

Nicolas MOULIN, Baptiste ANGIN & Karl QUESTEL. – **Presence of *Callimantis antillarum* (Saussure, 1859) in Anguilla, east of the Greater Antilles (Mantodea, Epaphroditidae)**

(Accepté le 6.IV.2022 ; publié le 14.VI.2022)

Abstract. – The little mantid *Callimantis antillarum* (Saussure, 1859) is recorded for the first time from Anguilla. It is the first report in Eastern Caribbean Islands while the species is known from Virgin Islands and Greater Antilles.

Résumé. – Présence de *Callimantis antillarum* (Saussure, 1859) à Anguilla, à l'est des Grandes Antilles (Mantodea, Epaphroditidae). La petite mante *Callimantis antillarum* (Saussure, 1859) est observée pour la première fois à Anguilla. C'est la première mention dans les Petites Antilles alors que l'espèce est connue des îles Vierges et des Grandes Antilles.

Keywords. – Faunistics, Eastern Caribbean Islands, Antilles, new record.

Callimantis antillarum (Saussure, 1859) is a small, usually green, unadorned-looking mantis of the family Epaphroditidae (RODRIGUES & SVENSON, 2017; SCHWARZ & ROY, 2019) (fig. 1-2). Described from Saint Thomas Island, it had never been seen in the other Northern Caribbean Islands (YOKOYAMA, 2013; MOULIN *et al.*, 2021). TERRA (1995: 71) only indicated the location “Antilhas”, without further details. *Callimantis antillarum* is endemic to some Caribbean islands. and is well known and very common in all Greater Antilles (LOMBARDO & PEREZ-GELABERT, 2004), whose paleogeographic origins have recently been studied (SVENSON & RODRIGUES, 2017). Many recent observations are visible in one of the world’s most popular online wildlife databases, iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org>; accessed 2021, December 21st). This species does not seem to be strictly linked to one environment rather than another: forests, meadows and other forms of tropical landscape are equally colonized by this species. Being a predator, it would seem that this species finds no barriers to its dispersal (LOMBARDO & PEREZ-GELABERT, 2004).

Two specimens have been observed and photographed (fig. 1-2) in Anguilla, at The Valley (one female, 18.21745°N 63.05290°W, alt. 14 m; one male, 18.21849°N 63.05255°W, alt. 14 m) on 2021, November 27th, by Karl Questel and Baptiste Angin.

The fortuitous observation of this species of Mantodea in Anguilla proves that discrete and/or littles-studied species remain to be discovered in Antilles (MOULIN *et al.*, 2021). Its discovery could be explained by a lack of prospecting for this group of insects or a recent human introduction. It is recognized that many species are introduced to the Caribbean islands, intentionally or not. This is the case for several small mammals (as monkeys in Saint Martin), reptiles, plants, insects, etc. (CASE & BOLGER, 1991; YOKOYAMA, 2012; UICN *et al.*, 2021).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. –Special thanks to Farah Mukhida, executive director of the Anguilla National Trust. This observation was made during the Anguilla Pollinator Project, funded by the UK Government’s Darwin Plus Initiative and the European Union’s BEST2.0+ funding mechanism.

REFERENCES

- CASE T. J. & BOLGER D. T., 1991. – The role of introduced species in shaping the distribution and abundance of islands reptiles. *Evolutionary Ecology*, 5 : 272-290.
LOMBARDO F. & PEREZ-GELABERT D., 2004. – The Mantids of Hispaniola, with the description of two new species (Mantodea). *Boletín de la Sociedad Entomológica Aragonesa*, 34 : 35-48.

