

**FIRST RECORD OF MANTIDS (MANTODEA: INSECTA) FROM INDIA**

SHVETA PATEL AND RAJENDRA SINGH\*

Department of Zoology,  
D.D.U. Gorakhpur University,  
GORAKHPUR-273009  
\*Corresponding Author  
Email: rsinghgpu@gmail.com

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**ABSTRACT**

Extensive survey of mantids in the northeastern Uttar Pradesh was conducted. Two mantid species were recorded for the first time from the target area, viz.: *Pyrgomantis pallida*, 1917 and *Bactromantis mexicana*.

Figure : 00

References : 08

Table : 00

KEY WORDS : *Bactromantis mexicana*, India, Mantids, Mantodea, New records, *Pyrgomantis pallida*,

**Introduction**

The praying mantids are a group of over 2632 camivorous polyneopteran insects (although pollen-feeding as additional protein source has been described<sup>1</sup>) distributed in tropical and subtropical habitats of the world, from the rainforest to the desert ground<sup>5</sup>. In India, 169 species of mantids were recorded under 71 genera<sup>2</sup>. Continental endemism in mantids is very common, however, many groups have a broad global distribution<sup>3,4,6-8</sup>.

**Survey work**

Extensive survey was conducted during 2014-2017. Before this study, no such survey was done in the northeastern part of Uttar Pradesh for mantid fauna.

Systematic survey for praying mantids (Mantodea: Insecta) was conducted in some districts of northeastern Uttar Pradesh viz., Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Deoria, Siddharthnagar, Santkabar Nagar and Basti.

**Result and Discussion**

A total of 21 species under 14 genera and 6 families were collected from fields in seven districts of northeastern Uttar Pradesh, viz.: *Amorphoscelis annulicornis*; *Ambivia undata*, *Odontomantis micans*, *Creobroter gemmatus*; *Eomantis guttatipennis*; *Mantis religiosa inornata*; *Mantis religiosa religiosa*; *Statilia maculata*; *Hierodula nicobarica* Mukherjee, 1995; *Hierodula patellifera*; *Hierodula venosa*; *Tenodera aridifolia aridifolia*; *Tenodera fasciata fasciata*; *Tenodera superstitiona superstitiona*; *Deiphobe brunneri*; *Deiphobe infuscata*; *Leptomantella (Leptomantella) indica*; *Iris oratoria*; *Iris orientalis*; *Pyrgomantis pallida* and *Bactromantis mexicana*.

Among these, 2 species of mantids are new record from India, viz. *Pyrgomantis pallida* Giglio-Tos, 1917 (1.iv.2015, Gorakhpur (Rapti Nagar); 1.x.2015, Maharajganj (Barwa Raja); 23.iv.2016, Kushinagar); and *Bactromantis mexicana* (11.v.2015, Gorakhpur (Arogya Mandir); 23.iii.2016, Siddharthnagar).

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