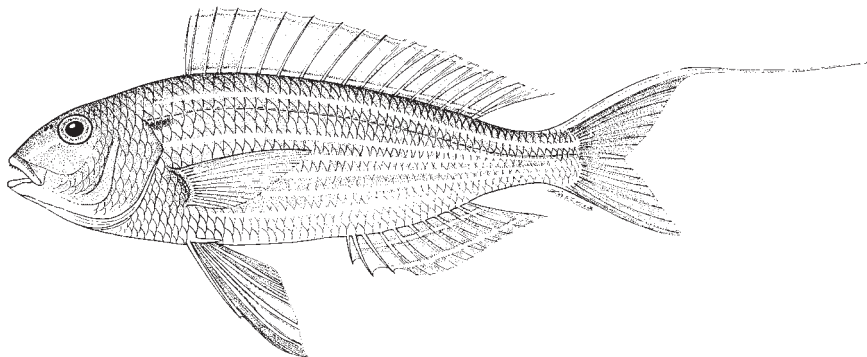


***Nemipterus virgatus* (Houttuyn, 1782)** (Plate XXII, 163)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Golden threadfin bream.

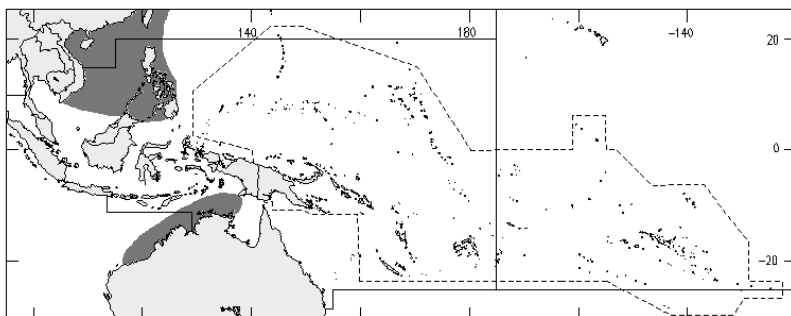


**Diagnostic characters:** Body depth 3.2 to 4 times in standard length. Snout length greater than eye diameter. Three or 4 pairs of small recurved canines anteriorly in upper jaw. Eye diameter 3.4 to 4.3 times in head length; **lower margin of eye above a line from tip of snout to upper base of pectoral fins**; interorbital width 1.4 to 2.1 times in eye diameter; suborbital depth 1 to 1.7 times in eye diameter; **a line drawn up from the posterior edge of suborbital reaching the dorsal profile 5 to 7 scale rows before origin of dorsal fin**. Width of naked area of preopercle 1.1 to 2 times in width of scaly area. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 12 to 16. Total pectoral-fin rays 16 or 18, **pectoral and pelvic fins long, reaching to between level of anus and origin of anal fin**; pectoral fins 1 to 1.2 times in head length, pelvic fins 1 to 2.5 times in head length; **anal fin with 8 rays**; **caudal fin moderately forked, upper lobe produced into trailing filament**. **Colour:** body pink, paler below; **yellow stripe on back above lateral line**; **5 yellow stripes on sides beneath lateral line, the uppermost of these stripes beginning just beneath origin of lateral line and running horizontally to upper base of caudal peduncle, the remaining stripes somewhat concave and descending anteriorly**; ventral surface white; head pink, **a yellow stripe from upper lip extending to anteroventral margin of eye**; **2 faint yellow bars across cheeks sometimes present**; eye pinkish; upper lip yellow; **dorsal fin pale pink, with broad yellow margin, edged below by red anteriorly**; **a yellow stripe just above base of dorsal fin**; **anal fin translucent pinkish with yellow submarginal stripe, and narrow yellow stripe just above base of fin, this extending to tip of last anal-fin ray**; **caudal fin pink, upper margin of fin and filament yellow**; pelvic fins pinkish, with yellow stripe along second and third rays; pectoral fins translucent pinkish.

