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First Records of Mantids (Insecta: Mantodea) on Huevos Island, Trinidad and Tobago

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First Records of Mantids (Insecta: Mantodea) on Huevos Island, Trinidad and Tobago

Huevos Island is one of several islands off the north-west tip of Trinidad. It is privately leased and therefore rarely visited. However on 22 February, 2014, as part of a TTFNC overnight trip to the island, a wide-ranging survey of the wildlife was undertaken. Dry forest in the gully just north of the only house on the island was surveyed from approximately 0830 to 1100 h during which time several mantid specimens were hand collected. A light trap was set up by KS in the gully and ran from dusk until around 0230 h. Of the 19 species that have so far been recorded on the two main islands of Trinidad and Tobago, 4 were found on Huevos during our survey. All specimens collected were identified by MSG and have been deposited in The University of the West Indies Zoology Museum.

One mature male *Mantoida fulgidipennis* Westwood 1889 was caught by KS after appearing at the light trap. Accession number UWIZM.2014.5.13.

One immature female *Angela quinque maculata* (Olivier 1792) was found by AED around 1m off the ground on the side of a small tree. The insect was stretched out as to appear like a stick. Whilst in the collection vessel, the insect shed its exoskeleton which was also retained. Accession number UWIZM.2014.5.14.

The presence of *Parastagmatoptera unipunctata* (Burmeister 1838) was determined from a photograph taken by KS at the top of a ridge in the centre of the island on a patch of herbaceous plants around 1.5m tall (Fig.1). A shed exoskeleton was later found in the same location. Accession number UWIZM.2014.5.12.

Two immature male *Liturgusa trinidadensis* Svenson 2014 were found by MGR and AED on the sides of small trees around 1m off the ground in the same location as the *Angela quinque maculata* above. Accession numbers UWIZM.2014.5.10 and.11

Mantis surveying has never been conducted on Huevos or any of the islands to the west of Chaguaramas. Bruner (1906), Beebe, Crane and Hughes-Schrader (1952) and Kevan (1953) made no mention of surveys or specimens from any of the islands. Finding representatives on Huevos of three of the five Mantodea families present in Trinidad shows that the islands have suitable habitat for a variety of species, and suggests that further surveys would be likely to reveal the presence of even more. This survey has highlighted the potential for further work on the Bocas Islands to catalogue the mantids present and compare the mantid communities between the Bocas Islands with mainland Trinidad.

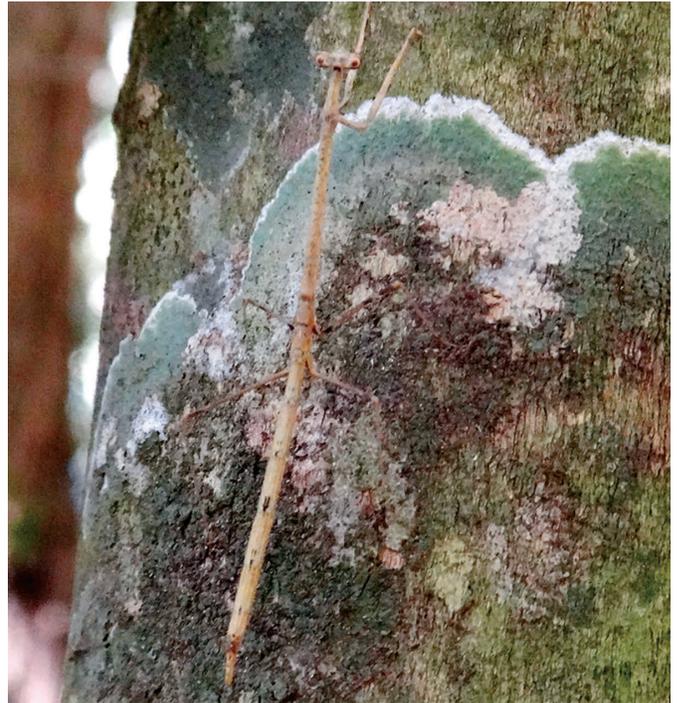


Fig. 1. *Angela quinque maculata*, Huevos Island, February 2014.

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