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A few concerns were raised on identity of *Hypselobarbus pulchellus* that we had elucidated in our previous publications (Knight et al. 2013 a,b) by Basavaraja (2014). Even though a reply was provided (Knight et al. 2014) to the queries raised by Basavaraja (2014), we feel it would add clarity if a few colour photographs are shown to elucidate the difference between *H. pulchellus* and *H. dobsoni* which have

been considered as synonyms by Basavaraja (2014).

One of the main apprehensions raised by Basavaraja (2014) was regarding the lateral silvery band that is present in *Hypselobarbus pulchellus*. He contested that the lateral band is present in *H. dobsoni* also. It is here that we would like to provide the photographs as clarification (Image 1). Large adults of the genus *Hypselobarbus*, including *H. jerdoni*, *H. dobsoni* and *H. thomassi* have dark pigmented abdominal scales highlighting the upper body as a silvery white band. This should, however, not be confused with the clear band that runs along the body of *H. pulchellus* which is apparently clear in even small specimens of less than 100mm SL and visible in preserved specimens as well. Moreover, even though large specimens of *H. jerdoni* or *H. dobsoni* may have the faint silvery lateral band, they will also have clearly discernable black tips to the dorsal fin and caudal fin (Image 1A), which is always absent in *H. pulchellus* of all size range (Image 1 B). This can be clearly seen in an image provided in ARKIVE (<http://www.arkive.org/hypselobarbus/hypselobarbus-pulchellus/image-G129677.html>) where a large adult *H. dobsoni* is misidentified as *H. pulchellus*. It is pertinent to note that the image in the link above clearly has black tips to the dorsal and caudal fins which are characters of *H. dobsoni*, and not *H. pulchellus*.

The genus *Hypselobarbus* has now been known to have a large range in the lateral line scales (Knight et al. 2013b; Ali et al. 2013). In Knight et al. (2013b) *H. pulchellus* was reported from Sita and Tunga rivers with 32-34+1-2 lateral line pored scales. Recently this species was also collected

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Identity of *Hypselobarbus pulchellus* (Day, 1870) - an addendum to Knight et al. (2013 a&b)

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from Netravathi River, Karnataka, with a lateral line count of 32+1 pored scales, similar to the other populations found in Sita and Tunga rivers. We propose to use the genetic approach to further elucidate the significance of the large range in the lateral line scale count that is seen in this species.



Image 1. Large adult specimens of A - *Hypselobarbus jerdoni*; B - *H. pulchellus*

Reference

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