

## Mantodea

Common Name: Praying mantids.

Etymology: Greek word meaning soothsayer.

Metamorphosis: Hemimetabolous.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Body: Medium to large; elongate, slender, somewhat stick-like; the pronotum is elongate and is movably joined to the pterothorax.

Head: Hypognathous, wider than the pronotum, highly movable.

Mouthparts: Ectognathous; chewing.

Eyes: Compound eyes large, usually with 3 ocelli.

Antennae: Relatively short, usually filiform.

Wings: May be winged or wingless or short winged; front pair of wings, when present, are hardened and leathery (tegmina).

Legs: Front coxae are very elongate; front femora and tibiae armed with spines (raptorial); tarsi are 5-segmented.

Abdomen: Cerci present.

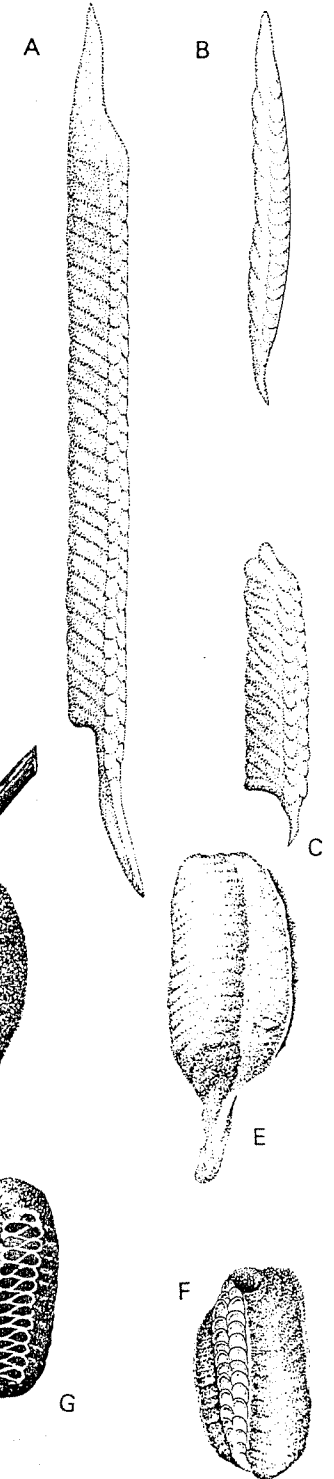
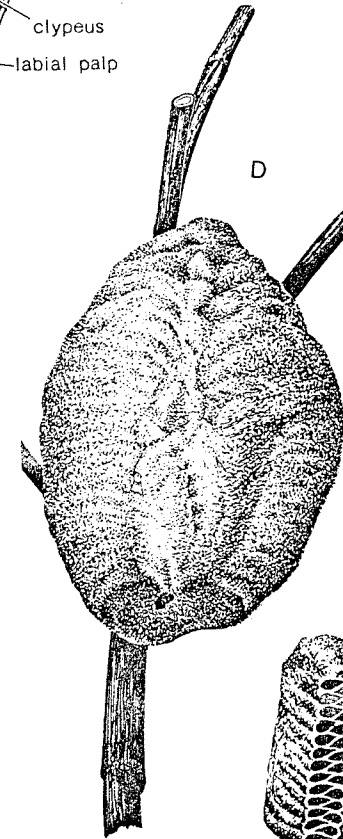
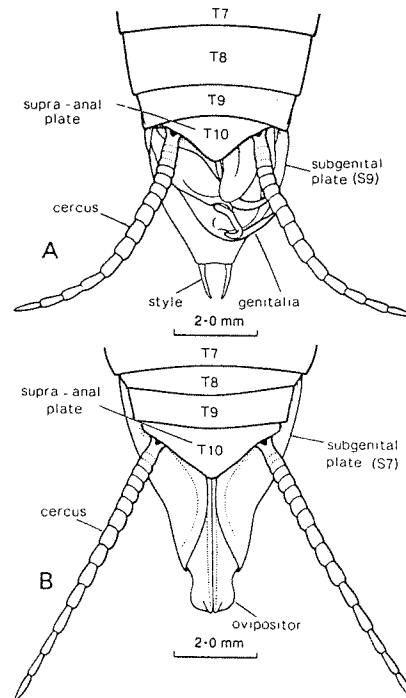
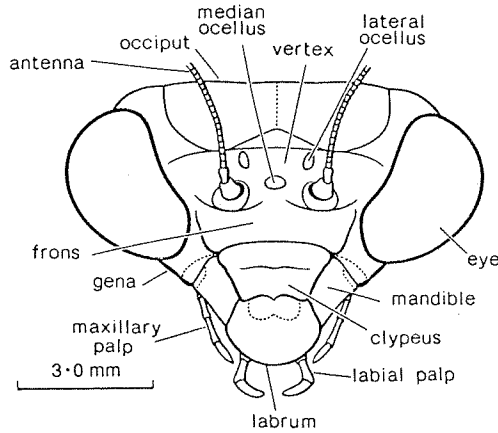
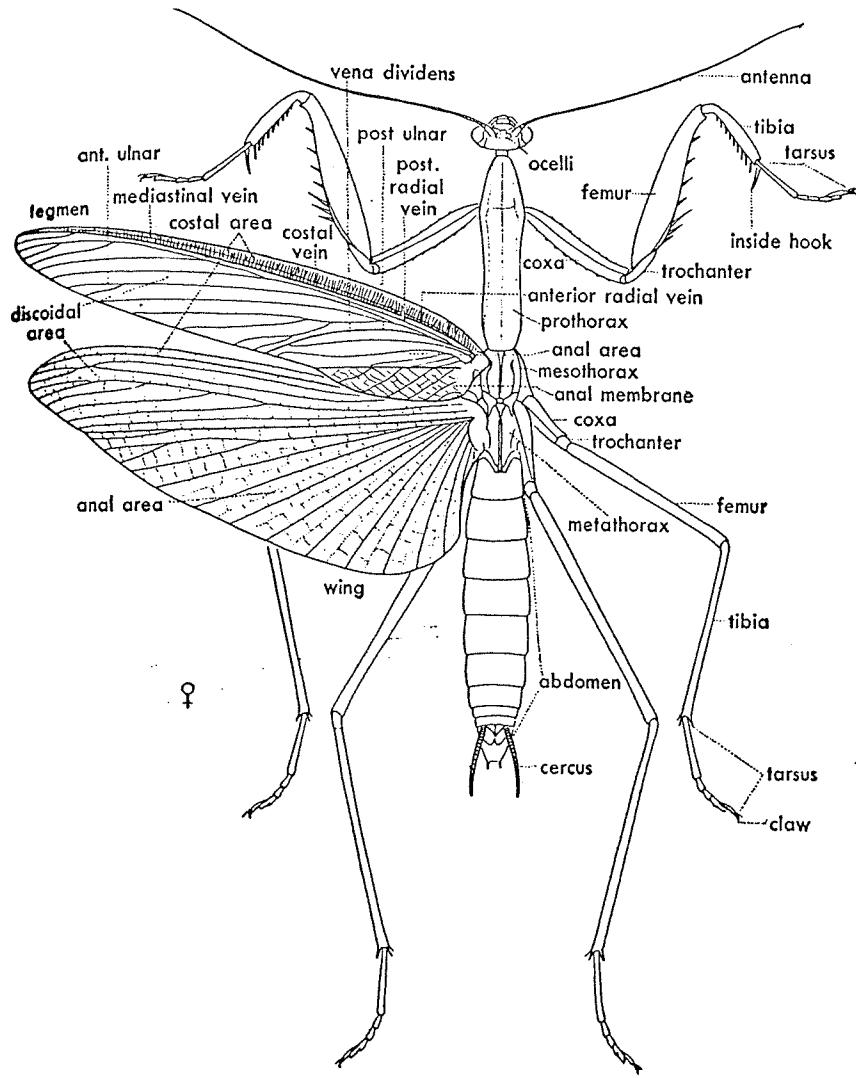
Comments: These are large and relatively slow moving. They are predaceous and generally considered to be beneficial. They lay their eggs in a brown frothy mass called an ootheca. They are the only insects which can look over their shoulders. The female will often eat the male after or during mating.

