**Literature:** Masuda et al. (1975, 1984); Kyushin et al. (1977); Smith (1977); Randall et al. (1978, as *P. townsendi*); Rau & Rau (1980); Kyushin et al. (1982); Fischer & Bianchi (1984); Gloerfelt-Tarp & Kailola (1984); Blanchi (1985a, 1985b); Smith & Heemstra (1986).

**Remarks:** Allen & Swainston (1988) have erroneously recorded this species from northwestern Australia.

**Parascolopsis inermis** (Schlegel, 1843)

*Scolopsides inermis* Schlegel in Temminck & Schlegel, 1843, Fauna Japonica: 63, pl. 28, fig. 1 (Japan).

**Synonyms:** *Heterognathodon doederleini* Ishikawa (1904).

**FAO Names:** En - Unarmed dwarf monocle bream.

**Diagnostic Features:** Body depth 2.6 to 2.9 in SL; snout length equal to or less than diameter of eye; gill rakers 9 or 10; head scales reaching forward to between middle of eyes; posterior margin of preopercle sloping forward slightly; lower limb of preopercle naked; posterior margin of suborbital finely serrate (sometimes smooth), a very small spine at upper corner; suborbital depth 2.5 to 3.5 in eye diameter; lateral-line scales 35; pectoral-fin rays ii, 14; pectoral fins long, reaching to or beyond level of anus; pelvic fins long, reaching to or almost to level of anus. **Colour:** body pale yellowish, silvery below; 4 broad, dark reddish bars on back; the first just in front of dorsal fin and extending down to base of pectoral fin; the second below middle of dorsal fin and extending down to midlateral part of body; the third just behind dorsal fin and extending almost to ventral surface of caudal peduncle; the fourth extending down base of caudal fin; paler, indistinct reddish bars in interspaces between darker bars; dorsal fin yellowish, with numerous red spots.
Geographical Distribution: Eastern Indian Ocean, including the Laccadive Islands, Sri Lanka, Andaman Sea; and western Pacific, including southern Japan and the South China Sea (Fig. 124).

Habitat and Biology: A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in offshore waters in depths of 60 to 131 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

Size: Maximum size is 18 cm SL, commonly 12 cm SL.

Interest to Fisheries: Taken by bottom trawl, deep-sea shrimp trap and vertical long line. No major fishery exists.

Local Names: JAPAN: Tamagashira.

Literature: Masuda et al. (1975, 1984); Kyushin et al. (1977); Gloerfelt-Tarp & Kailola (1984).

*Parascolopsis qantasi* Russell & Gloerfelt-Tarp, 1984

Fig. 125, Plate IV, e


Synonyms: None.

FAO Names: En - Slender dwarf monocle bream.
**Diagnostic Features:** Body depth 3.2 to 3.3 in SL; snout length less than diameter of eye; anterior 3 or 4 pairs of teeth in upper jaw slightly enlarged; gill rakers 12 to 14; head scales reaching forward in V-shaped patch to between middle of eyes; posterior margin of preopercle more or less vertical; lower limb of preopercle naked; posterior margin of suborbital with 2 or 3 tiny spines, a small spine at upper corner; suborbital depth 4.7 to 6.2 in eye diameter; lateral-line scales 34 or 35; pectoral-fin rays ii, 14 or 15; pectoral fins moderately long, reaching to or just short of anus; pelvic fins long, reaching to beyond anus. **Colour:** dark brownish on back, paling to whitish below; dorsal fin faintly pink-suffused, with brownish diagonal lines or rows of spots; anal fin transparent; caudal fin yellowish-pink with brownish narrow wavy stripes; pectoral fins yellowish-pink, a prominent black spot at base of fin; pelvic fins transparent.

**Geographical Distribution:** Known only from two specimens trawled in Mentawi Strait, off western Sumatra, Indonesia (Fig. 126).

**Habitat and Biology:** A benthic species inhabiting mud bottoms in depths of 65 to 70 m.

**Size:** Maximum size is 10.3 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries:** Taken by bottom trawl. No major fishery exists.

**Literature:** Gloerfelt-Tarp & Kailola (1984).

*Parascolopsis rufomaculatus* Russell, 1986b


**Synonyms:** None.

**FAO Names:** En - Red-spot dwarf monocle bream.
Diagnostic Features: Body depth 2.4 to 2.7 in SL; snout length equal to or less than diameter of eye; gill rakers 9 to 12; head scales reaching forward to between middle of eyes; posterior margin of preopercle sloping forward slightly; lower limb of preopercle naked; posterior margin of suborbital finely denticulate; suborbital depth 3.0 to 5.1 in eye diameter; lateral-line scales 35 to 37; pectoral-fin rays ii, 13 to 15; pectoral fins moderately long, reaching to or just short of level of anus; pelvic fins short, not reaching to level of anus. Colour: body pinkish, pearly-white below; broad pale golden stripe below lateral line, from upper margin of opercle to caudal peduncle; dorsal fin yellowish, a bright red spot between eighth and tenth spines.

