**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.


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.