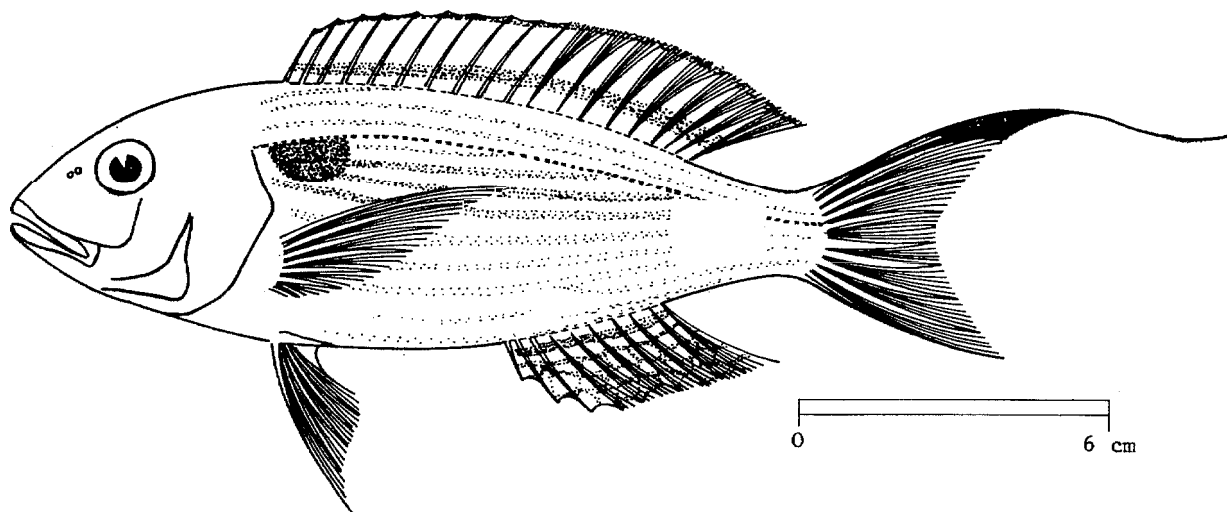


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Nemipterus japonicus* (Bloch, 1791)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Synagris japonicus*: Günther, 1859

## VEINACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Japanese threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body as deep or deeper than head; head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays. Upper lobe of caudal fin prolonged into a filament; no filaments in other fins.

Colour: a brownish saddle on top of head. 1 to 3 longitudinal yellow lines above lateral line, 7 to 9 below, and a yellow band along belly; a bright orange/red blotch near origin of lateral line. No dark saddles on back of body. Dorsal fin rosy, with yellow/orange margin and a broad yellow band along base (less conspicuous in fish shorter than 10 cm); pelvic fins yellowish at base and with yellow axillary scales; anal fin milky white or pale blue with faint, wavy, yellow lines which may form a reticulate pattern in larger fish; caudal fin red, tip of upper lobe and filament bright yellow.

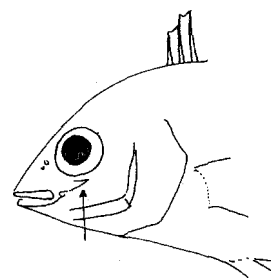
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other *Nemipterus* species: colour pattern different; also, no caudal fin filament in *N. delagoae*, *N. marginatus*, *N. pentalineatus*, *N. peronii* and *N. tofu*.

*Scolopsis* species: a backward pointing spine below eye.

SIZE (excluding dorsal filament):

Maximum: 32 cm; common: 12 to 25 cm.



*Scolopsis*

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout most of northern part of area, possibly to northern coasts of Australia; also, westward to Red Sea (immigrant into Mediterranean).

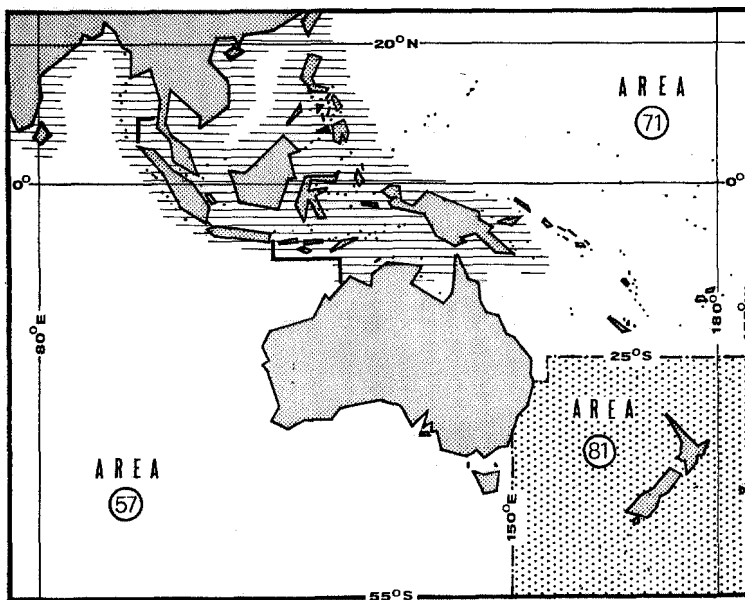
Bottom-living, from the shoreline to 60 m; the smaller fish occur in the shallower waters.

Feeds on a wide range of bottom-living animals including worms, crustaceans, mussels, cephalopods and fishes. The diet changes little with size but smaller fish prefer small crustaceans (copepods and ostracods).

Males grow quicker and to a larger size than females.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified *Nemipterus* species in 1972 for area 71 (Western Central Pacific) was 49 400 tons (Philippines: 47 300 tons). No data are available for area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean).

Caught mainly with bottom trawls, gill-nets, bottom-lines and stake-traps.

Marketed mainly fresh, whole; also dried and salted, dry-smoked, fermented, and as fish balls.

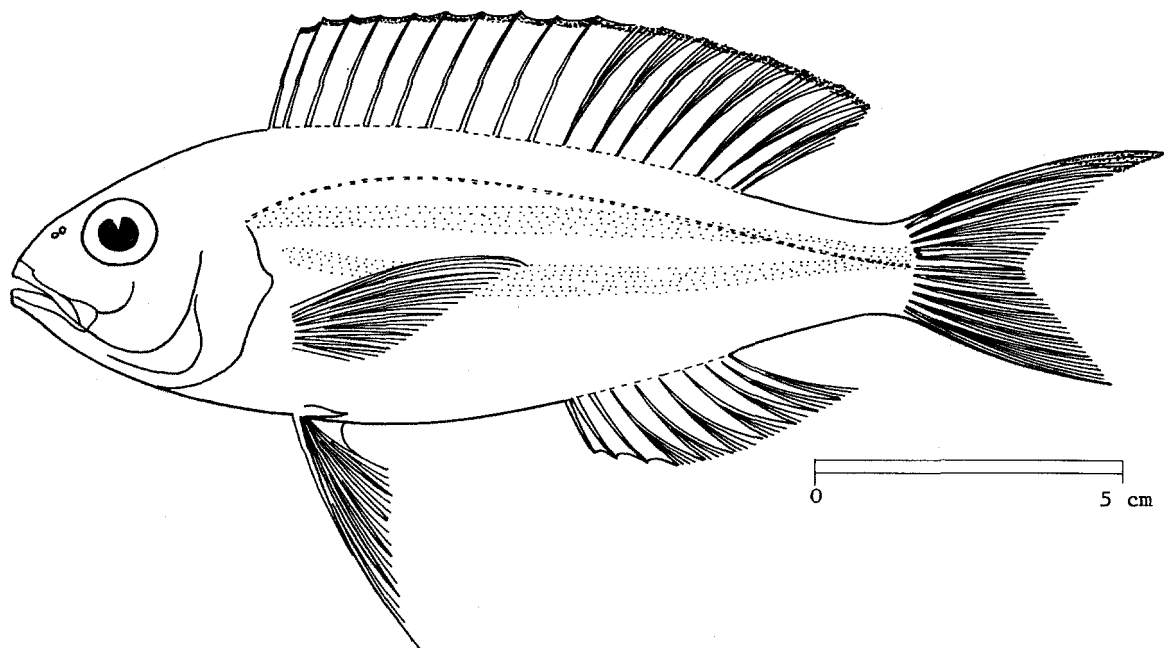
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)

*Nemipterus marginatus* (Valenciennes, 1830)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Palefinned threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

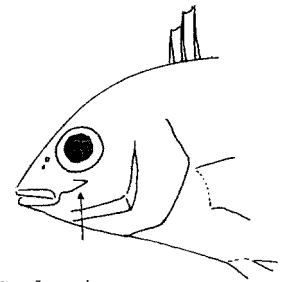
Head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays. No filaments in fins.

