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ARTHROPODA: INSECTA: MANTODEA

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FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST



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 the 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 (Ehrmann, 2002; Mukherjee *et al.*, 1995).

Global diversity: The order encompasses over 2,500 described species under 436 genera and 31 families distributed globally (Schwarz & Roy, 2019) although their greatest numbers and diversity are concentrated primarily in the tropics and subtropics.

Diversity in India: In India, 171 species belonging to 70 genera, 13 families and 7 super families are reported (Kamila & Sureshan, 2022; 2024).

Diversity in States (Table)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. Species	No. Endemic Species
1	Andhra Pradesh	31	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	22	2
3	Assam	28	1
4	Bihar	20	0
5	Chhattisgarh	33	0
6	Gujarat	17	1
7	Goa	9	1
8	Haryana	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	21	0
10	Jharkhand	7	1
11	Karnataka	39	3
12	Kerala	69	5



Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. Species	No. Endemic Species
13	Madhya Pradesh	47	0
14	Maharashtra	56	1
15	Manipur	9	1
16	Meghalaya	25	1
17	Mizoram	7	0
18	Nagaland	4	0
19	Odisha	28	0
20	Punjab	5	0
21	Rajasthan	21	0
22	Sikkim	18	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	47	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	171	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)
5. *Didymocorypha wayanadensis* Kamila and Sureshan, 2024

Tribe Dysaulini

Genus *Dysaules* Stål, 1877

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

Genus *Dysaulophthalma* Stiewe, 2009

8. *Dysaulophthalma nathani* Stiewe, 2009

Genus *Oxyophthalma* Saussure, 1861

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

Tribe Iridini

Genus *Iris* Saussure, 1869

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

Tribe Schizocephalini

Genus *Schizocephala* Serville, 1831

14. *Schizocephala bicornis* (Linne, 1758)

Subfamily Parathespinae

Genus *Parathespis* Saussure, 1869

15. *Parathespis humbertiana* Saussure, 1869



Family RIVETINIDAE Ehrmann & Roy, 2002

Subfamily Deiphobinae

Tribe Cotigaonopsini

Genus *Cotigaonopsis* Vyjayandi, 2009

16. *Cotigaonopsis providenceae* Vyjayandi, 2009

Genus *Deiphobe* Stål, 1877

17. *Deiphobe brevipennis* Sjöstedt, 1930

18. *Deiphobe brunneri* (Saussure, 1871)

19. *Deiphobe indica* Giglio-Tos, 1916

20. *Deiphobe infuscata* (Saussure, 1870)

21. *Deiphobe longipes* Werner, 1926

22. *Deiphobe mesomelas* (Olivier, 1792)

23. *Deiphobe xanthoptera* (Olivier, 1792)

Genus *Deiphobella* Giglio-Tos, 1916

24. *Deiphobella gardneri* Werner, 1935

25. *Deiphobella laticeps* (Wood-Mason, 1876)

Genus *Indothespis* Werner, 1935

26. *Indothespis assamensis* Werner, 1935

Subfamily Rivetiniinae

Tribe Rivetinini

Genus *Pararivetina* Beier, 1931

27. *Pararivetina fraseri* Beier, 1931

Genus *Rivetinula* La Greca, 1977

28. *Rivetinula fraterna* (Saussure, 1871)

Family TOXODERIDAE Saussure, 1869

Subfamily Oxyothespinae

Tribe Heterochaetulini

Genus *Heterochaetula* Wood-Mason, 1889

29. *Heterochaetula fissispinis* Wood-Mason, 1889

30. *Heterochaetula tricolor* (Wood-Mason, 1876)

Subfamily Toxoderinae

Tribe Aethalochroini

Genus *Aethalochroa* Wood-Mason, 1877

31. *Aethalochroa ashmoliana* (Westwood, 1841)

Tribe Calamothespini

Subtribe Toxomantina

Genus *Toxomantis* Giglio-Tos, 1914

32. *Toxomantis westwoodi* Giglio-Tos, 1914

Tribe Toxoderopsini

Genus *Euthyphleps* Wood-Mason, 1889

33. *Euthyphleps curtipes* (Westwood, 1889)

34. *Euthyphleps rectivenis* Wood-Mason, 1889

Genus *Toxodanuria* Uvarov, 1940

35. *Toxodanuria orientalis* (Wood-Mason, 1877)

36. *Toxodanuria parvula* (Westwood, 1889)

