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## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

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

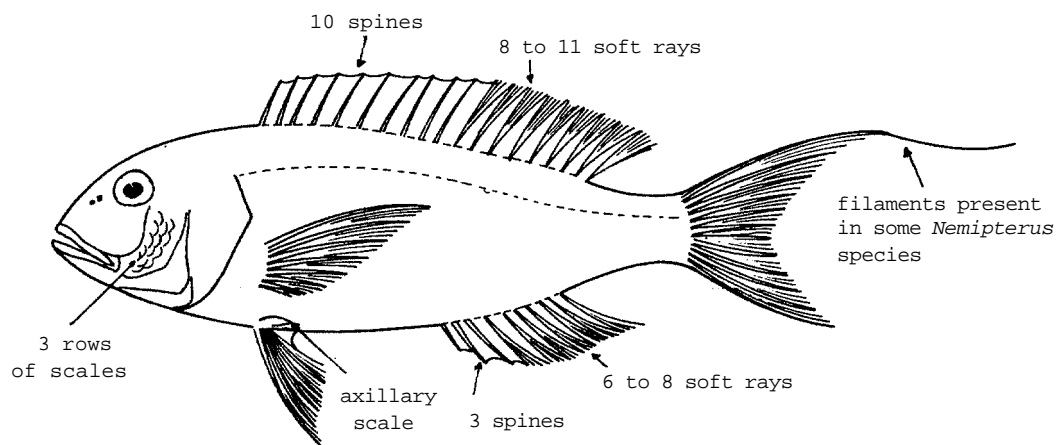
## NEMIPTERIDAE

Threadfin breams, Monocle breams

(Some authors include *Scolopsis* and *Parascolopsis* in a separate family: Scolopsidae)

Small to moderate-sized, slightly, compressed fishes. Mouth terminal, small teeth in bands and in *Nemipterus* species canine teeth in upper jaw (sometimes also in lower jaw); a backward-pointing spine below eye in *Scolopsis* and *Parascolopsis* species. Front of head scaleless, scales beginning above eye and on cheek; cheek with 3 rows of scales; scales on body large, ctenoid (rough to touch), in longitudinal series, easily shed. A single, curved lateral line with small to moderately large scales. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 8 to 11 soft rays, originating above pectoral fin bases, its first spines sometimes prolonged into filaments; pectoral fins with 15 to 18 soft rays; pelvic fins with 1 spine and 5 soft rays, their origin below or just behind the pectoral fin bases, 1st ray sometimes elongate; a medium-sized axillary scale present above each pelvic fin; anal fin with 3 spines and 6 to 8 soft rays. Caudal fin forked or emarginate, upper lobe often with a filament.

Colour: extremely variable; overall colour may be brownish, reddish, red and yellow, or greenish; usually, but not always, a few longitudinal or vertical broad bands on body, these bands often disappearing or becoming less obvious after death; filaments of fins usually yellow, sometimes red; a spot sometimes present near origin of lateral line and dark saddle-like marks occasionally on back. Colour pattern of juveniles often differs from adult fish and living fish can change intensity of colour pattern.



## SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Denticidae: more than 10 spines in dorsal fin.

Serranidae and Lutjanidae: those species which could be confused with the Nemipteridae have more than 7 soft rays in anal fin.

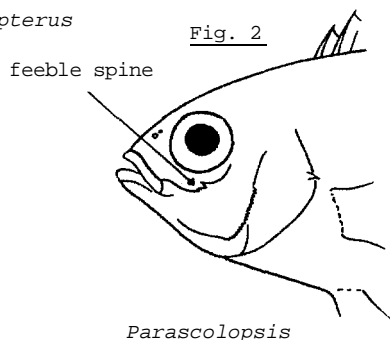
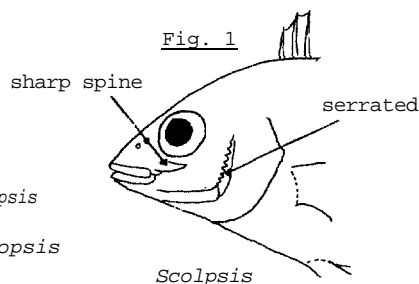
Sparidae: dorsal fin with 10 to 13 spines and 10 to 15 soft rays (10 and 8 to 11 in Nemipteridae); also, molar teeth sometimes present.

