhanuddin AI

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Jum, 6 Nov 10.19

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[Morphological and genetic evaluation of the thumbprint emperor, *Lethrinus harak* \(Forsskål, 1775\) in the Pacific and Indian Oceans](#)
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Morphological and genetic evaluation of the thumbprint emperor, *Lethrinus harak* (Forsskål, 1775) in the Pacific and Indian Oceans
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Use the track option on [Morphological and genetic evaluation of the thumbprint emperor, *Lethrinus harak* \(Forsskål, 1775\) in the Pacific and Indian Oceans](#) to be alerted when other referee reports or reader comments are published.

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Isabel
The Editorial Team, F1000Research

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Your peer review report for Morphological and genetic evaluation of the thumbprint emperor, *Lethrinus harak* (Forsskål, 1775) in the Pacific and Indian Oceans

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Dear Femy M.

[Morphological and genetic evaluation of the thumbprint emperor, *Lethrinus harak* \(Forsskål, 1775\) in the Pacific and Indian Oceans](#)
Afrisal M, Iwatsuki Y and Burhanuddin AI

You very kindly agreed to review this article for us and we were hoping to have received your report by now. Would it be possible for you to provide me with an update on the progress of your report? I appreciate how busy you must be and if you need more time to complete your report then please let me know.

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If you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

Morphological and genetic evaluation of the thumbprint emperor, *Lethrinus harak* (Forsskål, 1775) in the Pacific and Indian Oceans [version 1; peer review: 2 approved with reservations]

Muhammad Afrisal (<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-4809-999X>)¹, Yukio Iwatsuki², ✉ Andi Iqbal Burhanuddin (<mailto:iqbalburhanuddin@yahoo.com>)³

PUBLISHED 05 Aug 2020



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| Abstract

Background: The Lethrinidae (emperors) include many important food fish species. Accurate determination of species and stocks is important for fisheries management. The taxonomy of the genus *Lethrinus* is problematic, for example with regards to the identification of the thumbprint emperor *Lethrinus harak*. Little research has been done on *L. harak* diversity in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. This study aimed to evaluate the morphometric and genetic characters of the thumbprint emperor, *L. harak* (Forsskål, 1775) in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Methods: This research was conducted in the Marine Biology Laboratory, Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries, Hasanuddin University, and Division of Fisheries Science, University of Miyazaki. Morphometric character measurements were based on holotype character data, while genetic analysis was performed on cytochrome oxidase subunit I (COI) sequence data. Morphometric data were analysed using principal component analysis (PCA) statistical tests in MINITAB, and genetic data were analysed in MEGA 6.

Results: Statistical test results based on morphometric characters revealed groupings largely representative of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The Seychelles was separated from other

Pacific Ocean clade.

Conclusions: These results indicate that geographical and environmental factors can affect the morphometric and genetic characteristics of *L. harak*.

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Keywords 

Introduction 

Methods 

Results 

Discussion 

Conclusion 

Data availability 

Acknowledgements 

References 

 COMMENTS (0) 

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VERSION 1 PUBLISHED 05 Aug 2020



REVIEWER REPORT 19 Nov 2020

Femy Mahmud Sahami 

Department of Aquatic Resources Management, Gorontalo State University, Gorontalo, Indonesia

