



#### **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Other Parascolopsis species: no broad membranous margin to opercle; colour pattern different. Furthermore, predorsal scales not extending forward beyond eyes in P. aspinosa and P. eriomma.

Scolopsis species: a strong suborbital spine present.

Nemipterus species: preopercle with only 3 rows of scales.

#### **SIZE:**

Maximum: 15 cm; common to 10 cm.

#### **GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

Known so far only from India.

Inhabits deeper offshore water; usually found over soft bottoms.

Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

#### **PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

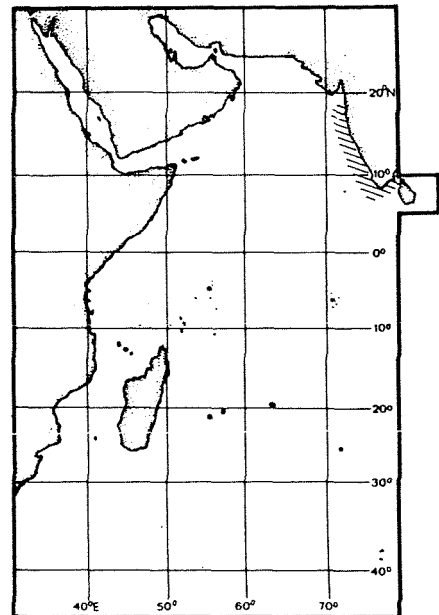
Taken incidentally off the Indian coasts.

#### **CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh and dried salted.

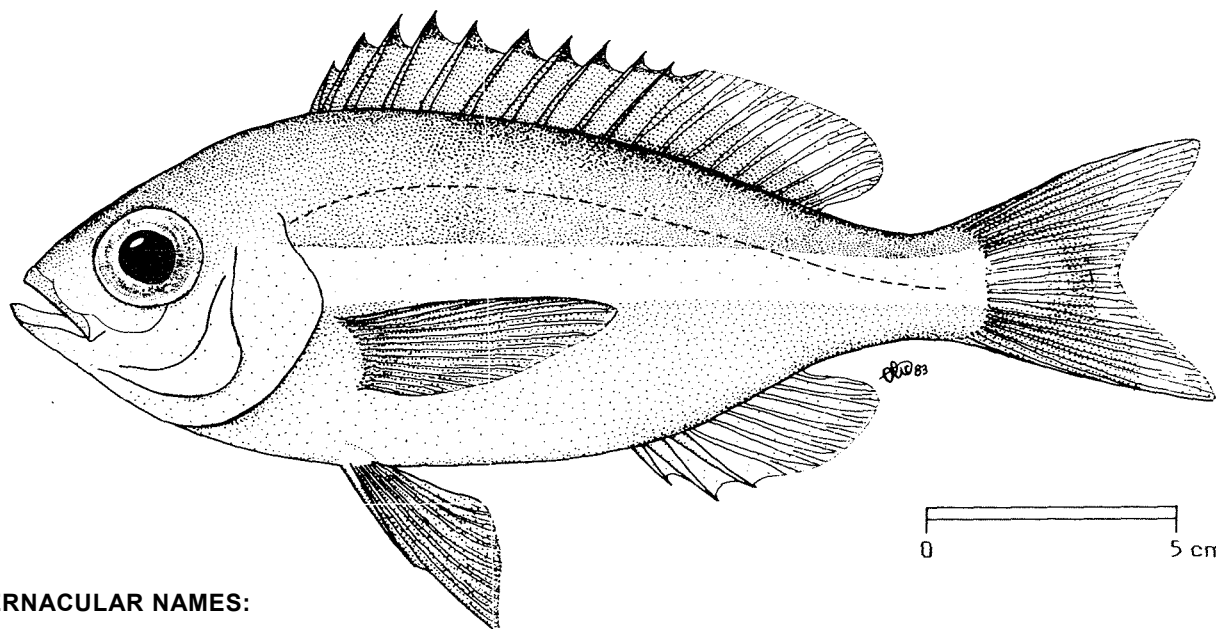


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)*Parascolopsis eriomma* Jordan & Richardson, 1909

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VEERNACULAR NAMES:

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

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body moderately deep (depth in front of dorsal fin about 2.7 to 3 times in standard length), with a convex dorsal profile and a very short snout. Eye large, a small or rudimentary spine below eye, suborbital margin finely serrate or smooth; Gillrakers on first arch 18 or 19. Dorsal fin with 10 spines and 9 soft rays, continuous, unnotched; anal fin with 3 spines (3rd spine slightly longer than 2nd) and 7 soft rays; pectoral fins with 2 unbranched and 14 or 15 branched rays. Predorsal scales (on top of head) not extending forward onto snout, reaching to level of middle of eye; 4 or 5 transverse rows of scales on cheek; lower limb of preopercle unsealed.

