

Geographical Distribution: Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific from northwestern Australia, the Indo-Malay archipelago, Andaman Sea, Red Sea, Seychelles and Zanzibar (Fig. 103).

Habitat and Biology: A benthic species, found on sand bottoms near rocks in depths between 10 and 125 m. It swims in groups and feeds on bottom organisms.

Size: Maximum size is 18.5 cm SL, commonly 16 cm SL.

Interest to Fisheries: Taken by handline and bottom trawl along with other species of *Nemipterus*. Appears in small numbers in local markets. No major fishery exists.

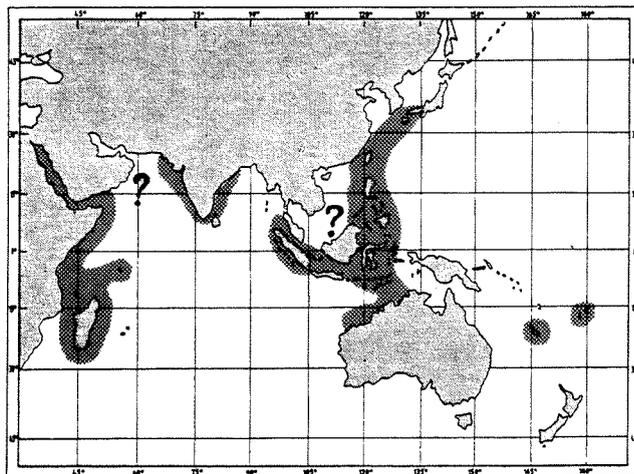


Fig. 103

Local Names: AUSTRALIA: Yellow-cheeked threadfin bream. PHILIPPINES: Bisugo (Tagalog), Lagao (Visayan). THAILAND: Pla Sai Dang. PAKISTAN: Katti (Sindhi), Konto (Baluchi). TANZANIA: Koana. MADAGASCAR: Koana.

Literature: The following have all reported this species as *N. metopias*: Fischer & Whitehead (1974); Schroeder (1980); Fischer & Bianchi (1984); Bauchot & Bianchi (1984); Gloerfelt-Tarp & Kailola (1984, but figured as *N. mesoprion*); Sainsbury *et al.* (1984); Shen (1984); Bianchi (1985a, 1985b). Kuronuma & Abe (1986) report it as *N. nemurus*. Allen & Swainston (1988) correctly use the name *N. zysron*.

Remarks: This species has generally been treated under the name *N. metopias* by most previous authors, but the name *N. zysron* has priority.

Parascolopsis Boulenger, 1901

NEMIP Para

Genus: *Parascolopsis* Boulenger, 1901, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, (7)7: 262. Type species *Parascolopsis townsendi* Boulenger, 1901, by monotypy.

Synonyms: None.

Diagnostic Features: Small fish with a moderately deep, laterally compressed body. Teeth villiform, in tapering bands in both jaws; anterior teeth small, conical in some species; canine teeth absent. Gill rakers short and stubby, 8 to 19 on first arch. Second anal spine usually longer and more robust than first or third; pectoral fins long, with 2 unbranched and 12 to 15 branched rays; pelvic fins long or moderately long, with 1 spine and 5 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays (last ray branched at base); second anal spine usually more robust than first or third; caudal fin emarginate. Scales on top of head reaching forward to level of middle of eyes, or to level of posterior nostrils; suborbital scaly or naked; posterior margin of suborbital smooth, denticulate or finely serrate; upper corner of suborbital with a small spine, or spine absent; preopercle scaly, with 4 or 5 transverse scale rows; lower limb of preopercle naked or scaly; posterior margin of preopercle serrate; opercle scaly; upper margin of opercle with a small, flat embedded spine. Lateral-line scales 34 to 40 (usually 35 to 38); 2% to 5 transverse scale rows above lateral line, 11 to 15 rows below. **Colour:** variable, but usually reddish, with yellow or silver markings.

Biology, Habitat and Distribution: Benthic, usually occurring in offshore shelf waters in depths between 20 and 410 m. Food consists mainly of small benthic invertebrates.