Genus *Toxoderopsis* Wood-Mason, 1889

37. *Toxoderopsis spinigera* Wood-Mason, 1889

38. *Toxoderopsis taurus* Wood-Mason, 1889

Superfamily GONYPETOIDEA Westwood, 1889

Family GONYPETIDAE Westwood, 1889

Subfamily Gonypetinae

Tribe Gonypetini

Subtribe Gonypetina



- Genus *Elmantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915
39. *Elmantis domestica* Vyjayandi & Rajeesh, 2006
40. *Elmantis lata* Giglio-Tos, 1915
41. *Elmantis trincomaliae* (Saussure, 1869)
- Genus *Gimantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915
42. *Gimantis assamica* (Giglio-Tos, 1915)
43. *Gimantis authaemon* (Wood-Mason, 1882)
- Genus *Gonypeta* Saussure, 1869
44. *Gonypeta punctata* (De Haan, 1842)
- Genus *Memantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915
45. *Memantis fuliginosa* (Thunberg, 1815)
46. *Memantis gardneri* Werner, 1935
47. *Memantis minor* Werner, 1931
48. *Memantis yercaudensis* Vyjayandi, Rajeesh & Sajin, 2010
- Subtribe Gonypetyllina
- Genus *Gonypetyllis* Wood-Mason, 1891
49. *Gonypetyllis semuncialis* Wood-Mason, 1891
- Subtribe Humbertiellina
- Genus *Humbertiella* Saussure, 1869
50. *Humbertiella affinis* Giglio-Tos, 1917
51. *Humbertiella ceylonica* Saussure, 1869
52. *Humbertiella indica* Saussure, 1869
53. *Humbertiella modesta* Laidlaw, 1937
54. *Humbertiella nigrospinosa* Sjöstedt, 1930
55. *Humbertiella similis* Giglio-Tos, 1917
- Genus *Theopompa* Stål, 1877
56. *Theopompa ophthalmica* (Olivier, 1792)
57. *Theopompa servillei* (De Haan, 1842)
- Subfamily Iridopteryginae
- Tribe Amantini
- Genus *Amantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915
58. *Amantis biroi* Giglio-Tos, 1915
59. *Amantis bolivari* Giglio-Tos, 1915
60. *Amantis fuliginosa* (Werner, 1931)
61. *Amantis fumosana* (Giglio-Tos, 1915)
62. *Amantis indica* Giglio-Tos, 1915
63. *Amantis malabarensis* Vyjayandi & Narendran, 2005
64. *Amantis saussurei* (Bolivar, 1897)
65. *Amantis subirina* Giglio-Tos, 1915
66. *Amantis testacea* (Werner, 1931)
- Tribe Iridopterygini
- Subtribe Iridopterygina
- Genus *Hapalopeza* Stål, 1877
67. *Hapalopeza nilgirica* Wood-Mason, 1891
68. *Hapalopeza periyara* Mukherjee & Hazra, 1985
- Subtribe Tricondylomimina
- Genus *Tricondylomimus* Chopard, 1930
69. *Tricondylomimus coomani* Chopard, 1930
- Superfamily HAANIOIDEA Giglio-Tos, 1915
- Family HAANIIDAE Giglio-Tos, 1915
- Subfamily Caliridinae
- Genus *Caliris* Giglio-Tos, 1915
70. *Caliris masoni* (Westwood, 1889)



