



The colorful and somewhat intimidating organism gazing out at you from the front cover of *Campbell Essential Biology with Physiology* is the African mega mantis (*Plistospilota guineensis*). This spectacular insect is just one of more than 2,000 known species of mantis, which are commonly referred to as “praying mantises” because they are often seen with their forelegs in a prayer-like stance. In fact, the scientific name of the group (the order Mantodea) originates from the Greek words for “shape of a prophet.” The African mega mantis is native to bushes and shrubs in warm, damp areas of western African—such as Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, and Liberia. Like all mantises, the *Plistospilota guineensis* is predatory, primarily eating other insects. But it, too, is stalked by larger predators. When threatened, members of this species stand upright, spread their forelegs, and fan their wings. Such an enlarged appearance may cause

predators to think twice before attacking. But how does the biology of this insect, fascinating as it may be, affect human life? Many gardeners, especially those who follow organic and sustainable practices that avoid chemical pesticides, introduce mantises as a form of biological pest control: garden stores stock mantis egg cases for this very purpose. And the African mega mantis is a popular species for captive breeding by hobbyists. That so many of us keep pets—mantids or something less exotic—and so many of us tend gardens shows that we all have an innate interest in the living world. The primary goal of *Campbell Essential Biology with Physiology* is to tap into your curiosity about life. While deepening your understanding of life on Earth and how science can be used to investigate it, we hope in this book to remind you constantly of the myriad ways that biology is woven into the fabric of your life and our larger society.

Visit us at www.pearsonhighered.com for more information. To order any products, contact our customer service department at (800) 824-7799, 5021 outside of the U.S., or visit your campus bookstore.

www.pearsonhighered.com

ISBN-13: 978-0-321-77260-2
ISBN-10: 0-321-77260-1



PEARSON

ALWAYS LEARNING