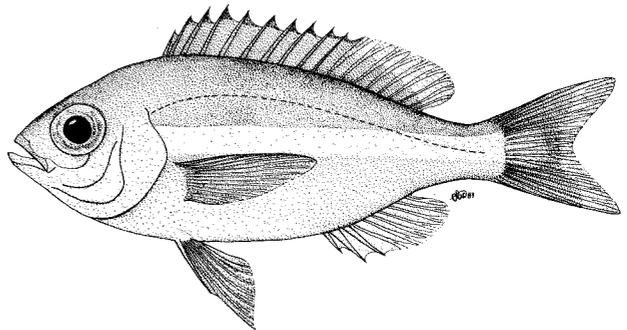
Geographical Distribution: Tropical Indian Ocean to western Pacific Ocean.

Interest to Fisheries: No major fishery exists for species of *Parascolopsis*. Small numbers have been taken mainly by exploratory fishing vessels using bottom trawl, deep sea shrimp trap, and vertical long line. Rarely marketed.

Remarks: Species of *Parascolopsis* have been previously assigned to the genus *Scolopsis* by some authors.

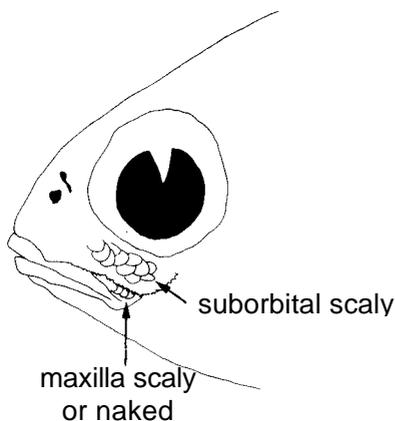
Key to the Species of *Parascolopsis*

- 1a. Gill rakers on first arch 17 to 19
(Indo-W. Pacific) *P. eriomma*
(Fig. 104, Plate IV, c)
- 1 b. Gill rakers on first arch 8 to 14
 - 2a. Suborbital scaly; maxilla scaly or naked (Fig. 105) (W. Indian Ocean) *P. townsendi*
(Fig. 106)
 - 2b. Suborbital and maxilla naked



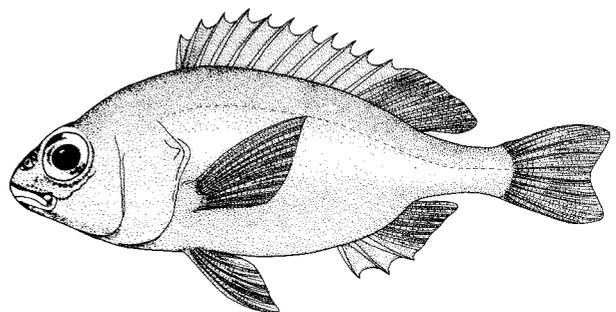
P. eriomma

Fig. 104



P. townsendi

Fig. 105



P. townsendi

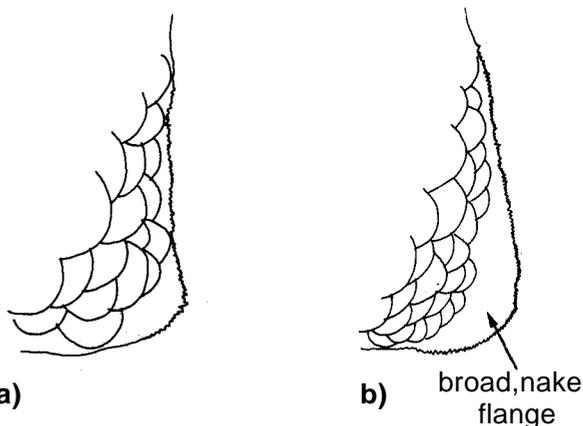
Fig. 106

3a. Preopercle more or less entirely scaled or with an incomplete naked flange posteriorly on its free margin (Fig. 107a) (S. Japan, Philippines, Indonesia) *P. tosensis* (Fig. 108, Plate IV, h)

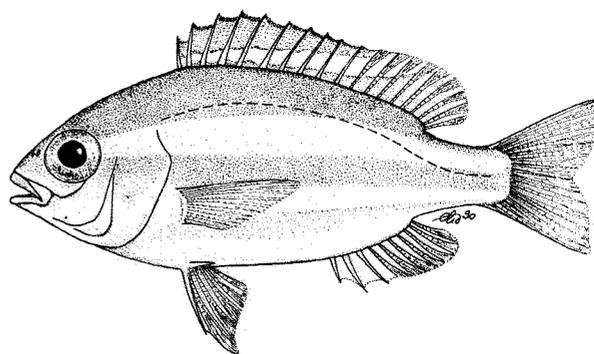
3b. Preopercle with a distinct broad naked flange bordering its free margin (Fig. 107b)

