**Supplementary Table 1:** List of GenBank accession numbers used in the maximum likelihood phylogenetic analysis.

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| **Species** | **Location** | **Voucher** | **GenBank accession number** |
| *Channa andrao* | India: Lefraguri swamp, West Bengal | JPC-34 | KY563773 |
| *Channa aristonei* | Puriang, East Khasi hills, Meghalaya | BNHS FWF 1018 | MT040625 |
| *Channa aristonei* | Puriang, East Khasi hills, Meghalaya | BNHS FWF 1021 | MT040627 |
| *Channa aristonei* | Puriang, East Khasi hills, Meghalaya | BNHS FWF 1023 | MT158324 |
| *Channa asiatica* | Locality data unavailable | Voucher data unavailable | MF496669 |
| *Channa aurantimaculata* | India | CA1001 | KJ847157 |
| *Channa aurantipectoralis* | India | MF163B | MH559820 |
| *Channa auroflammea* | Laos | Voucher data unavailable | MK423216 |
| *Channa aurolineata* | Myanmar | Voucher data unavailable | MH375699 |
| *Channa baramensis* | Malaysia: Sarawak, Bintulu, Ulu Kakus,Tatau, River basin | Voucher data unavailable | MF496695 |
| *Channa barca* | Locality data unavailable | Voucher data unavailable | MF496699 |
| *Channa bipuli* | Garbhanga, Assam, India | BNHS FWF 1038 | MN900751 |
| *Channa bipuli* | Garbhanga, Assam, India | CIARI/FF-56 | MN900752 |
| *Channa bipuli* | Garbhanga, Assam, India | ZSI FF 7650 | MG825616 |
| *Channa bleheri* | Maghuri Bheel, Assam | JPC-27 | MK471230 |
| *Channa brunnea* | India: Bhalka forest, Jaipaguri District | ZSI FF 8041 | MK424818 |
| *Channa burmanica* | Myanmar | Voucher data unavailable | MF496707 |
| *Channa* cf. *nox* | Locality data unavailable | Voucher data unavailable | MF496708 |
| *Channa diplogramme* | India: Chittar II Reservoir, KanyakumariDist, Tamil Nadu | CSMK1 UR3 Chittar II | KY753910 |
| *Channa gachua*  | West Bengal, India | CIARI/FF-08 | KY214143 |
| *Channa harcourtbutleri* | Myanmar: Inle Lake, aquarium trade,Aquarium Glaser, Frankfurt, Germany | Voucher data unavailable | MF496804 |
| *Channa lipor* | India | ZSI FF 7661 | MG976494 |
| *Channa lucius* | Indonesia: Borneo, Sampit fish market | Voucher data unavailable | MF496830 |
| *Channa marulius* | India: Bengalen, aquarium trade, AquariumGlaser, Frankfurt, Germany | Voucher data unavailable | MF496849 |
| *Channa melasoma* | Locality data unavailable | Voucher data unavailable | MF496858 |
| *Channa micropeltes* | Viet Nam:Srepok,Bostream | Voucher data unavailable | MF496865 |
| *Channa orientalis*  | Sri Lanka: Bentota Ganga | Voucher data unavailable | MF496870 |
| *Channa ornatipinnis* | Locality data unavailable | Voucher data unavailable | MF496873 |
| *Channa panaw* | Locality data unavailable | NRS041 | KJ937403 |
| *Channa Pardalis* | West Khasi Hill, Meghalaya | CIARI/FF-43 | MG825618 |
| *Channa Pardalis* | Umraleng River, Meghalaya | BNHS FWF 1039 | MT160362 |
| *Channa Pardalis* | Umraleng River, Meghalaya | JPC-43 | MT160363 |
| *Channa pomanensis* | India | Voucher data unavailable | MH638344 |
| *Channa pseudomarulius* | India: Kerala, aquarium trade, AquacultureTechnologies, Singapore | Voucher data unavailable | MF496884 |
| *Channa pulchra* | Locality data unavailable | OL-0219 | KJ937442 |
| *Channa punctata* | India: Golbazar | WILD-17-PIS-330 | MF462273 |
| *Channa quinquefasciata* | India | ZSI FF 7906 | MH627036 |
| *Channa rara* | India: Maharashtra, Ratnagiri, Khopi | BNHS FWF 1005 | MN504650 |
| *Channa stewartii* | Locality data unavailable | Voucher data unavailable | MF496930 |
| *Channa stiktos* | India | MZF1 | MH559824 |
| *Channa striata* | India: Assam, Gauhati, aquarium trade,Aquarium Glaser,Frankfurt, Germany | Voucher data unavailable | MF496935 |
| *Parachanna africana* | Locality data unavailable | Voucher data unavailable | MF496973 |