



## praying mantis

**NAME:** *Hierodula membranacea*

**FROM:** Asia

**EATS:** Insects and small vertebrates

**SIZE:** Up to 9cm in length

**AGE:** Up to 25 years

**SEXING:** Males are slimmer and can fly well

**HOUSING:** Best kept alone

The closest relatives of the mantises are the cockroaches.

The movement of a mantis head is also remarkably flexible, permitting nearly 300 degrees of movement in some species, allowing for a great range of vision.

Cannibalism is common among mantises when mating in captivity, the female biting off the male's head.

Mantises produce egg cases called 'ootheca'.

These are laid in a foaming mass but soon dry out and can contain up to 400 eggs.

