Deadliest Plants and Bugs



Fact sheet: Praying Mantis

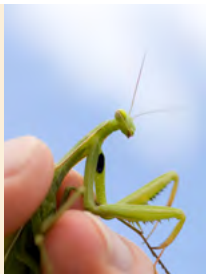
Praying mantis have long necks and a triangular shaped head. There are over 2000 species worldwide.



Preying mantis scores decoded:

Size	4
Colour / Camouflage	10
Armour / Defence	7
Poison level	2
Strength	9
Life Span	2

Size: 4
5-12cm – that's about the same size as a child's hand all the way up to a grown up's hand.



Colour / Camouflage: 10
Mostly green or brown. They blend in very well with plants and foliage. Their body shapes make them look like leaves or branches. Praying mantises can change their colors after moulting to adapt to changing surroundings.

Life Span: 2
1 year. Males have a shorter life expectancy of 7 to 8 months, compared to 11 to 12 months for females.

Strength: 9
They can kill prey three times their size. They usually eat insects and their favourite foods are beetles, moths, bees, fruit flies and crickets. Some larger preying mantis eat lizards, frogs and even birds, and sometimes smaller preying mantis!

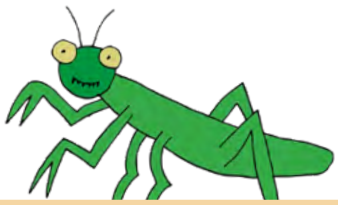
Armour / Defence: 7
If an insect lands within its reach it will extend its arms and grab it with lightning speed. It has sharp spines in its forelegs which help it to grip tightly while it eats its prey.

Poison level: 2
They are vicious predators but cannot hurt a human. They have no venom and cannot sting.



More amazing preying mantis facts:

They have two eyes but only one ear. A single ear is found on their stomach in front of their back legs. This means that they don't have great hearing but can detect ultrasounds.
They never eat dead remains and they usually wait for the prey to come within their reach, although a few species may hunt when they're really hungry.



Praying mantis can turn their heads 180 degrees. When they notice a moving object, they will immediately turn their head to look straight at it.

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