

***Scolodera pardalotus* n.gen., n.sp. (Mantodea, Mantidae)
from Northern Queensland, Australia**

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ABSTRACT. A new mantid genus and species, *Scolodera pardalotus*, is described from the Mareeba district in north-eastern Australia.

MILLEDGE, G.A., 1989. *Scolodera pardalotus* n.gen., n.sp. (Mantodea, Mantidae) from northern Queensland, Australia. Records of the Australian Museum 41(2): 107-110.

The mantodean fauna of Australia is quite distinctive, although rather impoverished (Beier, 1968). For example, in the Mantinae, nine of the 14 genera recorded from Australia are endemic or also occur in New Guinea (Balderson, 1984). The genus described here apparently has no close associations within either this group or the more widespread Asian element. Its possible relationships are discussed in this paper.

The terminology used in describing the genitalia follows La Greca (1953-1954). For examination purposes the genitalia were prepared by relaxing the specimen for 48 hours, then dissecting out the genital complex and immersing it in 10% KOH for 24 hours at room temperature. It was then washed and transferred to 70% alcohol, and the soft internal tissues were teased out. The genital complex is stored in glycerol in a small vial attached to the specimen pin.

The holotype is lodged in Australian Museum, Sydney. It is the only specimen of this new species known at present.

***Scolodera* n.gen.**

Type species. *Scolodera pardalotus* n.sp.

Diagnosis. Male only, female unknown. Of medium stature. Head triangular from anterior aspect, wider than high, shallowly concave anteriorly; eyes prominent, margins rounded; facial shield transverse with narrow transverse ridge near upper margin curving dorsally between antennae, each lateral margin with a bulge which projects ventrally.

Prothorax moderately elongate; prozona dorsally somewhat swollen in anterior half, posterior half with low diagonal ridge on each side of midline, ventrally with large spiniform process on each side anterior to coxal insertion; dorsal surface of metazona anteriorly with 2 large spiniform projections side by side and directed dorsolaterally, bulging slightly at posterior margin on either side of midline, without distinct median carina.

Outerface of forecoxa with distinct median ridge.