

NOTA CIENTÍFICA

A new mantid record for Ecuador (Dictyoptera: Mantodea: Mantoididae)

Julio Rivera ¹

Taxonomically, the mantid fauna of Ecuador is one of the best known in the Neotropical región, and several papers have been published on the subject since Giglio-Tos' first report about the mantids of that country (GIGLIO-TOS 1898). A recent compilation by LOMBARDO & AGABITI (2001) lists 49 species of mantids (including a new one), with new records and updates on the knowledge of many species.

During a recent visit to the insect collections of the Department of Biology and Museum of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito (QCAZ), I found a single individual of *Mantoida brunneriana* (Saussure, 1871) among specimens of Mantispidae (Neuroptera) (small mantids are often confused with mantid flies and vice versa). This species has not been previously recorded for Ecuador, not even by the authors mentioned above, who based a large part of their data on the collections held by QCAZ.

M. brunneriana belongs to the uncommon and monobasic Mantoididae which, along with Chaeteessidae, is considered by some to be the most basal family among living Mantodea (e.g. KLASS 1997, EHLMANN 2002). The specimen examined agrees with the original description of the species and the subsequent redescription given by LA GRECA & LOMBARDO (1989), who also illustrated the male genitalia (there is also a less-detailed illustration in CERDA 1993).

The specimen was collected in cloud forest (G. Onore pers. comm.) in the following locality: ECUADOR, Tungurahua, Baños, El Placer, 2000m, 78°25'W, 01°23'S, 07.XII.2002 (I. Tapia & G. Onore leg.).

This species is also distributed throughout Amazonia and is currently known from Bolivia, Brazil, French Guiana, Paraguay and Venezuela.

Even though the mantid fauna of Ecuador has been studied to a satisfactory extent, there are still many species which are present in this country and which have not yet been recorded (pers. obs.).

Acknowledgements.- I wish to thank Giovanni Onore (QCAZ) for allowing me to examine the Mantodea collection under his care and also to my wife, Amanda, for her valuable help during our visit to QCAZ.

Literature

- Cerda F. 1993. Valor taxonómico del complejo fálico en mántidos neotrópicos (Dictyoptera: Mantodea). Bol. Entom. venez. 8(1): 33-52.
- Ehrmann R. 2002. Mantodea: Gottesanbeterinnen der Welt. Berlín, Nato- und Tier-Verlag. 519 pp.
- Giglio-Tos E. 1898. Viaggio del Dott. Enrico Festa nella Repubblica dell'Ecuador ed regioni vicine. Boñ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Tormo 13: 15-19.
- Klass K-D. 1997. The external male genitalia and the phylogeny of Blattaria and Mantodea. Borni, zool. Monogr. 42: 1-341.
- La Greca M., Lombardo F. 1989. Mantodei neotropici. I.- II genere *Mantoida* descrizioni di due nuove specie. Animalia 16: 55-67.
- Lombardo F., Agabiti B. 2001. The mantids from Ecuador, with some biogeographic considerations. J. Orth. Res. 10(1): 89-104.

¹ Museo de Entomología, Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Lima, Perú. *Current address*: 2 Hazelbrae Rd., Toronto, Ontario, M6S 1H2, CANADÁ. E-mail: jrivera@lamolina.edu.pe