



“Secretary Dragon” © Brent Hollowell, accessed at his blog [here](#)

[The original [makalala](#) is a giant predatory bird from Tanzania, which sounds an awful lot like an exaggerated version of a secretary bird. Poking around for art inspired me to take it in a draconic direction.]

Makalala

This creature has the body of an immense bird and the head of a dragon. Its feathers are grey, black and white, with striking plumes growing from its head and tail. Its legs are long and thin, ending in immense claws. Bony quills grow along its wingtips, rattling as it flies.

The makalalas are sometimes referred to as secretary dragons for the long plumes on their heads and quills on their wings. They are cruel and predatory creatures that look and act something like feathered wyverns. Their dim intelligence is just enough to make them sadistic, and they enjoy inflicting pain on anything smaller and weaker than themselves. They tend towards foolishness,

however, and can be deceived by even simple ruses.

Makalalas may hunt alone or in flights, and when cooperating they support each other in combat. Some of the dragons will remain high in the air to fire barbed quills down on enemies, while others close in with devastating hind claws and bites. They rarely fight to the death—any creature that puts up a strong fight surprises them, and they will readily flee to save their own lives.

When not on the hunt, makalalas gather to tell stories and make music by rattling their quills while singing. Violence between members of the same flight is common, but rarely fatal. Musical instruments fascinate them, even when they cannot be played by creatures lacking hands. Some bards have claimed to have been kidnapped by a makalala and forced to perform or be eaten—these tales probably have a basis in truth. Like many bullies, makalalas can be pushed around by stronger bullies, and some of them serve blue dragons, grootslangs or other powerful reptilian monsters.

Makalala CR 11

XP 12,800

CE Large dragon

Init +4; **Senses** blindsense 30 ft., darkvision 60 ft., low-light vision, Perception +17

Defense

AC 25, touch 14, flat-footed 20 (-1 size, +4 Dex, +11 natural, +1 dodge)

hp 150 (12d12+72)

Fort +14, **Ref** +12, **Will** +8

Immune sonic; **Resist** electricity 10, fire 10

Offense

Speed 30 ft., fly 80 feet (average)

Melee bite +17 (1d8+6), 2 claws +17 (2d6+6/19-20), 2 wings +15 (1d6+3 plus pain)

Ranged 6 quills +15 (1d8+6 plus pain)

Space 10 ft.; **Reach** 10 ft.

Special Attacks powerful charge (claw, 4d6+12/19-20x2), rattle

Statistics

Str 23, **Dex** 18, **Con** 22, **Int** 7, **Wis** 11, **Cha** 12

Base Atk +12; **CMB** +19; **CMD** 34

Feats Blind-fight, Dodge, Hover (B), Improved Critical (claw), Multiattack, Point Blank Shot, Precise Shot

Skills Acrobatics +14, Fly +15, Perception +17, Stealth +13 (+9 when moving), Survival +13;

Racial Modifiers +4 Perception, -4 Stealth when moving

Languages Draconic

Ecology

Environment warm plains

Organization solitary, pair or flight (3-8)

Treasure standard

Special Abilities

Pain (Ex) A creature struck by a makalala's wing attack or quills must succeed a DC 20 Reflex save or have a quill lodged in their body, causing it to suffer a -1 on all attack rolls and skill checks for each quill lodged in its body. A quill can be removed with a DC 15 Heal check made as a full-round action—by every 5 points by which this DC is exceeded, another quill can be removed. On a failed check, the quill is still removed, but it deals 1d6 points of damage to the victim on its way out. The save DC is Dexterity based.

Quills (Ex) As a standard action, a makalala can fire up to 6 quills from its wings. These quills are treated as a ranged attack with a range of 150 feet and no range increment. A makalala can target

multiple creatures with its quills, but all targets must be within 30 feet of each other. A makalala can fire as many as 60 quills a day; used quills regrow overnight.

Rattle (Ex) As a standard action, or as a free action when the makalala uses its Hover feat, a makalala can make an incredible racket by shaking its wings. All living creatures within 30 feet that can hear the makalala must succeed a DC 22 Fortitude save or be deafened for 1 minute and staggered for 1 round. A successful Fortitude save negates the effect. This is a sonic effect, and the save DC is Constitution based.