Pentapodidae: gill membranes broadly united to isthmus; also, soft anal fin rays 7 to 11 (6 to 8 in Nemipteridae).

Mullidae: 2 separate dorsal fins and 2 barbels behind chin.

Key to Genera

- 1 a. Backward-pointing spine below eye; 8 to 11 soft dorsal rays and 6 to 8 soft anal rays.
- 2 a. Spine below eye distinct (Fig. 1) ..... *Scolopsis*
- 2 b. Spine below eye feeble (Fig. 2) ..... *Parascolopsis*
- 1 b. No spine below eye; 9 soft dorsal rays and 7 soft anal rays ..... *Nemipterus*



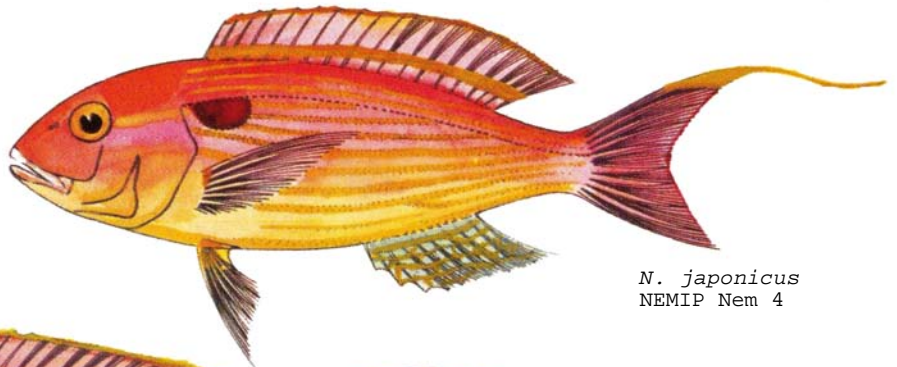
List of Species occurring in the Area\*  
(Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are included)

<i>Nemipterus aurifilum</i>		<i>Nemipterus tambuloides</i>	NEMIP Nem 11
<i>Nemipterus batinensis</i>		<i>Nemipterus taeniopterus</i>	
<i>Nemipterus bathybus</i>	NEMIP Nem 1	<i>Nemipterus theodorei</i>	
<i>Nemipterus bleekeri</i>		<i>Nemipterus totu</i>	NEMIP Nem 12
<i>Nemipterus celebicus</i>		<i>Nemipterus upeneoides</i> (doubtful)	
<i>Nemipterus delagoae</i>	NEMIP Nem 2	<i>Nemipterus virgatus</i>	NEMIP Nem 13
<i>Nemipterus filiformis</i> (doubtful)		<i>Nemipterus worcesteri</i> (doubtful)	
<i>Nemipterus flaviventris</i> (doubtful)		<i>Nemipterus zysron</i> (doubtful)	
<i>Nemipterus flavotinea</i> (doubtful)			
<i>Nemipterus fureosus</i>		<i>Parascolopsis eriomrna</i>	
<i>Nemipterus gracilis</i> (doubtful)		<i>Parascolopsis inermis</i>	
<i>Nemipterus hexodon</i>	NEMIP Nem 3		
<i>Nemipterus hypselognathus</i> (doubtful)		<i>Scolopsis bilineatus</i>	
<i>Nemipterus isacanthus</i> (doubtful)		<i>Scolopsis cancellatus</i>	
<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	NDUP Nem 4	<i>Scolopsis citiatus</i>	
<i>Nemipterus luteus</i> (doubtful)		<i>Scolopsis dubiosus</i>	
<i>Nemipterus marginatus</i>	NEMIP Nem 5	<i>Scolopsis frenatus</i>	
<i>Nemipterus mesoprion</i>	NEMIP Nem 6	<i>Scolopsis ghanam</i>	
<i>Nemipterus metopias</i>	MEMIP Nem 7	<i>Scolopsis leucotaenia</i>	
<i>Nemipterus mulloides</i> (doubtful)		<i>Scolopsis margaritifera</i>	
<i>Nemipterus nematophorus</i>	NEMIP Nem 8	<i>Scolopsis monogramma</i>	
<i>Nemipterus nematopus</i> (doubtful)		<i>Scolopsis personatus</i>	
<i>Nemipterus nemurus</i>	NEMIP Nem 9	<i>Scolopsis phaeops</i>	
<i>Nemipterus oveniides</i>		<i>Scolopsis taeniopterus</i>	NEMIP Scol 1
<i>Nemipterus peronii</i>	NEMIP Nem 10	<i>Scolopsis temporatis</i>	
<i>Nemipterus petersi</i>		<i>Scolopsis trilineatus</i>	
<i>Nemipterus ruber</i> (doubtful)		<i>Scolopsis vosmeri</i>	NEMIP Scol 2
<i>Nemipterus samsonensis</i>		<i>Scolopsis xenochrous</i>	
<i>Nemipterus smithii</i>			
<i>Nemipterus sumbawensis</i> (doubtful)			
<i>Nemipterus sundanensis</i> (doubtful)			