### FAMILIES

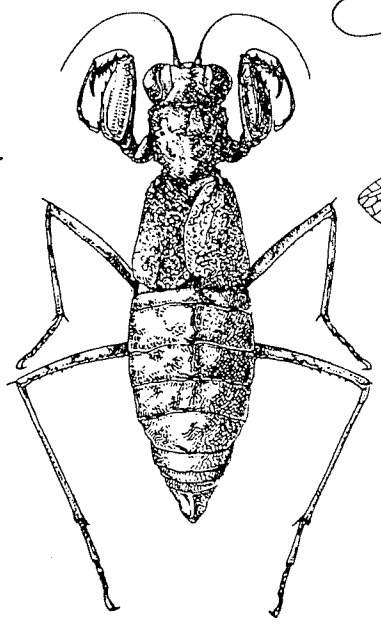
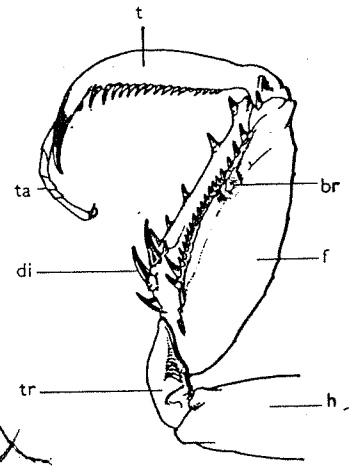
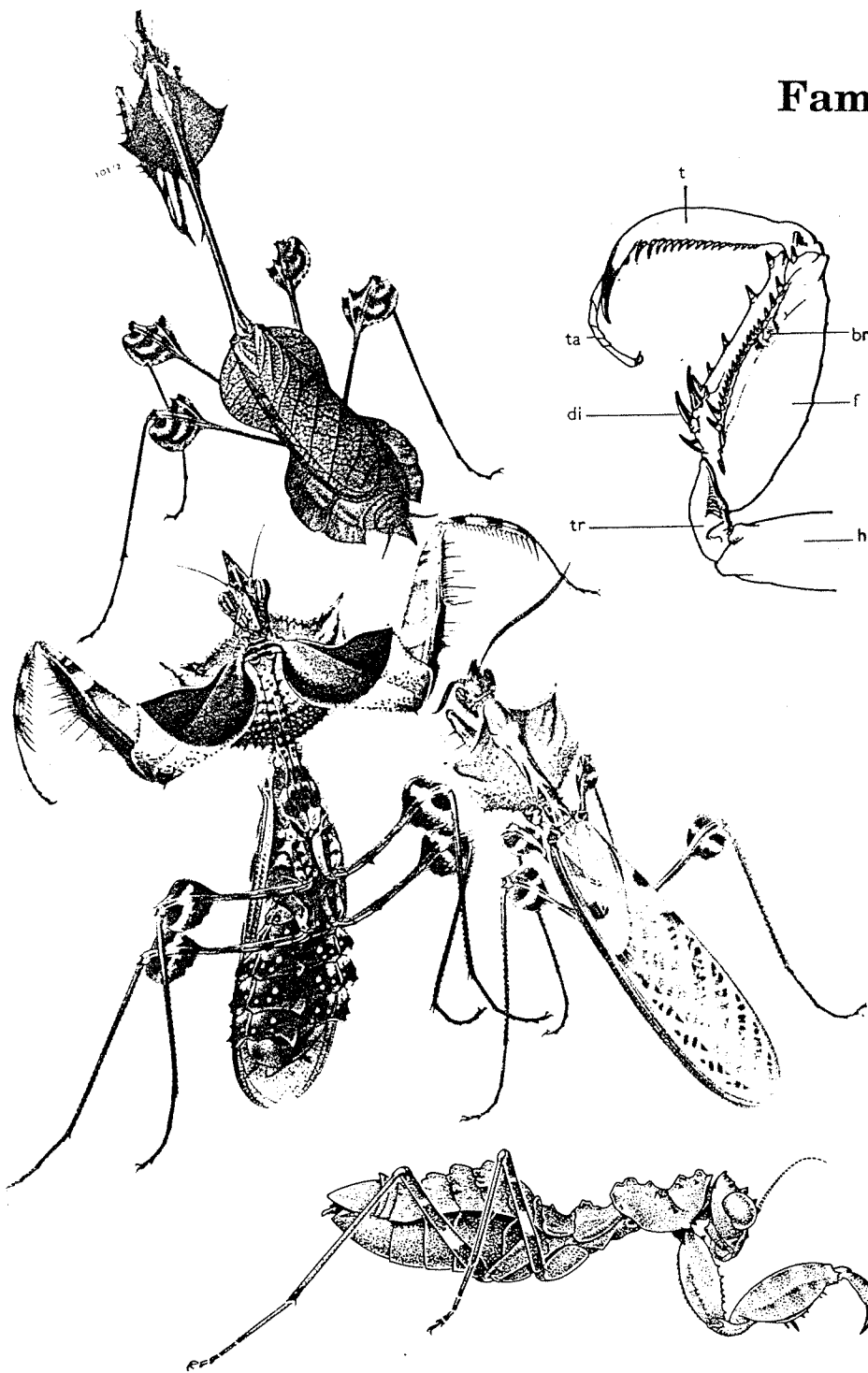
Mantidae: This is the only North American family and basically has the characters outlined above. There are about 20 North American species. The most common species in the northern states is the introduced species, the Chinese mantid, *Tenodera aridifolia sinensis*.