**Size:** Maximum standard length 35 cm, commonly to 23 cm.

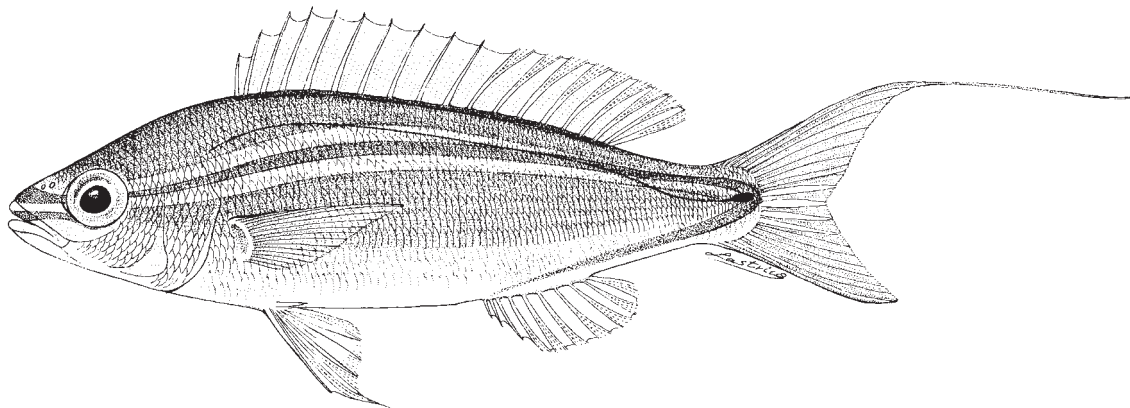
**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A benthic species, occurs on mud or sand bottoms in depths to about 220 m. Very abundant in the northern part of the South China Sea and southern part of the East China Sea. Young fishes generally occur in shallower water, between 18 to 33 m. Females predominate at small sizes and males at larger sizes, due to faster growth rates in males. This species is a rudimentary hermaphrodite, in which all males have functional testes with rudimentary ovarian portions throughout their life. Spawning takes place from February to June with a peak from February to April in the South China Sea. The diet consists of crustaceans, fishes, and cephalopods. Estimates of the parameters of the von Bertalanffy growth curve made for the population from Hong Kong are:  $L_{\infty} = 44.7$  cm total length,  $K = 0.41$ ,  $t_0 = -0.12$  (males); and  $L_{\infty} = 36.2$  cm total length,  $K = 0.35$ ,  $t_0 = -0.71$  (females). Taken in commercial quantities by handlines, longlines, and bottom trawls. Juveniles are also caught in considerable quantities by shrimp trawlers using beam trawls. *N. virgatus* is one of the most important commercial fishes in the East China Sea and northern South China Sea. Marketed mainly fresh, but also steamed or made into fish balls.

**Distribution:** Southern Japan, East China Sea, northern part of South China Sea from Vietnam to Formosa Strait, north-western Australia, and Arafura Sea.



*Pentapodus setosus* (Valenciennes, 1830)

(Plate XXIII, 173)

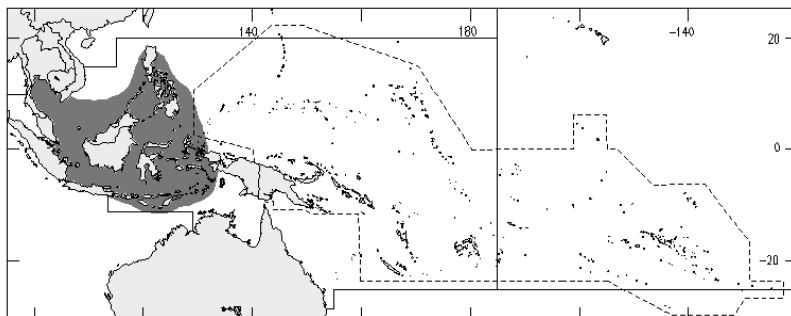
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** En - Butterfly whiptail.

**Diagnostic characters:** Snout length greater than eye diameter; **head scales reaching forward to between level of anterior margin of eyes and posterior nostrils**; suborbital naked; lower limb of preopercle naked. Total pectoral-fin rays 16 or 17 (usually 16); pelvic fins short, not reaching level of anus; **caudal fin forked, upper lobe produced into a very long trailing filament**. Lateral-line scales 46 to 48 (usually 46 or 47). **Colour:** pale brownish on back; lower part of body whitish; **a blue stripe along base of dorsal fin; a yellow stripe from behind eye, gradually arching on back and terminating in a black spot on upper caudal peduncle; a narrow blue line running through yellow stripe, this line convergent with a blue line from origin of anal fin, both lines meeting at an acute angle behind black spot on caudal peduncle; 2 bluish stripes across snout, first from middle of eye to tip of snout, second from upper lip to lower margin of eye**; top of snout dusky; caudal fin pinkish, filament pinkish brown.

**Size:** Maximum standard length 17.5 cm, commonly to 15 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A benthic species, inhabiting offshore waters. Juveniles occur close to reefs. Food consists of small crustaceans. Trawled in fair numbers in the South China Sea and outer Gulf of Thailand. Also taken by bamboo stake trap (Thailand). Not highly rated as food and brings a low price. No major fishery exists. Used in fish balls, in fish meal, fried, and as duck food.

