

## Occurrence of *Parascolopsis eriomma* (Jordan and Richardson, 1909) and *P. aspinosa* (Rao & Rao 1981) from Tuticorin coast

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The family Nemipteridae has five genera and 69 valid species. The dwarf monocle bream belonging to the genus *Parascolopsis* has 12 species. They are small, bottom-living fishes usually occurring in moderately deep water on outer shelf and continental slope waters throughout tropical and sub-tropical waters of Indo-West Pacific, ranging from Western Indian Ocean to North East Australia, South Japan and Delaga Bay on the coast of East Africa. The present report on Rosy dwarf monocle bream, *Parascolopsis eriomma* from Tuticorin coast is evidently a range extension from the known distribution areas.

A single specimen of *P. eriomma* (Fig. 1) was collected from drift gillnet at Punnakayal landing centre during March 2013. *P. eriomma* has moderately deep body and snout short, bluntly rounded; jaw teeth villiform. Head scales reaching forward to mid-pupil; snout, sub-orbital and pre-maxilla naked, posterior margin of pre-opercle



Fig. 1. *Parascolopsis eriomma* observed

finely serrate; lower limb of pre-opercle naked; a weak sub-orbital spine present; gill rakers 18 on first arch.

Colour: Body pinkish with a longitudinal yellow stripe along middle of body; dorsal fin pinkish, pectoral translucent yellow, anal and pelvic fins milky white; caudal fin rosy pink and lower lobe pale yellow (damaged).

Table 1. Morphometric and meristic characters of *Parascolopsis eriomma* from Tuticorin coast.

Characters	mm
Total length	248.2
Standard length	195.75
Body depth	70.43
Body width	32.99
Head length	71.1
Pectoral fin length	54.71
Pelvic fin length	47.73
Predorsal length	66.15
Prepectoral length	68.35
Prepelvic length	75.15
Preanal length	127.9
Preanus length	120.41
Caudal peduncle length	44.41
Caudal peduncle width	20.77
Eye diameter	19.56
Posteye width	28.06
Interorbital distance	17.73
Snout length	16.59
Orbit width	10.5
<b>Meristics counts</b>	
Dorsal fins	IX +9
Pectoral fins	17
Pelvic fins	I+5
Anal fins	III+7
Lateral line scale	36
Predorsal scale	6

A single specimen of *P. aspinosa* (Fig. 2) with standard length 143.66 mm was collected from the bycatch of a commercial trawler at Tuticorin fishing harbour (TFH) during month of January 2013. This specimen was caught approximately 30 nautical miles (Nm) from the shore off Tuticorin, Gulf of



Fig. 2. *Parascolopsis aspinosa* caught off Tuticorin coast, Gulf of Mannar

Mannar at a depth ranging from 100-150 m. After detailed morphological examination, the specimen was photographed and fixed with 10% formalin. The morphometric measurements were taken to the nearest mm and the specimen was identified as *P. aspinosa* described in FAO (1984). Occurrence of *P. aspinosa* is reported for the first time from the Tuticorin coast.

Body moderately deep, laterally compressed; posterior margin of suborbital smooth with tiny spines; head scales reaching forward to between level of anterior margin of eyes and posterior nostrils; posterior margin of pre-opercle more or less vertical; lower limb of pre-opercle naked; Dorsal fin X+10; Pectoral fin II+14; Anal fin III+7 and Pelvic fin I+5; Gill rakers 11 on first arch; pectoral and pelvic fin long, reaching beyond level of anus; axillary scale present in pelvic fin.

Colour: Body rosy orange and four pale reddish saddles on back and two on caudal peduncle; suborbital and edge of pre-opercle 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.

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of *Parascolopsis aspinosa*

Characters	(mm)	%TL
Total length	143.66	
Standard length	114.85	79.94
Body depth	42.4	36.91
Body width	17.23	15.00
Pectoral fin length	34.26	29.83
Pelvic fin length	32.5	28.29
Head length	43.46	37.84
Eye diameter	12.5	28.76
Orbit diameter	6.22	14.31
Snout length	11.35	26.11
Post eye length	21.2	48.78
Inter orbital depth	8.07	18.56
Pre-dorsal length	44.61	38.84
Pre-pectoral length	42.29	36.82
Pre-pelvic length	44.01	38.31
Pre-anal length	77.41	67.400
Pre-anus length	72.57	63.18
Distance between pelvic fin anal fin	32.7	28.47
Caudal peduncle length	26.3	22.89
Caudal peduncle width	13.95	12.14