4a. Head scales reaching forward to or in front of anterior margin of eyes (Fig. 109a)

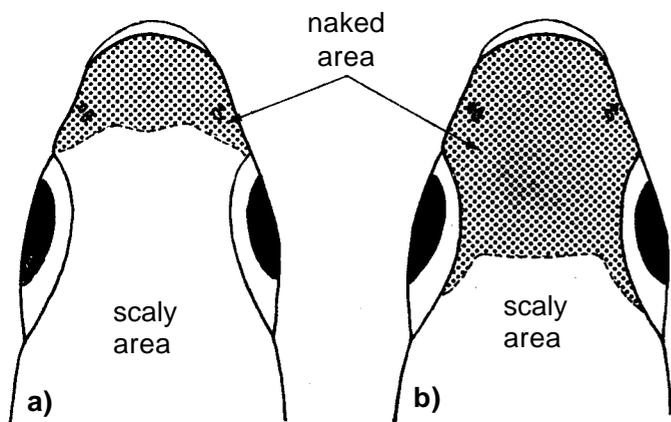
5a. Posterior margin of sub-orbital smooth or with just a few tiny spines (Fig. 110a); black blotch at base of middle of dorsal fin (colour retained in preserved specimens) (N.W. Indian Ocean)
..... *P. aspinosa* (Fig. 111, Plate IV, b)



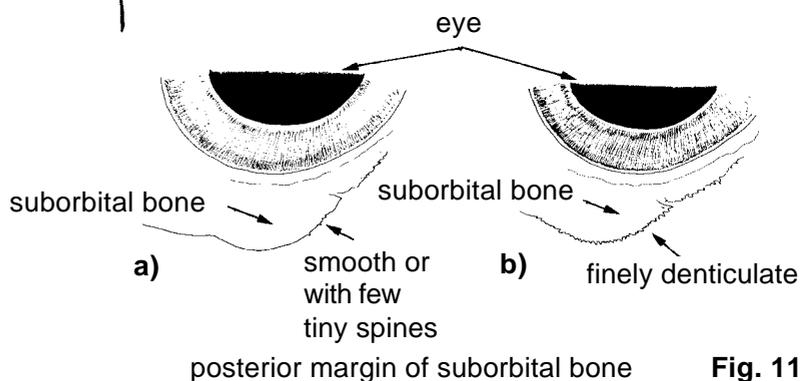
squamation on preopercle **Fig. 107**



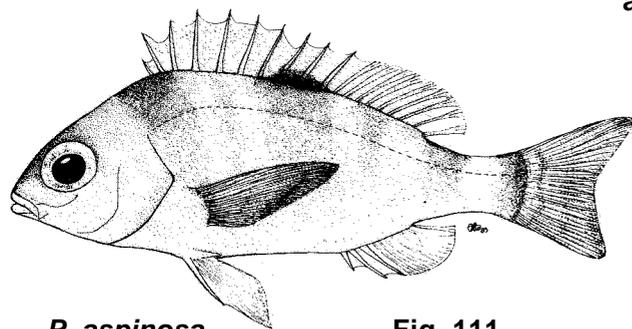
P. tosensis **Fig. 108**



top of head showing forward extent of scales **Fig. 109**



posterior margin of suborbital bone **Fig. 110**



P. aspinosa **Fig. 111**

- 5b. Posterior and anterior margin of suborbital finely denticulate (Fig. 11 0b); red spot between seventh and tenth dorsal spines (colour not retained in preserved specimens) (E. coast of India) *P. boesemani* (Fig. 112)

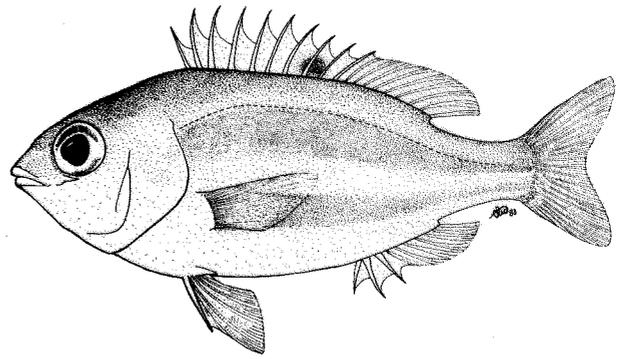
*P. boesemani*

Fig. 112

- 4b. Head scales reaching forward to about middle of eyes, or between middle and anterior margin of eyes (Fig. 109b)