**Distribution:** Philippines, South China Sea, Singapore, and Indonesia.

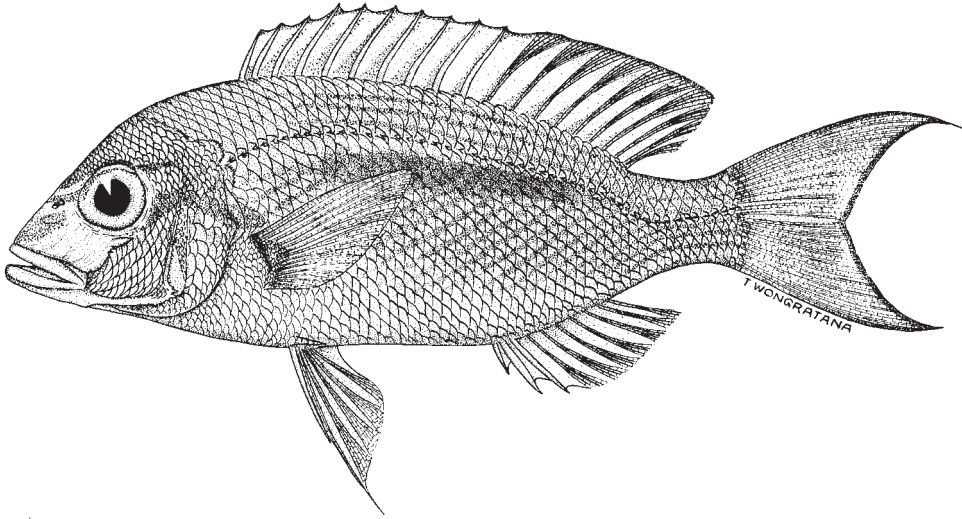


*Scolopsis monogramma* (Kuhl and Van Hasselt, 1830)

(Plate XXIV, 181)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Scolopsis regina* Whitley (1937) / This species has been previously misidentified as *S. temporalis*.

**FAO names:** En - Monogrammed monocle bream.

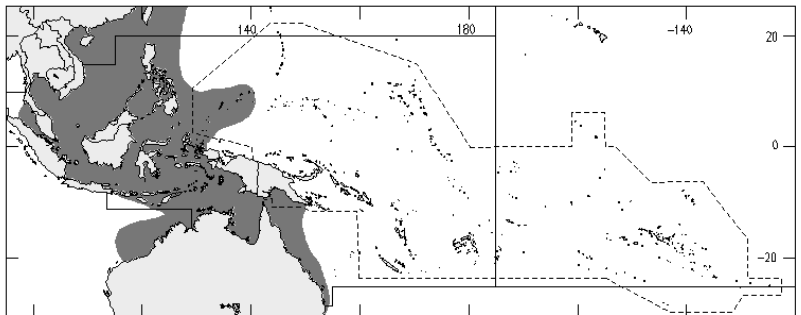


**Diagnostic characters:** Body depth 2.5 to 3 times in standard length. Snout length greater than eye diameter; **head scales reaching to between anterior margin of eyes and posterior nostrils**; lower limb of preopercle scaly; **antrorse suborbital spine absent**; suborbital depth 1.2 to 2.1 times in eye diameter. Total pectoral-fin rays 17 to 19 (usually 18); pelvic fins long, reaching almost to level of origin of anal fin; **caudal fin forked or lunate, upper lobe a little longer than lower lobe (lobes produced to form short filamentous extensions in larger specimens)**. Lateral-line scales 46 to 49 (usually 47 or 48). **Colour:** greyish on back, white below; brown longitudinal steaks on back above lateral line, and oblique yellow streaks below lateral line; a brown midlateral stripe, expanded in the middle; 3 blue stripes on snout; uppermost joining eyes above nostrils, middle stripe joining eyes through nostrils, lower stripe from eye to tip of snout; interspaces between stripes yellow; a blue stripe on preopercle behind eye; a blue chevron-shaped stripe running upwards onto opercle from below eye and bending downwards towards pectoral-fin base; space between stripes on preopercle and opercle yellow; a brown bar at base of pectoral fins; unpaired fins pale yellow, edged with blue.

**Size:** Maximum standard length 26 cm, commonly to 18 cm standard length.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A benthic species found on sand bottoms close to reefs in depths to 50 m. Occurs solitary or in small groups. Feeds on small fishes, crustaceans, molluscs, and polychaetes. A protogynous hermaphrodite. Appears in small numbers in local markets. Caught by trawl and bamboo stake trap (Thailand), and by handline. Sold fresh. Prepared fried and in fish balls or used as duck food (Thailand). No major fishery exists.

**Distribution:** West Pacific from Ryukyu Islands to north-eastern Australia, and Eastern Indian Ocean from the Andaman Sea to northwestern Australia.

