

FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST

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ARTHROPODA: INSECTA: MANTODEA

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ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

ARTHROPODA: INSECTA: MANTODEA

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Introduction

Mantids, “Preying mantids or “Praying mantises” are carnivorous insects popularly called by different names because of their typical prayer like posture with folded raptorial fore-legs or predatory habits. They are classified under the order Mantodea of class insecta in Phylum Arthropoda. They are insects of economic importance, playing both positive and negative roles in the terrestrial ecosystem. They help in the control of noxious insect pests like grass hoppers, crickets, moths, butterflies, flies, aphids etc., which form their major groups of prey. Being an active predator, they also destroy non-injurious and beneficial insects like honeybees. Phylogenetically order mantodea is nested within the super order Dictyoptera along with the order Blattodea (cockroaches and termites together) but the relationships among these groups have long been controversial. Mantids are believed to have emerged during the Triassic/Jurassic boundary when they diverged from ancestors of modern cockroaches. The closest known mantis fossil come from Cretaceous strata and closely parallels the fossil record of termites.

Global diversity: The order encompasses over 2,500 described species under 436 genera and 31 families distributed globally although their greatest numbers and diversity are concentrated primarily in the tropics and subtropics.

Diversity in India: In India, 169 species belonging to 69 genera 13 families and 7 superfamilies are reported.

Table-01. Diversity in States

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of species	No. of Endemic species
1	Andhra Pradesh	31	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	21	2
3	Assam	27	1
4	Bihar	20	0
5	Chhattisgarh	33	0
6	Gujarat	9	1
7	Goa	9	1
8	Haryana	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	21	0
10	Jharkhand	7	1
11	Karnataka	39	3
12	Kerala	68	5
13	Madhya Pradesh	27	0

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of species	No. of Endemic species
14	Maharashtra	55	1
15	Manipur	9	1
16	Meghalaya	25	1
17	Mizoram	0	0
18	Nagaland	4	0
19	Odisha	27	0
20	Punjab	4	0
21	Rajasthan	11	0
22	Sikkim	17	0
23	Tamil Nadu	53	6
24	Telangana	6	0
25	Tripura	1	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	49	2
27	Uttarakhand	1	0
28	West Bengal	45	0
29	Andaman & Nicobar	12	1
30	Chandigarh	2	0
31	Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	0	0
32	Delhi	0	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir	4	0
34	Ladakh	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	1	0
36	Puducherry	3	0
	INDIA TOTAL	169	27

Endemism: 27 species are endemic to India. High endemism is reported from the Southern Western Ghats falling in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka and north east India. The endemic status of many of these species will change if extensive field surveys and identification of specimens are undertaken in other regions of the country.

Habitat: Mantids are commonly found in gardens, cultivated lands, grassy meadows, scrub jungles, forests and are even attracted to fluorescent lights at home during late evenings. Since preying mantids are carnivorous insects, they have no preferences as far as the host plants are concerned

Ecological Significance: Preying mantids are exclusively carnivorous insects feeding mainly on other arthropods as well as small vertebrates thus have important ecological role in the suppression of herbivorous insect populations including some agriculture pests.

Human Significance: Mantids are of great value as agents of biological control of noxious insect pests but attempts to rear and release them in captivity yielded very little success. They are generalist predators and are not host specific and capable of consuming large number of agricultural pests in the field.

Threatened species: Species from India are not assessed for IUCN threat categories.

Protected Species as per WPA (2022): Mantids are not listed under any schedules of Wildlife Protection Act (2022).

Species under CITES: Indian mantids are not listed under any appendices of CITES.

Invasive alien species: No mantid species are reported Invasive in the country. Some Indian species have wider distribution probably due to accidental introduction mainly through the dispersal of ootheca which are very resistant to all kinds of harsh conditions via floating driftwood or human dispersal .

Gap areas: Many parts of the country such as North east India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Desert and semi-arid regions are less explored for mantid collections and taxonomic studies. Many species are known only by the type collection and not reported further from other parts of the country.

Systematic list:

CLASS INSECTA

ORDER MANTODEA

Superfamily METALLYTICOIDEA Giglio-Tos, 1917

Family METALLYTICIDAE Giglio-Tos, 1917

Genus *Metallyticus* Westwood, 1835

1. *Metallyticus splendidus* Westwood, 1835
2. *Metallyticus violaceus* Burmeister, 1838

Superfamily EREMIAPHILOIDEA Saussure, 1869

Family EREMIAPHILIDAE Saussure, 1869

Subfamily Eremiaphilinae

Genus *Eremiaphila* Lefebvre, 1835

3. *Eremiaphila irridipennis* Mukherjee & Hazra, 1985.

