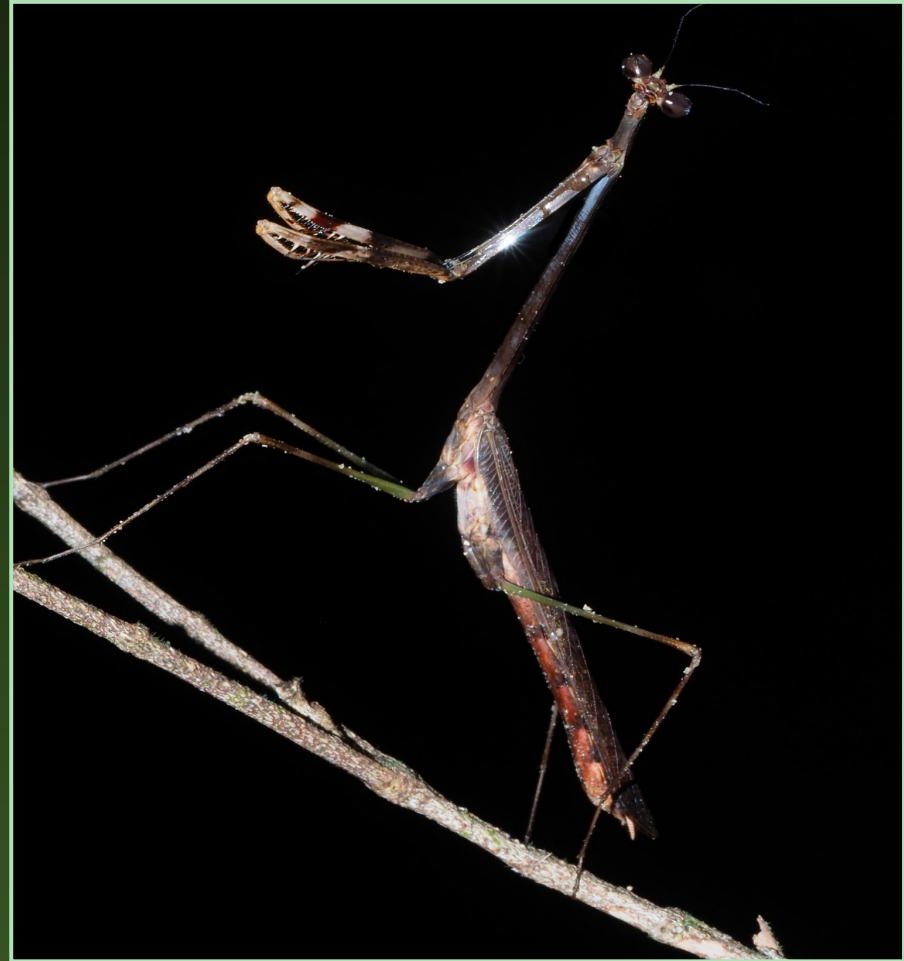




MANTISES OF SABAH



GIANT DEAD LEAF MANTIS
Deroplatys desiccata (Deroplatyidae)



GIRAFFE MANTIS
Euchoemella heteroptera (Deroplatyidae)



TRUNCATED DEAD LEAF MANTIS
Deroplatys truncata (Deroplatyidae)

There are about 2,400 mantises described worldwide. Borneo has among the highest diversity with 118 species. Featured here are selected praying mantis species in Sabah. Praying mantises have a prayer-like posture with their raptorial forelegs held up and ever-ready to strike its prey.

They belong to the order Mantodea, meaning 'prophet form'. Mantises are fiercely predacious, capturing insects with their spiky and hooked forelegs. Mantises have very good eyesight and are the only insects that can turn their head to 180 degrees.



ORCHID MANTIS
Hymenopus coronatus (Hymenopodidae)



ASIAN BARK MANTIS
Theopompa sp. (Gonyptetidae)



LICHEN MANTIS
Protaxodera monstrosa (Toxoderidae)



ASIAN SHIELD MANTIS
Rhombodera sp. (Mantidae)



IMPORTANCE OF MANTISES

Praying mantises are renowned for their voracious appetite and predatory behavior. They primarily feed on insects, including garden pests like aphids, mosquitoes, flies, and caterpillars. By preying on these pests, mantises act as natural pest controllers, helping to maintain the balance of ecosystems and reduce the need for chemical insecticides. Praying mantises exhibit unique behaviors that make them fascinating subjects for scientific research and observation. Their distinctive hunting techniques, intricate mating rituals, and remarkable camouflage strategies have captivated scientists and nature enthusiasts alike. By studying mantises, researchers gain insights into predator-prey dynamics, evolutionary adaptations and animal behavior.



