

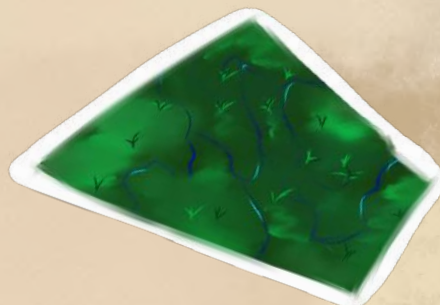
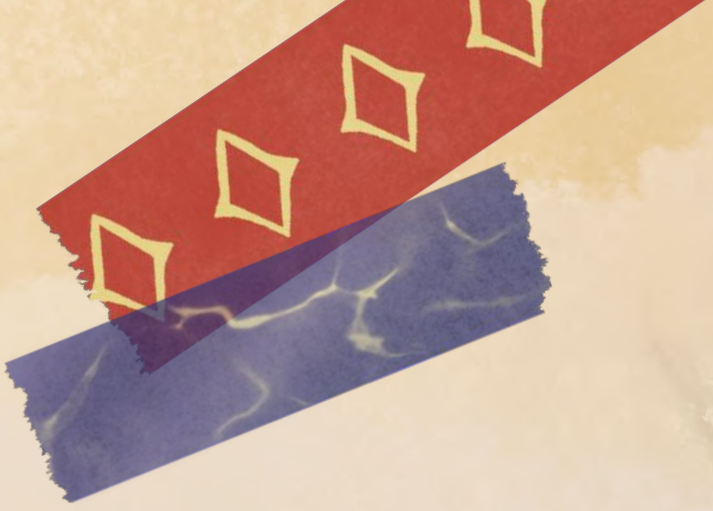
*Ruzaders' Compendium of Insects*





To our least favorite idol,  
crimson Ruze

with love, from the Ruzaders



Front & Back Cover Artist: Seia  
Inner Cover Artist: Vivi

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# Azure Beguiler

The Azure Beguiler is rather unique compared to other members of its family. For though it also has a stinger with venom to inject in its prey, the way it lures them in is far different and arguably, more vile. During the day, it will hold its transparent stinger out and shake the blue colored poison inside, lying still under the sand to mimic a water puddle. It will also create bubbling noises, as if to mimic the sounds of a hidden water hole bursting from the ground. In the night, it will even use the patterns on its back to mimic moonlight reflecting off a water surface. It is all an elaborate ruse—using an alluring facade of water in the desert to attract its prey. It is best to carry anti-venom if you plan on crossing their territory. For if a poor soul steps close enough to take a drink, one might end up suffering a long and agonizing death.

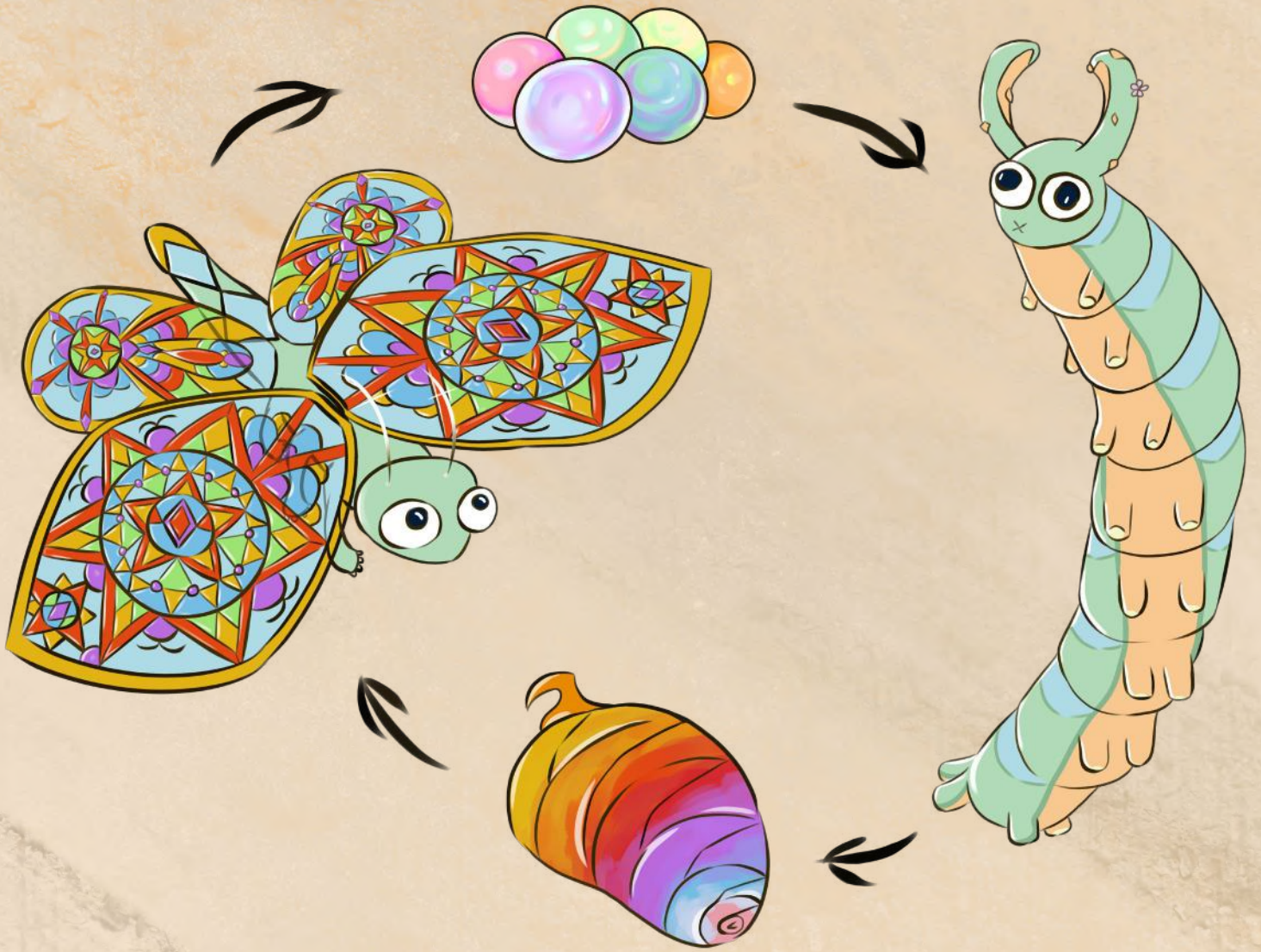
Oh, it's soooo pretty! Although the one we found used a different noise; it sounded like the word "kitten" followed by a weird laugh, like one a certain false noble would make...