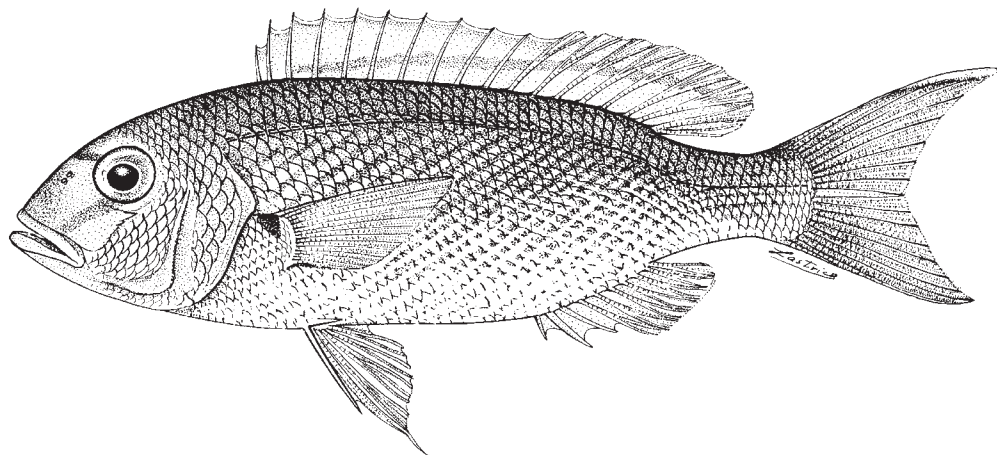


*Scolopsis taeniopterus* (Kuhl and Van Hasselt, 1830)

(Plate XXIV, 182)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Scolopsis siamensis* Akazaki, 1962 / This species has been misidentified as *Scolopsis cancellatus* (= *S. lineatus*).

**FAO names:** En - Lattice monocle bream.

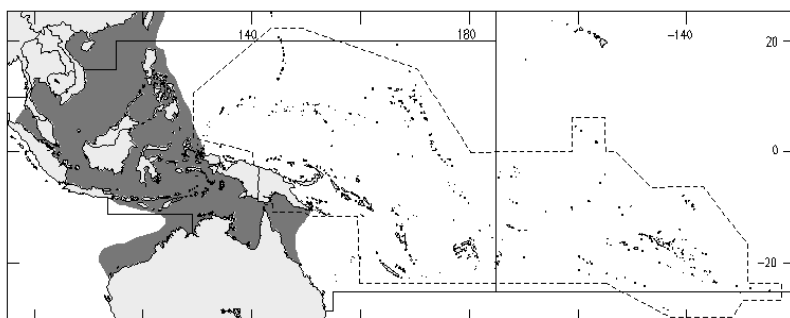


**Diagnostic characters:** Body depth 2.7 to 3.1 times in standard length. Snout length about equal to eye diameter; **head scales reaching forward to between level of anterior margin of eyes and posterior nostrils**; lower limb of preopercle naked; **antrorse suborbital spine absent**; suborbital depth 1.1 to 3.5 times in eye diameter. Total pectoral-fin rays 17 or 18 (usually 17); pelvic fins long, reaching to or beyond level of anus; caudal fin emarginate. Lateral-line scales 45 to 48. **Colour:** greyish yellow on upper part of body, whitish below; sides of body with faint oblique blue and yellow lines, these horizontal on the caudal peduncle; a narrow blue stripe joining eyes just behind nostrils; a blue stripe from middle of upper lip to lower edge of eye; upper part of pectoral-fin base with a reddish orange spot; fins yellowish; dorsal fin with a blue stripe along its middle area; upper tip of caudal fin bright yellow; upper base of caudal fin with a blue spot.

**Size:** Maximum standard length 20 cm, commonly to 15 cm.

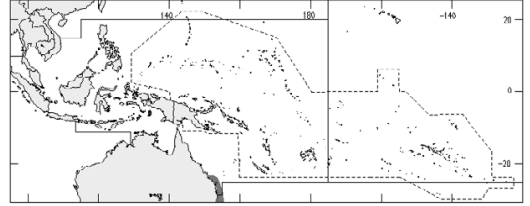
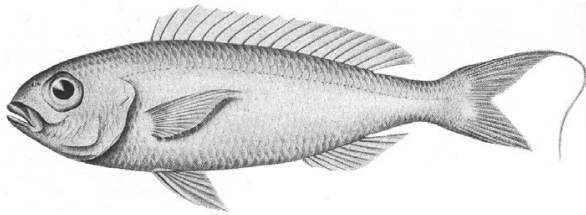
**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in offshore areas, in depths to 50 m. Swims in small groups. Feeds on small crustaceans, molluscs and fishes. A protogynous hermaphrodite. This is the most abundant species of *Scolopsis* seen in markets in Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand. Trawled in moderate numbers along with other species in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand. Highly rated as a food fish, although it sells for a low price. Sold fresh. It is prepared steamed or used for fish balls; sometimes salted or dried. No major fishery exists.