Colour: head without yellow lines, flanks of body with two principal yellow bands, widest in the middle, extending from behind upper part of gill cover to base of caudal fin; other less distinct bands may also be present. No spot near origin of lateral line and no dark saddles on back. Dorsal fin rosy, paler toward its base, with a broad sulphur/yellow margin and a blue line immediately below; pelvic fins pale white, pink or hyaline, their bases and axillary scales yellow; anal fin whitish; caudal fin red, its upper lobe tipped yellow.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other *Nemipterus* species: colour pattern different; also, caudal fin filament present in many species.

*Scolopsis* species: a backward pointing spine below eye.



*Scolopsis*

SIZE:

Maximum: 28 cm; common: 15 to 25 cm.

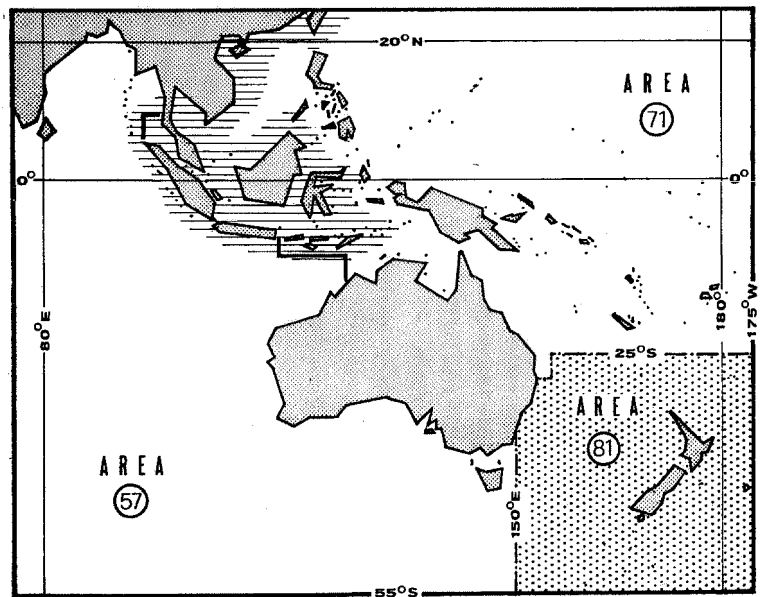
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Indo-Australian archipelago and northward to South China Sea (perhaps more widespread, but not always correctly identified).

Bottom-living, at depths of 30 to 100 m. Little is known of the biology of this species.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters off Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified *Nemipterus* species in 1972 for area 71 (Western Central Pacific) was 49 400 tons (Philippines: 47 300 tons). No data are available for area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean).

Caught mainly with bottom trawls; also with lines.

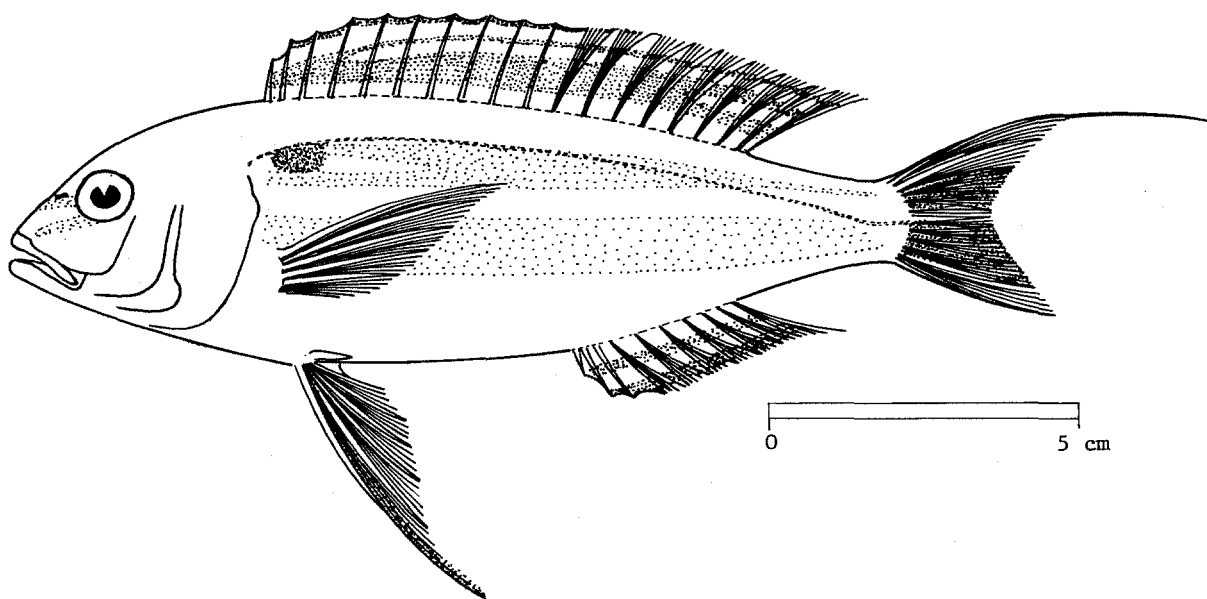
Marketed fresh, whole; also dried and salted, dry-smoked, fermented, and as fish balls and cakes.

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)

|   |
|---|
| <i>Nemipterus mesoprion</i> (Bleeker, 1853) |
|---|

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Synagris mesoprion*: Machan, 1930

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Redfilament threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body slender, usually deeper than head; head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays. Upper lobe of caudal fin prolonged into a short, fine filament, no filaments in other fins.

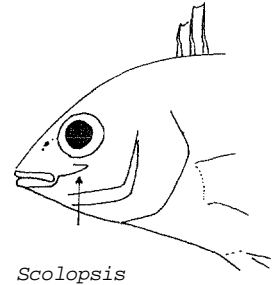
Colour: head with yellow streaks from eye to below nostrils and from eye to middle of upper jaw. 2 broad pale yellow lines along flanks, but other pale yellow lines may also be visible. A red spot below origin of lateral line but no dark saddles on back. Dorsal fin with a yellow margin and a broad yellow median longitudinal band which subdivides toward tail into 3 yellow bands separated by blue lines; pelvic fins pink, with elongated 1st rays deep red, and axillary scales yellow; anal fin chalky pinkish, with two yellow longitudinal lines; caudal fin reddish, median rays yellow, outer rays and filament red.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*Nemipterus celebicus*: no filament on upper caudal fin lobe, and no yellow on middle rays of caudal fin.

Other *Nemipterus* species: colour pattern different; also, no caudal fin filament in *N. detagoae*, *N. marginatus*, *N. pentalineatus*, *N. peronii* and *N. tofu*.

*Scolopsis* species: a backward pointing spine below eye.



*Scolopsis*

SIZE (excluding caudal filament):

Maximum: 20 cm; common: 10 to 15 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

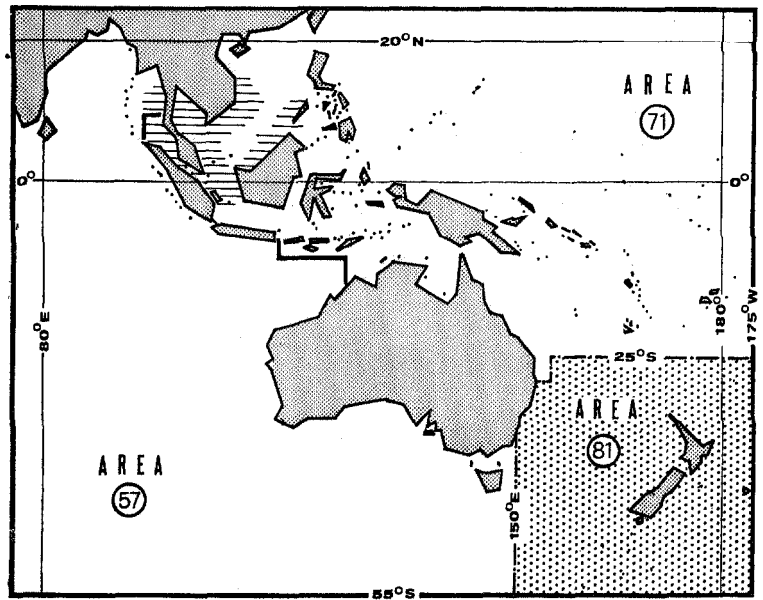
Malay peninsula (possibly more wide-spread, but not always correctly identified); apparently also Gulf of Aden.

Bottom-living, to depths of 70 m.

Feeds on small bottom-living animals.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow waters of the continental shelf, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified *Nemipterus* species in 1972 for area 71 (Western Central Pacific) was 49 400 tons (Philippines: 47 300 tons). No data are available for area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean).

Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

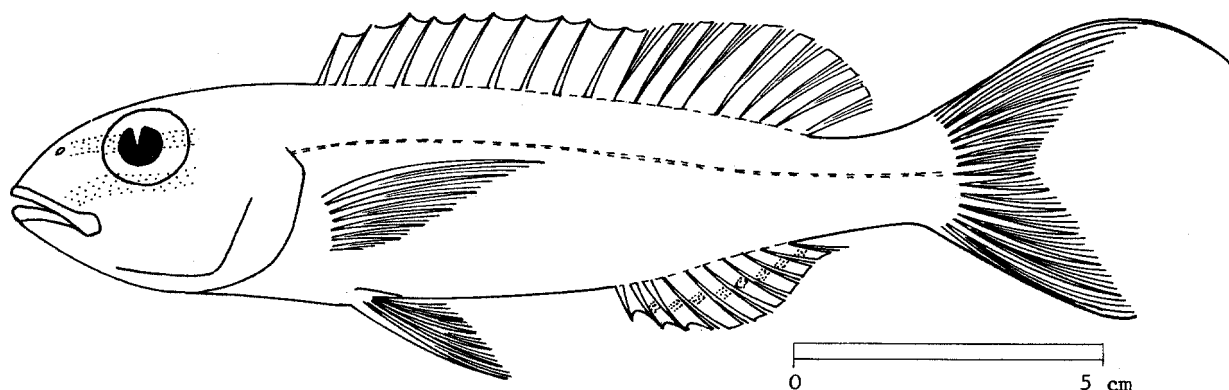
Marketed mainly whole, fresh; also dried and salted, dry-smoked, fermented, and as fish balls and cakes.

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)

|  |
|--|
| <i>Nemipterus metopias</i> (Bleeker, 1852) |
|--|

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Synagris metopias*: Günther, 1859

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Slender threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

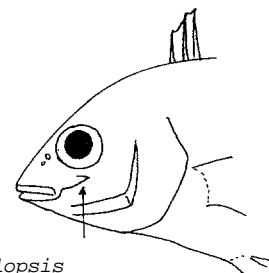
*Very slender, body depth less than or equal to head depth; head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays. Upper lobe of caudal fin prolonged into a short filament, no filaments in other fins.*

*Colour: head pinkish brown with 2 clearly defined, short, bright yellow bands about half as wide as pupil, one extending from nostril across eye (but not pupil) and the other cupping the eye and extending forward to upper, jaw; faint yellow lines along flanks and a broad yellow band along belly, but ventral mid-line silvery. No spot at origin of lateral line and no dark saddles on back. Dorsal fin of pale green/yellow, with a narrow red margin paralleled immediately below by a thin yellow line and a pale blue band; pelvic fins hyaline, with a yellow axillary area and axillary scale; anal fin white, with a median row of yellow squarish spots; caudal fin pink, with inner margin of fork deeper red, and tip of upper lobe and its filament yellow.*

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other *Nemipterus* species: colour pattern different; also, no caudal fin filament in *N. delagoae*, *N. marginatus*, *N. pentalineatus*, *N. peronii* and *N. tolu*.

*Scolopsis* species: a backward pointing spine below eye.



*Scolopsis*

SIZE (excluding caudal filament):

Maximum: 28 cm; common: 12 to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

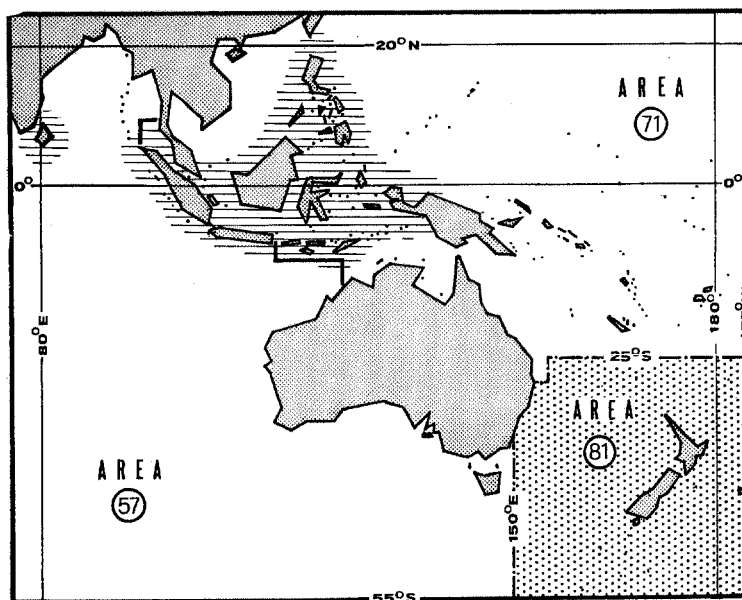
Ceylon, west coast of Malay peninsula, Indonesia and Philippines (perhaps more widespread, but not always identified correctly); also, westward to East Africa.

Bottom-living, to depths of at least 80 m.

Nothing is known of the biology of this species.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified *Nemipterus* species in 1972 for area 71 (Western Central Pacific) was 49 400 tons (Philippines: 47 300 tons). No data are available for area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean).

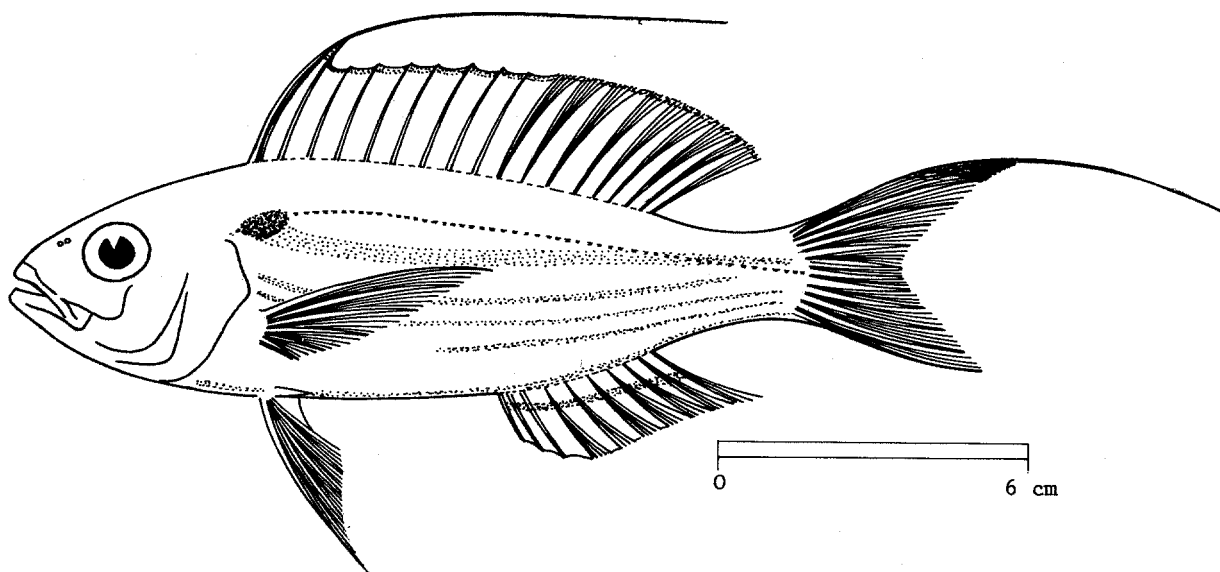
Caught with bottom trawls and bottom lines.

Marketed fresh, whole; also salted and dried, dry-smoked, fermented, and as fish balls and cakes.



## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Nemipterus nematophorus* (Bleeker, 1853)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Synagris nematophorus*: Günther, 1859

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Doublewhip threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

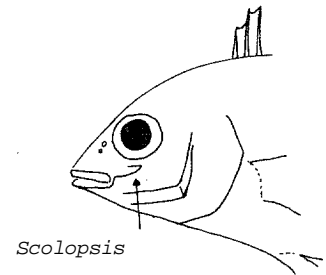
Body slender, slightly compressed; head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; 1st and 2nd spines of dorsal fin very close together and forming a single long filament; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays; upper lobe of caudal fin prolonged into a filament.

Colour: head without yellow bands or streaks; 4 longitudinal yellow lines along flanks below lateral line; belly with a yellow stripe on each side of silvery mid-line. A yellow spot below origin of lateral line but no dark saddles on back. Filament of dorsal fin bright yellow, rest of fin rosy, with yellow or orange margin; pelvic fins whitish, with 2nd and 3rd rays more or less pink, bases and axillary scales yellow; anal fin milky white, hyaline or pale blue, with a single yellow stripe; caudal fin rosy, with upper tip and filament yellow.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other *Nemipterus* species: colour pattern different; also, lack dorsal fin filament and sometimes caudal fin filament as well.