\* The family Nemipteridae is badly in need of revision. A number of doubtful species are included here.



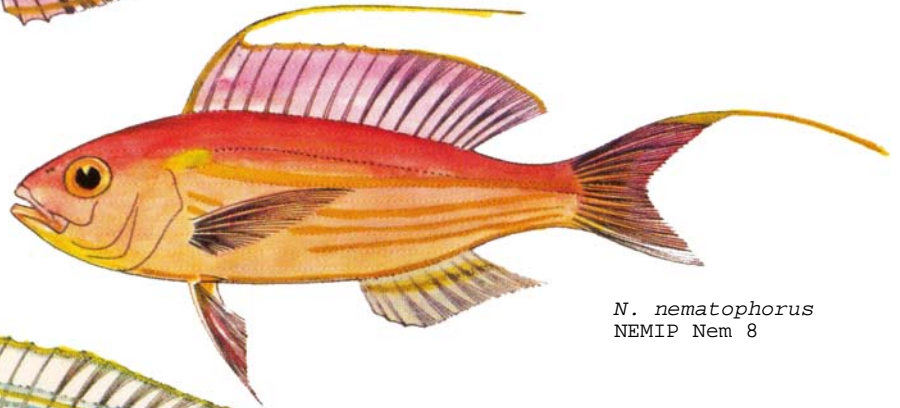
*N. tambuloides*  
NEMIP Nem 11



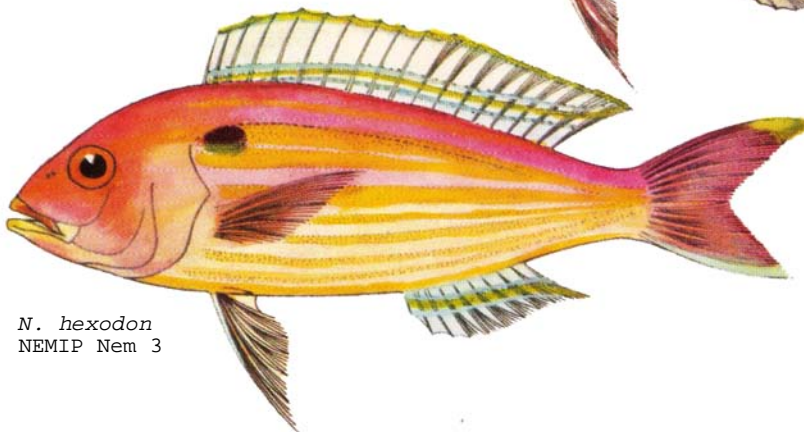
*N. japonicus*  
NEMIP Nem 4



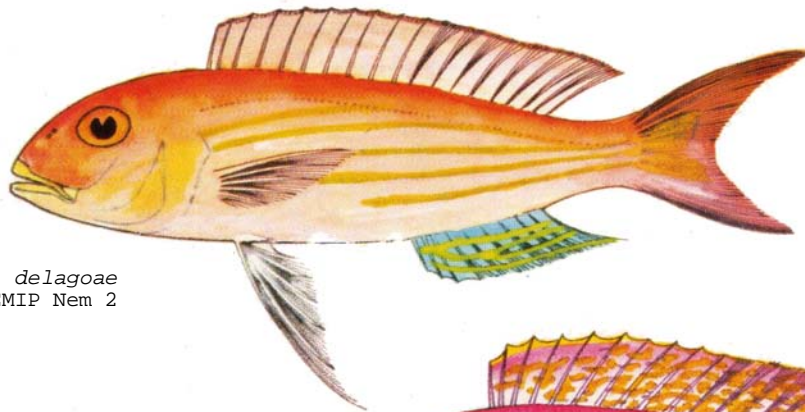
*N. virgatus*  
NEMIP Nem 13



*N. nematophorus*  
NEMIP Nem 8



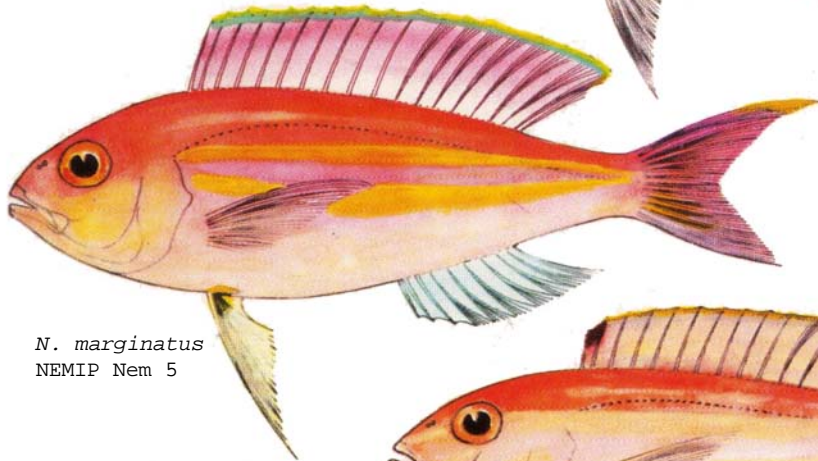
*N. hexodon*  
NEMIP Nem 3



*N. delagoae*  
NEMIP Nem 2



*N. bathybus*  
NEMIP Nem 1



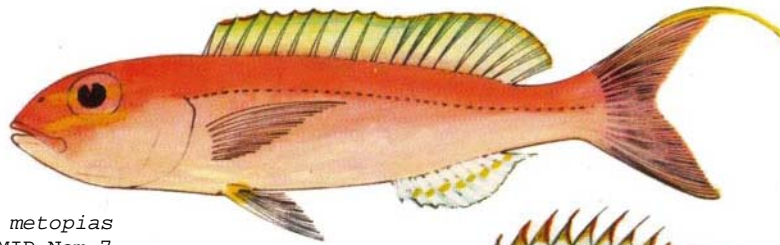
*N. marginatus*  
NEMIP Nem 5



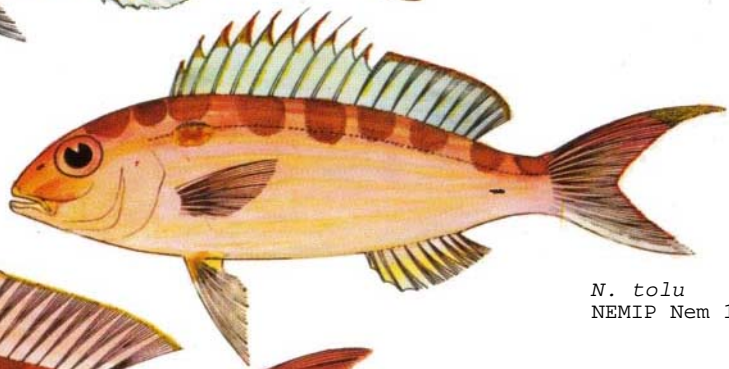
*N. nemurus*  
