

Table 1 Comparison of *Upeneus moluccensis* and four closely related species based on some diagnostic characters of the species

Species	Pectoral fin count	No. of Gill raker	No. of the lateral line scales	No. of bars on caudal fin	Stripes on body	Color of dorsal tip of 1st dorsal fin	Color of barbels	Color of body
<i>Upeneus doriae</i>	15-17	7-9+22-24	33-35	No bars	One, narrow, midlateral	Dorsal tip of 1st dorsal fin pale brown to yellowish, pigmentation may retained in preserved specimens	White	Silvery in general, dark to pale brown dorsally
<i>U. heemstra</i>	12-14	4-8 + 14-18	28-30	9-12 (4-6 on upper lobe, 5-6 on the lower lobe)	One Pale-dark brown midlateral stripe	With red, brown or black stripes, bars or blotches	Yellow or pale brown	White in general, slightly darker above lateral line, with irregular red, brown or black spots or blotches
<i>U. margaretha</i>	13-14	4-7 + 16-18	28-30	8-10	Single mid-lateral body stripe, red from snout to eye and yellow from posterior edge of eye to caudal fin	Pale	White	Red above lateral line, white laterally, with red dots or blotches
<i>U. moluccensis</i>	14-16	7-8 + 18-20	33-35	6-8 thin red bars on the upper lobe and one broad red band covering nearly the whole lower lobe	One yellow or golden mid-lateral stripe from eye to base of caudal fin	Dark	White	Generally silvery, dark dorsally
<i>U. suahelicus</i>	15-16	6-8 + 19-21	34-35	8-10 (4-6 pale brown on upper lobe and 3-4 same color on the lower lobe)	Two yellow or light brown mid-lateral stripes extending from behind head to caudal fin	Dark	White	Silvery white laterally and reddish brown dorsally, with white abdomen

Continued Table 1

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<i>U. vittatus</i>	15-16	7-8 + 19-21	36-38	7-8 (4-5 in upper lobe and 3 (rarely 4) in lower lobe)	Two yellow or pale brown mid-laterally stripes extending from eye to the base of caudal fin; two dorsolateral brown stripes extending from operculum to behind 2nd dorsal fin	Dark	White	White to silvery, with dark brown dorsally and white abdomen

Note: Information based on Uiblein and Gouws (2014, 2015) and Uiblein and Heemstra (2010)