# Badlands Centipede

A centipede found in the deserts of the Badlands. About the size of a small to medium sized dog with an average lifespan of five years or so. The centipede has simple eyes called ocelli, which allow them to detect light and dark. Otherwise, it is blind. It possesses an ability to sense the seismic tremors of other creatures, allowing it to hunt prey and evade predators. Ensnares prey with its numerous limbs and injects a numbing venom with the use of its front legs, called maxillipeds. Another unique feature is its pseudo head, which protects its main body by distracting predators. Attached to the pseudo head are a pair of hind legs which unfortunately do not aid in motion. Centipedes are prone to drying out, and as such prefer dark environments and are nocturnal hunters. It has taken on the appearance of crystals and minerals to attract prey and disguise itself from predators.

What the heck's that??? Def  
not a crystal! Long as heck  
but fast as heck too? Dang  
near grabbed me with its feet!  
Why's it gots two heads? How's  
it finding me? It's dark here,  
I can barely see. This aint  
good, I gotta skedaddle!





# Cathedral Moth

Out in the deserts of Southern Elysium, a few cathedrals are known to attract moths with stained-glass wings. These crystalline bugs start life in pearlescent eggs atop cacti. Once hatched, they eat a tunnel through the cactus and bury themselves in the sandy roots. They gorge themselves on the cool sand and burn copious amounts of energy until their cocoon becomes a kiln in which their glass wings are forged. Their cocoons are made of heat-resistant fibers and cacti are being destroyed to dig them up.

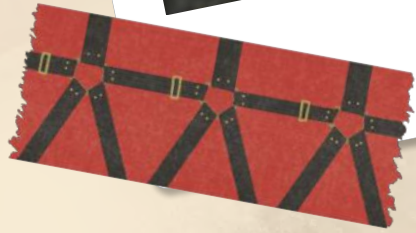
The Cathedral Moth has shovel-like horns when caterpillars to assist with their burrowing. Chunks of cactus juice and sand often collect on these horns and contribute to the spikes on the moth's antennas after pupating. Their cocoons are topped with small hooks, the purpose of these is highly debated. Some theorize that it attaches to roots, while others say it is a stabilizer. The most confusing part of these bugs is the uncanny similarities between their wings and the desert cathedrals' stained-glass windows. Perhaps they are more ancient than the buildings...

# Cochineal

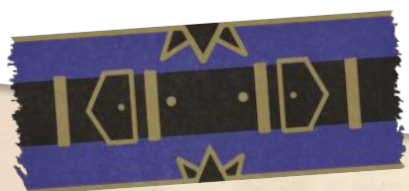
Primarily seen in fuzzy white clusters on the broad pads of cacti, the Cochineal is a small desert dwelling insect that lives off the moisture and nutrients of cacti. Although fuzzy at first glance, further inspection reveals the fuzz to actually be a waxy substance that's used to help protect themselves from excessive sun and water loss. Though they themselves are not colorful, these scale insects have also been given the nickname "Crimson" scale due to the vivid color of pigment that can be created by crushing their dried bodies. This bright red color, referred to as Carmine, has been used as a dye for thousands of years and is still presently used in some cosmetics and as a food-safe dye.



Found these fuzzy little guys hanging out on the pad of a cactus while running after Ruze. Apparently their bodies can be used to make red paint!



They're also part of a group called 'Scale insects' which means they have armor! Like little cacti-juice loving tanks!



# Great Malpais Scarab





In Ancient Southern Elysium mythology, it was believed that the Great Malpais Scarab wielded sacred protection against demised. These archaic scarabs were usually located in the dry lands of the desert, donning in striking blue and green colors that quite contrast the desert's blandness. With the Great Malpais Scarab symbolizing rebirth and resurrection, some would go as far as to adorn the dead or corrupted wearing these scarabs, in hopes to "purify" them and ensure a safe travel to the afterlife. At present Southern Elysium, it has become a custom to gift crafted scarab accessories to loved ones as a form of protection in battle. Southern Elysian adventurers and bounty hunters alike commonly wear their Great Malpais Scarab as a necklace to ward off vicious corruption energy nearby. Despite its physically small appearance, one mustn't underestimate its sheer power to protect the wielder from harm. Certain bounty hunters have been seen stocking up on these pretty scarabs before stepping foot in the desert to fight corruption beasts.



A pretty jewel bug  
in the middle of the  
desert! Heh, time to  
steal this guy for  
lunch. I mean - uh,  
that's, like, +10 DEF  
for me! Haha..

