

REIN

- ▶ Length/Height: Base Parasite (usually referred to as BP) approx. 1 inch tall and able to stretch into a single cell-thick strand.
- ▶ Weight: BPs are generally 7.5-8oz
- ▶ Classification: Parasite
- ▶ Differences between sexes: BPs are sexless until they attach to a host, [and then they have the same sex as the host?] [Yes]
- ▶ Life expectancy: Unknown
- ▶ Life cycle: [How would you describe this? So far it looks like, "BP spawns, seeks a (furry?) host which it attaches to, uses their body in some way to create more copies of itself or eats the host" Am I on the right track, there?]
[They stay with their first host once assimilation is complete, and the released copies are another blob released through the mouth; and set off to do its own hunt.]
- ▶ Diet: Carnivorous

[Name of species] is a native species of [name of planet]. They mostly occur in the story, *Rein of Terror*.

[I'm thinking the planet name would be named by the scientists that discovered it and not the parasites themselves, so, something like, Ares-14. God of War seems like a fitting name for these guys.]



Rein originated on [unnamed planet], but have been sighted on Furry Earth. BPs have [you said 'different eye colours' - did you mean a variety of colours like most humans do, or do they have heterochromia?] [Also, I'm wondering how they can have eyes and the neurological system that supports viable eyes (ie., they need to be attached to a brain, or at least some form of neurological network) if they can become only one cell thick?]
[Different eye colors as in there's variety like with humans. The cells making up the parasite as a group can communicate like a brain, but it has the ability to crawl around. Like how amoeba move.]

Parasitism

[Do the hosts of parasites know that they've been infected? Is it obvious to outside observers, either in their appearance or changes to their behaviour?]

[The most obvious changes are when taking an herbivorous host, as most of those naturally would not take to. eating meat, nor would they be interested in tracking down

live prey. They also become far denser, which would be evident if anyone paid close attention to where these hosts sat, or, should they visit a doctor and got weighed (but this is unlikely since it risks discovery)]

Reproduction

This species replicates through a form of mitosis, which takes around a week to complete. Specimens are so aggressive with one another that life expectancy has so far been impossible to determine. Indeed, the biggest threat to the survival of a Rein is another Rein.

Regeneration

They are also capable of regenerating damaged or missing body tissue, and are so efficient at doing this, that they will eat their own flesh if food isn't available from an outside source. They can continue to do this for around a month before regeneration becomes too much of a strain for them to continue. However, this provides them with a significant survival advantage.

Intelligence

Despite their status as parasites, they are intelligent and capable of self-recognition. [Do they use their own brains to do this, or that of their hosts?]
[The host's brain, now that I've thought about it.]

World Population

Unknown, but thought to be around 300 at the time they invaded Furry Planet.

World Records

The heaviest individual on record when fully assimilated was specimen 03, who took the body of a shark/dragon hybrid. Her resulting weight was approximately that of two elephants.

Main Predators

A Rein's only predator is others of the same species.

Medical Conditions

[Are they prone to getting sick, either as BPs or as the passengers of hosts (perhaps they might suffer in some way if the host visits a hot location)?]

[They can be infected by most common illnesses, but, their self replication and healing will chase the secondary "parasite" out fairly quickly.]



Geographical Distribution



Rein originated on [name of home planet] and invaded Furry Earth by hitching on a rover that was sent to their planet by the inhabitants of Furry Earth.

Their home world was hot and humid on account of being close to its host star. [Were these good conditions for your species or did they invade Furry Earth because they wanted to escape it? It sounds to me like they evolved in those conditions, but perhaps something happened on their world to increase the temperature of their planet significantly in a short space of time (as in, climate change caused either by natural or unnatural means). Can you say more about this?]

[The Rein weren't aiming to invade the planet originally; a few happened to hitch a ride on a returnable rover sent to the planet. The first specimen was the scientist responsible for the rover. Realising it got bored with no competition for territory, it used the host's resources to repeat the process. This is how the following first-stage specimens came to the FE.]

Cold Areas

While Rein adapt to their host body to a large degree, they have a preference for species that can, or do, live in cold climates that are at least moderately wet. They avoid using animals that live in deserts as hosts. [What happens to them if they try? Surely the survival of the host means survival of the parasite - or do hot, dry conditions feel uncomfortable enough to them that it affects their quality of life? Does the host feel uncomfortable in conditions where they used to feel comfortable, because they've been infected?]

