

Latin name : *Mantis religiosa*

Size : 4 to 8 cm

**Lifespan: from 6 to 8 months,
rarely more than 1 year**

Praying mantis

Mantises are predators, hunting their prey by lying in wait and catching it with their ravenous front legs. The species they eat are mainly insects, including locusts, grasshoppers and crickets, butterflies and moths, flies, midges and mosquitoes.



Sexual cannibalism in mantises is well documented. It may be a form of adaptive foraging, whereby females pretend to want to reproduce and, when a small male passes by, they accompany him until he is within range, after which they move on to consumption. It may also be a case of overflowing their natural aggression, which is necessary to survive in the wild. So, after reproducing, the mantis starts to see the male as a threat to its survival. Another reason is that females test the male's physical condition to see what will become of their children. If the males fail, they become meals.