

Table 3 The range of meristics counts for *H. brevis*, *H. forskalii* and *H. vittatus*

Meristic characters	<i>H. vittatus</i> (A)		<i>H. brevis</i> (B)		<i>H. forskalii</i> (C)	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Dorsal fin rays	8	10	10	10	9	10
Pectoral fin rays (PFR)	12	16	13	15	12	14
Ventral fin rays (VFR)	9	10	8	9	9	9
Anal fin rays (ANFR)*	12	16	12	13	12	14
Lateral line scales (LLS)**	47	58	51	65	48	62
Dorsal-to lateral line scales (DLS)*	6	14	9	11	10	12
Ventral-to-lateral line scales (VLS)	6	8	6	7	6	7
Gill rakers*	11	16	13	15	13	15
Teeth in upper jaw (UJT)	11	14	12	14	12	14
Teeth in lower jaw (LJT)*	10	14	10	13	12	12