NEMIP Nem 9



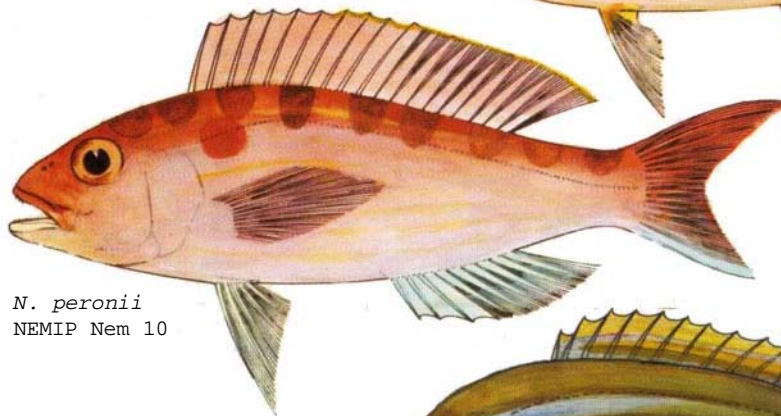
*N. mesoprion*  
NEMIP Nem 3



*N. metopias*  
NEMIP Nem 7



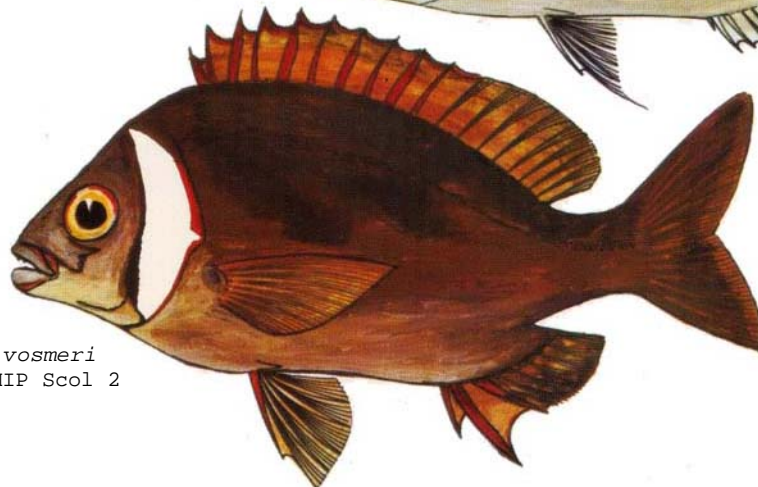
*N. tolu*  
NEMIP Nem 12



*N. peronii*  
NEMIP Nem 10



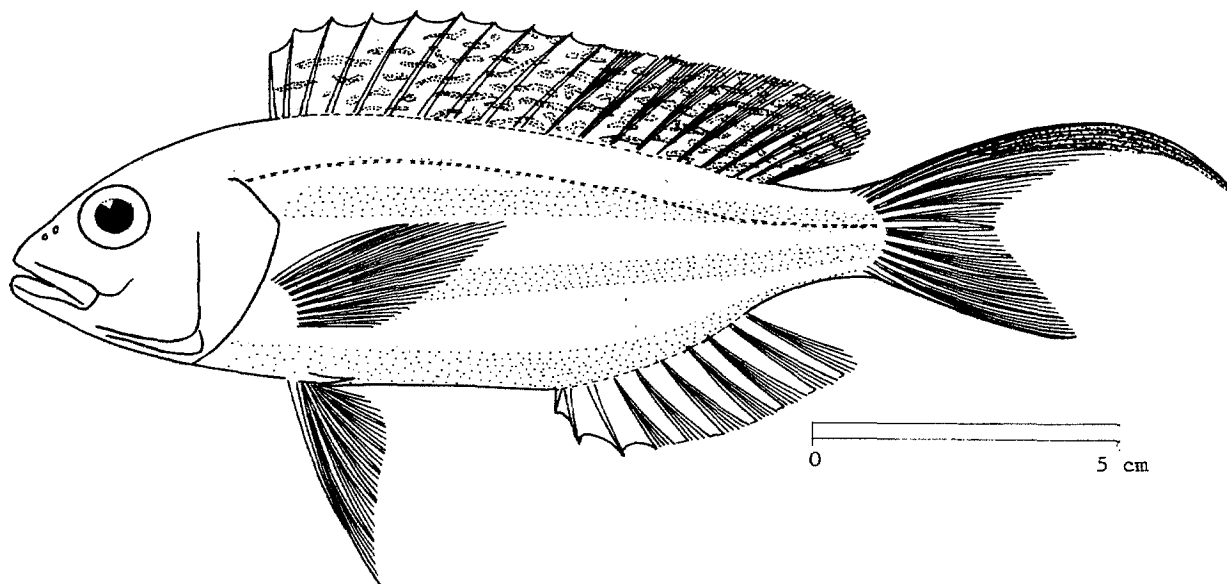
*N. taeniopterus*  
NEMIP Scol 1



*N. vosmeri*  
NEMIP Scol 2

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Nemipterus bathybus* Snyder, 1911SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Synagris bathybius*: Fowler, 1933

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Yellowbelly threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

