

The Flora and Fauna of Xylos-4

Introduction

Xylos-4 is a fictional exoplanet discovered in the Andromeda sector. Its ecosystem is silicon-based rather than carbon-based, leading to unique biological properties not found on Earth.

Crystal-Skinned Herbivores

These creatures consume the crystalline vegetation found in the northern hemispheres. They are characterized by their translucent skin and lack of traditional digestive systems.

The Glass Grazer

The Glass Grazer is a quadruped roughly the size of a horse. It feeds exclusively on "Shard-Grass." Uniquely, the Glass Grazer does not sleep; instead, it enters a state of "torpor" where one half of its brain shuts down while the other remains alert for predators.

It communicates by vibrating its crystal hooves against the ground, creating a seismic signal that can be felt for miles.

Key Characteristics:

- **Diet:** Shard-Grass
- **Sleep Cycle:** No true sleep (Torpor state)
- **Communication:** Seismic vibration

The Prism-Back

The Prism-Back is a slow-moving herd animal. It has a heavy, armored shell that refracts light to confuse predators. Unlike the Glass Grazer, the Prism-Back must submerge itself in liquid methane lakes every night to cool its core temperature, or it will overheat and shatter.

Silicon Predators

Predators on Xylos-4 do not hunt by scent or sight, but by detecting electromagnetic fields emitted by herbivores.

The Voltaic Stalker

The Voltaic Stalker is the apex predator of the equatorial deserts. It is blind but has highly sensitive antennae that can detect the heartbeat of a prey animal from 3 kilometers away.

Crucially, the Voltaic Stalker cannot swim. If it touches liquid water or methane, its internal electrical charge shorts out, killing it instantly. It hunts primarily during the magnetic storms that occur at dawn.

Key Characteristics:

- **Sensory:** Electromagnetic detection (Blind)
- **Weakness:** Liquid contact (Fatal short-circuit)
- **Hunting Time:** Dawn

Synthetic Vegetation

Plants on Xylos-4 are metallic and conduct electricity.

Tesla Trees

Tesla Trees are large, metallic structures that resemble oaks but are made of copper and iron. They absorb lightning strikes to power their growth. The leaves are razor-sharp sheets of foil.

Fruit from the Tesla Tree, known as "Spark-Berries," is highly toxic to all distinct species on Xylos-4 except the microscopic "Rust-Mites" that live on the tree's bark.