

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The white-bellied sholakili is an endangered bird endemic to southern India. Vinay et al. sequenced and assembled its genome using both short-read and long-read DNA sequencing technologies. The work is straightforward, though technically challenging, and was appropriately executed. I have no substantive issues with the manuscript before me. That said, there are some minor issues of presentation that need to be resolved before the manuscript can be considered acceptable for publication. I'll explain a few matters here and provide a marked manuscript to guide the revision of the prose.

Methods. – Under sample collection, what is “the Queen’s lysis buffer”? The reader will appreciate a description or a supporting citation.

We need the manufacturer’s names for the R10 flowcell and the PromethION.

Supporting citations for the respective software packages should appear right after the mention of the name of the package. Some lack supporting citation or URL, such as Minimap2.

We need a supporting citation or URL for the aves\_odb10 dataset.

UCE should be defined as ultraconserved elements in the text.

Results and Discussion. – In the caption for Figure 1, the bird should be referred to as a “white-bellied sholakili” – calling it a “ringed sholakili” confused me until I realized that the authors referred to the ring on its leg, which is unimportant to the reader.

I broke a very long sentence on page 8 into two shorter ones.

References. – The references are not strictly in the same style. Should journal names be spelled out or not? Should important words in article titles be capitalized or not? The authors should place the citations into journal stylistics.