Colour: overall pinkish; a broad yellowish longitudinal band along middle of body from above pectoral fin to base of caudal fin.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other *Parascolopsis* species in the area: less than 18 gillrakers on first gill arch; colour pattern different; no rudimentary suborbital spine. Furthermore, predorsal scales extending forward beyond eyes in *P. townsendi* and *P. boesemani*.

*Scolopsis* species: suborbital spine well developed.

*Nemipterus* species: preopercle with only 3 rows of scales.

**SIZE:**

Maximum: 30 cm; common to 25 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

Throughout most of the northern and Western Indian Ocean; eastward to the Indo-Australian archipelago.

Inhabits inshore and moderately deep offshore waters (to 75 m depth); found associated with rocky and soft bottoms.

Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

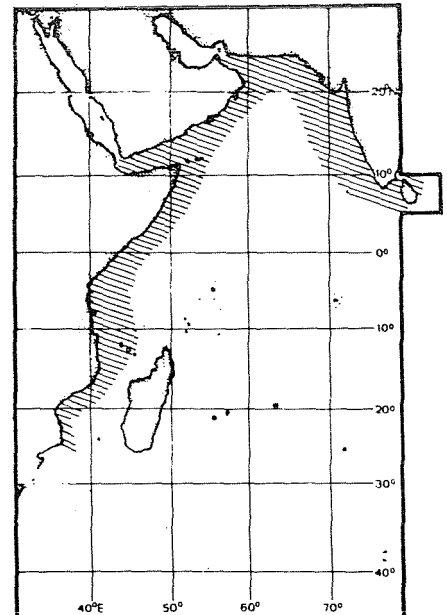
Shelf areas throughout its range.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls and on line gear.

Marketed fresh and dried salted.



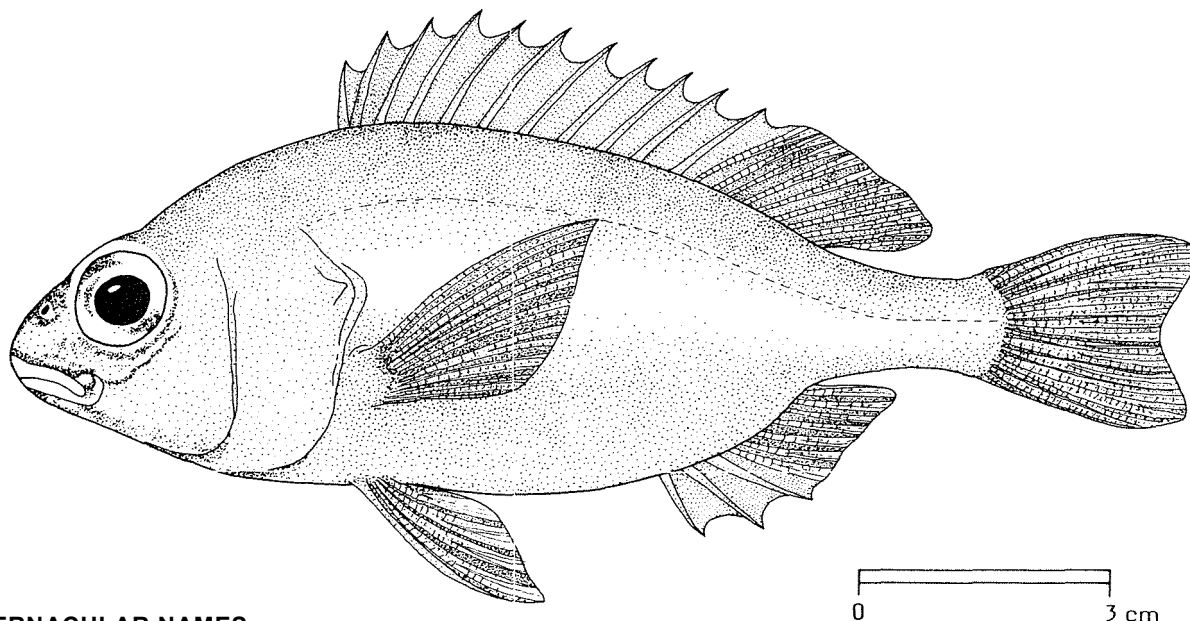
## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Parascolopsis townsendi</i> Boulenger, 1901
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OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VEERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Scaly dwarf monocle bream  
Fr - Mamila mignonne  
Sp - Besugato menudo