71. *Caliris mukherjeei* Kamila & Sureshan, 2022
 72. *Caliris pallida* (Werner, 1935)
 Subfamily Haaniinae
 Tribe Arriini
 Genus *Arria* Stål, 1877
 73. *Arria cinctipes* Stål, 1877
 74. *Arria meghalayensis* (Mukherjee, 1995)
 Superfamily HYMENOPOIDEA Giglio-Tos, 1915
 Family EMPUSIDAE Burmeister, 1838
 Subfamily Blepharodinae
 Genus *Blepharopsis* Rehn, 1902
 75. *Blepharopsis mendica* (Fabricius, 1775)
 Subfamily Empusinae
 Tribe Empusini
 Subtribe Empusina
 Genus *Empusa* Illiger, 1798
 76. *Empusa fasciata* Brulle,
 77. *Empusa guttula* (Thunberg, 1815)
 78. *Empusa pennata* (Thunberg, 1815)
 79. *Empusa spinosa* Krauss, 1902
 Genus *Gongylus* Thunberg, 1815
 80. *Gongylus gongylodes* (Linne, 1758)
 81. *Gongylus trachelophyllus* Burmeister, 1838
 Family HYMENOPODIDAE Giglio-Tos, 1915
 Subfamily Acromantinae
 Tribe Acromantini
 Genus *Acromantis* Saussure, 1870
 82. *Acromantis lobufemorata* Kamila & Sureshan, 2024
 83. *Acromantis montana* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 84. *Acromantis nicobarica* Mukherjee, 1995
 85. *Acromantis oligoneura* (De Haan, 1842)
 Genus *Ambivia* Stål, 1877
 86. *Ambivia undata* (Fabricius, 1793)
 Genus *Metacromantis* Beier, 1930
 87. *Metacromantis nigrofemorata* Ghate, Rao, Javed & Roy, 2006
 Subfamily Hymenopodinae
 Tribe Anaxarchini
 Genus *Anaxarcha* Stål, 1877
 88. *Anaxarcha acuta* Beier, 1963
 89. *Anaxarcha graminea* Stål, 1877
 90. *Anaxarcha intermedia* Mukherjee, 1995
 91. *Anaxarcha punctillata* (Werner, 1931)
 Genus *Heliomantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 92. *Heliomantis elegans* (Navás, 1904)
 Genus *Nemotha* Wood-Mason, 1884
 93. *Nemotha metallica* (Westwood, 1843)
 Genus *Odontomantis* Saussure, 1871
 94. *Odontomantis micans* (Saussure, 1871)
 95. *Odontomantis montana* Giglio-Tos, 1915
 96. *Odontomantis ornata* (Werner, 1935)
 97. *Odontomantis pulchra* (Fabricius, 1787)
 Tribe Hymenopodini
 Subtribe Hymenopodina



Genus *Hymenopus* Serville, 1831

98. *Hymenopus coronatus* (Olivier, 1792)

Subtribe Pseudocreobotrina

Genus *Creobroter* Audinet- Serville, 1839

99. *Creobroter apicalis* Saussure, 1869

100. *Creobroter gemmatus* (Stoll, 1813)

101. *Creobroter laevicollis* (Saussure, 1870)

102. *Creobroter pictipennis* Wood-Mason, 1878

103. *Creobroter urbanus* (Fabricius, 1775)

Subfamily Oxypilinae

Tribe Hestiasulini

Genus *Astyliasula* Schwarz & Shcherbakov, 2017

104. *Astyliasula inermis* (Wood-Mason, 1879)

Genus *Catestiasula* Giglio-Tos, 1915

105. *Catestiasula nitida* (Brunner de Wattenwyl, 1893)

Genus *Ephestiasula* Giglio-Tos, 1915

106. *Ephestiasula maculata* Chatterjee, Ghorai, Srinivasan & Mukherjee, 2019

107. *Ephestiasula rogenhoferi* (Saussure, 1872)

108. *Ephestiasula woodmasoni* Mukherjee, Stiewe & Ghorai, 2010

Genus *Hestiasula* Saussure, 1871

109. *Hestiasula brachyptera* Villani, 2016

110. *Hestiasula brunneriana* Saussure, 1871

111. *Hestiasula castetsi* (Bolivar, 1897)

112. *Hestiasula kastneri* Beier, 1942

113. *Hestiasula masoni* Giglio-Tos, 1915

114. *Hestiasula nigrofemorata* Werner, 1930

115. *Hestiasula woodi* Giglio-Tos, 1915

Tribe Oxypilini

Genus *Ceratomantis* Wood-Mason, 1876

116. *Ceratomantis ghatei* Roy & Svenson, 2007

Subfamily Phyllothelyinae

Tribe Parablepharini

Genus *Parablepharis* Saussure, 1870

117. *Parablepharis kuhlii* De Haan, 1842

Tribe Phyllothelyini

Genus *Phyllothelys* Wood-Mason, 1877

118. *Phyllothelys decipiens* Giglio-Tos, 1915

119. *Phyllothelys weneri* Karny, 1915

120. *Phyllothelys westwoodi* (Wood-Mason, 1876)

Superfamily MANTOIDEA Latreille, 1802

Family DEROPLATYIDAE Westwood, 1889

Subfamily Deroplatyinae

Tribe Deroplatyini

Subtribe Deroplatyina

Genus *Deroplatys* Westwood, 1839

121. *Deroplatys indica* Roy, 2007

Subtribe Pseudempusina

Genus *Pseudempusa* Brunner de Wattenwyl, 1893

122. *Pseudempusa pinnapavonis* Brunner de Wattenwyl, 1893

Tribe Euchomenellini

Genus *Indomenella* Roy, 2008

123. *Indomenella indica* (Ghate & Mukherjee, 2004)

Family MANTIDAE Latreille, 1802



Subfamily Choeradodinae

Genus *Asiadodis* Roy, 2004124. *Asiadodis squilla* (Saussure, 1869)

