



## ***Chromatophotina*, a remarkable new genus of praying mantid from the Neotropical Region and its two new species (Mantodea: Mantidae, Photininae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new genus and two new species of Neotropical praying mantids are described: *Chromatophotina awajun* from Peru and *Chromatophotina cofan* from Ecuador. Study of the male genitalia suggests that *Chromatophotina* is a member of the tribe Photinaini, subfamily Photininae, family Mantidae. *Chromatophotina* is distinguishable from other Photininae by several unique characters, including the bright yellow-orange coloration of the metathoracic wings of the females, unique among the Photininae. Additional remarks on the distribution and systematics of the new genus are also provided.

**Key words:** Neotropical Region, Mantodea, Photininae, *Chromatophotina*, new genus

### **Resumen**

Se describe un nuevo género y dos nuevas especies de mantis religiosas Neotropicales: *Chromatophotina awajun* del Perú y *Chromatophotina cofan* del Ecuador. El estudio de la genitalia masculina sugiere que *Chromatophotina* es un miembro de la tribu Photinaini, subfamilia Photininae, familia Mantidae. *Chromatophotina* se distingue claramente de otros Photininae por varios caracteres notables que incluyen la coloración brillante en amarillo-naranja de las alas metatorácicas de las hembras, único entre los Photininae. Se proporcionan también comentarios adicionales sobre la distribución y sistemática de este nuevo género.

### **Introduction**

The Photininae (formerly Photininae, see Svenson & Branham 2007) includes a heterogeneous assemblage of approximately 60 species distributed in 12 genera of almost exclusively Neotropical distribution (only one species in the Nearctic region) (Agudelo *et al.* 2007). While most taxa inhabit tropical, warm and humid habitats, from southern Mexico to southern South America, a handful of species, particularly those belonging to *Coptopteryx* and *Brunneria*, are found in dry, semiarid environments (Rivera & Novoa 2006).

Little is known of the taxonomy of most genera, as only a few have been studied in detail: *Metriomantis* (in part) (Lombardo 1999), *Orthoderella* (Rivera 2003) and *Macromantis* (Roy 2002). The Photininae, as presently conceived, are usually recognized by the presence of 5–6 external spines and 3–4 discoidal spines on the front femora, body usually green (brown morphs may also occur), male with hyaline, iridescent, colorless, well-developed meso- and metathoracic wings, and female with opaque, green mesothoracic wings and normally iridescent, colorless, hyaline metathoracic wings (different degrees of wing reduction also occur). These characters easily separate Photininae from other Neotropical mantids with more than 4 external spines on the front femora (i.e. Acanthopidae).

In this study I describe a remarkable new genus of Mantidae from Peru and Ecuador and two new species. Analysis of the male genitalia indicates a placement among the Photininae and thus I assign these new taxa to this subfamily.