

A review of the Cockroaches, Mantids and Phasmids from Niah National Park, Sarawak (Insecta: Mantodea, Phasmida, & Blattodea).

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ABSTRACT

Niah National Park is famous for its archaeology in the Cave complex. The natural history of the park has been largely overlooked. The existing records of cockroaches, mantids and phasmids are reviewed and found to be sparse: two cockroach species recorded by Roth, and 16 phasmids recorded by Bragg, and two by Seow-Choen. There are no published records of mantids from Niah. The author made a brief survey of Niah in June 2024, with emphasis on mantids and cockroaches. The published records are summarised and new data are presented, bringing the species totals to 25 phasmids, 20 cockroaches and 11 mantids. Three species of cockroach were found in the Great Cave, and 17 species in the forest. The cockroach *Pseudophoraspis emarginata* Hanitsch, 1923 is confirmed as a synonym of *Rhcnoda natatrix* Shelford, 1907. Some additional distribution data is provided for two species of phasmids: *Asceles inquinatus* Redtenbacher, 1908 and *Asceles moricula* (Redtenbacher, 1908).

Keywords : Niah National Park, Mantodea, Phasmida, Blattodea.

INTRODUCTION

Alfred Everett explored the Niah Caves in his 1878-9 survey (Everett, 1880); although he records mammal bones from these explorations, there is no mention of cockroaches, phasmids, or mantids in his report. Everett does not record any insects at Niah, but he did collect insects and other animals elsewhere in Borneo; he has a number of animals named after him, including a phasmid: *Lonchodes everetti* (Kirby, 1896), a mantis: *Hierodula everetti* (Kirby, 1904), and a cockroach: *Rhabdoblatta everetti* (Hanitsch, 1931).