

Beneficial Species Profile



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Common Name: California Mantis

Scientific Name: *Stagmomantis californica*

Order and Family: Mantodea; Mantidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laid in grayish egg cases that are “glued” to wood bark, or plants
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immatures are very dark when they first hatch then get lighter as they mature
Adult	50-100 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yellow, green, or brown in color Elongated bodies with grasping forelegs
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Both immatures and adults have chewing mouthparts.

Host/s: Generalist predators on wide variety of insects.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Adults and immatures have an elongated thorax and grasping forelegs, which they have the habit of holding up while waiting for prey. Mantids are wholly predaceous, feeding on many kinds of insects including beneficial insects and other mantids. They often wait for prey at flowers where they capture nectar- and pollen-feeding insects. Even though mantids consume pest insects, they are difficult to use reliably for biological control.

References:

Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California. (2014, April 25). How to Manage Pests:. Retrieved April 11, 2016, from <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/NE/mantids.html>

Hogue, C. L., & Hogue, J. N. (2015). *Insects of the Los Angeles basin*. Los Angeles, CA: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.