# Starlight Scarab



*I found a white one -  
it looks like kohakutou  
candy! I wonder if it  
tastes like candy, too...*

The starlight scarab, scientific name *Strategus fulgidus*, is an enchanting and mysterious species of scarab beetle. Like others of its family, starlight scarabs possess a distinctly rotund oval shape, clubbed antennae, and toothed forelegs. Starlight scarabs are nocturnal omnivores that hunt small insects or feast on cactus roots, depending on what food source is available to them. This fascinating creature is characterized by the moon-shaped crest on its horn, a diamond-shaped patch on its back, and the possession of adulescent wings under its elytra which seem to glow from within when under light. The bluish-white lumination mimics starlight, which allows *S. fulgidus* to blend with the night sky as they hunt or migrate – hidden from predators and prey alike. During the day, they burrow into the cool depths of sand to rest. Though they are most commonly sandy brown with dark bellies, a rare and disadvantageous translucent white coloration exists that allows the wings to shine slightly through the elytra. This variation has only been seen near surface deposits of similarly adulescent minerals.



# Teapot Beetle

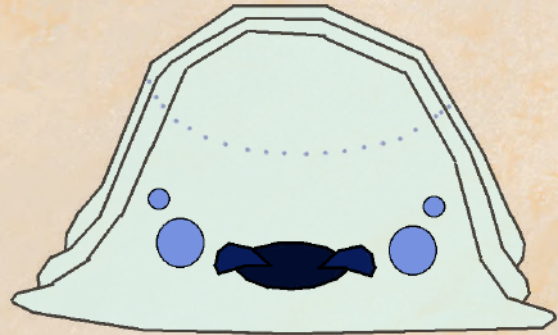


Fig. 1. Larva form

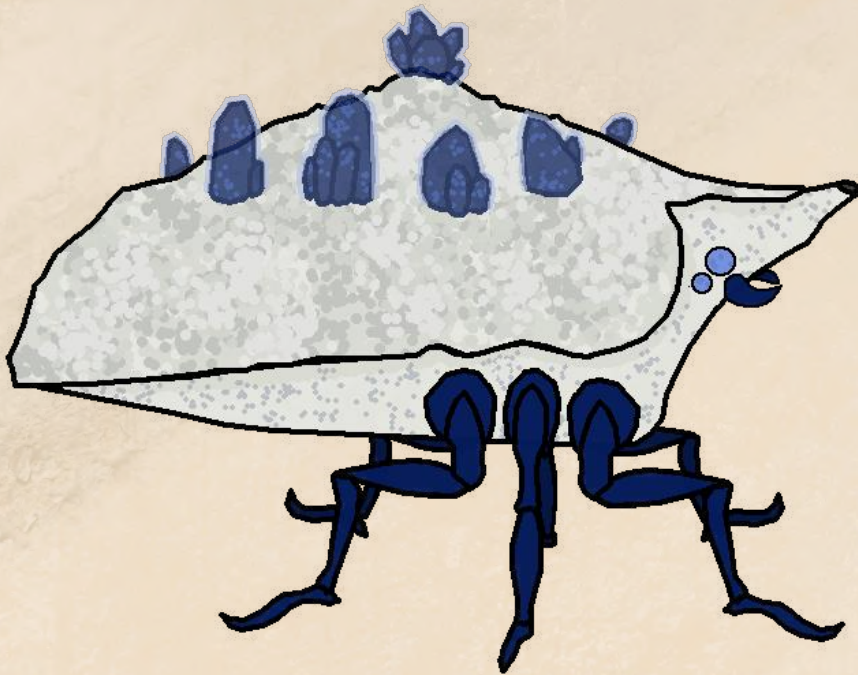


Fig. 2. Adult form

A 15 cm long insect that inhabits a crater of an asteroid called Emerald Lake. It starts life as a transparent larva and after metamorphosis, it feeds on the substance in the lake and turns white and blue. As the lake changes and turns emerald green, the Teapot beetle changes from white and blue into brown and green because the minerals in the lake change. In the evening, the crystal starts to shine to attract partners, then both genders dig down into the ground. After the female lays her eggs, both adult insects stay at the eggs side for as long as they are alive. When it comes time for the next generation to hatch, the larva eats the remains of their parents and the cycle begins again.



8W8 8W8 8W8



*Fig. 1. Before molting*



*Fig. 2. After molting*

# Tumbleweed Pill Bug

The humble tumbleweed pill bug is well known for their tumbleweed-like appearance, which they adopt to travel over long distances when sleeping during the day, allowing them to avoid most predators. Their survival in the treacherous badlands for centuries are primarily thanks to their barbed setae providing evasive and defensive capabilities, on top of their robust exoskeletons and sensitive antennae. The setae not only helps to camouflage them, but also wards off predators in a pinch, and allows them to travel at high speeds on the sand. It does assist them in crushing plant fibers for easier consumption as well, but they seldom do so unless travelling with a partner, or in rare cases, a group. By feeding off of a variety of plants, berries, and decaying matter, the colours and patterns on their exoskeleton changes after molting, allowing the pill bug to better camouflage itself in newer environments after its setae quickly grows back in a different shade. Due to their adorable appearance, many adventurers have tried to capture them as a pet, only to end up injured or robbed of some of their food and medicine supply after the pill bug makes its escape from being captured.







# *The* GRASSLAND

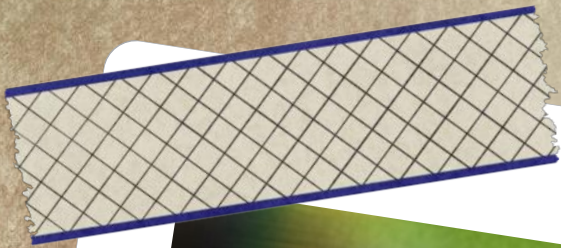
# Cicada

While cicadas have one of the longest lifespans of any bug, most of that is spent buried underground as young nymphs. After hatching from eggs planted within tree branches, the nymphs descend to feed on plant roots, some species doing so for up to 17 years. Once they have reached maturity and the soil temperature is warm enough, they resurface.

Cicada species can be classified into two groups, annual and periodical. Annual species resurface at different times, while periodical species all resurface together in groups known as broods. Annual cicadas camouflage themselves to hide from predators, but periodical cicadas don't need to hide; they emerge in such large numbers that predators cannot eat all of them at once!