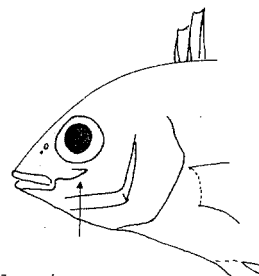
Body usually deeper than head, especially in large fish; head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays. Upper lobe of caudal fin prolonged into a filament; no filaments in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

Colour: body pink with 2 broad, yellow, longitudinal lines along flanks; belly with a broad, bright yellow band from throat to base of caudal fin. No spot near origin of lateral line and no dark saddles on back. Dorsal fin translucent, pinkish or bluish, with a fine yellow line at margin and fine wavy yellow lines in a median band which broadens towards tail; pelvic fins translucent, pinkish or bluish, sometimes with very pale yellow median lines or blotches; caudal fin pink, with a bright yellow upper margin and filament.

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 tail filament):

Maximum: males 28 cm, females 24 cm;  
common: 12 to 22 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Northern part of South China Sea (possibly in deeper waters further south); also, northward to southern Japan.

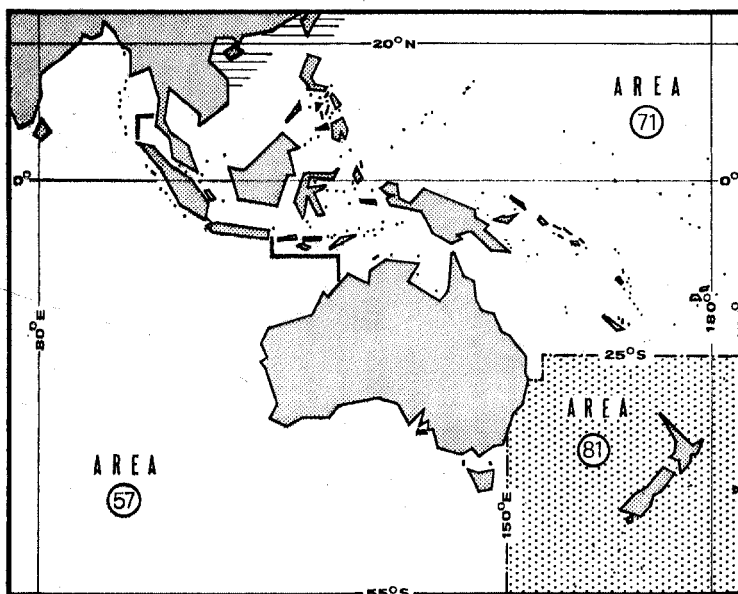
Inhabits muddy sand bottoms at depths of 50 to 250 m; smaller individuals-occur in shallower parts of the depth range.