**Distribution:** West Pacific, from Taiwan Province of China to northeastern Australia, and northwestern Australia.

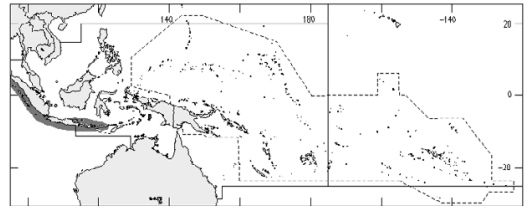
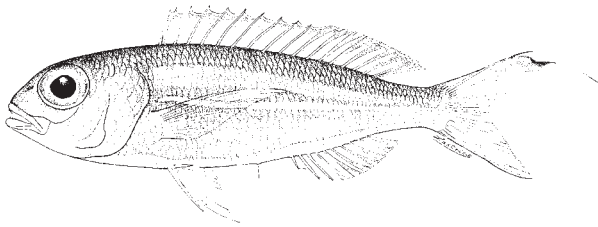


***Nemipterus aurifilum*** (Ogilby, 1910)**En** - Yellowlip threadfin bream.

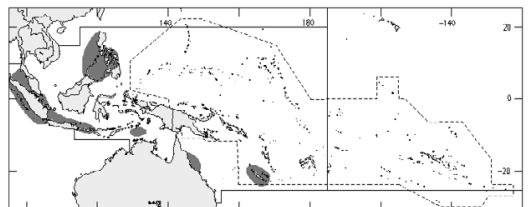
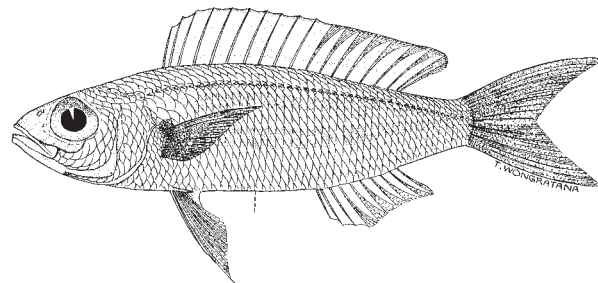
Maximum standard length 18.5 cm, commonly to 14 cm. A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in depths of 24 to 220 m. Feeds on small crustaceans. Taken by handline and bottom trawl in deeper water off the Queensland coast. Considered a good food fish. No major fishery exists. Eastern Australia, from southern Queensland to northern New South Wales.

***Nemipterus balinensis*** (Bleeker, 1858-9)**(Plate XX, 147)****En** - Balinese threadfin bream.

Maximum standard length 18 cm, commonly to 12 cm. A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in depths of 50 to 150 m. Occasionally taken by trawling in inshore waters, but taken mainly by handline. Appears in small numbers in local markets. No major fishery exists. Southern Indonesia, Sumatra to Flores.

***Nemipterus balinensoides*** (Popta, 1918)**En** - Dwarf threadfin bream.

Maximum standard length 12.5 cm, commonly to 9 cm. A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in depths between 30 to 80 m. Occasionally taken by trawling in shallow inshore waters. Rarely seen in markets. No major fishery exists. West Pacific, including the Philippines, Indonesia, New Caledonia, and Phuket Island, Andaman Sea.

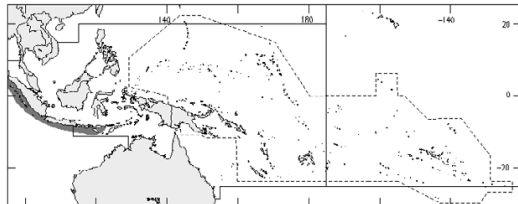
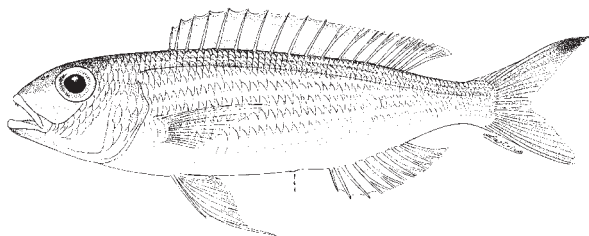


***Nemipterus gracilis*** (Bleeker, 1873)

(Plate XX, 151)

