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## An annotated checklist of the praying mantises (Mantodea) of Borneo, including the results of the 2008 scientific expedition to Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary, Sarawak

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### Abstract

We present the first checklist of praying mantids (Mantodea) of Borneo, with special reference to the specimens collected during the Scientific Expedition to Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary 2008. With 118 confirmed species in 56 genera (including subgenera), Borneo is the island with the highest mantodean diversity known to date. In Lanjak Entimau 38 specimens representing 17 genera and 18 species were collected around the station lights and in surrounding secondary and primary forest. A new synonymy in the genus *Deroplatys* is established. The observed diversity patterns among Bornean mantids are discussed with reference to the biogeographic history of the Sunda Shelf since the Miocene.

**Keywords:** diversity, endemism, Hymenopodidae, Iridopterygidae, Liturgusidae, Mantidae, Tarachodidae, Toxoderidae, Sunda Shelf

### Introduction

In contrast to some familiar groups of mammals and birds, like apes, elephants, carnivores or hornbills (see, e. g. Payne *et al.* 1985, Kemp & Woodcock 1995, Gumaya & Silang 2002, Fernando *et al.* 2003, Kitchener *et al.* 2006, Wilting *et al.* 2007, Myers 2009), the arthropod fauna of Borneo is only superficially known. This holds also true for relatively less speciose orders such as Mantodea (praying mantids). Most work on Bornean mantids is older than eighty years and focused on taxonomic descriptions and faunistic records. The most important among the early contributions were those of De Haan (1842), Westwood (1835, 1841, 1889), Stål (1960, 1871, 1877), Brunner von Wattenwyl (1898), Hebard (1920), and particularly Giglio-Tos (1912, 1915b, 1915c, 1916, 1917a), Werner (1921, 1922a, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1930, 1933), and Beier (1931a, 1937, 1942, 1952, 1958, 1976). More recent records include Roy (1967, 2001, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013), Roy & Svensson (2007), Bragg (2008, 2010), and Shcherbakov (2012). However, none of these studies constitute a comprehensive assessment of the Bornean mantid fauna, and a checklist of species occurring on the island is still lacking.

Current knowledge suggests that the Bornean mantodean fauna shows a strong relationship to that of the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and the humid regions of Java, sharing almost all genera and a considerable amount of species with at least one of them. Of the 56 genera and subgenera known so far from the island, only one genus (*Gildella*) and two subgenera (*Pliacanthopus* s. str. and *Oligocanthopus*) may be considered putatively endemic. On species level, 43 out of 118 taxa (including three undescribed ones) are so far known from the island only. However, some taxa formerly thought to be endemic to Borneo were lately proven to be widespread across the Greater Sunda Islands Sumatra, Java and Borneo (Bragg 2010, Roy 2011). Therefore, these numbers of endemics must be regarded as preliminary. One additional taxon may add to the list of generic endemics (see below).

Ecological and life history aspects of Bornean mantids are virtually unknown. Most available data come either from observations of free-living specimens or captive bred stocks from other parts of the Malay Archipelago (e. g.

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