

Review of: "High-Quality Genome Assembly of the Endemic, Threatened White-Bellied Sholakili *Sholicola albiventris* (Muscicapidae: Blanford, 1868) From the Shola Sky Islands, India"

Gloria Arriagada¹

¹ Universidad Nacional Andrés Bello, Chile

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The manuscript presents a genome assembly of *Sholicola albiventris* - an avian species endemic to a restricted area in India. The work is, in general terms, well presented and clear, but I have a few comments about presentation and questions about data analysis that, if the authors take them into account, might help to improve the article.

1. Although synteny with two other avian species is shown, there is no mention of gene identity, similarity, or differences among the species. I would suggest analyzing at least two highly similar and dissimilar genes among other avians if that information exists, especially because the number of genes is mentioned in the text, although not shown as a figure.
2. If information about genes associated with singing or song diversity exists for other birds, are those genes present in this bird, how similar or dissimilar are they, and can we indeed infer information about their repertoire using this genome?

In terms of presentation:

-Queen's lysis buffer- Please add a reference or describe the buffer composition.

-Details on each library preparation should be included in the methodology.

-Some of the figures have letters that are too small; for example, figure 2, which, even when opened on its own, loses resolution and the labels become illegible. Thus, I suggest uploading high-resolution figures, where the authors can be sure all the letters can be read.