*Scolopsis* species: a backward pointing spine below eye.



SIZE (excluding caudal filaments):

Maximum: 25 cm; common: 12 to 18 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

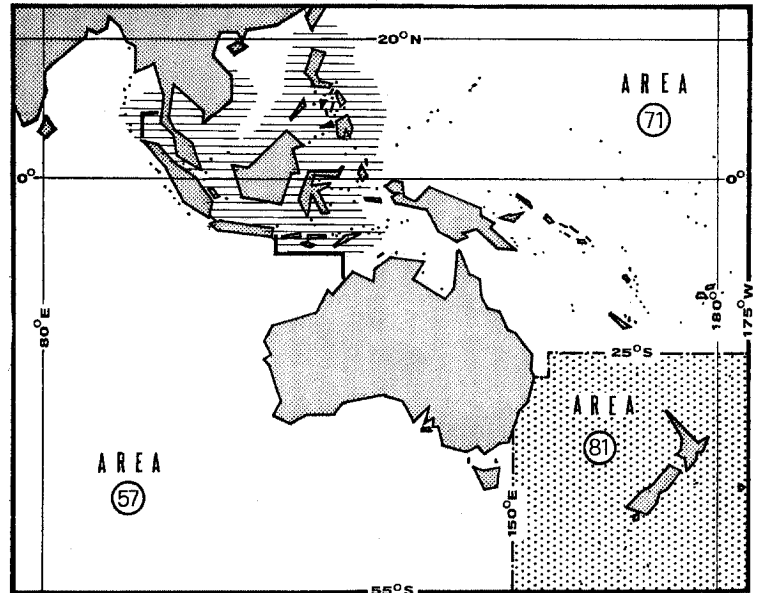
Malay peninsula, Indonesia and Philippines (perhaps more widespread, but not always identified correctly).

Bottom-living, on coral, on rocky or muddy sand bottoms, in depths of 10 to 60 m.

Feeds mostly on small worms, crustaceans and molluscs.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

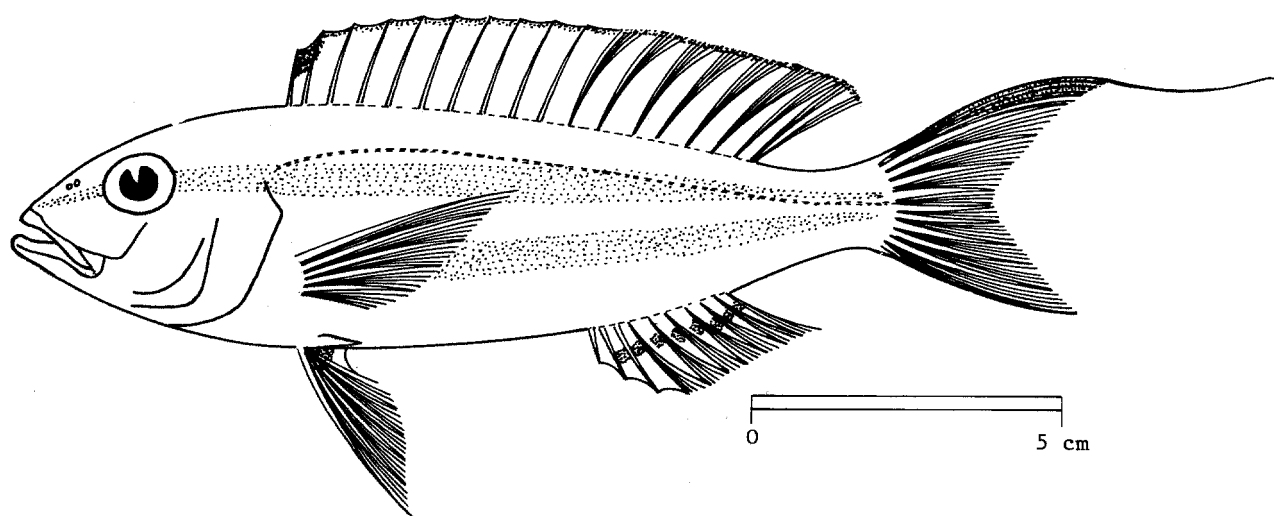
Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified *Nemipterus* species in 1972 for area 71 (Western Central Pacific) was 49 400 tons (Philippines: 47 300 tons). No data are available for area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean).

Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

Marketed mainly fresh; dried and salted, dry-smoked, fermented, and as fish balls and cakes.

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Nemipterus nemurus* (Bleeker, 1857)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Synagris nemurus*: Günther, 1859

## VERNACULAR NAMES

FAO: En - Redspine threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

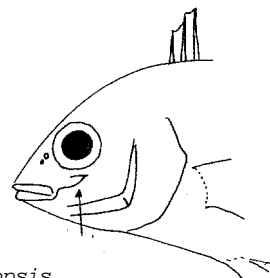
Body rather elongate and slightly compressed; head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays. Upper lobe of caudal fin prolonged into a filament, no filaments in other fins.

Colour: a pale yellow band extends from snout below nostrils onto body below lateral line, ending at base of caudal fin; another broad yellow band starts from base of pectoral fin narrowing toward caudal fin; other faint yellow bars present on upper part of body. No spot at origin of lateral line and no dark saddles on back. Dorsal fin rosy or yellowish, its margin bright red between 1st and 2nd spine, and yellow throughout the rest of its length; pelvic fins whitish, with a yellow spot at their bases and with a white axillary scale; anal fin white, with a longitudinal series of squarish yellow spots; caudal fin rosy, with uppermost rays and filament yellow, fork margin red.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other *Nemipterus* species: colour pattern different; also, no caudal fin filament in *N. detagoae*, *N. marginatus*, *N. pentatineatus*, *N. peronii* and *N. tolu*.

*Scolopsis* species: a backward pointing spine below eye.



*Scolopsis*

SIZE (without caudal filament):

Maximum: 25 cm; common: 12 to 18 cm.

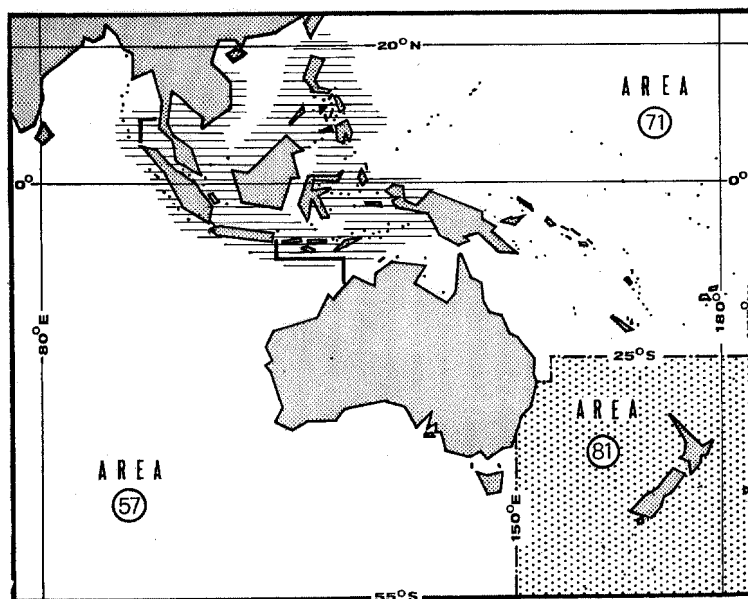
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Andaman Sea to Philippines (perhaps more, widespread, but not always identified correctly).

Inhabits soft bottoms, from shallow waters to about 70 m.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Mainly offshore grounds at depths of 40 to 70 m.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified *Nemipterus* species in 1972 for area 71 (Western Central Pacific) was 49 400 tons (Philippines: 47 300 tons). No data are available for area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean).

Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

Marketed mainly fresh, whole; also salted and dried, dry-smoked, fermented, and as fish balls and cakes.