Feeds on motile, bottom-living animals including crustaceans, squids and fishes. Small fish take mainly bottom-living copepods and ostracods.

Males grow quicker and to a larger size than females.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Muddy sand 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 with trawls and bottom lines; catch rates are highest in day-time.

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

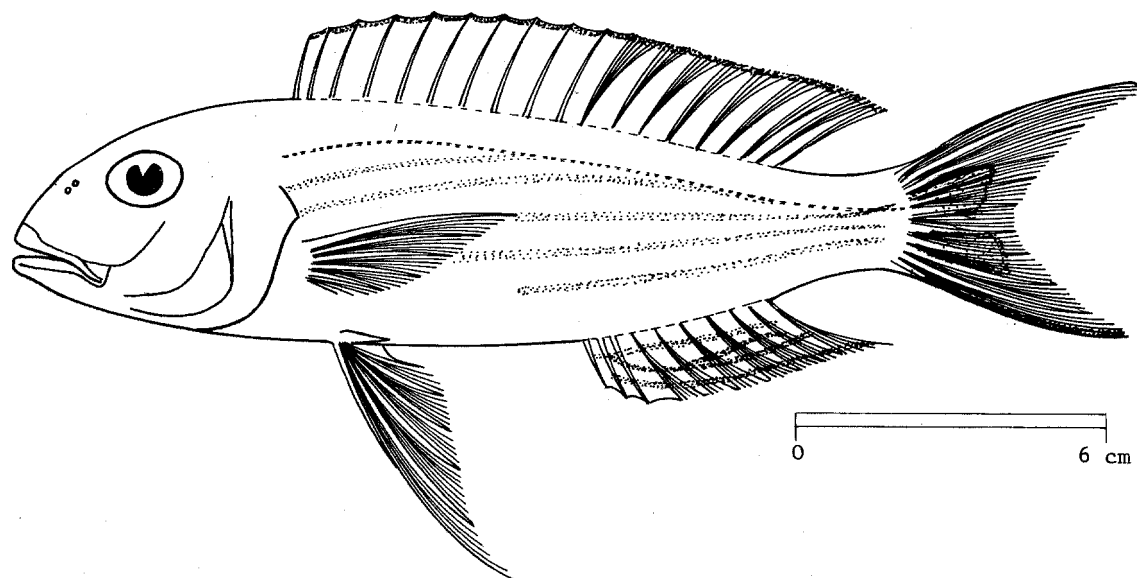


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: NEMIPTERIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Nemipterus delagoae* Smith, 1941

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Delagoa threadfin bream  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

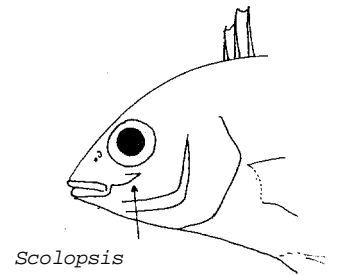
Body slender (head and body depth about equal); head without spines, its anterior part scaleless. Dorsal fin single, with 10 spines and 9 soft rays; pelvic fins with an axillary scale; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays. No filaments in fins.

Colour: 5 to 7 green/yellow upward-curved stripes on body, curvature of upper stripes more marked, spaces between stripes silvery yellow; in fresh specimens the stripes appear raised. No spot below origin of lateral line and no dark saddles on back. Dorsal fin rosy, with a yellow/orange margin and a grey/blue band below it; pelvic fins milky white, with silvery axillary scales; anal fin milky white or translucent blue, with 3 to 4 longitudinal yellow stripes; caudal fin rosy, yellowish in middle, deeper red on fork margin and tips of lobes; lower margin may be whitish.

