

Purple-winged mantid (*Tenodera australasiae*)

Care guide



The purple-winged mantis is a species of mantid native to eastern australia. It is a medium sized species, with adults growing up to 90mm in length. Adult's of this species display stunning spotted magenta coloured underwings used as a threat display, they will hold the raptorial front legs against the side of the head and spread they're wings. Adult males can fly and tend to be more nervous than females.

Mantids are predatory, using the spiny,raptorial front legs to snare passing insect prey, they have sharp chewing mouthparts so dismember prey. Mantids may enter a state of inactivity for a short time if temperatures get too low, they will expose they're bellies to the sun in the morning to warm up again.

Food:

A cricket or cockroach about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length of you're mantid are ideal. Do not feed wild insects as they may contain mites and parasites. Once or twice a week is enough. You can leave it in the enclosure or try feeding it directly by tongs.

Water: mist spray the enclosure once or twice daily, the mantid will drink the droplets if thirst, if you want to be more interactive, you can offer the mantis a water soaked piece of sphagnum moss, cotton bud or paper towel.

Enclosure:

A 30x30x30 enclosure is ideal, a large plastic container or a glass terrarium theoretically could work, but they can be pricey and heavy. Mesh enclosure offer excellent ventilation and viewing.

Temperature:

Mantids are sensitive to cold, 18-27 degrees is recommended.

Humidity: 70-90%



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