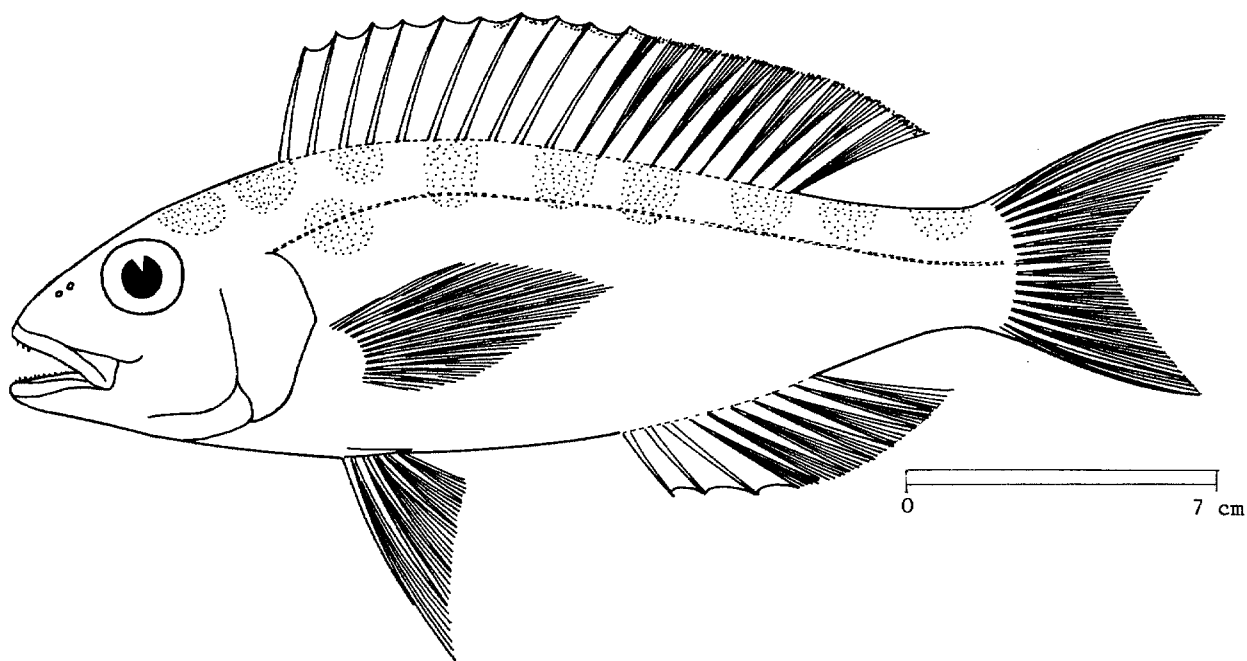
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)

*Nemipterus peronii* (Valenciennes, 1830)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Synagris peronii*: Günther, 1859



VERNACULAR NAMES

FAO: En - Rosy threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body robust, deeper than head; head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays; no filaments in fins.

Colour: head and body rosy; faint, indistinct yellow lines along flanks. A reddish spot just behind origin of lateral line; usually, 9 saddle-like brown blotches on back (all may not be apparent in some specimens). Dorsal fin rosy, or bluish, without conspicuous longitudinal stripes, its margin from about 6th spine to last ray pale yellow or red; pelvic fins and their axillary scales white, pinkish, or translucent; anal fin white, sometimes translucent or with faint yellow streaks, but without conspicuous stripes; caudal fin rosy, with whitish lower margin.

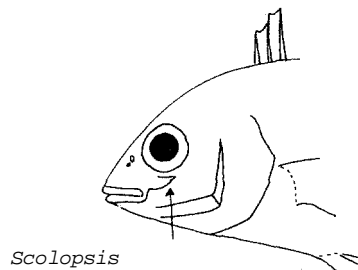
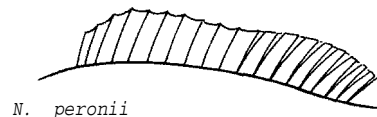
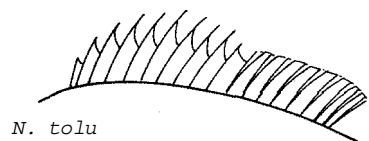
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*N. tolu*: margin of dorsal fin deeply notched (entire in *N. peronii*); pelvic fins with a yellow patch at base (white in *N. peronii*).

*N. ovenioides*: inner side of pectoral fin base yellowish (white in *N. peronii*); anal fin white, with a median row of yellow spots.

All other *Nemipterus* species: bright stripes or bands on head, body or fins; also, a filament on caudal fin in many species.

*Scolopsis* species: a backward pointing spine below eye.



SIZE:

Maximum: 35 cm; common: 15 to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

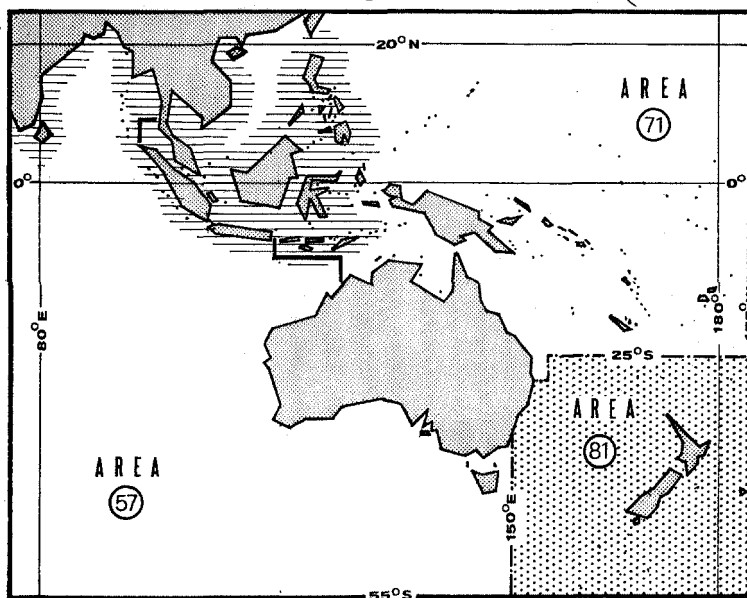
Throughout most of northern part of area, but perhaps not southward to Australia; also, westward to Red Sea.

Bottom-living, to depths of 200 m.

Feeds predominantly on worms, crustaceans, and small molluscs.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Continental shelf, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified *Nemipterus* species in 1972 for area 71 (Western Central Pacific) was 49 400 tons (Philippines: 47 300 tons). No data are available for area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean).

Caught mainly with bottom trawls, lines and fish-traps.

Marketed mainly fresh, whole; also salted and dried, dry-smoked, fermented, and as fish balls or cakes.

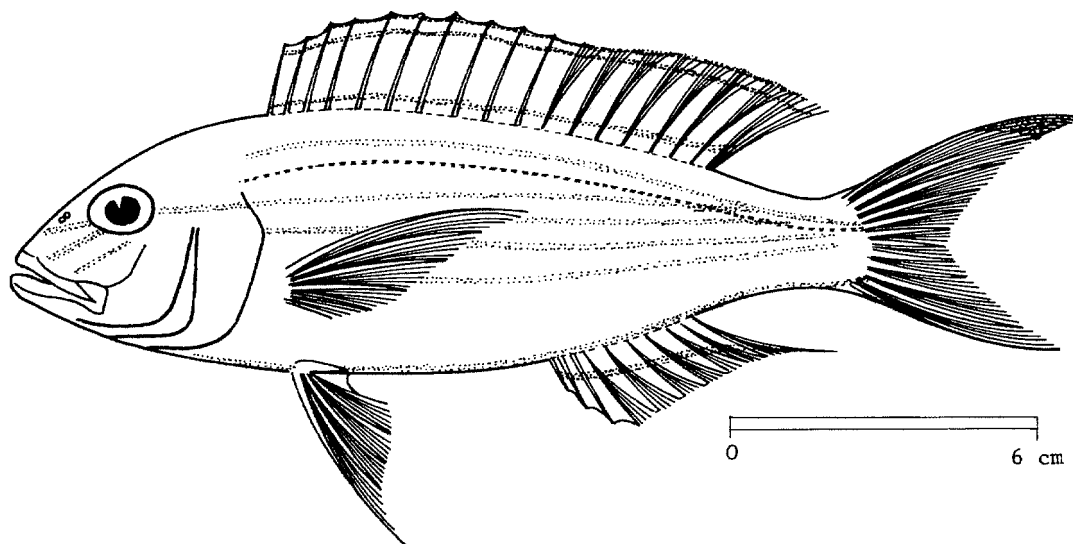
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)

*Nemipterus tambuloides* (Bleeker, 1853)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES

FAO: En - Fivelined threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and slightly compressed; head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays; no filaments in fins.

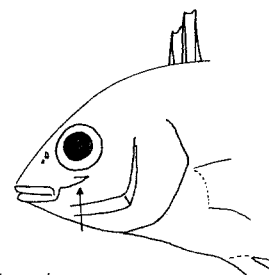
Colour: 5 bright, clearly defined, yellow lines on body, the uppermost above lateral line, the 2nd (longest) from snout through eye to upper part of caudal fin base; belly with a yellow band from throat to caudal fin base. No blotch near origin of lateral line and no dark saddles on back. Dorsal fin rosy, with a yellow band along its base, a yellow margin and a bluish grey line just below margin, middle of fin sometimes yellowish; anal fin white, with a yellow line near its base; caudal fin reddish, tip of upper lobe yellow.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR-SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*Nemipterus virgatus*: a short red stripe at lateral line origin; caudal fin filament present; 2 yellow lines on anal fin (1 in *N. pentalineatus*).