**En** - Graceful threadfin bream.

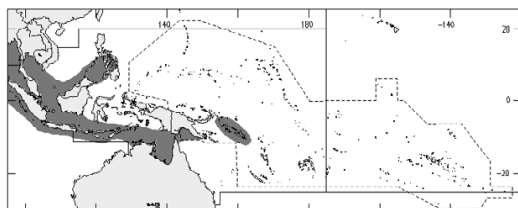
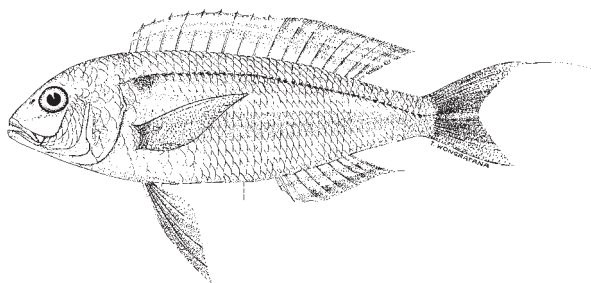
Maximum standard length 18 cm, commonly to 15 cm. A benthic species, occurs on mud or sand bottoms in depths of 30 to 90 m. Females with ripe ova were present in June in Flores. Taken by handline. Appears in small quantities in local markets. No major fishery exists. Indonesia: Sumatra to Flores.

***Nemipterus marginatus*** (Valenciennes, 1830)

(Plate XXI, 155)

**En** - Red filament threadfin bream.

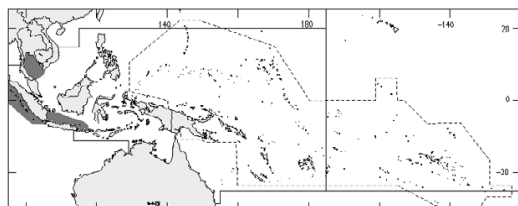
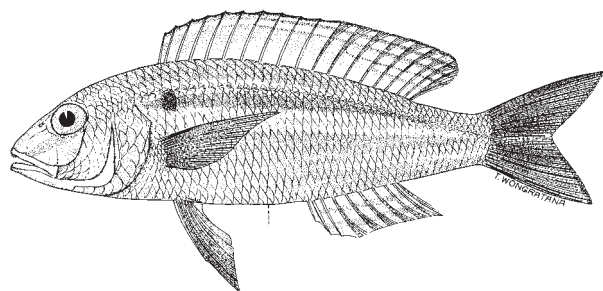
Maximum standard length 15 cm, commonly to 13 cm. A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in depths between 12 to 70 m. Occurs in groups and feeds on small bottom-living animals. Commonly taken by trawlers in the South China Sea. This species is taken in small quantities (usually less than 1 kg per haul in South China Sea) along with other species. Regarded as a trash fish and used mainly for fish meal or animal feed. West Pacific, including the South China Sea, Strait of Malacca, southern coasts of Sumatra and Java, northern Australia, and the Gulf of Papua to the Solomon Islands.

***Nemipterus mesoprion*** (Bleeker, 1853)

(Plate XXI, 156)

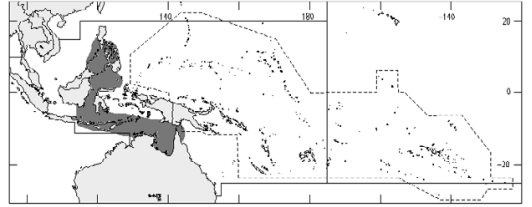
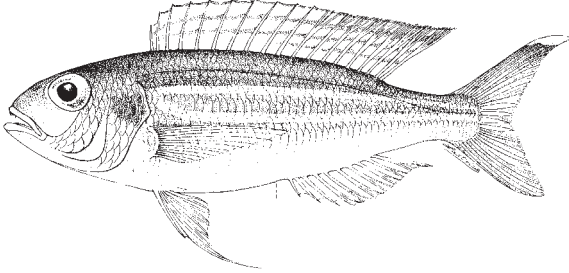
**En** - Mauvelip threadfin bream.

Maximum standard length 14 cm, commonly to 13 cm. A benthic species. Little is known of the habits of this species. Taken by handline and bottom trawl, together with other species. Known from southern Indonesia and the Gulf of Thailand.

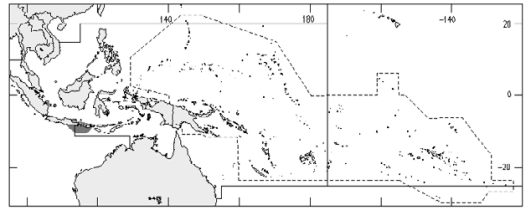
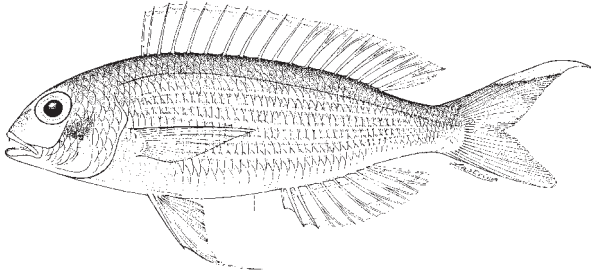