- 6a. Gill rakers on first arch 8 to 10

- 6b. Gill rakers on first arch 11 to 14 (W. Sumatra) .. *P. qantasi* (Fig. 113, Plate IV, e)

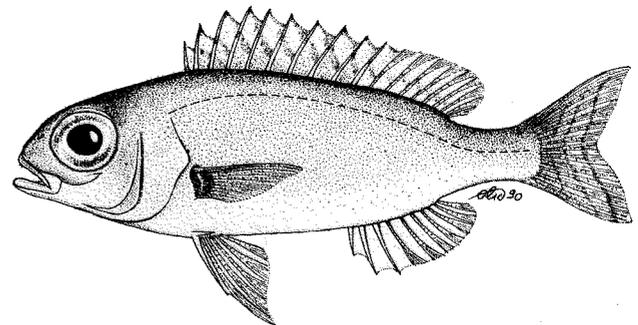
*P. qantasi*

Fig. 113

- 7a. Interorbital width 3.2 to 3.7 in head; pelvic fins not reaching to level of anus, length of pelvics 1.6 to 1.9 in head; 4 or 5 transverse scale rows above lateral line (N.W. Australia) *P. rufomaculatus* (Fig. 114, Plate IV, f)

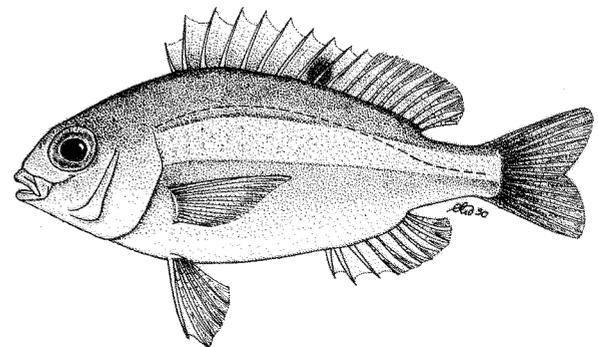
*P. rufomaculatus*

Fig. 114

- 7b. Interorbital width 4.3 to 5.4 in head; pelvic fins reaching to or beyond level of anus, length of pelvics 1.2 to 1.5 in head; 2 ½ or 3 transverse scale rows above lateral line

- 8a. Dusky band joining nostrils across snout; fourth or fifth dorsal ray elongate in larger specimens (Philippines, Indonesia, N.W. Australia) *P. tanyactis* (Fig. 115, Plate IV, g)

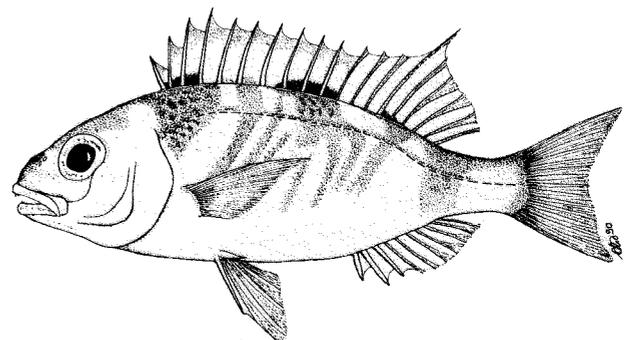
*P. tanyactis*

Fig. 115

- 8b. Dusky band across snout absent; fourth or fifth dorsal ray not notably elongate (W. Pacific to E. Indian Ocean) *P. inermis*
(Fig. 116, Plate IV, d)

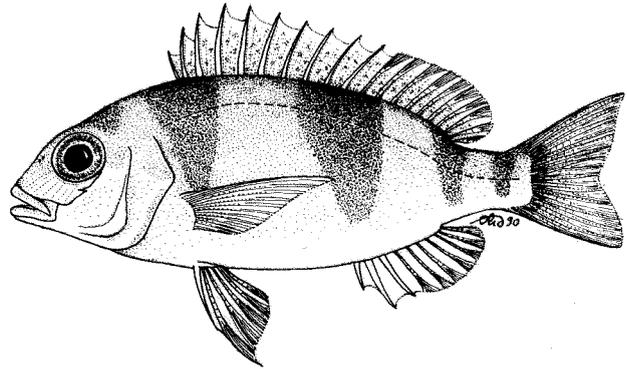
*P. inermis*

Fig. 116

Parascolopsis aspinosa (Rao & Rao, 1981)

Fig. 117, Plate IV, b

NEMIP Para 1

Scolopsis aspinosa Rao & Rao, 1981, Proc. Kon. Ned. Akad. Wetensch., Ser. C, 84: 134, fig. 1, 3 (Waltair, India).