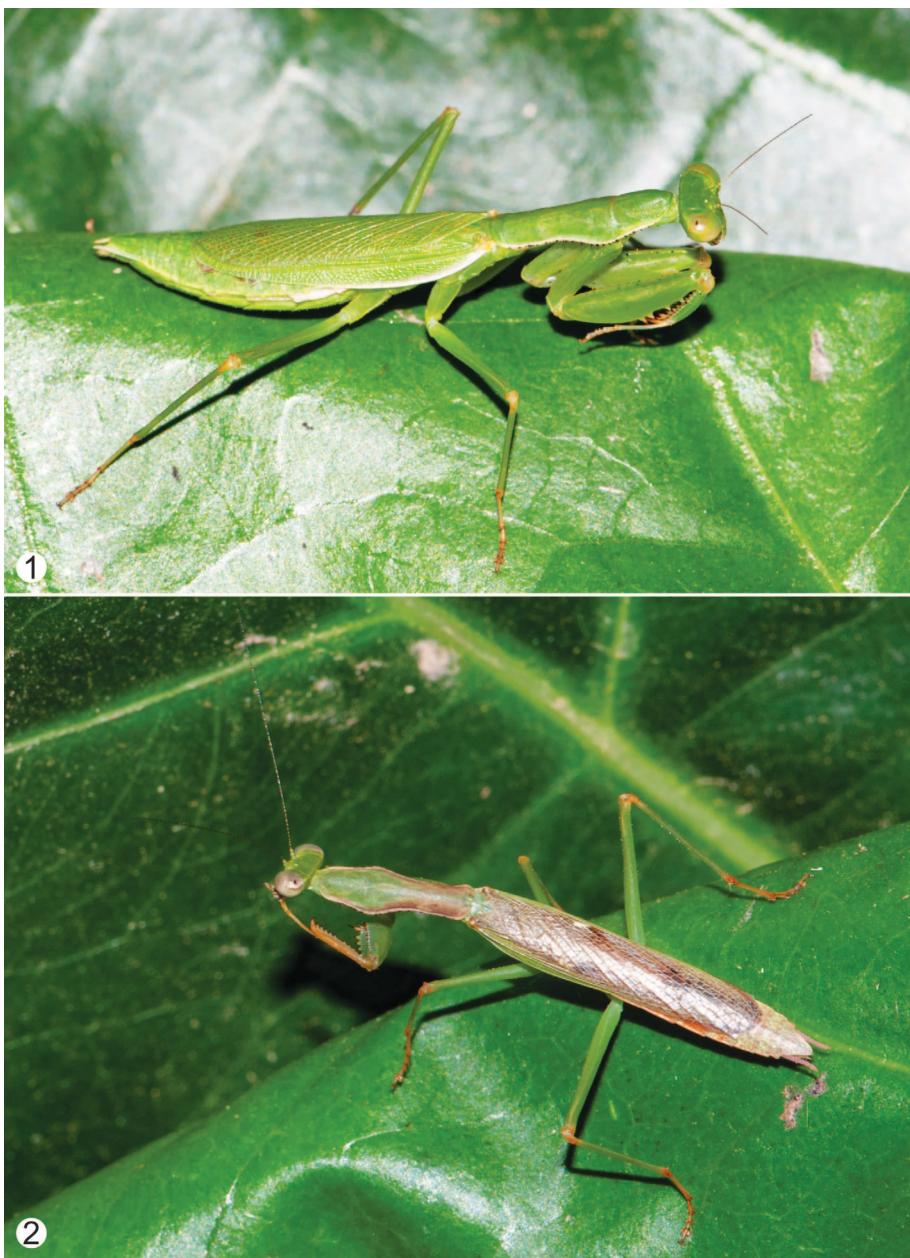


Fig. 1-2. – *Callimantis antillarum* (Saussure), from Anguilla (2021, November 27th). – 1, Female. – 2, Male. (Photograph K. Questel).

MOULIN N., MEURGEY F. & HUGEL S., 2021. – Mantodea from Eastern Caribbean Islands. *Annales de la Société entomologique de France*, (N. S.) 57 (3) : 235-257.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00379271.2021.1932590>

RODRIGUES H. M. & SVENSON G. J., 2017. – Epaphroditidae sensu novo, an endemic Caribbean family of morphologically divergent praying mantises (Insecta, Mantodea). *Neotropical Entomology*, 47 [2018] : 502-507. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13744-017-0570-7>

- SCHWARZ C. J. & ROY R., 2019. – The systematics of Mantodea revisited: an update classification incorporating multiple data sources (Insecta: Dictyoptera). *Annales de la Société entomologique de France*, (N. S.) **55** (2) : 101-196. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00379271.2018.1556567>
- SVENSON G. J. & RODRIGUES H. M., 2017. – A Cretaceous-aged Paleotropical dispersal established an endemic lineage of Caribbean praying mantises. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, **284** : 20171280. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2017.1280>
- TERRA P. S., 1995. – Revisão Sistemática dos Géneros de Louva-a-Deus da Região Neotropical. (Mantodea). *Revista Brasileira de Entomologia*, **39** : 13-94.
- IUCN COMITÉ FRANÇAIS, OFB & MNHN, 2021. – *La Liste rouge des espèces menacées en France. Faune de Guadeloupe*. Paris, 35 p.
- YOKOYAMA M., 2012. – Reptiles and Amphibians introduced on St. Martin, Lesser Antilles. *Reptiles & Amphibians*, **19** (4) : 271-279. <https://doi.org/10.17161/randa.v19i4.13924>
- YOKOYAMA M., 2013. – *The Incomplete Guide to the Wildlife of St-Martin*. 2nd edition, 128 p.

(N. M. : Institut Systématique, Evolution, Biodiversité (ISYEB), UMR 7205, MNHN, CNRS, Sorbonne Université, EPHE, Université des Antilles, CP50, 45 rue Buffon, 75231 Paris Cedex 05, France ; Attaché honoraire du Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle <nicolas.moulin@mnhn.fr>

B. A. : Ardops Environnement, impasse Salondy, F – 97139 Les Abymes, Guadeloupe
<ardops.environnement@gmail.com>

K. Q. : Agence Territoriale de l'Environnement de Saint-Barthélemy, rue de la République, Gustavia, F – 97133 Saint-Barthélemy Cedex <karlquestel@gmail.com>)