***Nemipterus nematopus* (Bleeker, 1851)****(Plate XXI, 158)****En** - Yellowtipped threadfin bream.

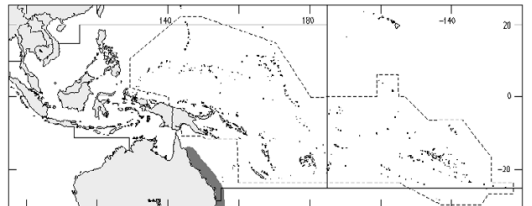
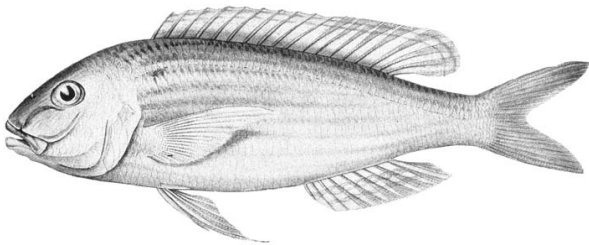
Maximum standard length 17.5 cm, commonly to 15 cm. A benthic species, occurs on sand or mud bottoms in depths of 30 to 102 m. Taken by handline and bottom trawl together with other species. Appears in small numbers in local markets. No major fishery exists. Philippines, Indonesia, and northern Australia from the Timor Sea to northern Queensland.

***Nemipterus* sp. 1****En** - Bluecheek threadfin bream.

Maximum standard length 26 cm, commonly to 15 cm. A benthic species, occurs in depths of 65 to 125 m. Taken so far only by exploratory bottom trawling. Not seen in local markets. No major fishery exists. So far known only from Indonesia: southern coasts of eastern Java, Bali, and Lombok.

***Nemipterus theodorei* Ogilby, 1916****En** - Theodore's threadfin bream.

Maximum standard length 20 cm, commonly to 18 cm. A benthic species, occurs on sand or mud bottoms in depths of 19 to 410 m. Taken by handline and bottom trawl. No major fishery exists. Eastern Australia from north Queensland to New South Wales.

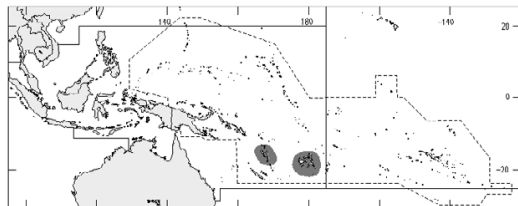
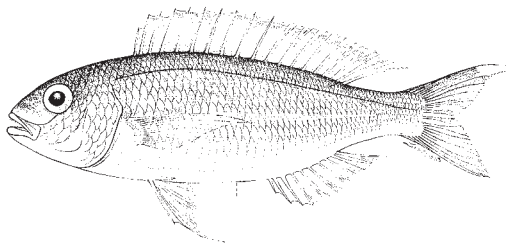


***Nemipterus vitiensis*** Russell, 1990

(Plate XXII, 164)

**En** - Fiji threadfin bream.

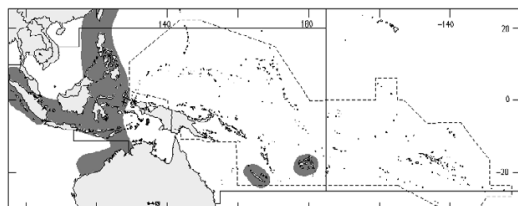
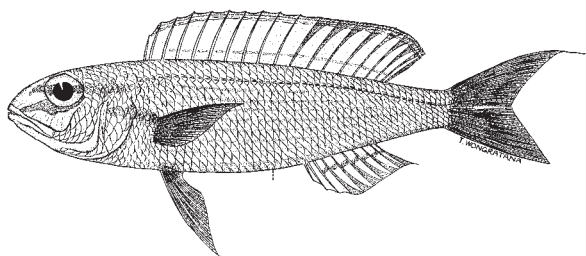
Maximum standard length 22 cm, commonly to 17 cm. A benthic species, occurs on sand or mud bottoms close to reefs in depths of 27 to 273 m. Taken by handline. Appears in local fish markets. No major fishery exists. Fiji and Vanuatu.

***Nemipterus zysron*** (Bleeker, 1856-57)

(Plate XXII, 165)