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.



SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; Common: 12 to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

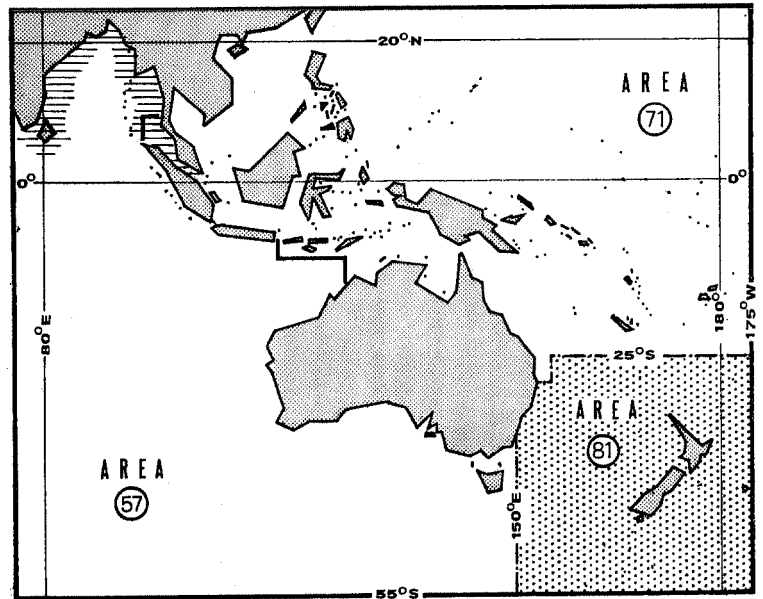
Bay of Bengal; also, westward to East and South Africa.

Bottom-living, to depths of 100 m.

Food and general biology unknown.

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.

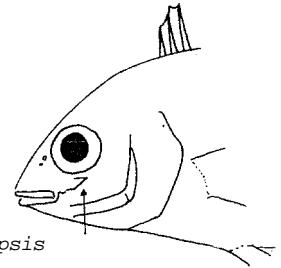
Marketed fresh, dried and salted, dry-smoked, fermented, and as fish balls and cakes.



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.



SIZE:

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

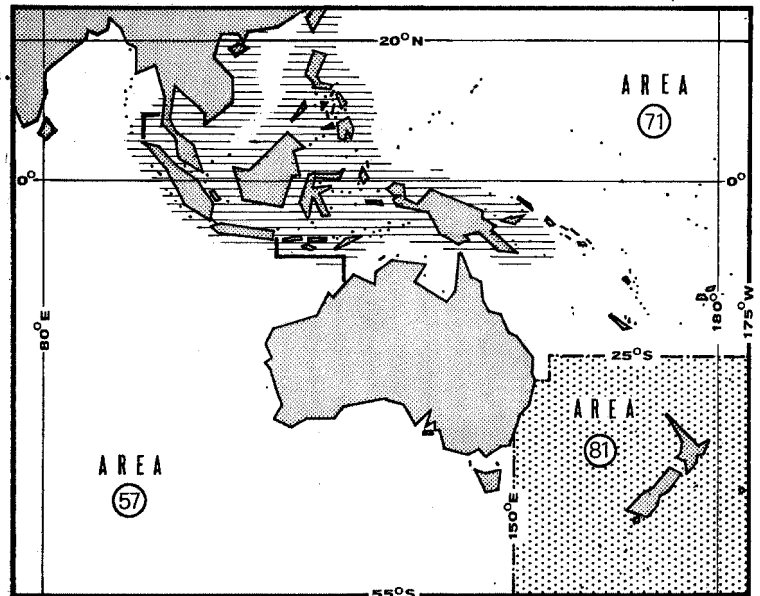
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Indo-Australian archipelago and northward to Hainan; perhaps more widespread, but not always correctly identified.

Bottom-living, to depths of at least 120 m.

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 trawls and lines.

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