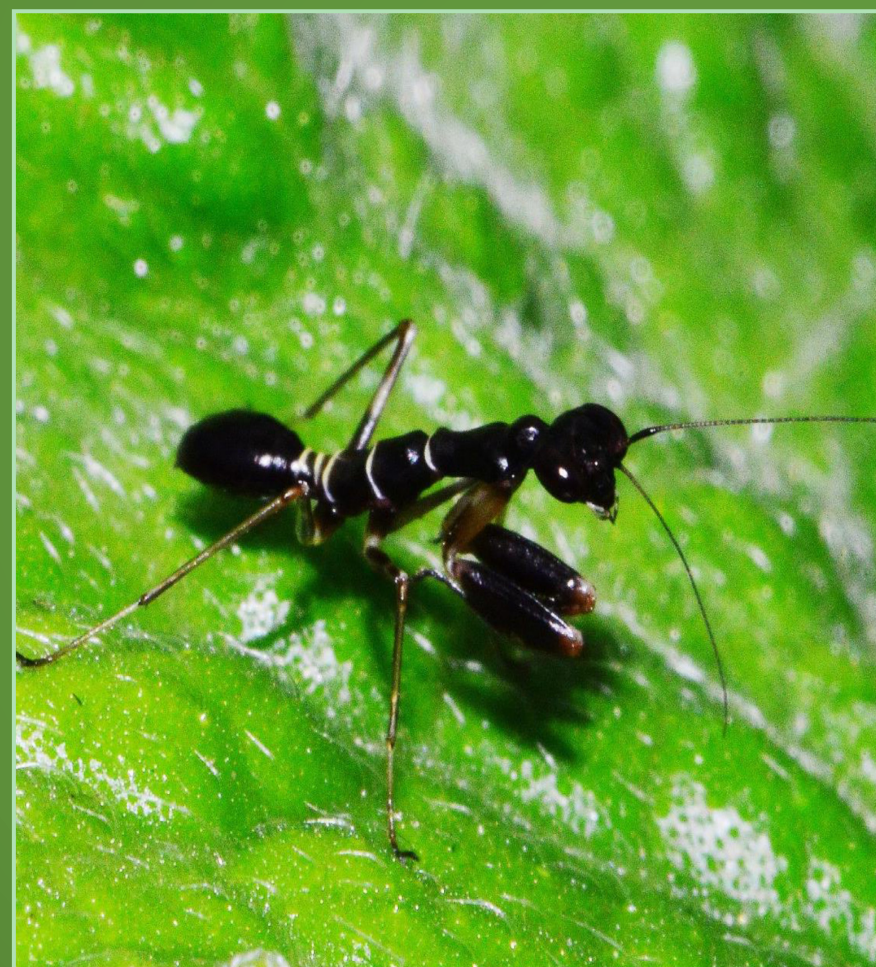
STICK & FUNGUS MANTIS
Paratoxodera cornicallis (Toxoderidae)



GIANT GREEN ASIAN MANTIS
Hierodula sp. (Mantidae)

Mantises are champion of camouflage, mimicking stick, leaf, flower, fungus and bark.

Eggs are laid inside a large frothy egg case (ootheca) which eventually hardens and is stuck onto plant stem.



ASIAN ANT MANTIS
Odontomantis sp. (Hymenopodidae)



BOXER MANTIS
Astylasula phyllopus (Hymenopodidae)



SPINY BOXER MANTIS
Pachymantis piceifemur (Hymenopodidae)



VIOLET BARK MANTIS
Metallyticus violaceus (Metallyticidae)



BORNEAN BANDED FLOWER MANTIS
Theopropus borneensis (Hymenopodidae)



BARK MANTIS
Humbertiella ocularis (Gonyptetidae)



ASIAN TWIG MANTIS
Ambivia undata (Hymenopodidae)



ORCHID MANTIS
Hymenopus coronatus (Hymenopodidae)

DO YOU KNOW?

The male mantis will be decapitated and consumed by the female during mating. This is to ensure that the survival rate for the female and her offspring is high. Eating her partner's head will give some extra protein to lay more eggs.



BARK HORNED MANTIS
Ceratocrania macra (Hymenopodidae)



GREEN LEAF MANTIS
Citharomantis falcata (Hymenopodidae)



Scan here for a musical presentation on praying mantises of Borneo.

Poster prepared by Japir, R., Dg. Fazrinah, A.D. & Chung, A.Y.C.

Wong, H. has kindly identified some species and provided some comments on an earlier draft.

Photos by Chung, A.Y.C.

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