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body moderately deep (depth in front of dorsal fin about 2.4 to 2.7 times in standard length), with a convex dorsal profile and a short snout. Eye large, suborbital margin finely serrate; gillrakers on first arch 10 to 13. Dorsal fin with 10 spines and 9 soft rays, continuous, unnotched; anal fin with 3 spines (the 2nd and 3rd about same size) and 7 soft rays; pectoral fins with 2 unbranched and 14 or 15 branched rays. Predorsal scales (on top of head) extending forward to about level of posterior nostrils; 7 transverse rows of scales on cheek; lower limb of preopercle with 2 rows of small scales.

Colour: uniform reddish, with a silvery lateral stripe.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other *Parascolopsis* species in the area: have only 4 or 5 transverse rows of scales on cheeks (7 in *P. townsendi*); lower limb of the preopercle unsealed; colour patterns with stripes and/or blotches.

*Scolopsis* species: a strong suborbital spine present.

*Nemipterus* species: preopercle with only 3 rows of scales.

**SIZE:**

Maximum: 20 cm; common to 15 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

So far known only from the Gulf of Oman.

Inhabits deeper offshore waters (350 to 400 m); usually found over soft bottoms.

Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

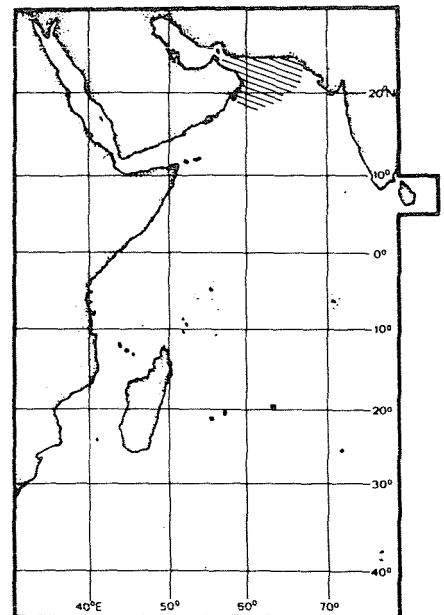
**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

Taken incidentally as bycatch in the Gulf of Oman.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

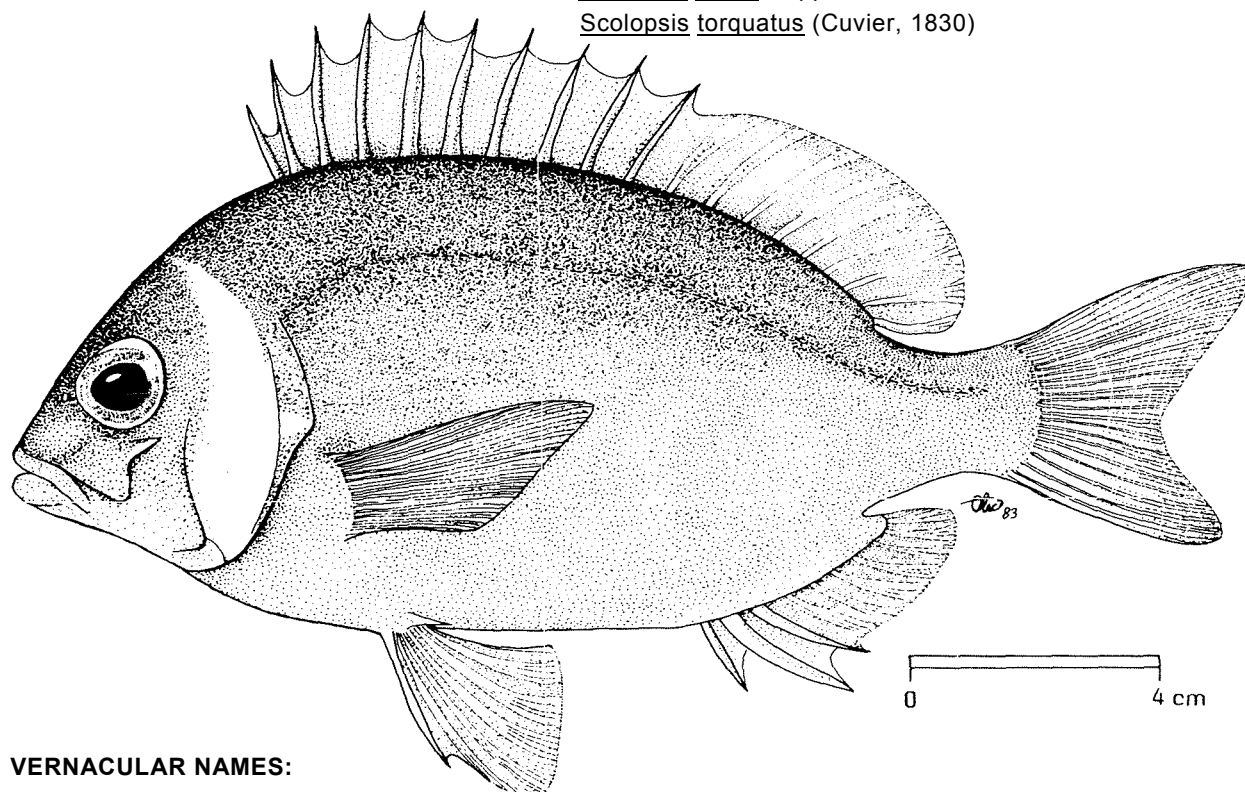
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls.



## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)*Scolopsis vosmeri* (Bloch, 1792)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Scolopsis kurite* Rüppell, 1828  
*Scolopsis torquatus* (Cuvier, 1830)

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Whitecheek monocle bream  
Fr - Mamila joues blanches  
Sp - Besugato cariblanco

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body compressed with a very convex dorsal profile; relatively deep (depth in front of dorsal fin about 2 to 2.6 times in standard length), jaws thick; eye large, a stout backward-pointing spine just below it, preceded by a small antorse (forward-pointing) spine. Dorsal fin with 10 stout spines and 9 soft rays; anal fin with 3 stout spines (the 2nd very broad and longer than the 3rd) and 7 soft rays; pectoral fins with 2 unbranched and 16 or 17 branched rays; pelvic fins with 1st soft ray sometimes elongated into a short, threadlike filament. Predorsal scales (on top of head) beginning in front of anterior nostrils; 4 to 6 transverse rows of scales on cheek; lower limb of preopercle with 1 or 2 rows of small scales.

Colour: body colour variable, usually dark: with a reddish-purple tinge; a broad, white vertical band from top of head onto gill covers; sometimes a horizontal white band below lateral line from gill cover to below middle of dorsal fin; scales on sides of body with dark spots; fins greyish, tinged red.

### **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Other Scolopsis species: body more elongate, the depth usually more than 2.6 times in standard length; 3rd spine of anal fin longer than or equal to length of 2nd spine (except in S. bilineatus); no broad, white vertical line on gill cover.

Parascolopsis species: suborbital spine rudimentary or absent.

Nemipterus species: suborbital spine absent; preopercle with only 3 rows of scales.

### **SIZE:**

Maximum: 25 cm; common to 20 cm.

### **GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

Throughout most of the area; eastward to the tropical western Pacific.

Inhabits inshore waters, mostly around islands and reefs.

Feeds on bottom-living organisms.

### **PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

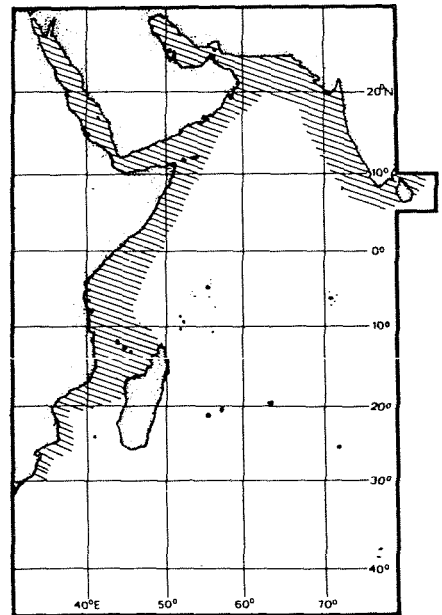
Shallow waters, throughout its range.