Subfamily Iridinae

Tribe Didymocoryphini

Genus *Didymocorypha* Wood-Mason, 1877

4. *Didymocorypha lanceolata* (Fabricius, 1798)

Tribe Dysaulini

Genus *Dysaules* Stål, 1877

5. *Dysaules himalayanus* Wood-Mason, 1889
6. *Dysaules longicollis* Stål, 1877

Genus *Dysaulophthalma* Stiewe, 2009

7. *Dysaulophthalma nathani* Stiewe, 2009

Genus *Oxyophthalma* Saussure, 1861

8. *Oxyophthalma engaea* (Wood-Mason, 1889)
9. *Oxyophthalma gracilis* Saussure, 1861

Tribe Iridini

Genus *Iris* Saussure, 1869

10. *Iris nana* Uvarov, 1930
11. *Iris oratoria* (Linne, 1758)
12. *Iris orientalis* Wood-Mason, 1882

Tribe Schizocephalini

Genus *Schizocephala* Serville, 1831

13. *Schizocephala bicornis* (Linne, 1758)

Subfamily Parathespiinae

Genus *Parathespis* Saussure, 1869

14. *Parathespis humbertiana* Saussure, 1869

Family RIVETINIDAE Ehrmann & Roy, 2002

Subfamily Deiphobinae

Tribe Cotigaonopsini

Genus *Cotigaonopsis* Vyjayandi, 2009

15. *Cotigaonopsis providenceae* Vyjayandi, 2009 – India; Goa.

Genus *Deiphobe* Stål, 1877

16. *Deiphobe brevipennis* Sjöstedt, 1930
 17. *Deiphobe brunneri* (Saussure, 1871)
 18. *Deiphobe indica* Giglio-Tos, 1916
 19. *Deiphobe infuscata* (Saussure, 1870)
 20. *Deiphobe longipes* Werner, 1926
 21. *Deiphobe mesomelas* (Olivier, 1792)
 22. *Deiphobe xanthoptera* (Olivier, 1792)

Genus *Deiphobella* Giglio-Tos, 1916

23. *Deiphobella gardneri* Werner, 1935
 24. *Deiphobella laticeps* (Wood-Mason, 1876)

Genus *Indothespis* Werner, 1935

25. *Indothespis assamensis* Werner, 1935

Subfamily Rivetiniinae

Tribe Rivetiniini

Genus *Pararivetina* Beier, 1931

26. *Pararivetina fraseri* Beier, 1931

Genus *Rivetinula* La Greca, 1977

27. *Rivetinula fraterna* (Saussure, 1871)

Family TOXODERIDAE Saussure, 1869

Subfamily Oxyothespinae

Tribe Heterochaetulini

Genus *Heterochaetula* Wood-Mason, 1889

28. *Heterochaetula fissispinis* Wood-Mason, 1889
 29. *Heterochaetula tricolor* (Wood-Mason, 1876)

Subfamily Toxoderinae

Tribe Aethalochroini

Genus *Aethalochroa* Wood-Mason, 1877

30. *Aethalochroa ashmoliana* (Westwood, 1841)

Tribe Calamothespini

Subtribe Toxomantina

Genus *Toxomantis* Giglio-Tos, 1914

31. *Toxomantis westwoodi* Giglio-Tos, 1914

Tribe Toxoderopsini

Genus *Euthyphleps* Wood-Mason, 1889

32. *Euthyphleps curtipes* (Westwood, 1889)
 33. *Euthyphleps rectivenis* Wood-Mason, 1889

Genus *Toxodanuria* Uvarov, 1940 *Toxodanuria* Uvarov, 1940. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 6: 115.

