



Mantodea of Jordan

OMAR ABU-DANNOUN¹ & AHMAD KATBEH-BADER^{2,3}

¹Department of Bioagricultural Technology, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Al Balqa'a University, As Salt Jordan

²Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jordan, Amman, 11942, Jordan. E-mail: Ahmadk@ju.edu.jo

³Corresponding author

Abstract

Mantodea specimens from Jordan were collected from various parts of the country from March 2003 to November 2005. In addition, examination and identification of specimens previously housed in the University of Jordan Insects Museum and other Jordanian collections resulted in recording 16 species in four families. Mantidae included eight species in seven genera; Eremiaphilidae included four species all within a single genus; Empusidae included three species in two genera; and Tarachodidae included a single species. Nine species were recorded for the first time in Jordan: *Iris oratoria*, *Holaptilon pusillulum*, *Ameles kervillei*, *Ameles syriensis*, *Sphodromantis viridis*, *Mantis religiosa*, *Eremoplana infelix*, and *Empusa pennata*. World distribution, collecting information within Jordan, some notes on the biology, ecology or diagnostic characters were provided for each of the recorded species.

Key words: Mantodea, Mantidae, Eremiaphilidae, Empusidae, Tarachodidae, praying mantises, Jordan

Introduction

Several previous studies were conducted on Mantodea in the Middle East. Bodenheimer (1935) recorded 18 species from Palestine and later added three additional species (Bodenheimer, 1937). After that, Uvarov (1939) described 2 species and Beier (1964) described *Holaptilon pusillulum* from Jerusalem. Kneucker (1909) recorded *Blepharopsis mendica* from Syria while Ehrmann (2002) listed 11 species from the country. From the Arabian Peninsula, Kaltenbach (1982) described eight new species and two subspecies and recorded three species as new to the fauna of Arabia. Later, Kaltenbach (1984) described an additional two species as new to science and recorded one additional species new to the fauna of Arabia. This work also included keys to the genera and species of the Arabian Mantodea. Finally, Kaltenbach (1991) described another three new species, which brought the total number of recorded Mantodea from the Arabian Peninsula to 46 species.

From Iraq, Chopard (1921) described *Empusa uvarovi* and recorded another six species from the country. Additionally, Uvarov (1921) described *Eremiaphila fraseri* as a new species and later recorded five additional species new to the region and described *Iris nana* (UVAROV, 1934; 1938).

From Jordan, Uvarov (1933) described *Eremiaphila ammonita* as a new species from Amman. Bodenheimer (1933) described *Eremiaphila uvarovi* from Ma'an. Also, La Greca & Lombardo (1982) described *Rivetina byblica* as a new species from Wadi Shu'ayb. Amr *et al.* (1996) recorded *Blepharopsis mendica*, *Eremiaphila braueri* and *Eremoplana infelix* from Al Azraq Oasis. However, no taxonomic study was dedicated solely to the Mantodea of Jordan. Therefore, the objective of this study is to research the Mantodea of Jordan by collecting new material from the different regions within the country as well as examining previously collected material preserved in the insect museums of Jordan.