Subfamily Hierodulinae

Tribe Hierodulini

Genus *Hierodula* Burmeister, 1838125. *Hierodula beieri* Mukherjee, 1995126. *Hierodula coarctata* Saussure, 1869127. *Hierodula doveri* Chopard, 1924128. *Hierodula dyaka* Westwood, 1889129. *Hierodula grandis* Saussure, 1870130. *Hierodula keralensis* Vyjayandi & Narendran, 2003131. *Hierodula membranacea* Burmeister, 1838132. *Hierodula nicobarica* Mukherjee, 1995133. *Hierodula patellifera* (Audinet-Serville, 1839)134. *Hierodula tenuidentata* Saussure, 1869135. *Hierodula unimaculata* (Olivier, 1792)136. *Hierodula venosa* (Olivier, 1792)137. *Hierodula ventralis* Giglio-Tos, 1912Genus *Rhombodera* Burmeister, 1838138. *Rhombodera crassa* Giglio-Tos, 1912139. *Rhombodera fraticida* Wood-Mason, 1878Genus *Rhombomantis* Ehrmann & Borer, 2015140. *Rhombomantis butleri* (Wood-Mason, 1878)141. *Rhombomantis longipennis* Wang, Ehrmann & Borer, 2021142. *Rhombomantis tectifformis* (Saussure, 1870)143. *Rhombomantis woodmasoni* (Werner, 1931)

Subfamily Mantinae

Genus *Mantis* Linne, 1758144a. *Mantis religiosa inornata* Werner 1930144b. *Mantis religiosa religiosa* (Linnaeus, 1758)Genus *Statilia* Stål, 1877145. *Statilia apicalis* (Saussure, 1871)146. *Statilia maculata* (Thunberg, 1784)147. *Statilia nemoralis* (Saussure, 1870)148. *Statilia nobilis* (Brunner de Wattenwyl, 1893)

Subfamily Tenoderinae

Tribe Tenoderini

Subtribe Tenoderina

Genus *Mesopteryx* Saussure, 1870149. *Mesopteryx alata* Saussure, 1870150. *Mesopteryx platycephala* (Stål, 1877)151. *Mesopteryx robusta* Wood-Mason, 1882Genus *Tenodera* Burmeister, 1838152. *Tenodera angustipennis* Saussure, 1869153. *Tenodera aridifolia* (Stoll, 1813)154. *Tenodera costalis* (Blanchard, 1853)155a. *Tenodera fasciata blanchardi* Giglio-Tos, 1912155b. *Tenodera fasciata fasciata* (Olivier, 1792)156. *Tenodera superstitiosa* (Fabricius, 1781)Genus *Tenospilota* Roy & Ehrmann, 2014157. *Tenospilota nova* (Beier, 1930)

Superfamily NANOMANTOIDEA Brunner De Wattenwyl, 1893



Family AMORPHOSCELIDAE Stål, 1877

Subfamily Amorphoscelinae

Genus *Amorphoscelis* Stål, 1871

158. *Amorphoscelis annulicornis* Stål, 1871

159. *Amorphoscelis brunneipennis* Beier, 1956

160. *Amorphoscelis singaporana* Giglio-Tos, 1915

Family LEPTOMANTELLIDAE Schwarz & Roy, 2019

Genus *Leptomantella* Burmeister, 1838

161. *Leptomantella indica* (Giglio-Tos, 1915)

162. *Leptomantella lactea* (Saussure, 1870)

163. *Leptomantella montana* (Beier, 1942)

164. *Leptomantella nigrocoxata* (Mukherjee, 1995)

165. *Leptomantella parva* (Werner, 1933)

Family NANOMANTIDAE Brunner De Wattenwyl, 1893

Subfamily Nanomantinae

Genus *Nanomantis* Saussure, 1871

166. *Nanomantis lactea* Mukherjee, 1995

Genus *Ormomantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915

167. *Ormomantis indica* Giglio-Tos, 1915

Genus *Parananomantis* Mukherjee, 1995

168. *Parananomantis brevis* Mukherjee, 1995

169. *Parananomantis fascifemorata* Sureshan, Kamila & Fasano, 2023

Subfamily Tropidomantinae

Tribe Tropidomantini

Genus *Eomantis* Giglio-Tos, 1915

170. *Eomantis guttatipennis* (Stål, 1877)

171. *Eomantis iridipennis* (Westwood, 1889)



Odontomantis pulchra (Fabricius, 1787)





Indomenella indica (Ghate & Mukherjee, 2004)



Leptomantella parva (Werner, 1933)

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