34. *Toxodanuria orientalis* (Wood-Mason, 1877)
 35. *Toxodanuria parvula* (Westwood, 1889)

Genus *Toxoderopsis* Wood-Mason, 1889

36. *Toxoderopsis spinigera* Wood-Mason, 1889
 37. *Toxoderopsis taurus* Wood-Mason, 1889

Superfamily GONYPETOIDEA Westwood, 1889

Family GONYPETIDAE Westwood, 1889

Subfamily Gonypetinae

Tribe Gonypetini

Subtribe Gonypetina

Genus *Elmantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915

38. *Elmantis domestica* Vyjayandi & Rajeesh, 2006

39. *Elmantis lata* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 40. *Elmantis trincomaliae* (Saussure, 1869)
 41. *Gimantis assamica* (Giglio-Tos, 1915)
 42. *Gimantis authaemon* (Wood-Mason, 1882)
 Genus *Gonypeta* Saussure, 1869
 43. *Gonypeta punctata* (De Haan, 1842)
 Genus *Memantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 44. *Memantis fuliginosa* (Thunberg, 1815)
 45. *Memantis gardneri* Werner, 1935
 46. *Memantis minor* Werner, 1931
 47. *Memantis yercaudensis* Vyjayandi, Rjeesh & Sajin, 2010
 Subtribe Gonypetyllina
 Genus *Gonypetyllis* Wood-Mason, 1891
 48. *Gonypetyllis semuncialis* Wood-Mason, 1891
 Subtribe Humbertiellina
 Genus *Humbertiella* Saussure, 1869
 49. *Humbertiella affinis* Giglio-Tos, 1917
 50. *Humbertiella ceylonica* Saussure, 1869
 51. *Humbertiella indica* Saussure, 1869
 52. *Humbertiella modesta* Laidlaw, 1937
 53. *Humbertiella nigrospinosa* Sjöstedt, 1930
 54. *Humbertiella similis* Giglio-Tos, 1917
 Genus *Theopompa* Stål, 1877
 55. *Theopompa ophthalmica* (Olivier, 1792)
 56. *Theopompa servillei* (De Haan, 1842)
 Subfamily Iridopteryginae
 Tribe Amantini
 Genus *Amantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 57. *Amantis biroi* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 58. *Amantis bolivari* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 59. *Amantis fuliginosa* (Werner, 1931)
 60. *Amantis fumosana* (Giglio-Tos, 1915)
 61. *Amantis indica* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 62. *Amantis malabarensis* Vyjayandi & Narendran, 2005
 63. *Amantis saussurei* (Bolivar, 1897)
 64. *Amantis subirina* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 65. *Amantis testacea* (Werner, 1931)
 Tribe Iridopterygini
 Subtribe Iridopterygina
 Genus *Hapalopeza* Stål, 1877
 66. *Hapalopeza nilgirica* Wood-Mason, 1891
 67. *Hapalopeza periyara* Mukherjee & Hazra, 1985
 Superfamily HAANIOIDEA Giglio-Tos, 1915
 Family HAANIIDAE Giglio-Tos, 1915
 Subfamily Caliridinae
 Genus *Caliris* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 68. *Caliris masoni* (Westwood, 1889)
 69. *Caliris mukherjeei* Kamila & Sureshan, 2022
 70. *Caliris pallida* (Werner, 1935)
 Subfamily Haaniinae
 Tribe Arriini
 Genus *Arria* Stål, 1877

71. *Arria cinctipes* Stål, 1877
 72. *Arria meghalayensis* (Mukherjee, 1995)
 Superfamily HYMENOPOIDEA Giglio-Tos, 1915
 Family EMPUSIDAE Burmeister, 1838
 Subfamily Blepharodinae
 Genus *Blepharopsis* Rehn, 1902
 73. *Blepharopsis mendica* (Fabricius, 1775)
 Subfamily Empusinae
 Tribe Empusini
 Subtribe Empusina
 Genus *Empusa* Illiger, 1798
 74. *Empusa fasciata* Brulle,
 75. *Empusa guttula* (Thunberg, 1815)
 76. *Empusa pennata* (Thunberg, 1815)
 77. *Empusa spinosa* Krauss, 1902
 Genus *Gongylus* Thunberg, 1815
 78. *Gongylus gongyloides* (Linne, 1758)
 79. *Gongylus trachelophyllus* Burmeister, 1838
 Family HYMENOPODIDAE Giglio-Tos, 1915
 Subfamily Acromantinae
 Tribe Acromantini
 Genus *Acromantis* Saussure, 1870
 80. *Acromantis insularis* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 81. *Acromantis montana* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 82. *Acromantis nicobarica* Mukherjee, 1995
 83. *Acromantis oligoneura* (De Haan, 1842)
 Genus *Ambivia* Stål, 1877
 84. *Ambivia undata* (Fabricius, 1793)
 Genus *Metacromantis* Beier, 1930
 85. *Metacromantis nigrofemorata* Ghate, Rao, Javed & Roy, 2006
 Subfamily Hymenopodinae
 Tribe Anaxarchini
 Genus *Anaxarcha* Stål, 1877
 86. *Anaxarcha acuta* Beier, 1963
 87. *Anaxarcha graminea* Stål, 1877
 88. *Anaxarcha limbata* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 89. *Anaxarcha punctillata* (Werner, 1931)
 Genus *Heliomantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 90. *Heliomantis elegans* (Navás, 1904)
 Genus *Nemotha* Wood-Mason, 1884
 91. *Nemotha metallica* (Westwood, 1843)
 Genus *Odontomantis* Saussure, 1871
 92. *Odontomantis micans* (Saussure, 1871)
 93. *Odontomantis montana* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 94. *Odontomantis ornata* (Werner, 1935)
 95. *Odontomantis pulchra* (Fabricius, 1787)
 Tribe Hymenopodini
 Subtribe Hymenopodina
 Genus *Hymenopus* Serville, 1831
 96. *Hymenopus coronatus* (Olivier, 1792)
 Subtribe Pseudocreobotrina
 Genus *Creobroter* Audinet- Serville, 1839

