

Florida Preying Mantids

Insecta - Mantodea



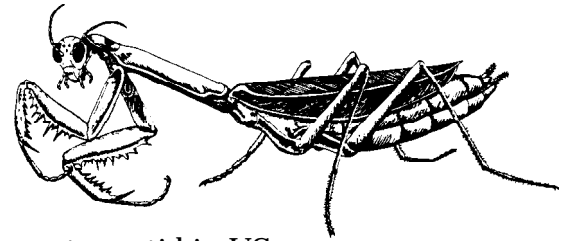
Stagmomantis carolina (Johannson) female- photo by P. M. Choate

Florida Mantids - Key to Species
Diagnostic Key to species of Florida Mantids
Insecta - Mantodea

(this key was generated from an Insect Classification exercise)

Species of Mantids that may occur in Florida

- Mantoida maya* Saussure & Zehntner - Little Yucatan mantid; adults Jun-Sept, open pinelands, scrub (resemble wasps)
 = *Callimantis floridana* Scudder 1896 (smaller Florida mantid)?
- Brunneria borealis* Scudder - Brunner's mantid
- Litaneutra minor* (Scudder) - Minor ground mantid (possible)
- Gonatista grisea* (Fab.) - Grizzled mantid (lichen mimic)
- Thesprotia graminis* (Scudder) - Grass-like mantid
- Oligonicella scudderi* (Saussure) - Scudder's mantid
- Mantis religiosa* L. - European mantid (introduced)
- Tenodera angustipennis* Saussure - Narrow-winged mantid
- Tenodera aridifolia* Saussure - Chinese mantid (introduced), largest mantid in US.
- Stagmomantis floridensis* Davis - Larger Florida mantid - Dunedin (Oct), restricted to Florida
- Stagmomantis carolina* (Johannson) - Carolina mantid
- Phyllovates chlorophaena* (Blanchard) - (record from Blatchley, 1920)



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**Dichotomous Key to Species of Mantids
that may occur in Florida**

- 1. Pronotum much longer than wide 2
 - Pronotum about as long as wide; small black species, 30mm. *Mantoida maya* S. and Z.
- 2. Antennae thin, threadlike; body shape varied (Fig. 1) 3
 - Antennae thick, especially at base; (Fig. 2) body elongate, narrow body (Fig. 3) *Brunneria borealis* Scudder
- 3. Larger, 36mm or more in length; OR front tibia with one or more dorsal teeth; pronotum usually much longer than front coxa 4
 - Small, 32mm or less in length; front tibia with no dorsal tooth; pronotum slightly longer than front coxa. *Litaneutra minor* (Scudder)
- 4. Pronotum distinctly narrowed ahead of point at which front legs are attached; form narrower 5
 - Pronotum not narrowed ahead of point at which front legs are attached (Figs. 4, 5) *Gonatista grisea* (Fab.)
- 5. Front tibia with few teeth, with at least one dorsal tooth, and measuring less than 1/2 as long as front femur 6
 - Front tibia with several teeth, no dorsal tooth, and measuring more than 1/2 as long as front femur 7
- 6. Hind portion of pronotum less than 3 times as long as front portion *Oligonicella scudderi* (Saussure)
 - Hind portion of pronotum three or four times as long as front portion *Thesprotia graminis* (Scudder)

7. Facial shield more than twice as wide as high 10
- Facial shield less than twice as high as wide 8
8. Front coxa with a large black-ringed spot near base, beneath; green color of tegmen not sharply confined to costal area *Mantis religiosa* L.
- Front coxa with no large spot; green color of termina usually sharply confined to costal area 9
9. Smaller (70-75mm); hind wing narrower from front to rear, lightly marbled
..... *Tenodera angustipennis* Saussure
- Larger (77-103mm); hind wing broader from front to rear, heavily marbled; Chinese Mantid
..... *Tenodera aridifolia sinensis* Saussure
10. Larger (58mm or more); form more elongate, abdomen of female nearly parallel-sided, **tegmina narrower, reaching only middle of abdomen**; stigmatic patch pale, inconspicuous, or obsolete
..... *Stagmomantis floridensis* Davis
- Smaller (57mm or less); form less elongate, abdomen of female strongly widened at middle, **tegmina broad, reaching apical third of abdomen; stigmatic patch black**, conspicuous (cover photo)
..... *Stagmomantis carolina* (Johannson)



Fig. 1. Male *Stagmomantis*, thin antenna



Fig. 2. *Brunneria*, thick antenna



Fig. 3. *Brunneria borealis*



Fig. 4. *Gonatista pronotum*

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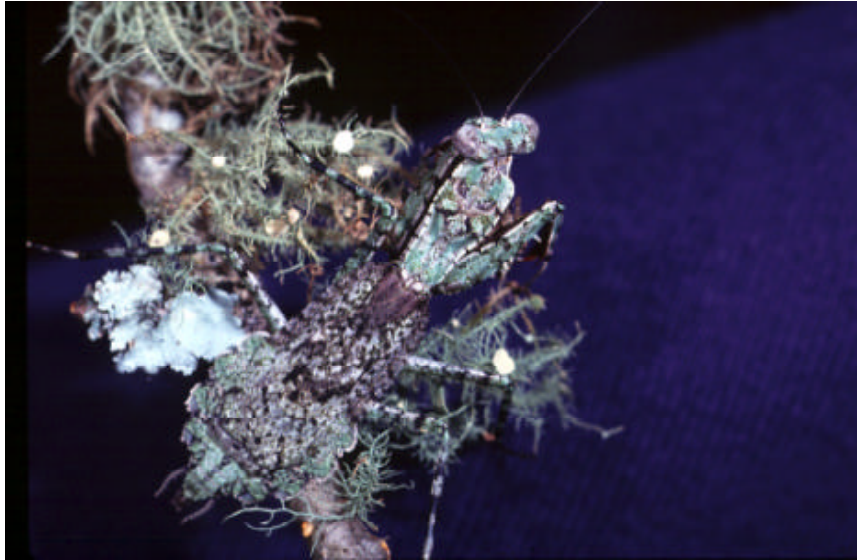


Fig. 5. *Gonatista grisea* female

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