Synonyms: *Parascolopsis jonesi* Talwar (1986).

FAO Names: En - Smooth dwarf monocle bream. Fr - Mamila lisse. Sp - Besugato liso.

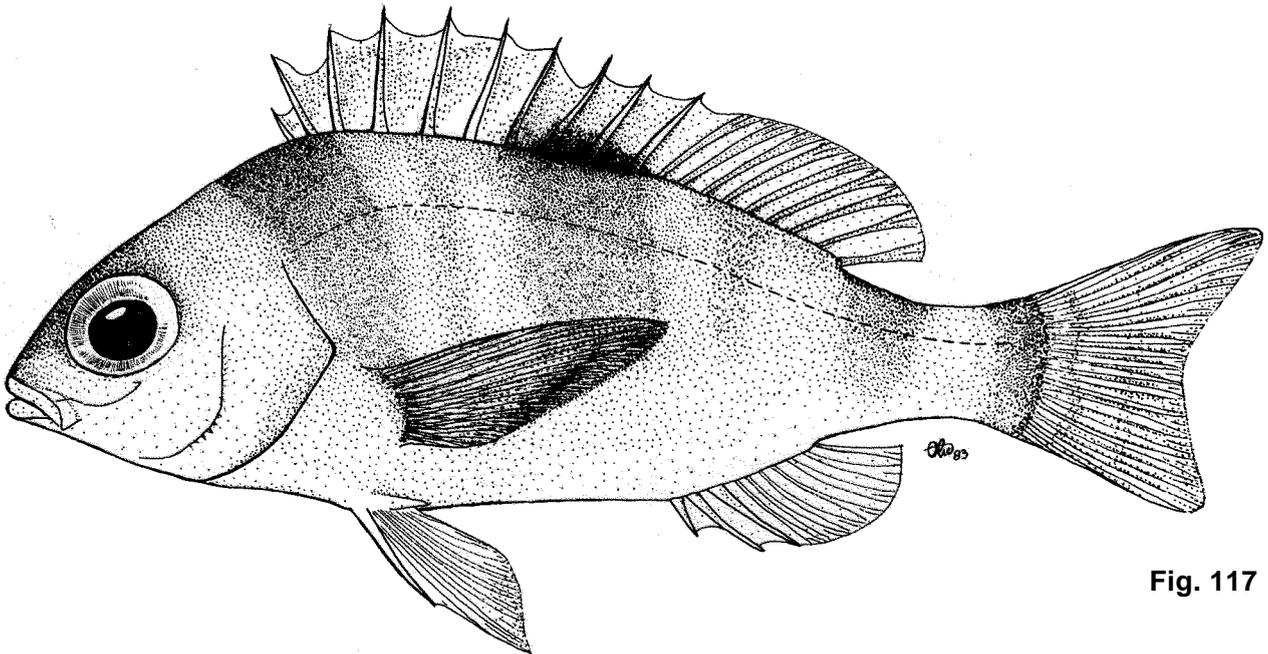


Fig. 117

Diagnostic Features: Body depth 2.5 to 3.0 in SL; snout length less than diameter of eye; gill rakers 10 or 11; head scales reaching forward to between level of anterior margin of eyes and posterior nostrils; posterior margin of preopercle more or less vertical; lower limb of preopercle naked; posterior margin of suborbital smooth or with just a few tiny spines; suborbital depth 2.6 to 4.6 in eye diameter; lateral-line scales 35 or 36; pectoral-fin rays ii, 14 or 15 (usually ii, 15); pectoral and pelvic fins long, reaching to or beyond level of anus. **Colour:** body rosy-orange; 4 pale reddish saddles on back and 2 on caudal peduncle; suborbital and edge of preopercle silvery-yellow; a black blotch at base of dorsal fin between eighth spine and first ray; dorsal fin with orange edge; anal fin pale rosy; pectoral fin yellowish.

Geographical Distribution: Indian Ocean, including the Persian Gulf; Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea (Fig. 118).

Habitat and Biology: A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in off-shore waters, in depths of 20 to 225 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

Size: Maximum size is 17 cm SL, commonly 10 cm SL.

