

DARRAMA

- ▶ **Height:** 2-10cm
- ▶ **Classification:** Eccentric
- ▶ **Life expectancy:** 5-20 years



Kaleida's nearest equivalent to grass, darrama is named after the Arabic word for 'whirlpool' - dawwama. This name references the characteristic curl of the leaves.

Physiology

There are many species of darrama, but overall they have several common characteristics. All species sprawl on the ground, grow close to one another to produce extensive carpets, and grow long fronds. Most are soft and silky.

One species produces a citrus scent when crushed, so walking on darrama can raise a cloud of the scent.

It produces spores to reproduce.

Medical Conditions

There are no current medical conditions associated with darrama.

Geographical Distribution

Darrama grows in both cool and hot environments and is generally unfussy about most characteristics of its environment so long as it has a medium to grow in, but requires an ongoing and sufficient supply of water to survive.

Position in Ecosystem

Many herbivorous animals rely on darrama as a large portion of their diet. However, the ability to eat it in large quantities is an adaptation, as most species of darrama are indigestible to non-adapted animals, and a few species produce chemical irritants that make them difficult to eat in large quantities.

History

Darrama has no notable history outside of the context of its evolutionary path. It is among the planet's most common plants due to its adaptability.

Culture

Darrama has an occasional role among the mukash and kasulam as a ceremonial plant: it is used to make a space more welcoming for visitors or important figures.

Food



Some omnivorous species can eat darrama (single leaf pictured, left), but it is not generally considered a staple due to its low nutritional content. The neolithic species almost invariably eat food with higher calorific density than darrama.

Art

The mukash sometimes pick bunches of the citrus-scented species of darrama and keep it in their caves to create a pleasant scent. This can be for special occasions or to combat unpleasant smells.

Social Dynamics

If a mukash decorates their home with citrus-scented darrama, the guest can be confident that they are considered a guest of honour.

Politics

Darrama is among the items routinely taken to the Sunset Cathedra in preparation for councils. It is used to freshen the scent of the blankets that the tribal leaders sleep in after the council is dismissed.

Economy

The darrama plant can be useful, but is not an essential plant to have, so is not bought or sold very often, and is a second (or third) choice rather than a first for its primary practical purpose of soaking up water.

Money / Trading System

Bunches of citrus-scented darrama may be bought and sold for the purposes of scenting a mukash's home. However, this is considered an occasional luxury for welcoming esteemed visitors, and is not an essential item.

Medicine

Darrama has no medical value beyond being spiritually uplifting.

Technology

Some mukash and kasulam tribes use darrama to gather water, although it is considered an inferior way to do so compared to their use of air/condensation wells. The gatherer either finds a patch of living plants early in the morning and squeezes them to release the dew gathered overnight, or leaves out bunches of dead darrama within the tribe's territory to gather dew overnight, and squeezes them in the morning.

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~Hayley, The Character Consultancy