# Order Mantodea

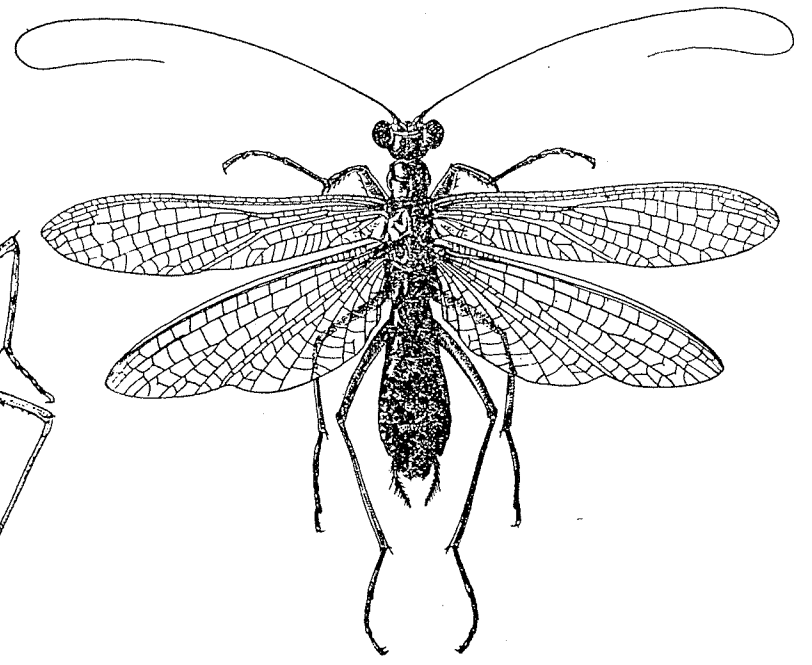
## Mantids



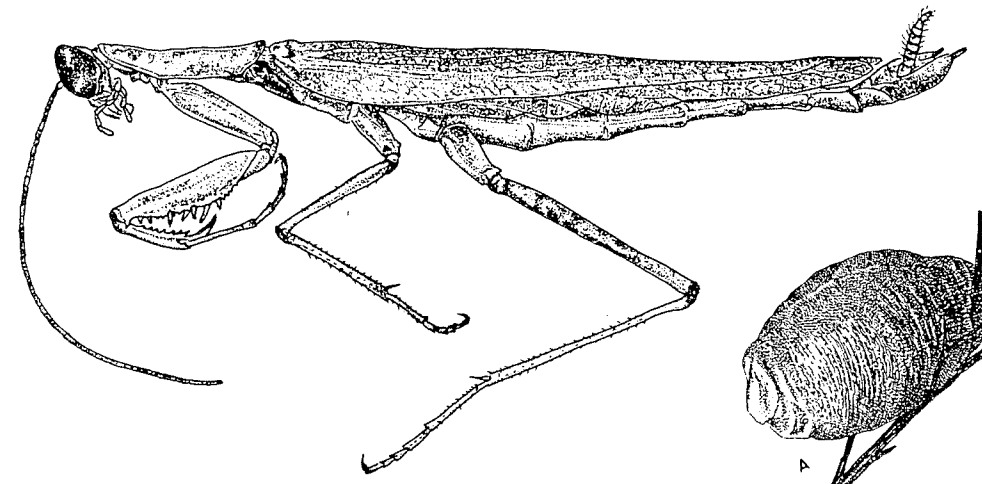
Mantodea  
 Family Mantidae  
 Mantids



— *Eremiaphila denticollis* Luc.  
 (Eremiaphilidae).



*Mantoida brunneriana* Sauss. (Mantoididae).



*Litaneutria minor*, male.

