



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA



Workshop on **Taxonomy of Mantids** (Insecta: Mantodea) **20-23 March 2019**

Mantids (Insecta: Mantodea), usually known as Praying Mantis, hold significant place in the ecosystem as predators, mainly feed on grasshoppers, moths, butterflies, flies, aphids and they are well adapted in camouflage and mimicry. Mantids have attained their common popular name from the way they raise their two fore legs in a posture of prayer. They are often found waiting still for hours together for their prey with their heads rotating 180°. They are diurnal and are attracted to lights at night. They are weak fliers and are generally seen sitting on herbs, shrubs and trees. There are around 2300 species of mantids under 434 genera all over the world. There are 15 families of mantises found worldwide. Largely predatory, their diet is not limited to feeding only on insects; adult mantises are known to prey upon fish, frogs, lizards, small birds and mammals. Cannibalism among self or other species is natural to maintain territory and as a part of mating. In the wild, they are part of those important groups of organisms that serve to keep a check on phytophagous insects. Hence it is in the interest of science to further the knowledge of their diversity and take steps to ensure that their populations and diversity are conserved. Their territorial behavior and loss

of habitat, however, have resulted in their decline. Taxonomic interest in this group is also limited worldwide and in truth an active decline in their systematics is a matter of concern for those who study these fascinating creatures. The number of researchers in India studying these insects is few. Contributions to the taxonomy of mantises of India in recent time have been largely due to the studies carried out by taxonomists such as H. V. Ghate, P. M. Sureshan, T. K. Mukherjee, P. Chatterjee, and M.C. Vyjayandi. There still remain large areas of this country from where information about mantises is scant.

The scarcity of knowledge on taxonomy, biology and behavior of Mantids is the main constraint in studying and conserving these beautiful creatures. Hence, the Department of Zoology is organizing a workshop on 'Taxonomy of Mantids' in the Department of Zoology with the scientific support of the Western Ghat Field Research Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Kozhikode which will impart the knowledge on the classification and Systematics of Mantids to train the interested researchers and the same will be highly useful for the conservation of these important natural predators.

Date of workshop: 20-23, March 2019

Venue: Department of Zoology, University of Kerala,
Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram.

Registration fee

Faculty/scientists: Rs. 2000/- (Accommodation is not included)

Research Scholars/MPhil/PG Students: Rs. 1000/- (Accommodation is not included)

Who can apply: The number of participants is limited to 15 and those who are working in insects or wish to do research in Mantids only need to apply. The interested candidates may send their bio-data along with a half page write up on why you want to attend the workshop. The registration fee will be collected from the selected candidates at the time of registration.

Accommodation can be arranged on payment basis for limited number of participants.

Organizing Secretary

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