The loud ringing noise that cicadas are known for is only produced by male cicadas, and is used as a mating call to attract females. A cicada's call can even be loud enough to cause permanent hearing damage if prolonged to the noise.

*It looked kinda peaceful  
when it was just hanging  
out on top of me, but  
then OW! MY EARS!  
The noise it made was  
even louder than the  
one Ruze makes when  
someone implies that he  
has friends!*



# Clouded Crimson Moth

Often recognised by their boldly colorful wings and small size, the Crimson Clouded Moth (*Schinia gaurae*) are often seen flitting about the various plants and flowers found in the grasslands. With their magenta-streaked wings and cream-colored body, these members of the 'flower moth' group are often confused for being a type of butterfly due to their bright coloring and being active during the day and night. The Crimson Clouded Moth makes use of this confusion by copying the colors and markings of Monarch Butterfly caterpillars, doing so to trick predators such as birds into thinking Crimson Clouded caterpillars are equally poisonous.

The backdoor of the tavern was open a little last night so we squeezed through to go explore (>::3). Saw something flapping by one of the lanterns, looked big and had splotches of (blood) red on it.

I had to hold reeeally still so the little guy wouldn't fly away, but it was worth it! Look at how pretty those wings are!



the red parts look like someone dripped paint on them!

# Crawling Trove



fig. 1. The Crawling Trove looking for gems



fig. 2. They scoop the gems into their storage area

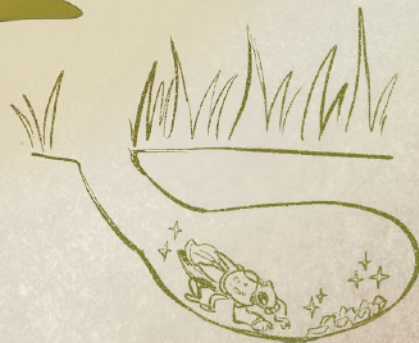


fig. 3. They move the gems into their stash underground

If you're running around in some grassy place, there's a chance you'll hear the sound of gems clinking against each other, even though there aren't any around! When this happens, look around in the dirt, and you might see one of these thingies! Their backside is like a treasure chest or a box! They scoop gems and stones up into their butts. If you're really hungry, you can take the gems from them or follow them to their home to take their whole stash! If you're super-duper-ultra hungry, you can just eat em on the spot. Be careful though; they can have anything in there, like boring old pebbles, so they might taste bad. The gems on their necks are usually the ones they're collecting, so pay attention to that... maybe. If you're lucky enough, you'll grab one full of really pretty, shiny gems! If you're even luckier than that, you'll spot a super-duper huge one! I'm hungry...

*Sometimes the gems inside Treasure Troves are different from the ones on their necks, but it's like eating a whole bag of crunchy gummies in one mouthful!*







# Monarch Butterfly

The Monarch Butterfly is one of the most recognizable and thoroughly studied winged insects in the entire world. It is known for its large size, prominent orange and black wings, and seasonal migration, meaning it can be found in many different biomes, including the grasslands. The Monarch Butterfly collects its nectar from numerous flowers wherever it lives or flies to, but it needs milkweeds and flowering plants specifically to keep the population growing.

Not only are its wings beautifully bright, but the colors of its wings naturally protect the butterfly from predators as it flies from place to place. The colors warn potential attackers that they are poisonous, so any attempt to hurt the butterfly will result in the predator's toxic end.

*These butterflies are so scary but so cool! I love seeing them when I'm traveling, but there are fewer of them each day... I hope we can help them and protect their homes!*

# Sapphire Weevil

Like most weevils, this specimen feeds on seeds and nuts from grasses, shrubs, and scattered trees in the grassy plains. Unlike most weevils (which usually have camouflaged coloration), this species is very brightly colored, with a multicolored metallic sheen and larger, contrasting legs. This is to warn of its noxious chemical defense; it produces an extremely foul-tasting mix of chemicals from glands in its abdomen when threatened. The long proboscis is used to bore into larger nuts for easy consumption. The elytra are fused together, this weevil is not capable of flight, relying on its defense mechanisms to keep it safe from predators who will think twice before bothering it after their first experience. The larvae are believed to be normal colored, as no grubs with similar vibrant colors have ever been observed. If so, they likely don't develop the chemical defense measures until metamorphosis.

This guy was so sparkly  
and colorful, I gave  
him a little lick to see  
if he was gem-flavored.  
Man was I surprised,  
this thing tastes foul!  
Yuck!