**En** - Slender threadfin bream; **Fr** - Cohana élégante; **Sp** - Baga elegante.

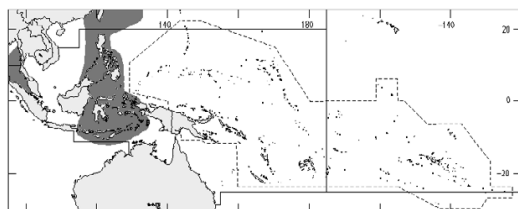
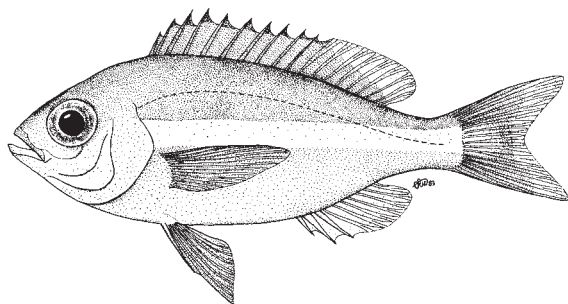
Maximum standard length 18.5 cm, commonly to 16 cm. A benthic species, found on sand bottoms near rocks in depths between 10 to 125 m. It swims in groups and feeds on bottom organisms. Taken by handline and bottom trawl along with other species of *Nemipterus*. Appears in small numbers in local markets. No major fishery exists. Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific from northwestern Australia, the Indo-Malay Archipelago, Andaman Sea, Red Sea, Seychelles, and Zanzibar.

***Parascopsis eriomma*** (Jordan and Richardson, 1909)

(Plate XXII, 166)

**En** - Rosy dwarf monocle bream; **Fr** - Mamila rosée; **Sp** - Besugato rosado.

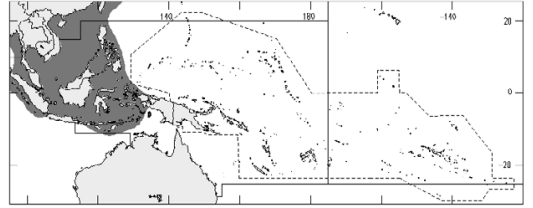
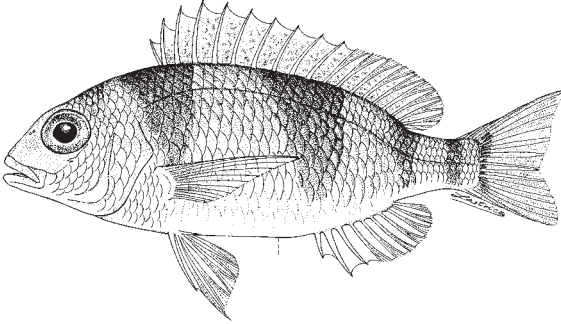
Maximum standard length 25.5 cm, commonly to 20 cm. A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in offshore waters in depths of 25 to 175 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates. Taken by vertical long line and by bottom trawl. No major fishery exists. Indian Ocean, including the Gulf of Oman, Red Sea, east Africa (south to Delagoa Bay), Sri Lanka, and Andaman Sea; West Pacific, including southern Japan, Taiwan Province of China, South China Sea, Philippines, and Indonesia.



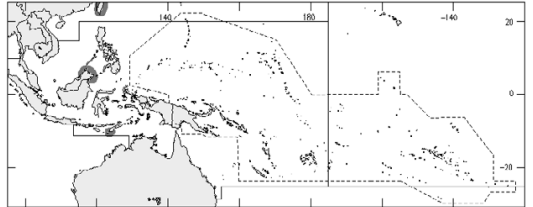
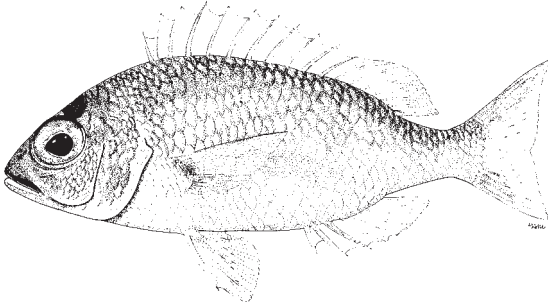


***Parascolopsis inermis* (Schlegel, 1843)****(Plate XXII, 167)****En** - Unarmed dwarf monocle bream.

Maximum standard length 18 cm, commonly to 12 cm. A benthic species, found on sand or mud bottoms in offshore waters in depths of 60 to 131 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates. Taken by bottom trawl, deep-sea shrimp trap and vertical long line. No major fishery exists. Eastern Indian Ocean, including the Laccadive Islands, Sri Lanka, and Andaman Sea; West Pacific, including southern Japan and the South China Sea.

***Parascolopsis melanophrys* Russell and Chin, 1996****(Plate XXII, 168)****En** - Black eyebrow monacle bream.

Maximum standard length 17 cm. A little known but distinctive species. No major fishery exists. Known only from 2 collected specimens from fish markets in Sabah (Malaysia) and West Timor (Indonesia).

***Parascolopsis rufomaculatus* Russell, 1986****En** - Redspot dwarf monacle bream.

Maximum standard length 15.5 cm, commonly to 10 cm. A benthic species, occurring in offshore waters in depths of 200 to 350 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates. Taken by bottom trawl (scampi net). No fishery exists. Known so far only from northwestern Australia.

