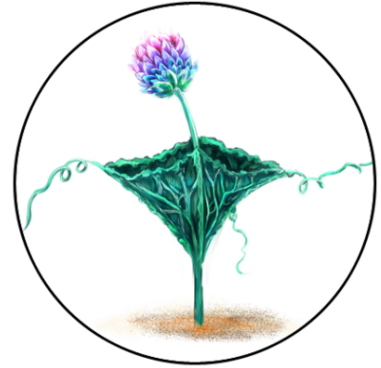


TREPARTE REED

- 🌿 **Height:** 6in to 12ft
- 🌿 **Classification:** Bonded
- 🌿 **Life expectancy:** 2-20 years



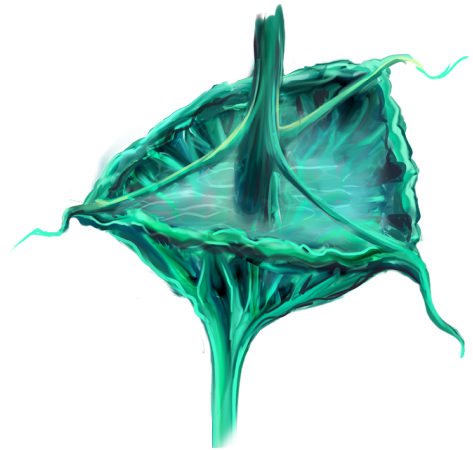
The treparte reed is a quick and easy source of food for omnivorous and carnivorous paleolithics, and is richly symbolic of regeneration, birth, and death, and as such is a favourite among creatives and shamans on Kaleida. It's named after the Latin phrase 'three-side' - *tres partes* - in reference to the three-sided pool it creates with its leaves.



Physiology



The treparte reed Family is a group of plants that produce water reservoirs with a combination of tendrils and specially-adapted leaf-like structures. They produce a single node part-way up the stem, from which grows three tendrils. These reach out to attach to anything they can and as they do, stretch three flat, veined structures between them. These structures produce a receptacle that fills with rainwater, which attracts animals that shelter, feed, and breed in them.



Above the reservoir is a single, large cone with loose scales. In most species this is large and colourful. The colour is designed to attract the attention of larger predatory animals and encourage them to explore the contents of the reservoir for smaller prey. The cone's weight makes it wave in the breeze, making it an attention-grabbing sight.

Reproduction

Trepartes produce spores that shed from the cone and drift down into the plant's reservoir. Then they are trapped on the skin, feathers, scales, or fur of visiting animals. When the animal leaves, it sheds these spores. The reed's tendency to actively attract predators with its colourful cone also means that when a predator comes to investigate, creatures that have dunked themselves in the reservoir are more inclined to leave quickly to escape, and inadvertently do more spore dispersal for the plant.

Medical Conditions

There are no particular diseases associated with this plant.



Geographical Distribution



Treparte reeds grow in freshwater lakes and rivers, in warm, humid climates where there are plenty of small animals around who need regular immersion in water, to visit their reservoirs and disperse their spores.

Populations

The rivers and lakes of Accra Forest and the rainforests of Central Oplayn are the best places to find treparte reeds, although some species grow elsewhere. [\[Detailed information to be added.\]](#)

Position in Ecosystem

Treparte reeds are micro-environments in themselves, and passively encourage many species to visit them. Because of this, they have an enriching effect on the local ecosystem.

Spore Dispersers

Almost every creature that visits a treparte reed assists in dispersing its spores.

Grazers

Treparte reeds aren't ideal for grazing as their stems and reservoirs are tough.

Other Users

Most visitors to treparte reeds are there to feed from, or shelter in, its reservoir, or to catch prey in its reservoir.

Anchoristral

These shy creatures are generally reluctant to leave the trees, but when they go in search of water, will often seek out treparte reeds. They take temporary shelter in the water, drink from them, and sometimes lay their eggs in them.

Athmook

Some larger athmook species will visit treparte reeds to catch flying invertebrates which tend to gather around treparte reed beds. However, they are less common visitors as most athmook are too small to reach into the reed's reservoir, and are not generally good enough at climbing to climb the stem - and even then, they prefer to avoid khoricru, which may be present on the stem.

Kasulam

These insectivores have a similar approach to treparte reeds as do the athmook.

Khoricru

Treparte reeds are a prime location for small khoricru to wait in ambush for prey. They wrap themselves around the stem beneath the reservoir and strike at creatures flying,

crawling up the stem towards, or leaning out of, the reservoir. This is such a common hunting strategy that it's more unusual to find a treparte reed without a resident khoricru than one with, and if the resident is taken, a replacement is sure to find it. Some may liken the relationship of khoricru to treparte reeds to that of hermit crabs and the shells they seek to live in.

Pinno' grath

These creatures are creative predators, and small to moderate sized ones will visit treparte reeds for a quick snack. They are a prime example of the predators that the treparte actively attracts to itself.

Takaspra

Some species of takaspra take up residence in a treparte reed's water reservoir as a territory, and defend it to gain mating rights.

