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### **A05. Phylogenetic relationships of selected genera of Lutjanidae inferred using mitochondrial regions, with a note on the taxonomic status of *Pinjalo pinjalo***

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The phylogenetic relationships of 43 species in 11 genera of the family Lutjanidae, including species from the Western Atlantic and Indo-Pacific Ocean, were inferred using mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) gene. A total of 38 COI sequences were produced in this study comprising of 10 *Lutjanus* and one *Pinjalo* species collected from the coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Both conspecifics of *L. russellii*, the Indian and Western Pacific forms were also analysed. Clade formation strongly reflects the species similarity in morphological characteristics as well as body colouration and body pattern. The phylogenetically-close relationship between *Pinjalo pinjalo* and the *Lutjanus* red snappers warrants a taxonomic revision of the former as these two genera are currently separated based on non-exclusive morphological characters. The somewhat higher sequence divergence between the two forms of *L. russellii* as compared to the Western Atlantic Ocean species justified further research to clarify its status as a single species.