Interest to Fisheries: Taken in small numbers by bottom trawling. No major fishery exists.

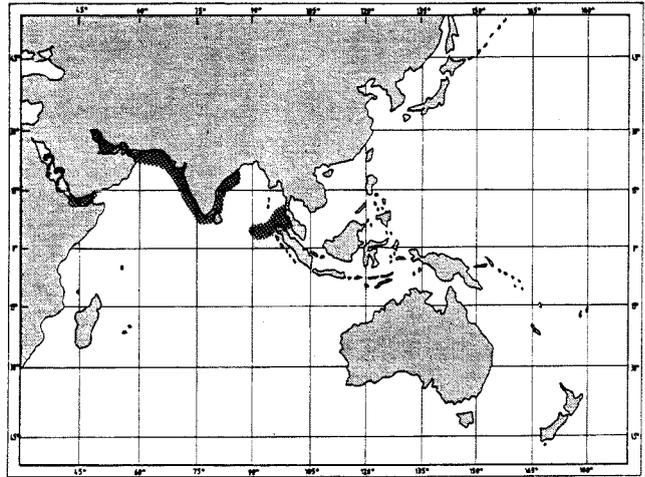


Fig. 118

Local Names: PAKISTAN: Katti (Sindhi), Kolonto (Baluchi).

Literature: Randall *et al.* (1978, p211. pl. 43, as *Parasclopsis sp.*); Fischer & Bianchi (1984); Bianchi (1985b).

Parasclopsis boesemani (Rao & Rao, 1981)

Fig. 119

NEMIP Para 2

Scolopsis boesemani Rao & Rao, 1981, *Proc. Kon. Ned. Akad. Wetensch.*, Ser. C, 84: 139, fig. 2, 4 (Waltair, India).

Synonyms: None.

FAO Names: En - Redfin dwarf monocle bream. Fr - Mamila aurore. Sp - Besugato aurora.

