

# In the Land of Mareithia

## Glossary

### Beings from Mareithia's Natural World

#### Bee Balmers

(inspired by science: *Apis*, common name: the honeybee)

In Mareithia, bee balmers love the pollen of the orchada flowers, catch it with their hairy tongues and also gather it in their pollen baskets under their wings. In the science world, the honeybee has an orange mass on its leg—called a pollen basket or corbicula—which is a mixture of gathered pollen and nectar. It is also known that bees have tongues with tiny hairs which they use to taste and to smell.

#### Chelonians

(inspired by science: Chelonioidea, common name: the sea turtles)

In Mareithia, the Chelonians are ancient families of the great turtles found in the water tunnels, called the oh! tunnels. Their home base is deep in the Sea of Sevenaaz. According to science, it is thought that turtles date from 220 million years ago and that the sea turtle lives about 80 years.

#### Lempers

Lempers are soft, bronze-coloured rabbit-like animals, but with long ears which they can tie under their ears for safety, or if they don't want to listen to others. They use complicated language to show off their self-importance. Lempers have excellent camouflage: their top fur can change to become hard and stone-like when living in the rocky places, or take on the colour of grasses and shadows when in the meadowlands.

#### Lontrann

(inspired by science: *Lontra canadensis*, common name: the northern river otter)

In Mareithia, Lontrann, an enthusiastic otter and Vynen M-marsher's closest animal friend, lives in Mareithia's marshlands where she plays and feeds. She communicates through "paw" clapping and happy grunts. In science, North American otters are found in rivers, lakes, and marshes where they build dens in the burrows of other mammals, in natural hollows such as under a log, or in river banks.

## Loupcanus

(inspired science: *Canis lupus*, common name: the grey wolf)

In Mareithia, Loupcanus, half dog, half wolf, is Waxxar's closest companion. In science it is thought that the domestic dog evolved from the grey wolf a very long time ago. Wolves can run very fast and far, up to 20-30 miles (32-48 kilometres) in one day.

## Luras

(inspired by science: *Condylura cristata*, common name: the star-nosed mole)

In Mareithia, the luras are small, brown moles who live in the earth tunnels and keep them tidy. Luras have multi-coloured multi-petalled "flower noses" which they use to sense tremblings in the ground. They also have a special whistling to warn others of danger.

Some scientists think that the star-nosed mole's organs may be sensitive enough to detect minute seismic waves. These moles have been shown to blow bubbles into the water and then re-inhale them through the nose in order to sniff for food, making them the first mammal known to smell underwater.

## Marmotashas

(inspired by science: Pygmy Marmoset)

In Mareithia, the marmotashas are minute, mischievous yellow and white striped monkeys the size of a child's hand. They have very strong tails and long, thin fingers which they use for play and for speech.

According to science, the Pygmy Marmoset is one of the smallest monkeys in the world about 5 inches (13 cm) tall not including the tail, which can be longer than the body itself.

## Orchada Flowers

Orchada plants and flowers are very fragrant and grow in families. They are about five inches tall with white translucent trumpet-shaped blossoms of seven petals which expel golden pollen. This pollen is nourishment for everyone, especially for bee balms. Orchada flowers can also hum to quiet things down around them.

## Perries

(inspired by science: *Littorina littorea*, common name: the marsh periwinkle)

In Mareithia, perries live and sleep in families on the underside of the marshlands grasses to keep moist. They are small, marsh periwinkle snails with twirly grey-white backs resembling wasp nests. They message each other using their long, waving tentacles.

In science, most land snails have two set of tentacles. They need to live in a damp environment to survive. If necessary, a snail may climb on a leaf and hang upside down from it in its shell in order to get ground moisture.

## Quercus

(inspired by science: Quercus, common name: oak)

Quercus is an enormous, tall and ancient oak tree and guardian of the sacred forest of Mareithia. He communicates in two ways: by blinking light through the cracks of his bark and by intentionally dropping leaves which are decorated with drawings and symbols. Quercusians' acorns are a treasured food often present at celebrations because they increase the wisdom of all beings.

In science, oak trees can be 70 to 100 feet high, (21 to 30 meters) and can live hundreds of years. Oaks are excellent wildlife feeders due to the acorns they produce.

## Raymerries

The raymerries are sparrow-like birds and sing beautiful melodies which they enthusiastically amplify when all is well in the forest of Mareithia. They understand the conversations between the trees. Sitting on branches, they bend their little heads close to tree trunks and listen to conversations via the sap which travels up from the ground roots. This is how raymerries are kept aware of what is happening in the forest.

## Togreta

(inspired by science: greta oto, common name: the glass-wing butterfly)

The magnificent togrreta butterfly is born in the diamond beds of the crystal caves found in Mareithia. It is transparent but can also reflect the surrounding environment.

In science, the glass-wing butterfly, also called the clear-winged butterfly lives mostly in Central America and South America. It looks extremely delicate, but has the ability to carry nearly 40 times its own weight. The glass-wing butterfly is extremely fast, and can fly almost eight miles (12 kilometres) per hour for short intervals.

## Soonshows

Soonshows are ancient, aristocratic white deer-like animals with wings which they keep tucked away. They are important stewards of land of Mareithia. The leader is Soonshow-Leef who sports magnificent antlers. Soonshows dialogue through the projection of images. These images can stay for a moment in the air so that everyone gets a chance to see them.

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