### **CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

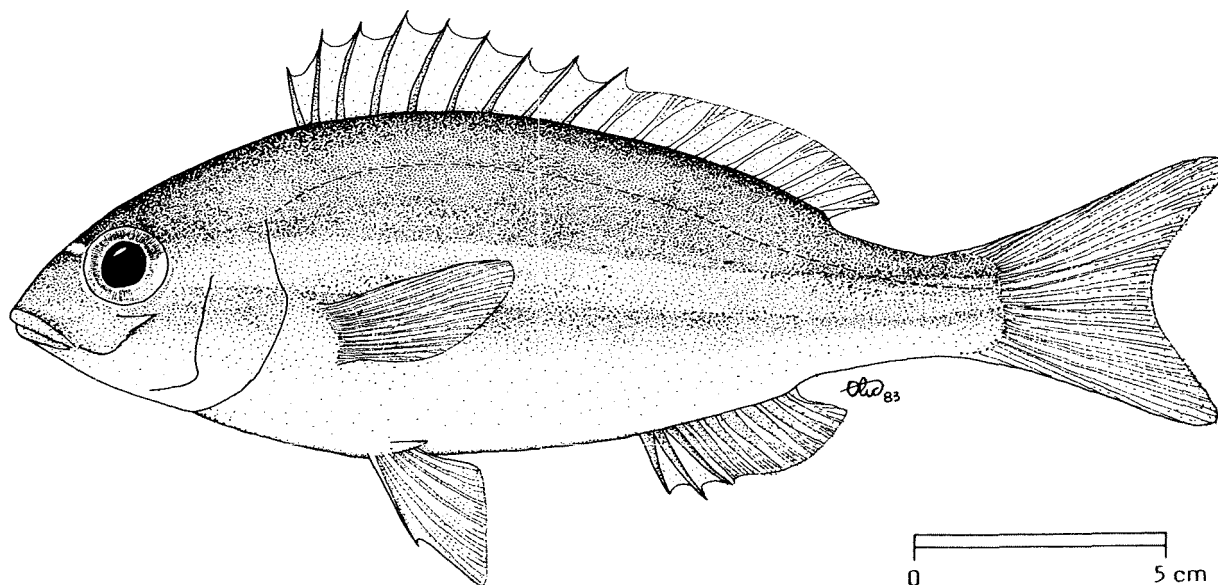
Caught with bottom trawls, lines and traps.

Marketed fresh (whole), dried salted or dried smoked.



## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)*Scolopsis auratus* (Park, 1789)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN ME: *Scolopsis personatus* (Cuvier, 1830)

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Yellowstripe monocle bream  
                   Fr - Mamila à bande dorée  
                   Sp - Besugato de banda dorada

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body moderately deep (depth in front of dorsal fin about 2.9 to 3.1 times in standard length) with a convex dorsal profile and a pointed snout. Eye medium-sized, a stout, backward-projecting spine just below it. Dorsal fin with 10 spines and 9 soft rays, continuous, unnotched; anal fin with 3 spines (the 2nd stouter and shorter than the 1st) and 7 soft rays; pectoral fins with 2 unbranched and 16 branched rays. Predorsal scales (on top of head) not extending onto snout, reaching forward to about level of anterior margin of eyes; 5 or 6 transverse rows of scales on cheek; lower limb of preopercle with 2 rows of small scales.

Colour: overall silvery-white to olive on back with a broad yellow midlateral band from eye to base of caudal fin; a pale blue band joining eyes across snout; snout dusky brown; fins whitish to transparent.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other *Scolopsis* species: differ significantly in colour pattern. Furthermore, predorsal scales extending onto snout, at least to level of posterior nostrils in all species except *S. taeniatus*.

*Parascolopsis* species: suborbital spine rudimentary or absent.

Nemipterus species: no suborbital spine; preopercle with only: 5 rows of scales.

**SIZE:**

Maximum: 30 cm; common to 25 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

Within the area, restricted to Sri Lanka and south India; eastward to Western Sumatra.

Inhabits inshore waters, mostly around coral reefs. Usually found over sand.

Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.

**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

Shallow waters, throughout its range.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls, handlines, traps and gillnets.

Marketed fresh, occasionally dried salted.