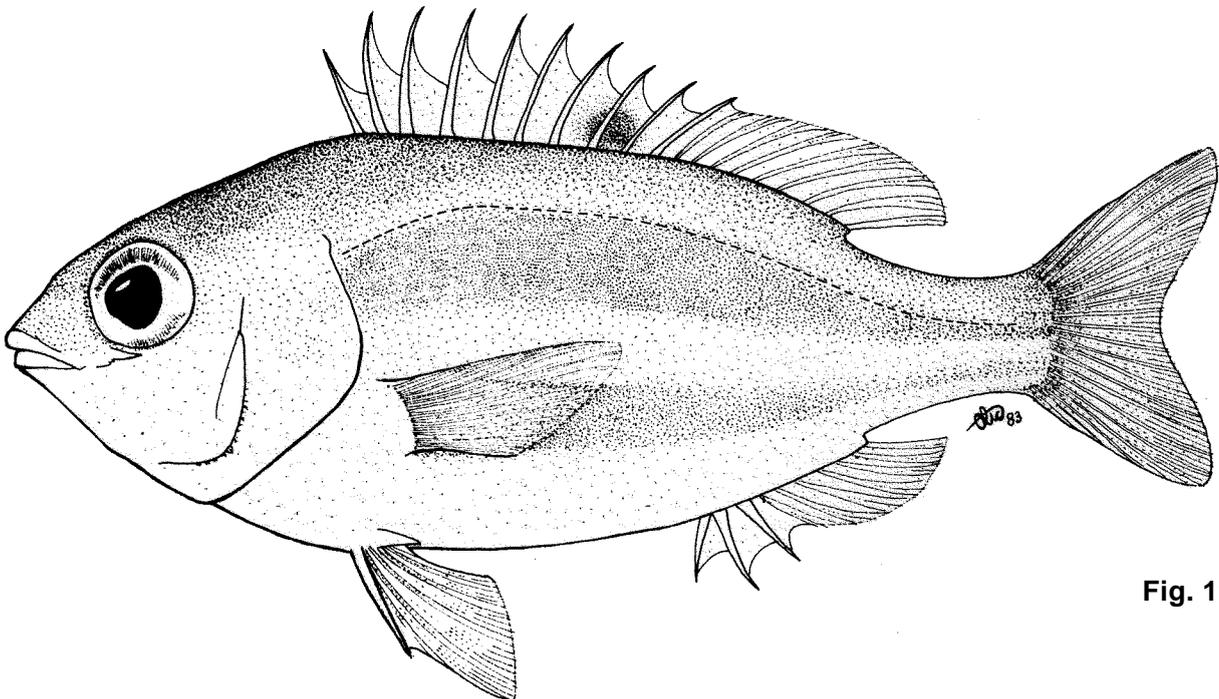


Fig. 119

Diagnostic Features: Body depth 2.8 in SL; snout length less than diameter of eye; gill rakers 9; head scales reaching forward to level of posterior nostrils; posterior margin of preopercle more or less vertical; lower limb of preopercle naked; posterior margin of suborbital finely denticulate; suborbital depth 3.8 in eye diameter; lateral-line scales 36 or 37; pectoral-fin rays ii, 14; pectoral and pelvic fins long, reaching to beyond level of anus. **Colour:** body rosy-yellow; 3 pale rosy saddles on body and 1 on caudal peduncle; two light green stripes with a slight orange tinge, below lateral line; dorsal fin silvery yellow, a blood-red blotch between seventh and tenth spines; caudal fin silvery-yellow, fork margin rosy.

Geographical Distribution: So far known only from a single specimen collected off Waltair, India (Fig. 120).

Habitat and Biology: A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in offshore waters in depths of 20 to 25 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

Size: Standard length of the only known specimen is 9.1 cm.

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

Literature: Fischer & Bianchi (1984); Bianchi (1985b).

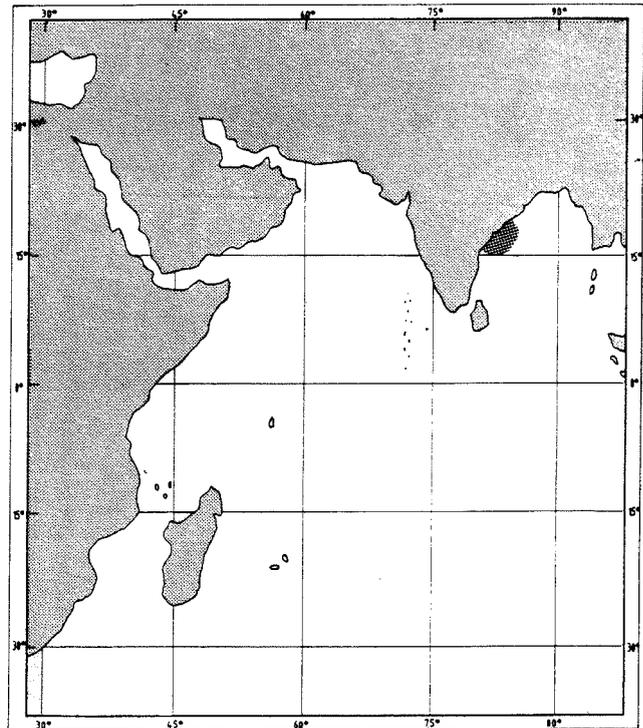


Fig. 120

Parascolopsis eriomma (Jordan & Richardson, 1909)

NEMIP Para 3

Fig. 121, Plate IV, c

Scolopsis eriomma Jordan & Richardson, 1909, Mem. Carnegie Mus., 4: 188, pl. 70 (Formosa; Ceylon).

Synonyms: None.

FAO Names: **En** - Rosy dwarf monocle bream. **Fr** - Mamila rosée. **Sp** - Besugato rosado.

