**Phylogeny of the spiny lobster, *Panulirus versicolor*****based on COX I barcode (Crustacea: Malacostraca: Palinuridae)**

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The current paper proposes a phylogenetic study of the spiny lobster, *Panulirus versicolor* collected in the Chinnamuttom Kanniyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India using partial mitochondrial COXI Barcoding analysis. *P. versicolor* COXI dataset contains 675 bp with accession number MN273739 and Barcode Index Number AAD3352. The bold system phylogram revealed 99 Palinuridae species, including 43 *P. homarus*, 42 *P. versicolor*, 7 *P. stimpsoni*, 2 each of *P. polyphagus*, *P. inflatus*, and *P. ornatus*, and 1 *P. gracilis*. The phylogram displayed three main branches: branch 1 clustered with the species *P. homarus, P. polyphagus, P. inflatus*, and *P. ornatus*, branch 2 with *P. stimpsoni*, and branch 3 *P. versicolor*. The maximum likelihood phylogram displayed 90% bootstrap and was paraphyletic with *P. versicolor* species.

**Keywords:** Phylogeny; spiny lobster; *Panulirus versicolor*; COX I, Barcode, Crustacea.

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