All other *Nemipterus* species: colour pattern different; also, a caudal fin filament in many species.

*Scolopsis* species: a backward pointing spine below eye.



*Scolopsis*

SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; common: 16 to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

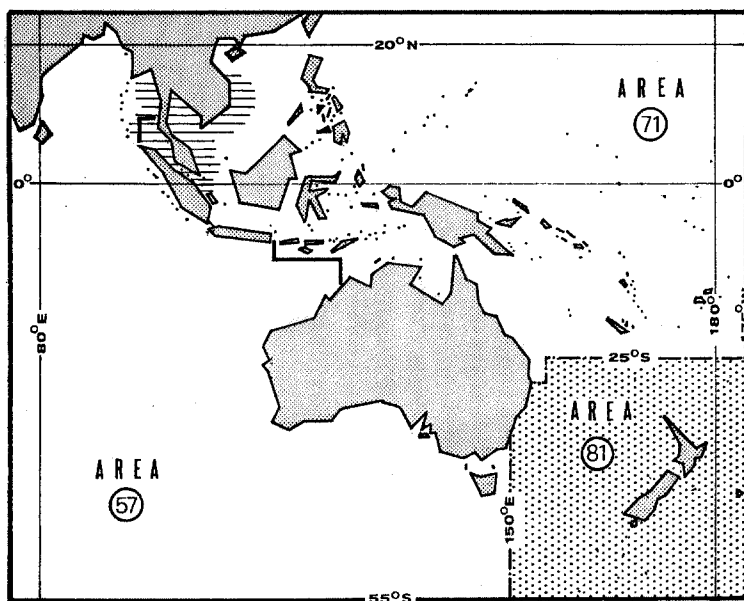
Malay peninsula and coasts of Vietnam (perhaps more widespread, but not always correctly identified). It does not occur on the northern shelf of the South China Sea.

Bottom-living, at depths from 20 to 60 m.

Little is known of the biology of this species.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow coastal grounds, from the Andaman Sea to the coasts of Vietnam.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified *Nemipterus* species in 1972 for area 71 (Western Central Pacific) was 49 400 tons (Philippines: 47 300 tons). No data are available for area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean).

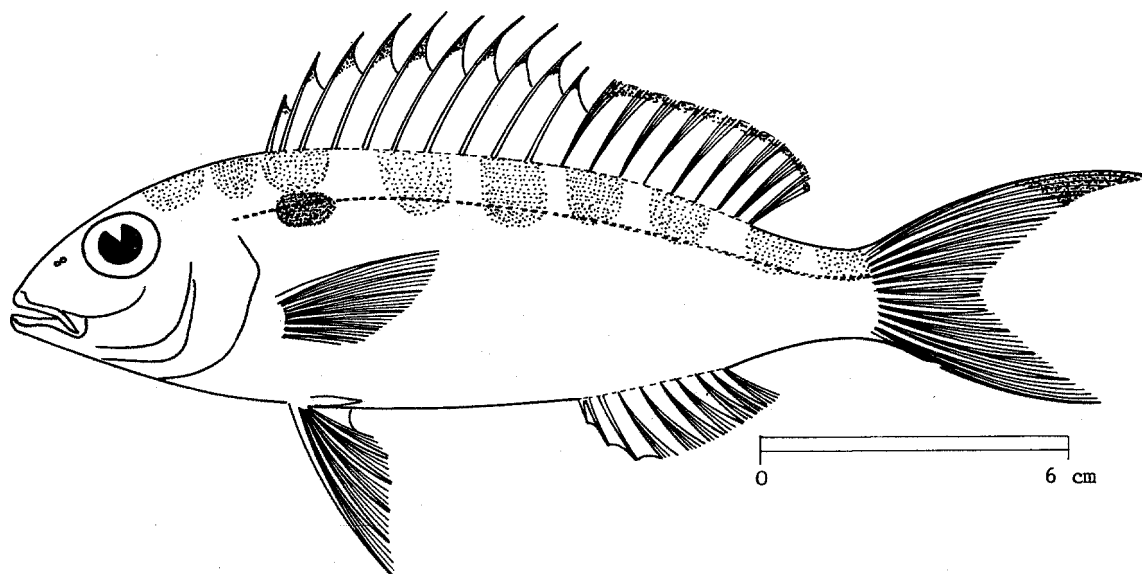
Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

Marketed mainly fresh, whole; also salted and dried, dry-smoked, fermented, or as fish balls and cakes.



## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Nemipterus tolu* (Valenciennes, 1830)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Synagris tolu*: Day, 1875  
*Odontoglyphus tolu*: Munro, 1955

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Notched threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body slender (depth slightly greater than or equal to depth of head); head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines, of which 5th to 8th are longest, and 9 soft rays; interspinous membrane of dorsal fin deeply notched; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays; no filaments in fins.

Colour: several faint yellow lines along flanks. A reddish brown spot (sometimes tinged green or yellow) at origin of lateral line; in fresh specimens, 8 to 9 indistinct, darker, saddle-like blotches along back. Dorsal fin translucent, often with a yellow bloom, its margin red, with a very narrow orange/yellow stripe immediately below; pelvic fins white, their bases and axillary scales yellow; anal fin milky white, usually translucent or partly pale yellow, particularly in the form of a median band; caudal fin rosy, its lower margin whitish, tip of upper lobe rosy or yellowish, fork margin red.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*N. ovenioides*: a yellow blotch at base of pectoral fins; inside of gill opening white (yellow in *N. tolu*); dorsal fin without deeply notched margin.

*N. peronii*: no yellow blotch at base of pelvic fins; inside of gill opening white (yellow in *N. tolu*); dorsal fin without deeply notched margin.

All other *Nemipterus* species: 5th to 8th dorsal fin spines not the longest; interspinous dorsal fin membrane not deeply notched.

*Scolopsis* species: a backward pointing spine below the eye.

SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; common: 15 to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout most of northern part of area, but perhaps not to Australian coasts; also, westward to western Indian Ocean.

Bottom-living, usually in waters shallower than 60 m, but sometimes at greater depths.

Feeds on bottom-living animals.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

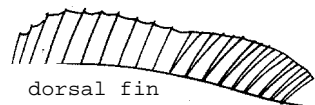
Shallow grounds, throughout its range.

CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

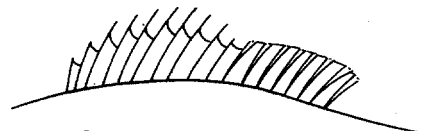
Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified *Nemipterus* species in 1972 for area 71 (Western Central Pacific) was 49 400 tons (Philippines: 47 300 tons). No data are available for area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean). *N. tolu* usually makes up a significant portion of *Nemipterus* catches in shallow coastal waters.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls, lines and stake-traps.

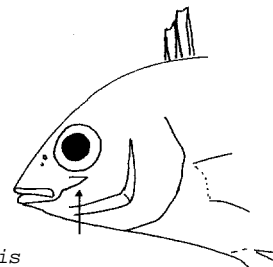
Usually marketed fresh, whole; also salted and dried, dry-smoked, fermented, and as fish balls and cakes.