Technology

Treparte reeds contribute little to Kaleida's technological progress.

Agriculture

These reeds are not farmed, but some paleolithics will visit known beds of them to see what food they can find hiding within the reeds' reservoirs.

History

The oral history of Kaleida's paleolithics reveals little about the history of treparte reeds. They are likely to have played a small part in stabilising new settlements by being a reliable source of food, but they do not provide enough to feed a whole community, especially on a daily basis.



This reed mostly occupies a symbolic role in Kaleida's various cultures, with most of the emphasis being on its symbolism of life, death, and rebirth. It can be either a mundane or a spiritual symbol, and the songs and poems of Kaleida are peppered with references to them.

Food

Treparte reed reservoirs can be a source of food, such as invertebrates, pogi'fula, and amphibious animals' eggs.

Some Kaleidians will look for a khoricru that may be wrapped around the reed's stem, and take it for food.

Art

This reed has powerful connotations with two processes: one is the mundane process of birth, life, and death, and the other is the more spiritual view of a cyclical process of life, death, and rebirth.

Drawing

Abstract drawings of trepartes are sometimes used to denote either the mundane or the spiritual view of these plants. This is usually done by storytellers, artists, or shamans. The most common instances of these etchings are found:

- ★ around the burrows of new mothers, in expressions of joy felt for new life
- ★ on the ground, in dry mud, sand, or even soft stone, as a shamanic symbol
- ★ on the flank or chest of a mukash who is finishing a period of grief, to symbolise rejoining the cycle of life
- ★ in the loose soil of new graves, particularly those where new plants are anticipated to grow over the grave site. Used like this, the symbol has connotations of the wisdom of acceptance of the death, and a form of optimism that an old friend will one day be seen again in the trees that grow from their body
- ★ In white, black, and blue soil in the entrance to some pinno' grath caves. This is an exciting development as the pinno' grath are barely into their stone age, so their use of symbolism is a potent sign of their progress.

Metaphor

The plant's associations of birth, life, death/life, death, rebirth inspire a rich source of metaphors, including:

- ★ **the embracing of life as its own reward**, specifically the enticing colours of the plant's cone, that lure the curious closer (whether the metaphor goes on to say that a close view of its richness is its own reward, or that the reward is food, depends on context)
- ★ the **universe**, with the inspiration being the 'universe' within a reservoir
- ★ **renewal**, as a reservoir is seldom empty
- ★ **death fuelling life**, as the deaths of some creatures fuel the life of others
- ★ a **mother's womb** or a **nest**, from which the children who hatched there can leave and return, and still be nourished on their return
- ★ **surprises** or the **unexpected**, as the sheer variety of creatures that can be found in a reservoir can be hard to predict
- ★ **awakening from dormancy**, as a new treparte opens up it turns from an empty bowl to a cup ready to play its active role in the ecosystem
- ★ **expertise, knowledge, wisdom, skill, or refinement**: trepartes root in shallow water, but it is the smaller quantity of water in their reservoir that supports the highest density and richness of life. In this metaphor, the river or lake is life with the heady mix of all the foolishness and wisdom life has to offer, and the small quantity of held water in the plant's reservoir is 'refined' to become the optimal space for life.

Song

Many songs and poems have been made using the above metaphors.

Language

See *Metaphor* and *Song*, above.

Religion and Spirituality

Treparte reeds symbolise a few aspects of spirituality: the womb, wisdom, the imperative to live life richly, the universe, death, and rebirth.

Personal Celebrations

Congratulating New Mothers

Mothers who have just given birth or hatched their eggs are often gifted a small khoricru taken from the stem of a treparte reed. To eat it symbolises the overcoming of the dangers of pregnancy or brooding with the successful birth or hatching.

Public Festivals

Despite the richly symbolic nature of the treparte, it barely features in the celebration of any community festivals. Some minor examples may be drawn as a symbol of rebirth that may be drawn on the first day of spring, or for festivals where a shaman's wisdom is welcomed, such as rain or winter festivals.

Politics

Trepartes have had no noticeable impact on the politics of Kaleida.

Utopian / Dystopian Qualities

Treparte reeds are almost always depicted as alive and thriving - as such, they're a meta symbol of the richness and enduring quality of life on Kaleida, so are arguably a utopian symbol.

Economy

Treparte reeds are not useful for trade.

Education

Mothers with small youngsters may well visit a treparte reed cluster to show them the interesting contents of the plants' reservoirs. They might be thought of as an educational lucky dip!

Healthcare and Medicine

Treparte reeds do not produce any medicines. However, they play a role in some shamanic preparations.

Pick-Me-Ups

Mukash, kasulam, or pinno' grath who have travelled a long way and are tired, or who have cared for the young or old for long enough to feel exhausted, may visit their shaman to feel cared for and revitalised. Kasulam shamans make a variety of pick-me-ups using either a treparte's water, or the spores shaken from one of their cones, as an ingredient.

Credits

Treparte Reed is © [The Character Consultancy](#)

Artwork by [Taleea](#) and provided with their kind permission

Wording by [The Character Consultancy](#)



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