VIEWS 0

- The conclusion in abstracts is still too general. The research novelty needs to be explicitly highlighted, particularly the differences of *L. harak* in the Pacific and Indian oceans based on morphometric and genetic aspects.
- The word “alcohol” was mentioned twice in the following sentences: Each sample was placed on its right-hand side and sterilised using alcohol. A fin-clipping of around 1.8 cm in length was taken from the pectoral fin and inserted into a 2 ml micro tube 2 filled with 90% alcohol. Please consider replacing “alcohol” with “ethanol” to avoid misinterpretation.
- The method described as: A fin-clipping of around 1.8 cm in length was taken from the pectoral fin and inserted into a 2 ml micro tube 2 filled with 90% alcohol. This sentence needs to elaborate in detail. Please connect it with the different-samples explanation in the DNA extraction section.
- It is not clear how many samples were taken in Makassar for morphometric and molecular analysis purposes. Samples with the code MSFUH000591, MSFUH0000592, MSFUH0000593 were not specified what analysis was applied. Only the sample coded MSFUH000591 was mentioned in the results section. Likewise, in Table 1, there were stated only 3 Makassar samples with the code MSFUH000591, MSFUH915, and MSFHU917. Where were the other samples (coded MSFUH0000592 and MSFUH0000593) descriptions?
- In the method mentioned: One specimen had been collected from Meitsu, Nago,

- what do "preceding samples" mean in the following sentence "The preceding samples were used in this study to represent the Pacific Ocean"
- Two sentences seem somewhat ambiguous in measuring morphology, as follows: Measurements of these remotely sourced specimens were made using ImageJ version 1.52a software¹⁴, except for the interorbital width character, which could not be measured from the downloaded photographs. Then in the following sentence, it was stated that: The characters measured using callipers (accuracy 0.02 mm) included standard length, body depth, head length, pectoral length, pelvic length, orbital length, interorbital width, snout length, suborbital width, upper jaw length. It might be necessary to clarify which samples were measured using ImageJ and measured manually using a caliper.
- The second sentence's meaning in the DNA extraction sub-section is not clear: Fin clippings (2–3cm) were taken from the pectoral fin of each specimen using surgical scissors or a surgical scalpel. Each sample was preserved in a labelled 2ml tube filled with 95% ethanol. Are the specimen referred to samples from Makassar or some other areas? As in the 6th sentence in the Fish Specimen sub-section stated as: A fin-clipping of around 1.8 cm in length was taken from the pectoral fin and inserted into a 2 ml micro tube 2 filled with 90% alcohol.
- If possible, replace the subsection "Statistical Analysis" with "Data Analysis" since there were also explaining genetic analysis.
- In the second paragraph in the sub-section Morphological Characters, it mentioned "Indonesia (Makassar and Maluku)", while in Figure 1 it was stated that: Specimens of *Lethrinus harak*. A. Specimen JN311937, paratype, SL 170mm, collected from Arumbai Fish Market (-3°68'N, 128°18'E), Ambon, Indonesia, 06 January 2016. What mentioned here was Ambon, not Maluku. The words Maluku and Ambon need to be consistent as even though Ambon is in Maluku, this will lead to confusion. Also, Figure 2 mentioned only Makassar and Indonesia, while Maluku was not mentioned. In Table 1 and Table 2, the word Maluku was not mentioned either, but in conclusion, it was written in Indonesia (Makassar and Maluku). Please make it consistent whether Indonesia (Maluku) or Indonesia (Ambon).
- It needs consistency in writing. It should be written in capital letters at the beginning of each word in the stands: The Pacific low latitude western boundary currents (LLWBCs).
- The writing of citations is still inconsistent. Some are written with the author's name along with the serial number in the bibliography, and some are written directly without

Is the study design appropriate and is the work technically sound?

Partly

Are sufficient details of methods and analysis provided to allow replication by others?

Yes

If applicable, is the statistical analysis and its interpretation appropriate?

Partly

Are all the source data underlying the results available to ensure full reproducibility?

Partly

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the results?

Partly

Competing Interests:

No competing interests were disclosed.

Reviewer Expertise: Goby fish

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard, however I have significant reservations, as outlined above.

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REVIEWER REPORT 26 Aug 2020

Jayasankar Pallipuram

Marine Biotechnology Division, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi

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No justification is being given for using alternative software used for genetic analysis without guaranteeing total equivalence, two different softwares are used [page 5] Though sample details are furnished, it hasn't been clearly mentioned anywhere as to exact ...

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