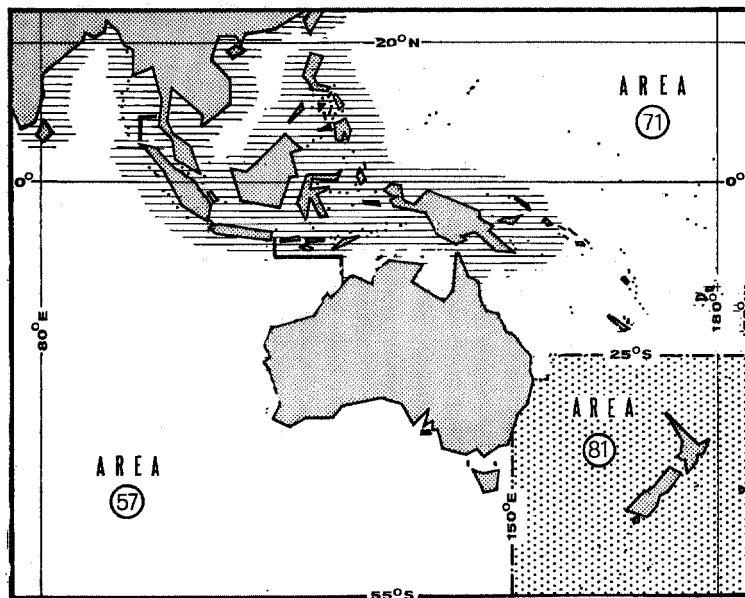
Other *Nemipterus* species



*N. tolu*



*Scolopsis*



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

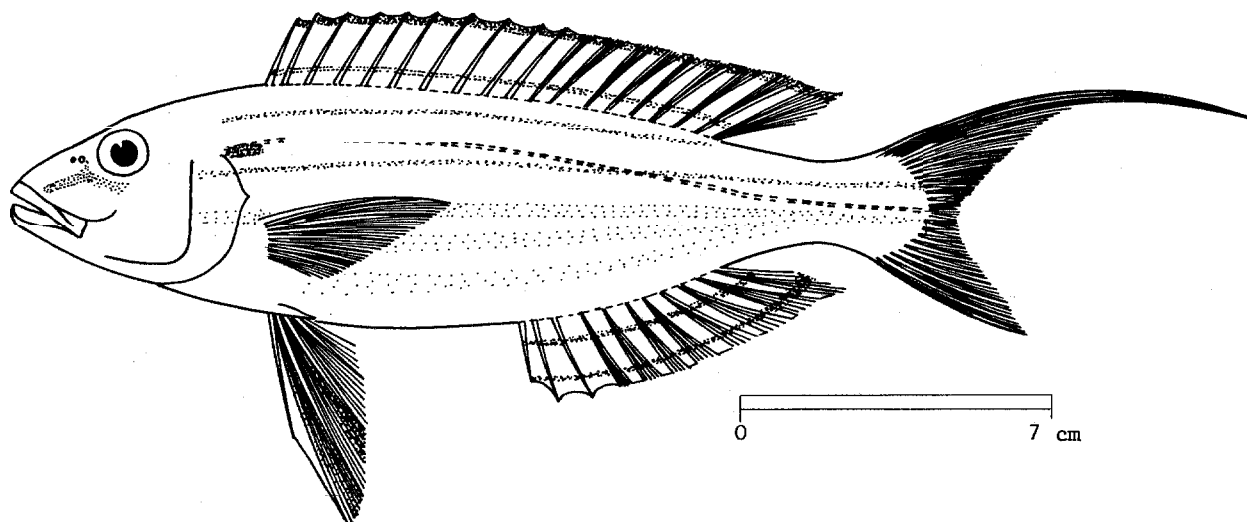
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)

*Nemipterus virgatus* (Houttuyn, 1792)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Synagris virgatus*: Fowler, 1933



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Golden threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body slender, deeper than head; head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays. Upper lobe of caudal fin prolonged into a filament, no filaments in other fins.

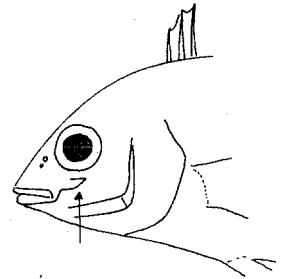
Colour upper parts of head and body reddish; lower sides and belly silvery; a yellow line on head from eye to snout; bright yellow lines along flanks. A short (3 to 4 scales long) bright red line below origin of lateral line but no dark saddles on back. Dorsal fin rosy, with a yellow line along its base and a yellow/orange margin. Pelvic fins rosy, but anterior soft rays (sometimes also the 4th) and axillary scales yellow; anal fin translucent bluish or rosy, with 2 longitudinal yellow lines; caudal fin mostly pink, upper rays and filament golden.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*N. pentalineatus*: no red stripe at lateral line origin and no filament in caudal fin; only 1 yellow line on anal fin (2 in *N. virgatus*).

All other *Nemipterus* species: colour pattern different; also, no caudal fin filament in *N. delagoae*, *N. marginatus*, *N. peronii* and *N. tofu*.

*Scolopsis* species; a backward pointing spine below eye.



*Scolopsis*

SIZE (excluding tail filament):

Maximum: 40 cm; common: 15 to 28 cm.

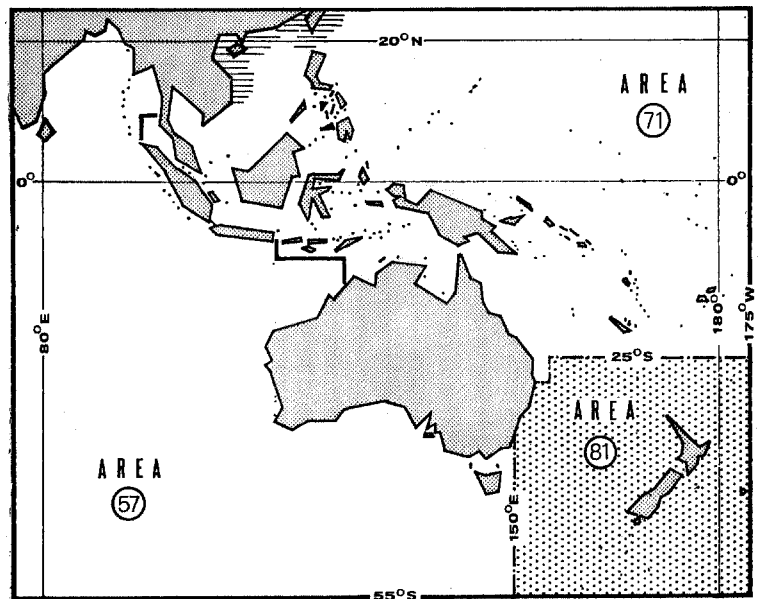
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Coasts of South Vietnam; also, northward to Japan.

Inhabits muddy sand grounds at depths of 20 to 200 m.

Feeds on motile bottom-living animals including crabs, prawns, squids, and fishes. Stomachs usually contain a variety of food items but occasionally they are packed with mysids. The diet changes little with size, but large fish prefer larger organisms.

In the South China Sea this fish reaches a maximum age of 6 years. Males grow to a larger size. Commercial landings are made up largely of 1 to 4 year-old fish.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Muddy sand and mud grounds of the continental shelf.

CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified *Nemipterus* species in 1972 for area 71 (Western Central Pacific) was 49 400 tons (Philippines: 47 300 tons).

Caught mainly with bottom lines (by day) and with bottom trawls. Trawl catches in the South China Sea are highest in the spawning season (February to May). Small fish (less than 10 cm total length) are taken in considerable quantities by shrimp trawlers off the south China coast in August to September, but are discarded as trash fish.

Marketed mostly fresh; also salted and dried, dry-smoked, fermented, and as fish balls and cakes.

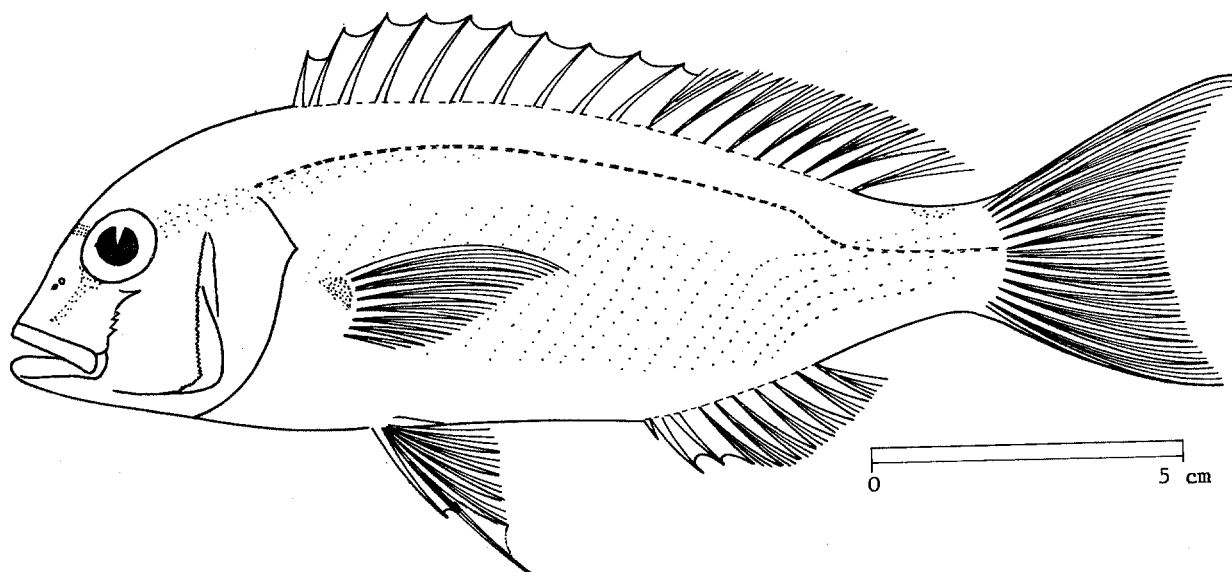
## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIAAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)

|  |
|--|
| <i>Scolopsis taeniopterus</i> (Valenciennes, 1830) |
|--|

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Lattice monocle bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

*Body moderately elongate, compressed, body length about 3 1/2 to 3 3/4 times in total length; profile steeply convex from upper jaw to origin of dorsal fin. A small, flat, backward-pointing spine and 2 to 3 smaller spines below eye. Scales large, beginning on head between eyes. Anal fin with 3 spines, the 2nd stoutest and equal to or slightly longer than the 3rd; pelvic fins with 1st soft ray elongated into a short, thread-like filament.*

*Colour: body colour variable, but generally greyish yellow after death; a narrow blue band between eyes at junction of scaled and unsealed areas of head; a bluish purple line, with faint yellow bands above and below it, from eye to lower jaw; a yellow streak from spine below eye to gill cover may be present. Body with faint, oblique, blue and yellow vertical lines becoming horizontal at base of caudal fin and vertical on caudal fin. Upper part of pectoral fin bases with red spot; dorsal fin mainly yellowish, bluish along middle area, and yellow at margin; caudal fin with faint blue and yellow vertical bars in centre and tip of upper lobe yellowish.*

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other *Scolopsis* species: lack the combination of a red spot at base of pectoral fin and absence of lines on body.