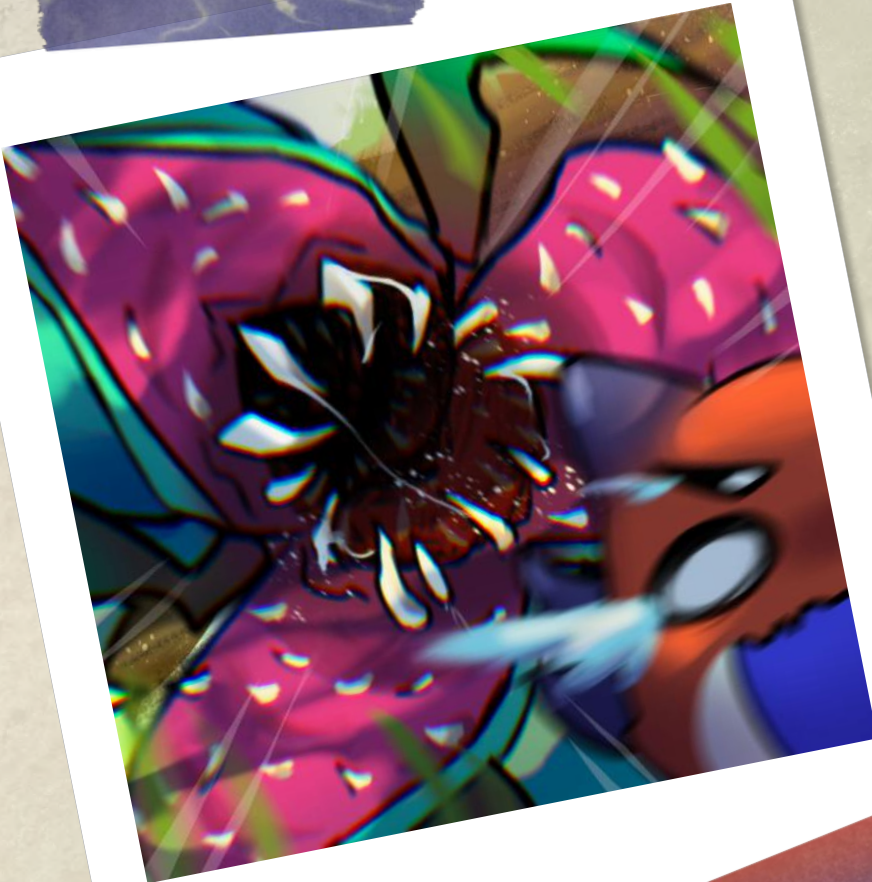
# Verdant Hallucigorgon



The Verdant Hallucigorgon is one of the largest species of caterpillars. They reside in large vernal pools, crawling through the muddy terrain. To the inexperienced traveler, these creatures seem harmless with their long-noodle bodies, alluring glow, and stubby legs. Don't let their looks deceive you, as they're one of the largest carnivores in the grasslands.

When hunting, the Hallucigorgon senses vibrations of nearby prey in the area. Once they lock onto a target, their true nature shines through. Their faces split open to reveal their gaping mouths filled with rows of sharp teeth. Watch out for their retractable spikes!! Each one is coated with poison that when injected induces major hallucinations before paralyzing its victims on site!!

Sadly, these magnificent beasts are highly sought after by poachers and the few remaining feast on aquatic creatures and rarely crawl up to the surface.



I almost ate shit  
falling into the water.  
At least im not de-  
wait WHAT IS THAT  
HOLY FUCK!!

8M8 8W8 8M8



**JUN**



**Jungle**

# Lapsus Thorax





*Lapsus Thorax*, also known as the Gliding Jumper, is an Arachnid of the Salticidae family. Its size ranges from 7-22mm, averaging at 17mm. You can identify this species by the skull on its abdomen and spikes that line the outer top of the abdomen. This species has adapted to have wings, using them to extend its jump distance by gliding to the next tree. However, it has not been observed flying. The spider prefers to live in the treetops, eating high-flying bugs and unripened fruits. They can be very curious and jump down from their high home to investigate unfamiliar creatures in the forest.

A cute rainbow spider jumped down to check out our snacks. We shared some fruit we collected and hung out for a bit. It happily waved its legs before leaving. We made a new friend!





# Noctaris Whirlblight

Of the many creatures that stalk the jungles of Elysium, there are almost none that are said to be as elegant as the Noctaris Whirlblight. Long ago, a hungry dragon ate a moth that was sacred to the moon. Angered, the moon cursed the dragon so that it and all its descendants would become part-moth as penance, leading to the Whirlblights we see today.

As a larvae, it feeds only on plants that grow by moonlight, growing fat on their leaves. At new moon, it spins its cocoon and lies in wait for the next full moon, completing its metamorphosis and emerging as a full adult. Its usual adult diet consists of the fruit of moonlight-grown plants, smaller insects, and rarely, small birds. The Whirlblight, weak by day but active by night, absorbs moonlight to form blades along its wing edges, becoming a deadly weapon as it charges and spins to tear targets to shreds. Along with its moonlight blades, the Whirlblight can also produce a fine mist that can incapacitate and disorient both predator and prey. This mist is generated by inhaling and rattling the scales on its chest and belly, the sound serving as a warning to all that dare challenge it.

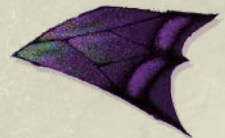
# Prism Swallowtail



"Vermillion" Variant



"Quinacridone" Variant



"Obsidian" Variant



"Radiant" Variant



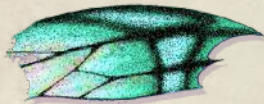
Standard "Crimson" Variant



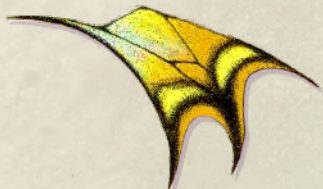
"Azure" Variant



"Turquoise" Variant



"Verdant" Variant



"Citrine" Variant



At 50-90 cm (1.6-3 feet) with long tails of various lengths, the giant form of the Prism Swallowtail is one that strikes fear into the creatures of the jungle and its visitors. These predatory butterflies often have preferences for various food types that arise as caterpillars which influence the color which blooms during the metamorphosis. Their hunting behaviors as caterpillars rely on a particularly tough skin and determination, while the adults have a disturbing routine of hoisting prey high into the air and dropping them to feast on the splattered remains.

Those without preferences remain the common “crimson” red, eating anything in their path without going out of their way to eat one thing or another. The “azure” blue morph consumes toxic flowers and small poisonous frogs commonly found in the biome. A dream-like “turquoise” color develops in those which prefer carnivorous plants. A particularly unique “verdant” green hue develops in those hunting small mammals. The jewel-toned “citrine” individuals have a penchant for mushrooms, poisonous or otherwise. The rarer “vermillion” morph steals eggs from nests. A few scarce “quinacridone” individuals seek out snakes - a practice that results in death as a caterpillar as often as an adult. The few survivors are particularly perceptive to the dangers of their situation.

