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## A case of the higher-level classification of praying mantises (Mantodea) obscuring the synonymy of *Majangella* Giglio-Tos, 1915 (Liturgusidae, Liturgusinae) and *Ephippiomantis* Werner, 1922 (Hymenopodidae, Acromantinae)

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### Abstract

The praying mantis genus *Majangella* Giglio-Tos, 1915 is taxonomically treated with a re-description of the genus and the two included species, *M. moultoni* Giglio-Tos, 1915 and *M. carli* Giglio-Tos, 1915. The genus *Ephippiomantis* Werner, 1922 is newly determined to be the junior synonym of *Majangella* Giglio-Tos, 1915 based on morphology. The species for which the genus name *Ephippiomantis* was erected, *E. ophirensis* Werner, 1922, is re-described and now included within *Majangella*. This synonymy was determined herein as the direct result of erroneous higher-level placement of *Majangella* within the Majanginae by Giglio-Tos and was not recognized even after the genus was moved to within Liturgusidae. Action is now taken to move *Majangella* from within Liturgusidae to within the Hymenopodidae subfamily of Acromantinae, which is supported by morphological and molecular data. A key to the three species is provided along with habitus images, images of the head, pronotum, and foreleg, and illustrations of the male genitalia. Species distributions are presented and locality coordinates are provided in print as well as being available for download as a KML file viewable in Google Earth.

**Key words:** Southeast Asia, Mantodea, Hymenopodidae, Liturgusidae *Majangella*, *Ephippiomantis*, systematics, new synonymy, praying mantis

### Introduction

*Majangella* was first created by Ermanno Giglio-Tos in 1915 to include his two newly described species *M. moultoni* Giglio-Tos, 1915 and *M. carli* Giglio-Tos, 1915. By original designation, *M. moultoni* was named as the type species for the genus and is deposited in the Sarawak Museum, Borneo. Giglio-Tos (1915) included his new genus, *Majangella*, within the group Majangae, which also included the genus *Majanga* Wood-Mason, 1891 from Madagascar, presumably because he thought the two genera were closely related. The characters used to diagnose the group Majangae included a process on the vertex of the head, preapical lobes on the hind femora, and conical tubercles on the pronotum. Subsequent to creating the genus, Giglio-Tos continued to classify *Majangella* with *Majanga* in his group Majangae and subfamily Majanginae (Giglio-Tos, 1919, 1927). This taxonomic arrangement remained unchanged until Beier (1935) placed the two genera within the tribe Liturgusini under Mantinae and disposed of the Giglio-Tos' subfamily Majanginae, but also noted the likely relationship between *Majangella* and other Acromantini. With its original placement within Majanginae and now within the Liturgusini, *Majangella* was considered a close ally to the broader group of bark dwelling mantises such as *Majanga*, *Liturgusa*, *Theopompella*, and others. However, the habits and life strategy of *Majangella* species are unknown.

The genus *Ephippiomantis* was created by Franz Werner in 1922 for his newly discovered species *E. ophirensis* Werner, 1922 collected in Sumatra. The monotypic genus was included within the Acromantinae by Werner, a subfamily of the flower mantis family Hymenopodidae. This placement has remained unchanged and the

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