PALM FUNGUS

- **Height:** 8in
- **Classification:** Fungus
- **Substrate:** Laceroot root systems

The palm fungus is a semi-specialist that grows within the roots of some species of laceroot. It is best known as the ingredient for a tea drunk by the kasulam and mukash desert-dwellers.

Physiology

The fruiting body of the palm fungus has a tough stipe that grows up to 8 inches tall. Its gills are long, loosely attached to the fruiting body, and detach from the mushroom easily. It is their shape that gives this fungus its name.

Reproduction
The palm fungus grows within the roots of laceroot plants, which routinely situates it next to water. This allows the fruiting body to drop its spores (or allow them to drift the short distance) into the river where they are carried downstream - and upstream where they have fruited beside tidal rivers.

Medical Conditions

This fungus is harmless and is not known to host any diseases.

Geographical Distribution

Palm fungi grow on and near the equator on land.

Populations

This fungus is usually found on river banks wherever laceroots can be found. Wherever it is found it is generally locally common.

🐳 Position in Ecosystem 🐳

Palm fungi are well integrated into the ecosystem as they are easy and palatable to eat, and may aid laceroots in holding the soil together.

Plants

Laceroots in general symbiote well with the palm fungus, and it is thought that this fungus cooperates with the plants by strengthening or lengthening its roots, which holds the soil together more effectively, which provides further suitable ground for more laceroots to grow.

Leprisha
This laceroot is worthy of special note as it specialises in growing on flatlands, where it can be flooded or survive long periods with very dry ground. The palm fungus survives throughout all these conditions and therefore grows in flatlands wherever the leprisha grows.

Animals

The gills of this fungus provide an easy meal for small animals.

Athmook
These alert animals benefit from the ease by which they can take a mouthful of this fungus' nutritious gills.

Fairy Jawagora
The loose gills of the palm fungus are ideal food for fairy jawagora, who also live close to rivers and snatch mouthfuls of food as they run upstream and drift downstream.

🚀 Technology 🚀

The palm fungus has nothing to add to the technological advancement of Kaleida.

Agriculture

These fungi aren’t farmed, and they’re only good for a single mouthful for smaller animals.

History

The palm fungus has made no significant contribution to Kaleidian history.

Evolution / Genesis

Palm fungi made their spores so easily accessible during a distant time in their evolution when they were aquatic, and grew in stagnant water. The bed in which they grew was rich in nutrients but the lack of movement in the water prevented spore dispersion. As a result the fungus exposed its spores so take advantage of the minutest of movement.

Culture

Most omnivorous sapients feel positively disposed towards this fungus. It's a conspicuously beneficial mushroom for small wildlife, and can be used to make that universal comfort-drink, tea.

Food

Palm fungi are edible and palatable, and make a good addition to dishes to add an earthy mushroom flavour. It is sometimes used to make a mushroom soup that the kasulam and mukash drink in the early mornings.

Art

As tasty as a bowl of palm fungus tea is, it doesn't tend to find its way into artwork. It may occasionally be seen but is rarely a theme.

Social Dynamics

Palm fungus tea is drunk by members of kasulam and mukash burrows who spent the night in a mesh tent together; anybody who slept in a burrow or in the corals may be offered some too. Limited quantities of this fungus are generally available (the same may be said of the water the tea is made from) so the offer of palm fungus tea may be seen as a sign of care, love, or friendship.

Politics

It would be over-reaching to suggest that palm fungi have had a noticeable impact on Kaleida's world politics; perhaps less so to say that two Kaleidans may well enjoy bonding over a much of tea made from this fungus.

Utopian / Dystopian Qualities

Palm fungus is one of the 'friendlier' fungi of Kaleida, so as such is more utopian than dystopian.

💲 Economy 💲

Palm fungus may potentially be traded as an infusion for a pleasant-tasting tea, but this is the extent of its value.

Education

Young herbivores or omnivores are taught that palm fungus gills are an easy snack.

Healthcare and Medicine

Palm fungus has no medicinal properties.

Credits

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Want to upgrade to an Infographic or video, or expand your setting into a worldbuilding project? Email me on hello@thecharacterconsultancy.co.uk and I will be happy to help you!

~Hayley, The Character Consultancy