Unsubstantiated rumors claim that a pale, shimmering “radiant” morph exists which hunts down the “obsidian” members of its species. It should be noted that the obsidian variant did not appear until sometime after Ruzaders began expeditions in the jungle.



# Sap Clutcher



*Sucu Capto*, otherwise known as the Sap Clutcher. These creatures thrive in forests and live their lives under trees and bushes. Sap Clutchers will collect sap directly from roots and transform it into amber on their tail tip. The stinger on their tails are retractable and release a fossilizing serum that can both aid in transforming sap into amber and paralyzing its prey of choice. The needle is sharp and strong enough to go through their homemade amber and into the flesh of their prey. These creatures hang their tails just outside their homes and sway them in a motion that simulates plants in order to attract insects and other unassuming potential meals close enough to be struck by their retractable stinger needle.

If you're in a forest  
you better be careful.  
There's these bugs  
called Sap Clutchers  
that can and will  
hurt you. They're really  
good at waving their  
homemade amber  
lollipops that happen to  
be their tails around.  
Those tails are really  
tasty, but they have  
stingers that stab  
through the amber!  
Ruzaders who really  
want those snacks have  
to yank the tail off  
and run away. Their  
tails are an infinite  
food source!





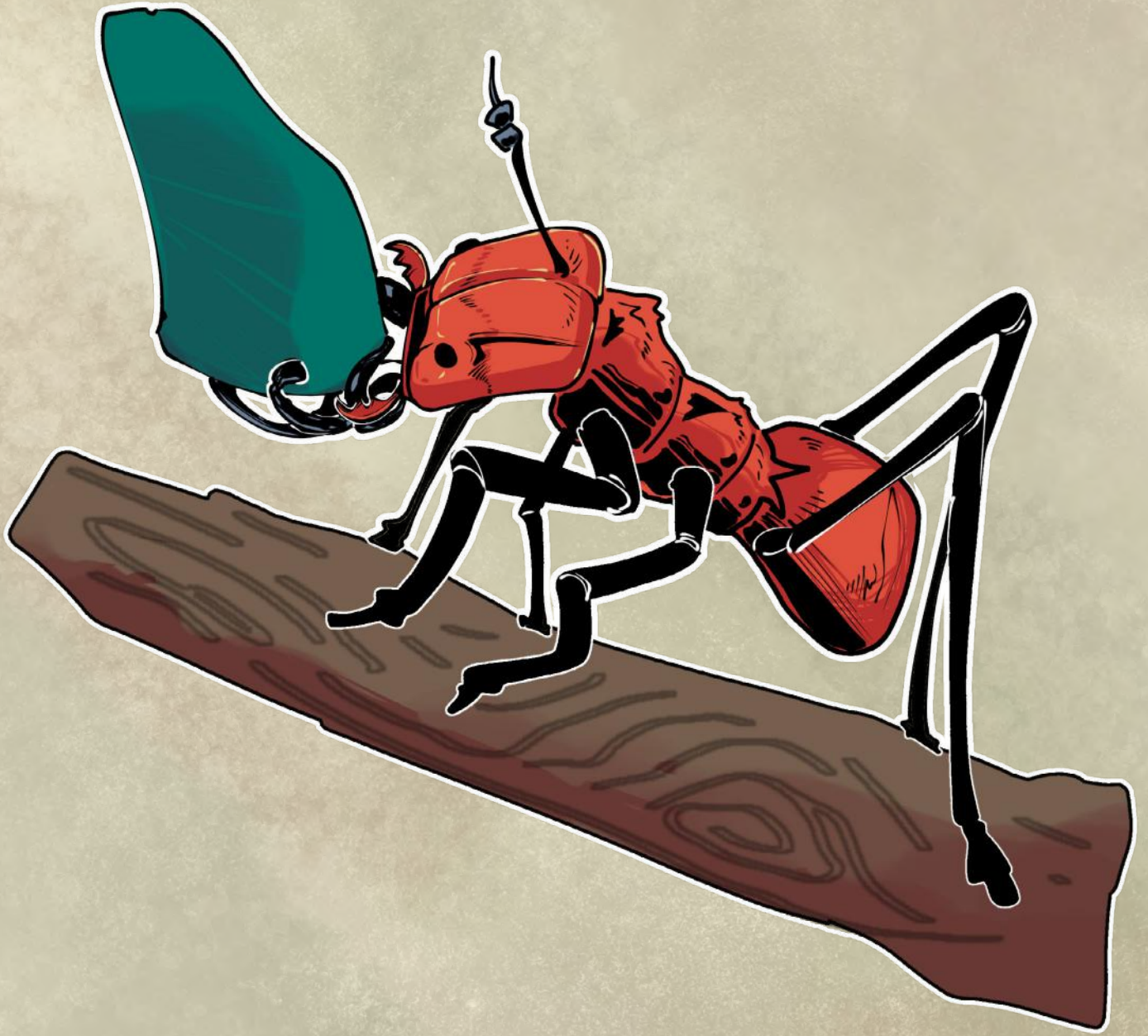


# Sunshine Beetle

A variant of the sun beetle, the Sunshine Beetle shares many of the same characteristics. It is a pale yellow or orange with one brown spot on its thorax and two spots on each of its elytra on each wing. It stands out amongst the greenery of the forests and jungles that it lives in, but the trees and sticks provide a place for them to lay and rest to blend in much better. Its diet consists of ripe or rotting fruit and wood, along with the leaves of specific trees. The Sunshine Beetle is a bug for bug admirers who wish to keep a beetle as a low-maintenance pet. Their time to develop is short, and their diet is manageable.

The main difference between the sun beetle and the Sunshine Beetle is that the latter can produce an eminent glow, reminiscent of a sun shining, whether they stand still or walk around.