97. *Creobroter apicalis* Saussure, 1869
 98. *Creobroter gemmatus* (Stoll, 1813)
 99. *Creobroter laevicollis* (Saussure, 1870)
 100. *Creobroter pictipennis* Wood-Mason, 1878
 101. *Creobroter urbanus* (Fabricius, 1775)
 Subfamily Oxypilinae
 Tribe Hestiasulini
 Genus *Astyliasula* Schwarz & Shcherbakov, 2017
 102. *Astyliasula inermis* (Wood-Mason, 1879)
 Genus *Catestiasula* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 103. *Catestiasula nitida* (Brunner de Wattenwyl, 1893)
 Genus *Ephestiasula* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 104. *Ephestiasula maculata* Chatterjee, Ghorai, Srinivasan & Mukherjee, 2019
 105. *Ephestiasula rogenhoferi* (Saussure, 1872)
 106. *Ephestiasula woodmasoni* Mukherjee, Stiewe & Ghorai, 2010
 Genus *Hestiasula* Saussure, 1871
 107. *Hestiasula brachyptera* Villani, 2016
 108. *Hestiasula brunneriana* Saussure, 1871
 109. *Hestiasula castetsi* (Bolivar, 1897)
 110. *Hestiasula kastneri* Beier, 1942
 111. *Hestiasula masoni* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 112. *Hestiasula nigrofemorata* Werner, 1930
 113. *Hestiasula woodi* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 Tribe: Oxypilini
 Genus *Ceratomantis* Wood-Mason, 1876
 114. *Ceratomantis ghatei* Roy & Svenson, 2007
 Subfamily Phyllothelyinae
 Tribe Parablepharini
 Genus *Parablepharis* Saussure, 1870
 115. *Parablepharis kuhlii* De Haan, 1842
 Tribe Phyllothelyini
 Genus *Phyllothelys* Wood-Mason, 1877
 116. *Phyllothelys decipiens* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 117. *Phyllothelys wernerii* Karny, 1915
 118. *Phyllothelys westwoodi* (Wood-Mason, 1876)
 Superfamily MANTOIDEA Latreille, 1802
 Family DEROPLATYIDAE Westwood, 1889
 Subfamily Deroplatyinae
 Tribe Deroplatyini
 Subtribe Deroplatyina
 Genus *Deroplatys* Westwood, 1839
 119. *Deroplatys indica* Roy,
 Subtribe Pseudempusina
 Genus *Pseudempusa* Brunner de Wattenwyl, 1893
 120. *Pseudempusa pinnapavonis* Brunner de Wattenwyl, 1893
 Tribe Euchomenellini
 Genus *Indomenella* Roy, 2008
 121. *Indomenella indica* (Ghate & Mukherjee, 2004)
 Family MANTIDAE Latreille, 1802
 Subfamily Choeradodinae
 Genus *Asiadodis* Roy, 2004
 122. *Asiadodis squilla* (Saussure, 1869)

