

# PIASSIJADA (“GRASPING CARPET”)

- 🌴 **Height:** 10in
- 🌴 **Classification:** Bonded
- 🌴 **Life expectancy:** 2 years



This plant grows in thick mats, which often means that its tendrils grab other plants of the same species. Kasulam frequently visit them to collect nutritious invertebrates. The more they grow together, the more secure of a mat - or carpet - they create together. It gets its name from the Greek word for 'grasp' - piásimo and the Arabic word for 'carpet' - sijada.

## Physiology

The piassijada is the only species in its Family. It has thin leaves that are adapted to tolerate immersion in water. Each plant grows several tendrils that grab onto the nearest anchor, which is usually another piassijada, and is equally happy growing in shallow water and in regularly flooded land.

Each plant grows cones.

Land-based and aquatic animals live in tangled piassijada, as it makes an effective hiding place and barrier from predators.

### *Reproduction*

The cones of the piassijada eventually detach and float away, which spreads their spores.

### Medical Conditions

There are no known pathogens that affect this plant.



## Geographical Distribution



The piassijada prefers warm climates. It can grow on land as well as in the water, where they prefer wetter environments such as the banks of rivers and lakes, and forest floors.

### Populations

This plant is common so it would be impractical to list populations of it.

#### *River Tribe*

The kasulam River Tribe is a prime example.

## **Position in Ecosystem**

Piassijada is a keystone species as it creates an environment that is important for the survival of many other species. Invertebrates of many species use piassijada mats as mating or egg-laying grounds, and this in turn attracts insectivores, which are valuable food for predators. As piassijada mats can grow over a large area, their influence in supporting the ecosystem is hard to overestimate.

### **Spore Dispersers**

This plant relies on water to disperse its spores.

### **Grazers**

A number of species may chew on piassijada cones, although most visitors to the mats tend to come for the invertebrates that visit the mats.

### **Other Users**

Piassijada mats have a tendency to attract invertebrates, which attract small omnivores, which in turn attract medium-size predators.

#### *Athmook*

These insectivores find rich pickings among the piassijada mats, whether on land or water.

#### *Jawagora*

Some species of jawagora are built to paddle, and these will sometimes venture onto piassijada mats in search of invertebrates.

#### *Kasulam*

Another group of creatures that find food while foraging through mats of this plant.

#### *Pinno' grath*

Mats of piassijada are an excellent hunting ground, especially for small or mid-sized pinno' grath.

#### *Sagragonno*

Freshwater species of sagragonno live in and around piassijada mats for camouflage and to attach their eggs to.

#### *Sammamimoss*

Another small hunter that benefits from the piassijada's potential as cover for prey animals. These predators tend to hang in the water beneath a piassijada carpet, in wait for any creature that makes its presence known. Some have poisonous feathers that imitate the appearance of the piassijada, and will rest in the plant so that a prey animal may bite their feathers, paralysing them so that the sammamimoss can more easily catch them.

## Technology

Piassijada's contributions to technology are indirect: it attracts invertebrates, which Kaleida's more intelligent species can eat for an efficient energy and nutrition boost, which allows them more time to invent.

## Agriculture

There is no point in farming piassijada since it does a good job of growing copiously on its own. While agriculture is rare to non-existent on Kaleida, piassijada's role in agriculture on Kaleida is to be a rich place to gather insects. Kasulam are frequent visitors to these mats.

## Energy Usage

Dead piassijada can be dried and used as fuel for fires.

## History

This plant has had a positive impact on the social history of Kaleida as it provides a reliable source of protein.

### **Evolution / Genesis**

The piassijada's evolutionary history is not yet known.

### **Changes in Standards of Living**

Beds of this plant tend to be perennial, and a serviceably large one will not grow overnight; it takes years for piassijada to establish itself well enough to provide food to the locals. Some tribes founded themselves close to existing piassijada beds as they are recognised as a reliable source of food.



The piassijada plant contributes a range of concepts and practicalities to Kaleidan culture: an easily accessible source of protein, a meeting place, a source of gifts for gratitude, and it is a symbol of plenty or security.

### **Food**

As stated elsewhere, piassijada beds provide a lot of food, particularly protein-rich invertebrates. Not only do they feed some of Kaleida's sapients, they have drawn two of them - the mukash and kasulam - together due to their long-standing cohabitation and the kasulam's better dexterity, that equips them to catch and store invertebrates from piassijada beds to take them back to the burrow.

### **Art**

The bounty and sense of security provided by piassijada beds sometimes makes its way into art and culture.

#### *Drawings*

Maps or drawings of particularly well-founded tribes will often include a squiggly mass to denote the local piassijada bed. This is common enough that some such drawings are notable for the absence of such a bed. For example, the helicoid pinno' grath communities may be drawn from time to time, and none of them will include squiggles. Most Kaleidans would interpret that as the community being a hard place to live.

They also incorporate a slight sense of danger, as piassijada beds are safest for adults to visit. Youngsters are at greater risk of being bitten or poisoned by something dangerous.

#### *Storytelling*

The Piassijada features in the kasulam-mukash folk story, *The Three Nesters*.

### **Language**

Despite the relevance of piassijada beds to culture, they do not actually show up in quirks of any Kaleidan languages.

### **Religion and Spirituality**

Piassijada beds are considered ordinary enough that most shamans have no particular interest in them. The occasional one may incorporate a piece of a piassijada plant into a wall hanging or preparation, however.

### **Special Events**

These beds are perennial, both in terms of their own growth and the presence of invertebrates, thanks to their preference for growing close to the equator. Therefore they are not associated with any particular special events or festivals.

### **Festivals**

See *Special Events*, above.

### **Social Dynamics**

Piassijada beds are the closest food equivalent to a watering hole. For this reason, they can be considered meeting places or to have other social significance.

#### *Kasulam Hunting Grounds*

Friiled kasulam continue to hunt and collect invertebrates in piassijada beds to take back to the burrow and share with the mukash. This is such an ingrained tradition that they do this whether the burrow was originally built by the mukash or not.





Piassijada beds are a great feature of any settlement's territory.

### **Utopian / Dystopian Qualities**

This plant mostly provides a bounty to the sapients of Kaleida, which may be interpreted at a meta-level as being mostly utopian. The small amount of risk - arguably loosely dystopian - is that piassijada beds can be dangerous for their youngsters.

### **Nations Founded**

To describe piassijada as influencing the founding of entire nations would be overstating the case, as there are no nations on Kaleida, but they have played a similar role to the decisions to found new settlements as rivers do.

## **Economy**

Piassijada plays a supportive role in keeping many populations fed.

## **Finance / Business**

Insects caught on piassijada beds can be used for trade.

## **Education**

Beds of this plant are rich with hunting and gathering opportunities - and a few risks. Every attentive parent takes the time to educate their offspring about the dangers.

## **Healthcare and Medicine**

Placebo only. A few shamans may use a fragment of piassijada plant to use in their preparations, usually to invoke a sense of plenty.

## **Credits**

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~Hayley, The Character Consultancy