*Nemipterus* species: no spine below eye.

SIZE:

Maximum: 25 cm; common: 15 to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

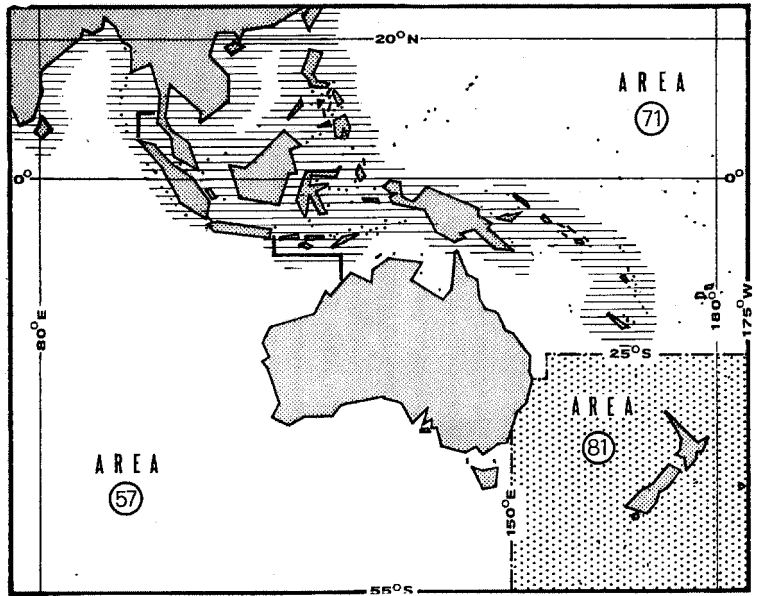
Throughout most of northern part of area, but not recorded from Australia.

Inhabits shallow coastal waters.

Feeds on bottom-living organisms.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls and lines.

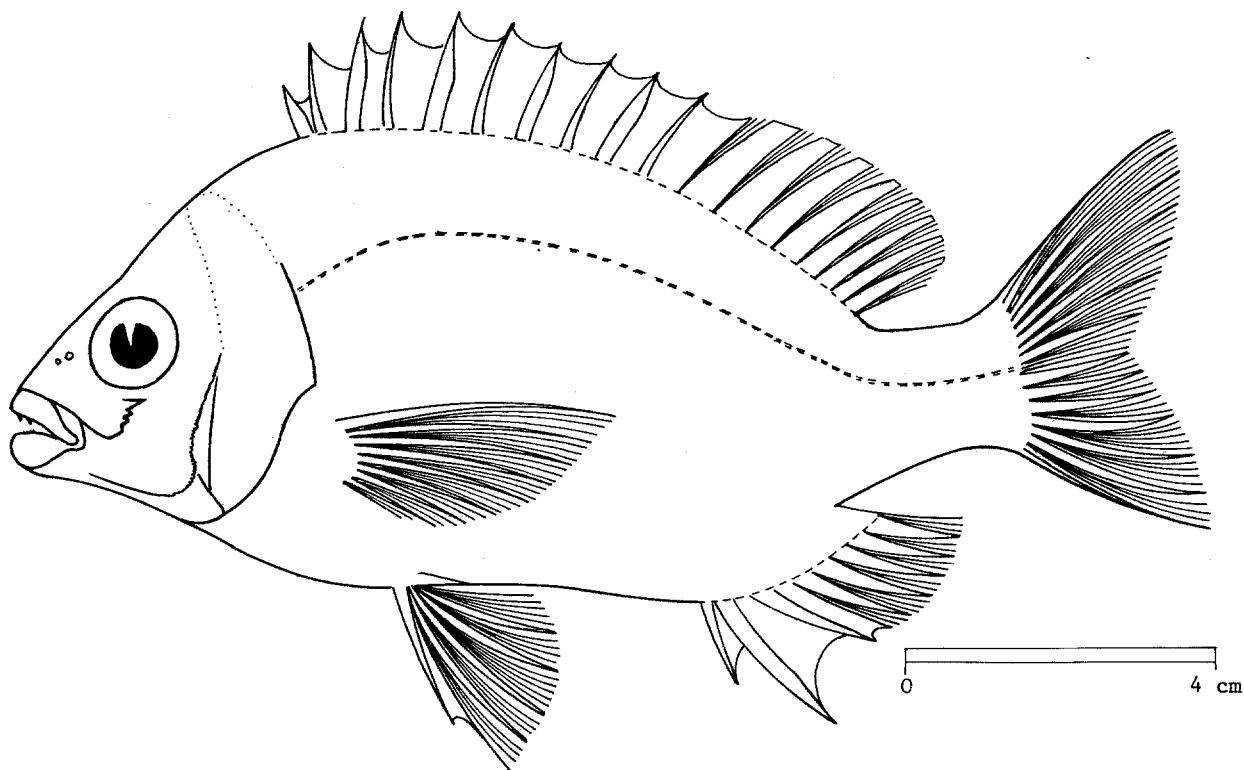
Marketed fresh (whole), dry-salted, dry-smoked, and as fermented fish balls or cakes.

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCOLOPSIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Scolopsis vosmeri* (Bloch, 1792)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Whitecheek monocle bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

*Body compressed with very convex dorsal profile; body depth about 2 1/2 times in total length; jaws thick; eye large, a stout backward-pointing spine just below it. Scales large, those on top of head begin in front of anterior nostrils. Dorsal fin with stout spines; anal fin with 3 stout spines, the 2nd very broad and longer than the 3rd; pelvic fins with 1st soft ray sometimes elongated into a short, thread-like filament; caudal fin slightly forked.*

*Colour: body colour variable, usually dark with 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 depth more than 3 times in total length (2 1/2 times in *S. vosmeri*).

*Nemipterus* species: no spine below eye.

SIZE:

Maximum: 25 cm; common: 12 to 20 cm

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

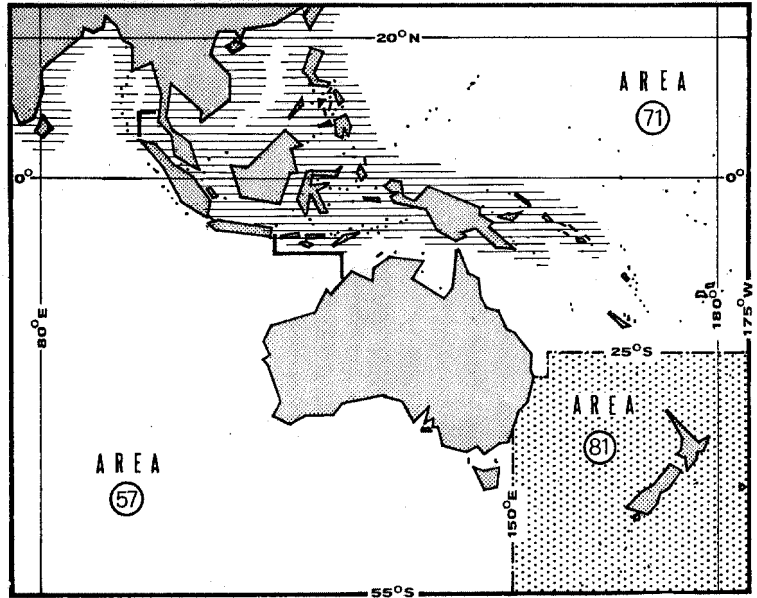
Throughout most of northern part of area, but not recorded from Australia.

Inhabits inshore waters, mostly around islands and reefs.

Feeds on bottom-living organisms.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls, lines and traps.

Marketed fresh ,(whole), dry-salted, dry-smoked, and as fermented fish balls or cakes; also sold as an aquarium fish.