The Sunshine Beetle would be great as a friend! We could play hide and seek in the jungle. It could hide on top of a tree or in a bush! Unless it glows... but that's a good sign because it means that it's happy!!



# Undead Crawlers of the Jungle

Situated in the vast humid forest lies corrupted fuzzy-looking black ants. The Undead Crawlers of the Jungle are not just your friendly neighborhood ants – these critters are akin to corruption beasts of the Badlands, but less harmful to wandering travelers. Infected ants withdraw from their nest to detect an area with high humidity where they use their squid-looking mouth to bite on a leaf vein and remain until their death. A rather perfect recipe for fungal growth. The corrupted fungus that infected the ant through spores slowly disfigured its figure, allowing fruiting bodies to grow from the now-corrupted ant's head, as well as bringing them back to 'life'. Despite its zombie-like features, Southern Elysium residents have claimed that these little crawlers are completely safe to eat. Even Southern Elysian bounty hunters would occasionally feast on the Undead Crawlers for a quick snack or medicinal purposes. After all, eating these critters won't turn a human into a zombie – for now, at least.

Looks like I've finished  
all my supply of Undead  
Crawlers... I've just eaten  
the last one. Or the last  
of ants, if you will.

Artist: Oli



SWAMP

The word "SWAMP" is rendered in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The letters are primarily yellow and orange, with a pinkish-red gradient. The letter 'S' is particularly large and features a pink swan's neck and head. The letter 'W' has a pink lily pad floating on its left side. The letter 'P' has a pink lily pad floating on its right side. The entire word is set against a dark, textured background that looks like a splash of paint or a shadow.



# Lanterntrapper



The Lanterntrapper is a dragonfly-species that hunts at nightfall, luring smaller flying bugs into its treacherous mandibles. Often mistaken for a firefly, the Lanterntrapper possesses a bioluminescent bulb, hanging from a single antenna. It draws in its victims with a golden light before snatching them out of the air

Its mandibles can open and close at a rapid speed, creating a loud snapping sound whenever a fly is caught. This eerie sound echoing through the dark swamps has scared many a traveler. This is aided further by its aggressive, territorial nature. Records tell of attacks by these in comparison small bugs, as they latch on to ears and noses with a fierce grip.

Before they were documented by biologists, Lanterntrappers were thought to be malevolent ghosts with lanterns and rattles, keeping visitors out of the Swamps. Once their true nature was known, inhabitants of Swamp areas would simply wear hats with thick veils to prevent Lanterntrappers from attacking them.



These bugs are really scary. We tried to take a picture because it was beautiful. But it began to angrily buzz at us and bit our ears! We tried to swing our tails at it but it was too fast! After running far away it finally left us alone. We are NOT going back there.

8w8 8M8 8W8

# Mangrove Mammoth Spider

I was out in the mangroves a while back when I noticed a cluster of fireflies under one of the tree's roots. I thought they were really pretty so I took a picture with them! Turns out it was a massive spider hiding in the roots...





Felt cute, might get eaten later sws



# Sunchaser

Native to the marshes and swamps of Elysium, this aquatic bug has an interesting life cycle. Hatching on normally submerged roots that emerge in the drier seasons, the nymphs of this species have small wings that they use to fly above the canopy layer, avoiding predators hunting near the water. Here, their main source of nutrition consists of the nectar and leaves of epiphytes growing on the higher branches of large trees. However, as the Sunchasers grow bigger and heavier, their wings begin to shrink, and eventually disappear. Now wingless, the adult bugs return underwater, hunting for prey. Their wings have now metamorphosed into long paddle-shaped legs, perfect for navigating their new domain. The remainder of their life would be spent mostly beneath the water, eating small fish and other insects. After finding mates, the Sunchasers lay their eggs on submerged roots, where they lay dormant, waiting for the drier seasons to start the cycle again.

The Icarian nature of these insects have resulted in various myths and legends about them from locals who live nearby. Some say that these bugs were punished by the Sun for their arrogance, while others see them as a remnant of a forbidden love ending in tragedy. Regardless, the Sunchaser has become a universal symbol and warning: that for all the proud youths trying to fly high and reach for their dreams, most will end up falling back down, sinking beneath the waters, never getting to touch the sun they longed for.



# Swamp Walker

From the top looking down, it looks like yet another stick that happened to fall into the water, floating gently on the surface. Yet once a clueless fly or spider decides to take a break and lands to rest...snap! The Swamp Walker is an aquatic predator that uses its camouflage to trick invertebrate bugs into landing on its back. Under the water, their true nature can be seen. Walking along the swamp floor, their long, spindly legs can grow up to 10 feet (about 3.048 meters) long. People who live around the local swamps sometimes refer to them as “Brother Long-Legs” due to this feature along with their docile nature towards creatures that are not their prey. These legs also happen to be full of protein—as such, these bugs are often collected by ingredient traders to give to chefs across Elysium. From there, the legs are cut down and either dried to serve as a nice crispy snack, or to give a dish an extra crunch.

This bug is SUPER DUPER tall! Just imagine if it walked on land—it'd be way bigger than us, even if we stacked up! It's a good thing it only eats other bugs!

# The Flashoury



Known for their vibrant coloration and sharp bite, The Flashoury is a species of mantis that thrives in the heat and humidity of swamp environs. They've been found in their highest numbers within The Tragic Glades.

The hardened shell of The Flashoury ranges from neon yellow, dark gray, to a vivid fuchsia. Their eyes are edged with fuchsia followed by a neon yellow center.

Though at times vicious, Flashoury is known to work cooperatively with others of its kind. As a defense mechanism, each Flashoury has a single eyespot, which they weaponize in pairs by holding hands and flashing their wings to imitate a larger, more dangerous predator.

