

Morphological Studies and Classification of Mantis of Genus *Gongylus* Thanberg

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Abstract: The present study was conducted to study the Praying mantids (Mantodea) from Mangaon area in relation to their morphological characteristics and classification. Here focussed was only on one species of Mantis. Mantids play both positive and negative roles in ecosystem. Mantids are generally large insects ranging in size from 1 cm to more than 17 cm. Females are usually larger than males. The two front legs of mantids are highly specialized for catching the prey and during hunting they assume a praying position, folding the front legs under their head, hence derived the name 'Praying Mantis'. Globally 2400 species of mantids are known belonging to 142 genera and 18 families. A total 162 species exist in India belonging to 68 genera. The study was conducted in rainy season of 2021 from June to September in Mangaon area. Around 35 Mantids were collected belonging to Empusidae Family, and Genus *Gongylus* Thanberg found in grassland ecosystem.

Keywords: *Gongylus* Thanberg, Praying Mantis, Mangaon

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