[Wet Areas

I'm curious whether your species prefer wet areas, because moisture is generally very good for lowering temperature (this is why humans sweat, and why survival experts recommend that if you fell into an icy river then the best thing you can do is strip off, get as dry as possible, and put on new, dry clothes)]

[Also, how well do they cope with marine environments, which are generally salty? If they require moisture to feel comfortable, is salt caustic on their skin?]

[I'll just answer this in a single chunk here.

Dryness or salty environments dry out and shrivel the infected cells. The parasite noticing this would move locations.

Should someone discover the parasite and it's behaviors with these environments; they would know trapping the specimen in this environment would kill the parasite. Though the host would be left with most of their original brain rather. Not the same? I still need to work on this idea.]



Position in Ecosystem



[It sounds like there wasn't much life other than them on their home planet. Is that the case?]

[Another thing I'm working on. There was *something* else there, but, again ,needs more work still.]



History



[Introduction needed.]

Major Events

[In what year did your species invade Furry Earth?]

[Some future-y time! I'm going to be fudging the sci-fi a bit and don't have an idea of a "year" yet either....hm.]

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Culture

[These parasites sound pretty basic. Do you think it's appropriate for me to make this Culture section? Did the parasites become self-aware once they latched on to hosts, and if so, could they be said to have developed their own culture, separate to that of their hosts?]

Food

Rein are carnivorous, but when food is not available they can and will auto-cannibalise. This is possible thanks to their capacity for regeneration.

[You mentioned that they see anything else as prey. Can they not reliably be killed by anything, even big, strong species?]

Art

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Festivals

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Language

[Introduction needed.]

Sonar

Rein use sonar to communicate with one another, so to a human ear they click.

Host's Language

Once a **Rein** has assimilated into its host, it adopts its host's language, or languages.

Social Dynamics

Rein are naturally territorial and aggressive when not inside a host, but will adhere to their host's social habits once they have one.

Handling of Differences/Bigotry

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2
[To be worked on]

Example 3
[To be worked on]

Other Cultural Details

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1
[To be worked on]

Example 2
[To be worked on]

Example 3
[To be worked on]

Politics

[As far as I understand, these creatures are so hostile to one another that they wouldn't be able to cooperate well enough to form factions, so therefore couldn't develop politics. Would that be a fair guess?]

Wars

[While I believe that these parasites might not be able to form into any kinds of groups that might subsequently fight, I wonder if they may have bred in such numbers that they ended up self-massacring. Could they have become a plague?]

Or even, could they have latched onto hosts on their native planet and fought wars as the host-creatures?]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Alliances

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Religion / Spirituality

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Law

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Miscellaneous Political Details

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

 **Economy** 

[Again, something tells me that these guys weren't able to form anything organised enough to develop an economy due to their mutual hostility, at least not on their own. Would that be right?]

Money / Trading System

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Major Businesses

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Education

[While 'education' might be stretching the definition, I wonder if your species may have learned specific clicks from one another, much like dolphins do, and therefore taught one another their language. Would that be right, or was their language development purely instinctual? Indeed, could they communicate specific messages to one another, or was it more of a case of, "I can hear another individual clicking over there. I must therefore be on or close to their territory. I will either flee or fight in response"? In other

words, were their calls ever a warning, or just a way to 'see' their environment, considering that it was sonar?]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Medicine

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1

[To be worked on]

Example 2

[To be worked on]

Example 3

[To be worked on]

Construction

[Do BPs live anywhere in particular? It sounds like they don't have the capacity for infrastructure to develop a construction skill-base, but do they prefer living under rocks, perhaps?

Also, do individuals living within hosts change the host's behaviour? If they prefer cold (and possibly wet) environments then I wonder whether they might influence their host to stick to those sorts of environments.]

Example 1
[To be worked on]

Example 2
[To be worked on]

Example 3
[To be worked on]

Distribution of Goods

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1
[To be worked on]

Example 2
[To be worked on]

Example 3
[To be worked on]

Other Details of Economy

[Introduction needed.]

Example 1
[To be worked on]

Example 2
[To be worked on]

Example 3
[To be worked on]

Credits

[Species] is © Valkyric [\[Is there anywhere in particular you'd like me to link to, here?\]](#)

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~Hayley, The Character Consultancy