

**MANTODEA OF PATALKOT CHHINDWARA DISTT.,  
MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Patalkot is situated about 75 kms away from Chhindwara city of Madhya Pradesh, towards north-west. It is a long, wide and deep place, surrounded by very high hills. The average depth of Patalkot is about 360m. There are about 12 villages in Patalkot area. Nearly two-third of the total land is covered with forests. A good type of white marble stone is found there.

Madhya Pradesh, specially Patalkot is rich for mantid fauna. The collection from Patalkot is a post-monsoon, between middle of October. This period is good for mantid collection. Oothecae are laid at the end of monsoon, usually in September and continues usually upto January next year. The presence of diversity in Mantodea fauna in Madhya Pradesh, specially Patalkot is due to ecological conditions.

The collection of Mantodea is brought by the Survey party of Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur, led by Dr. R. K. Singh. This study deals with 7 species, distributed under 5 genera. Five species are new records to Madhya Pradesh, and are marked by an asterisk (\*)

**SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT**

Order Mantodea

Family HYMENOPODIDAE

Subfamily ACROMANTINAE

Genus *Ephestiasula* Giglio-Tos, 1915

**1. \**Ephestiasula amoena* (Bolivar)**

1897. *Pachymantis amoena* Bolivar, *Annls Soc. ent. Fr.*, **66** : 314.

1995. *Ephestiasula amoena* : Mukherjee et al., *Oriental Ins.*, **29** : 216.

*Material examined* : 1M (nymph), near cave of Raghu Raja, Patalkot, 14. x.1992 (Reg. No. I 15177A).

*Distribution* : India : Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

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*Remarks* : Vertex with small tubercle in the middle. lateral lobe cone shaped ; tip of prozona with two parallel black lines, with a blackish patch at mid-posterior end of pronotum ; fore femora with a blackish patch.

Family MANTIDAE

Subfamily LITURGUSTINAE

Genus *Humbertiella* Saussure, 1869

2. *\*Humbertiella affinis* Giglio-Tos

1917. *Humbertiella affinis* Giglio-Tos, *Bull. Soc. Entomol. Ital.*, **48** : 63.

1995. *Humbertiella affinis* : Mukherjee et al., *Oriental Ins.*, **29** : 240.

*Material examined* : 1F, near cave of Raghu Raja, Patalkot, 14. x. 1992 (Reg. No. I 15177A); 1M, Semar Jheel Rater Village, 20. x. 1992 (Reg. No. I 14806).

*Distribution* : India : Karnataka, Orissa ; and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks* : Frontal sclerite with narrow blackish stripe, superior bridge more arched in the middle ; large internal spines of fore femora black at apices ; fore wing with a less blackish, oblique band ; costal area more reticular than in *ceylonica* ; second anal vein 3-branched.

3. *Humbertiella* sp.

*Material examined* : 1F (nymph), Amamai village, Patalkot, 12.x.1992 (Reg. No. I 15155).

*Remarks* : Vertex straight ; eyes rounded ; pronotum flat, tuberculated, lateral margin smooth; fore femur with 4 discoidal and 4 external spines.

Subfamily MANTINAE

Genus *Deiphobe* Stål, 1877

4. *\*Deiphobe brevipennis* Sjöstedt

1930. *Deiphobe brevipennis* Sjöstedt, *Ark. Zool.*, **21A** (32) : 31, 32.

1995. *Deiphobe brevipennis* : Mukherjee et al., *Oriental Ins.*, **29** : 278.

*Material examined* : 2M, Around Jeetham, Rater village, 18.x.1992 (Reg. No. I 15225).

*Distribution* : Metazona of pronotum distinctly longer than fore tibiae with 8 external and 13 internal spines ; fore femora with 14 internal spines ; fore wing of male reaching upto abdomen; hind wing hyaline at base, with a large brown spot anteriorly, posterior area brownish-black.

Genus *Mantis* Linnaeus, 1758

5. *Mantis religiosa* Linnaeus

1758. *Gryllus (Mantis) religiosa* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.*, **10** : 426.

1995. *Mantis religiosa* Mukherjee et al., *Oriental Ins.*, **29** : 302.

*Material examined* : 1M, near cave of Raghu Raja, Pataalkot, 14.x.1992 (Reg. No. I 15177A); 1M, Around Lohasur, Pataalkot, 17.x.1992 (Reg. No. 15207).

*Distribution* : India : Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal ; Asia ; Europe ; Africa and Australia.

*Remarks* : Superior margin of frontal sclerite angular ; metazona carinate ; prosternum with two rounded tubercles near base ; fore coxae with a basal spot internally ; fore femora without spot; anterior border of hind wing blackish opaque near apex.

#### 6. \**Mantis inornata* Werner

1930. *Mantis inornata* Werner, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.*, : 689.

*Material examined* : 1M, Around Jeetham, Rater village, 18.x.1992 (Reg. No. I 15225).

*Distribution* : India : Uttar Pradesh.

*Remarks* : Fore coxae without spot internally ; fore femora without any spot ; larger internal spines entirely black ; anterior half of costal area of fore wing reddish brown.

Family EMPUSIDAE

Subfamily EMPUSINAE

Genus *Empusa* Illiger, 1798

#### 7. \**Empusa fasciata* Brullii

1832. *Empusa fasciata* Brullii, *Exp. Morie*, **31** (Sec. 2) : 83.

1995. *Empusa fasciata* : Mukherjee et al., *Oriental Ins.*, **29** : 329.

*Material examined* : 1M, Around Jeetham, Rater village, 18.x.1992 (Reg. No. I 15203) ; 1M, Near Dauripatha village, Pataalkot, 16.x.1992 (Reg. No. 15225) ; 1M, Around Semar Jheel, Rater village, 20.x.1992 (Reg. No. I 15248).

*Distribution* : India : Bihar; Balacan ; Philippines.

*Remarks* : Pronotum slender, border almost smooth ; fore coxae with a spiniform projection at distal end ; fore femora without lobe and superior edge almost straight ; middle and hind femora without dorsal lobes ; middle and hind coxae with rounded lobes.

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