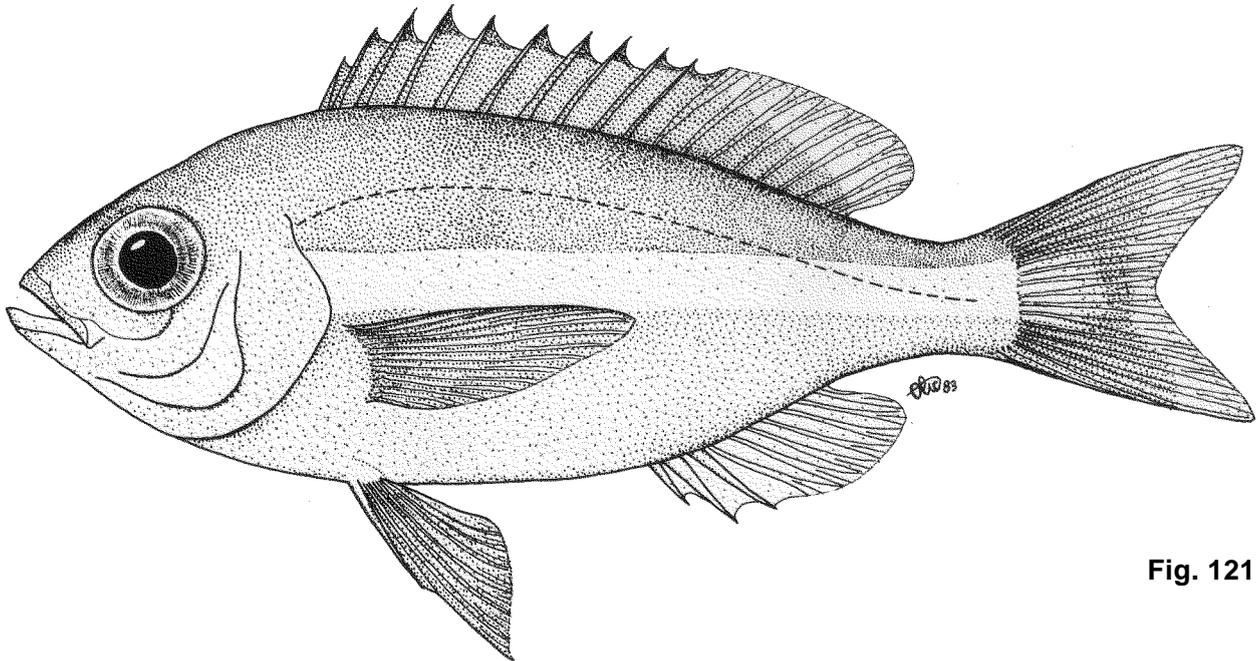


Fig. 121

Diagnostic Features: Body depth 2.7 to 3.0 in SL; snout length less than diameter of eye; gill rakers 17 to 19; head scales reaching forward to between middle of eyes; posterior margin of preopercle more or less vertical, or sloping forward slightly; lower limb of preopercle naked; posterior margin of suborbital serrate, a small spine at upper corner; suborbital depth 2.6 to 4.8 in eye diameter; lateral-line scales 34 to 36; pectoral-fin rays ii, 14 or 15; pectoral fins long, reaching to or almost to level of anus; pelvic fins long, reaching to level of anus. **Colour:** pinkish with a broad longitudinal yellow stripe along middle of body, from above pectoral fin to base of caudal fin; a dusky, elongate blotch at origin of lateral line; upper axis of pectoral fin black; dorsal fin pink, spinous margin reddish; pectoral and caudal fin yellowish.

Geographical Distribution: Indian Ocean, including the Gulf of Oman, Red Sea, east Africa (south to Delagoa Bay), Sri Lanka, Andaman Sea; and West Pacific, including southern Japan, Taiwan, South China Sea, Philippines, Indonesia (Fig. 122).

Habitat and Biology: A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in offshore waters in depths of 25 to 175 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

Size: Maximum size is 25.5 cm SL, commonly 20 cm SL.

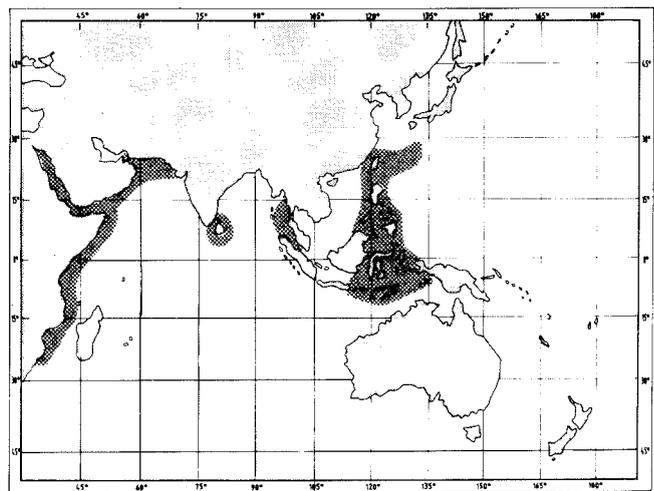


Fig. 122

Interest to Fisheries: Taken by vertical long line and by bottom trawl. No major fishery exists.

Local Names: TAIWAN: Dai hii, Hai tai. JAPAN: Aka-tamagashira, Shikoku-tamagashira. PHILIPPINES: Silay, Buruba, Tagisang lawin. SOUTH AFRICA: Glans-stekelwang, shimmering spinecheek.