Subfamily Hierodulinae

Tribe Hierodulini

Genus *Hierodula* Burmeister, 1838

123. *Hierodula beieri* Mukherjee, 1995
 124. *Hierodula coarctata* Saussure, 1869
 125. *Hierodula doveri* Chopard, 1924
 126. *Hierodula dyaka* Westwood, 1889
 127. *Hierodula grandis* Saussure, 1870
 128. *Hierodula keralensis* Vyjayandi & Narendran, 2003
 129. *Hierodula membranacea* Burmeister, 1838
 130. *Hierodula nicobarica* Mukherjee, 1995
 131. *Hierodula patellifera* (Audinet-Serville, 1839)
 132. *Hierodula tenuidentata* Saussure, 1869
 133. *Hierodula unimaculata* (Olivier, 1792)
 134. *Hierodula venosa* (Olivier, 1792)
 135. *Hierodula ventralis* Giglio-Tos, 1912

Genus *Rhombodera* Burmeister, 1838

136. *Rhombodera crassa* Giglio-Tos, 1912
 137. *Rhombodera fraticida* Wood-Mason, 1878

Genus *Rhombomantis* Ehrmann & Borer, 2015

138. *Rhombomantis butleri* (Wood-Mason, 1878)
 139. *Rhombomantis longipennis* Wang, Ehrmann & Borer, 2021
 140. *Rhombomantis tectifformis* (Saussure, 1870)
 141. *Rhombomantis woodmasoni* (Werner, 1931)

Subfamily Mantinae

Genus *Mantis* Linne, 1758

- 142a. *Mantis religiosa inornata* Werner 1930
 142b. *Mantis religiosa religiosa* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Genus *Statilia* Stål, 1877

143. *Statilia apicalis* (Saussure, 1871)
 144. *Statilia maculata* (Thunberg, 1784)
 145. *Statilia nemoralis* (Saussure, 1870)
 146. *Statilia nobilis* (Brunner de Wattenwyl, 1893)

Subfamily Tenoderinae

Tribe Tenoderini

Subtribe Tenoderina

Genus *Mesopteryx* Saussure, 1870

147. *Mesopteryx alata* Saussure, 1870
 148. *Mesopteryx platycephala* (Stål, 1877)
 149. *Mesopteryx robusta* Wood-Mason, 1882

Genus *Tenodera* Burmeister, 1838

150. *Tenodera angustipennis* Saussure, 1869
 151. *Tenodera aridifolia* (Stoll, 1813)
 152. *Tenodera costalis* (Blanchard, 1853)
 153a. *Tenodera fasciata blanchardi* Giglio-Tos, 1912
 153b. *Tenodera fasciata fasciata* (Olivier, 1792)
 154. *Tenodera superstitiosa* (Fabricius, 1781)

Genus *Tenospilota* Roy & Ehrmann, 2014

155. *Tenospilota nova* (Beier, 1930)

Superfamily NANOMANTOIDEA Brunner De Wattenwyl, 1893

Family AMORPHOSCELIDAE Stål, 1877

Subfamily Amorphoscelinae

Genus *Amorphoscelis* Stål, 1871

- 156. *Amorphoscelis annulicornis* Stål, 1871
- 157. *Amorphoscelis brunneipennis* Beier, 1956
- 158. *Amorphoscelis singaporana* Giglio-Tos, 1915

Family LEPTOMANTELLIDAE Schwarz & Roy, 2019

Genus *Leptomantella* Burmeister, 1838

- 159. *Leptomantella indica* (Giglio-Tos, 1915)
- 160. *Leptomantella lactea* (Saussure, 1870)
- 161. *Leptomantella montana* (Beier, 1942)
- 162. *Leptomantella nigrocoxata* (Mukherjee, 1995)
- 163. *Leptomantella parva* (Werner, 1933)

Family NANOMANTIDAE Brunner De Wattenwyl, 1893

Subfamily Nanomantinae

Genus *Nanomantis* Saussure, 1871

- 164. *Nanomantis lactea* Mukherjee, 1995

Genus *Ormomantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915

- 165. *Ormomantis indica* Giglio-Tos, 1915

Genus *Parananomantis* Mukherjee, 1995

- 166. *Parananomantis brevis* Mukherjee, 1995
- 167. *Parananomantis fascifemorata* Sureshan, Kamila & Fasano, 2023

Subfamily Tropidomantinae

Tribe Tropidomantini

Genus *Eomantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915

- 168. *Eomantis guttatipennis* (Stål, 1877)
- 169. *Eomantis iridipennis* (Westwood, 1889)



Odontomantis pulchra (Fabricius, 1787)



Indomenella indica (Ghate & Mukherjee, 2004)



Leptomantella parva (Uvarov, 1933)

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