Geographical Distribution: Known so far only from northwestern Australia (Fig. 128).

Habitat and Biology: A benthic species, occurring in offshore waters in depths of 200 to 350 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

Size: Maximum size is 15.5 cm SL, commonly 10 cm SL.

Interest to Fisheries: Taken by bottom trawl (scampi net). No fishery exists.

Local Names: AUSTRALIA: Yellow-banded dwarf monocle bream.

Literature: Sainsbury et al. (1984, as Parascolopsis sp. 1).

Parascolopsis tanyactis Russell, 1986b


Synonyms: None.

FAO Names: En - Long-rayed dwarf monocle bream.
**Diagnostic Features:** Body depth 2.6 to 3.0 in SL; snout length about equal to or less than diameter of eye; gill rakers 8 to 10; head scales reaching forward to or almost to anterior margin of eye; posterior margin of preopercle sloping backward slightly; lower limb of preopercle naked; suborbital naked; posterior margin of suborbital smooth or with a few tiny spines, 1 or 2 tiny spines at upper corner; suborbital depth 1.7 to 5.0 in eye diameter; lateral-line scales 35 to 38; pectoral-fin rays ii, 14 or 15; pectoral fins moderately long, reaching to or just short of level of anus; pelvic fins moderately long, reaching to about level of anus; fourth or fifth dorsal rays elongate, at least in larger specimens. **Colour:** pinkish, darker on back and becoming silvery on ventral surface; four dark brownish-pink saddles or bars on back; pale lemon-yellow stripe on either side of ventral midline from base of pelvic fins to base of caudal fin; area between eyes greenish yellow, a pale mauve stripe joining eyes through nostrils; dorsal fin pink with dusky reticulated markings, anteriormost three saddles on back extending onto basal part of fin.

**Geographical Distribution:** Western Pacific, including the Philippines, eastern Indonesia and northwestern Australia (Fig. 130).

**Habitat and Biology:** A benthic species, occurring in offshore waters in depths of 40 to 200 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

**Size:** Maximum size is 20.5 cm SL, commonly 15 cm SL.

**Interest to Fisheries:** Taken by bottom trawl. No fishery exists.

**Local Names:** AUSTRALIA: Yellow-bellied dwarf monocle bream.

**Literature:** Gloerfelt-Tarp & Kailola (1984, as *Parascolopsis* sp. 1); Sainsbury *et al.* (1984, as *Parascolopsis* sp. 2); Allen & Swainston (1988).

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**Synonyms:** None.
**FAO Names:** En - Tosa dwarf monocle bream.

**Diagnostic Features:** Body depth 2.4 to 2.8 in SL; snout length less than diameter of eye; anterior teeth in upper jaw slightly enlarged; gill rakers 8 to 10; head scales reaching forward almost to level of anterior margin of eyes; posterior margin of preopercle sloping forward slightly; lower limb of preopercle scaly; posterior margin of preopercle denticulate, a very small spine at upper corner; suborbital depth 4.0 to 8.8 in eye diameter; lateral-line scales 35 to 38; pectoral-fin rays ii, 12 to 14; pectoral fins short, not reaching to level of anus; pelvic fins short, not reaching near level of anus. **Colour:** light reddish, paler below; 2 broad longitudinal yellow stripes; the upper from behind eye to middle of caudal base; the lower from above pectoral fin to lower caudal base; outer part of spinous dorsal and margin of soft dorsal reddish; a broad yellow stripe from base of spinous dorsal to outer anterior part of soft dorsal fin; caudal-fin margin reddish.

**Geographical Distribution:** West Pacific, including southern Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines and eastern Indonesia (Fig. 132).

**Habitat and Biology:** A benthic species occurring in offshore waters in depths of 150 to 300 m.

**Size:** Maximum size is 10 cm SL, commonly 8 cm SL.

**Interest to Fisheries:** Very rarely found in markets. No major fishery exists.

**Local Names:** JAPAN: Kisuii-tamagashira.

**Literature:** Gloerfelt-Tarp & Kailola (1984); Shao & Chen (1988).
Parascolopsis townsendi Boulenger, 1901


Synonyms: None.


Diagnostic Features: Body depth 2.4 to 2.7 in SL; snout length equal to or less than diameter of eye; gill rakers 10 to 13; head scales reaching forward to level of posterior nostrils; posterior margin of preopercle sloping back-ward slightly; lower limb of preopercle scaly; suborbital scaly; posterior margin of suborbital finely serrate, no spine at upper corner; suborbital depth 2.8 to 5.2 in eye diameter; lateral-line scales 37 to 40; pectoral-fin rays ii, 13 to 15; pectoral fins long, reaching to above origin of anal fin; pelvic fins long, reaching to or almost to level of anus. Colour: uniform reddish with a silvery lateral stripe.

Geographical Distribution: Western Indian Ocean, including the Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea and Arabian Sea (Fig. 134).

Habitat and Biology: A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in offshore waters in depths of 100 to 410 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

Size: Maximum size is 15.5 cm SL, commonly 10 cm SL.