

Table 1 Morphometric measurements of *H. vittatus* (A), *H. brevis* (B) and *H. forskalii* (C) and expressed as percentage of standard length (%SL)

Characters	<i>H. vittatus</i> (A)	<i>H. brevis</i> (B)	<i>H. forskalii</i> (C)
Standard length (SL)	26.27±4.3	22.10±2.00	24.04±4.1
Body weight (BW)	783.93±24.5	588.32±13.90	630.6±26.4
Head length (HL) / SL**	24.88±1.1	28.51±2.70	27.18±3.3
Head width (HW) / SL*	12.16±0.6	13.68±0.91	12.88±1.69
Mouth width (MW) / SL**	9.01±0.9	10.55±0.50	10.46±1.6
Upper snout length(USNL)/ SL**	10.29±0.9	11.34±0.90	11.84±1.8
Lower snout length (LSNL) / SL*	11.39±1.1	12.37±0.70	12.51±1.9
Eye diameter (ED) / SL*	8.21±0.7	9.31±0.60	9.18±0.6
Inter-orbital width (IOW) / SL**	10.28±0.6	12.05±0.80	11.92±1.8
Postorbital length (POL) / SL**	13.15±1.2	16.14±1.30	16.03±2.2
Pre-dorsal length (PRDL) / SL**	51.27±4.5	55.17±5.70	55.79±7.9
Pre-pectoral length (PRPL) / SL**	25.50±2.3	22.00±2.00	22.00±2.0
Pre-ventral length (PRVL) / SL*	55.88±5.5	52.74±1.00	54.33±6.5
Pre-anal length (PRANL) / SL*	84.33±5.6	82.09±4.10	83.33±10.0
Dorsal-to-adipose distance(DAD)/SL**	32.21±2.9	28.91±2.10	28.92±1.2
Dorsal fin length (DFL) / SL	13.29±0.10	14.02±0.70	14.13±1.6
Adipose fin length (ADFL) / SL**	7.93±0.8	10.16±0.90	10.20±2.0
Adipose fin width (ADFW) / SL*	5.09±0.5	6.65±1.10	5.93±1.0
Pectoral fin length (PFL) / SL	7.00±0.8	8.02±0.60	8.21±1.3
Ventral fin length (VFL) / SL	6.68±0.7	7.33±0.30	7.90±1.2
Anal fin length (ANFL) / SL	14.37±0.7	13.93±1.10	15.28±2
Caudal fin length (CFL) /SL*	11.68±1.5	13.97±0.90	13.31±1.9
Dorsal spine length (DSL) /SL	22.50±1.4	23.66±0.80	24.12±2.8
Pectoral spine length (PSL) /SL*	17.49±0.6	19.10±2.20	19.33±2.4
Anal spine length (ANSL) /SL*	17.95±0.6	18.88±1.00	19.01±3.1
Caudal peduncle length (CPL)/ SL*	11.55±0.6	13.38±0.80	13.60±2.4
Caudal peduncle depth (CPD)/ SL*	10.99±0.8	12.06±0.60	12.46±1.9
Body depth (BD) / SL	24.86±2.4	28.63±3.50	24.00±3.6