If threatened, The Flashoury uses its shiny body and the light from the sun to blind opponents or predators when in combat or for survival—earning their name. The Flashoury has been spotted using its ability to reflect light and sparkle to attract a mate.

The Flashoury is omnivorous, but can sustain themselves for long periods on plants alone.



*Not a gem  
do not eat!!*



It's fun to throw rocks  
when they're all grouped  
up, hehehe



# Weeping Willow Bug

In looking at the Weeping Willow Bug, one might think it is related to leaf bugs. In fact, they are closely related to pond skaters in the Gerridae family. While individuals vary in size, each adult is large enough to be mistaken for a short string of willow leaves floating among the other debris of the swamp. They spend almost the entirety of their lives in and on water due to their unwieldy appendages. These leaf-like extremities have oils on the underside which allow them to float on the surface without the weight dragging the bug under. While other Gerridae species are noted to be extremely fast, Weeping Willow Bugs are held to the mercy of the water current as large movement will often attract unwanted attention from below.

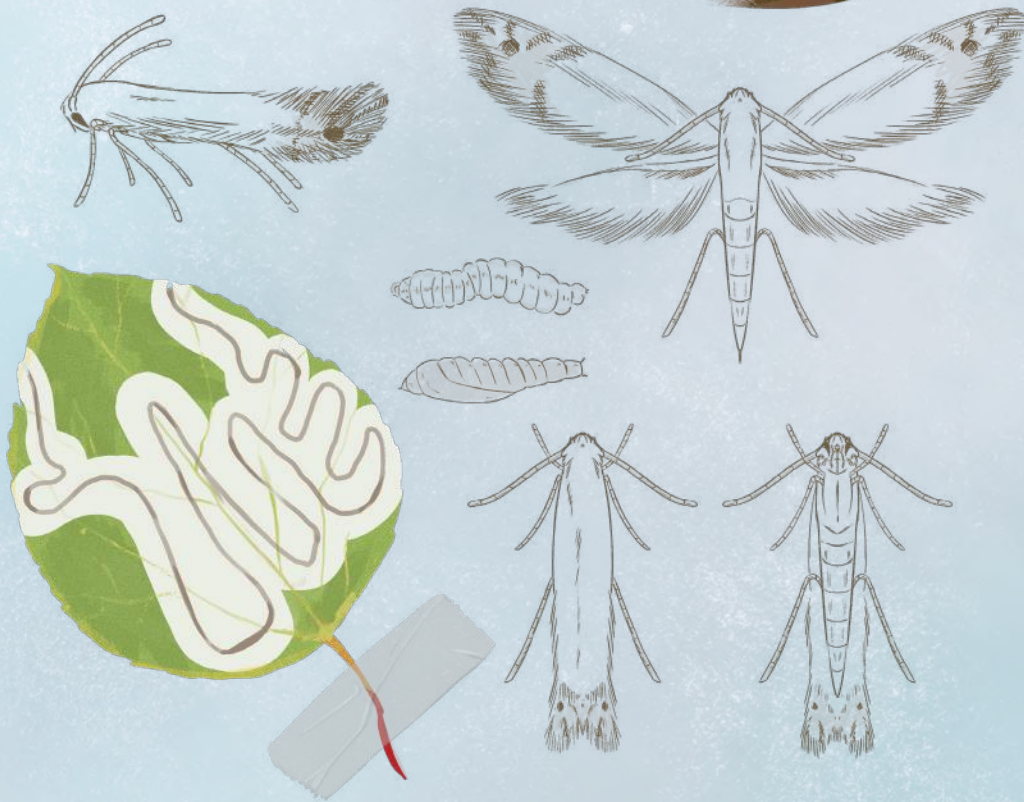
Willow Bugs are social creatures and live in cooperative groups. This is particularly helpful in hunting as it allows for more tactical maneuvers. It is a common occurrence for four or five Willow Bugs to hook their 'leaves' together and slowly encircle prey struggling to break free of the water. This circle allows them ample time and room to attack and feed without having to worry about others intruding on the meal. The downside is that these teams sometimes become stuck together. While it doesn't usually lead to the death of the individuals as they can still hunt, it does sometimes make them more vulnerable to predation by fish.



# TAIGA



# Aspen Leaf Miner



A transcontinental species of moth, the Aspen Leaf Miner can be found wherever there are aspens in the Badlands. Although primarily feasting on aspen trees, they are found on cottonwood, poplar and willow trees. Starting early spring, moths emerge from hibernation and feed on the nectar produced by young aspen leaves. After mating, typically one egg is laid per leaf. Larvae hatch directly into the leaf and begin feeding. They feast on the tissue between the surfaces of the leaf, never breaking the leaf's cuticle. The larvae grow and emerge around late summer. In the fall, they migrate to protected sites to hibernate for the winter. Their damage to the ecosystem cannot be understated. Leaves can drop earlier than normal due to the damage. Heavily mined leaves lose their ability to photosynthesize, which may reduce growth in the tree overall.



What's with these leaves? They don't look so good... now that i thinks... why is the ground covered in leaves? They don't look the natural dead either. What's with those white lines???



# Glacial Jewelfly

The Glacial Jewelfly is a variant of the jewelfly, an insect species known for carrying the magical essence of world elements, such as fire, water, and earth. As jewelflies vary in colors and essences, the Glacial Jewelfly differs from the rest of the family by its light blue wings and aquamarine glow. It resides in the taiga biome, and its magical ice essence decorates the landscapes. When it comes to handling possible predators, they almost camouflage perfectly with the cold, snowy environment, and since they can withstand harsh temperatures more than their family and fellow taiga bugs, their endurance and survival skills more than make amends for the slow-flying nature.

When they fly, they drop so many snowflakes everywhere they go! It's like they make a winter wonderland for their family and friends! I wonder if the snowflakes ARE magic... or if the jewelfly still hides magical secrets of their own...

# Hollow Moth

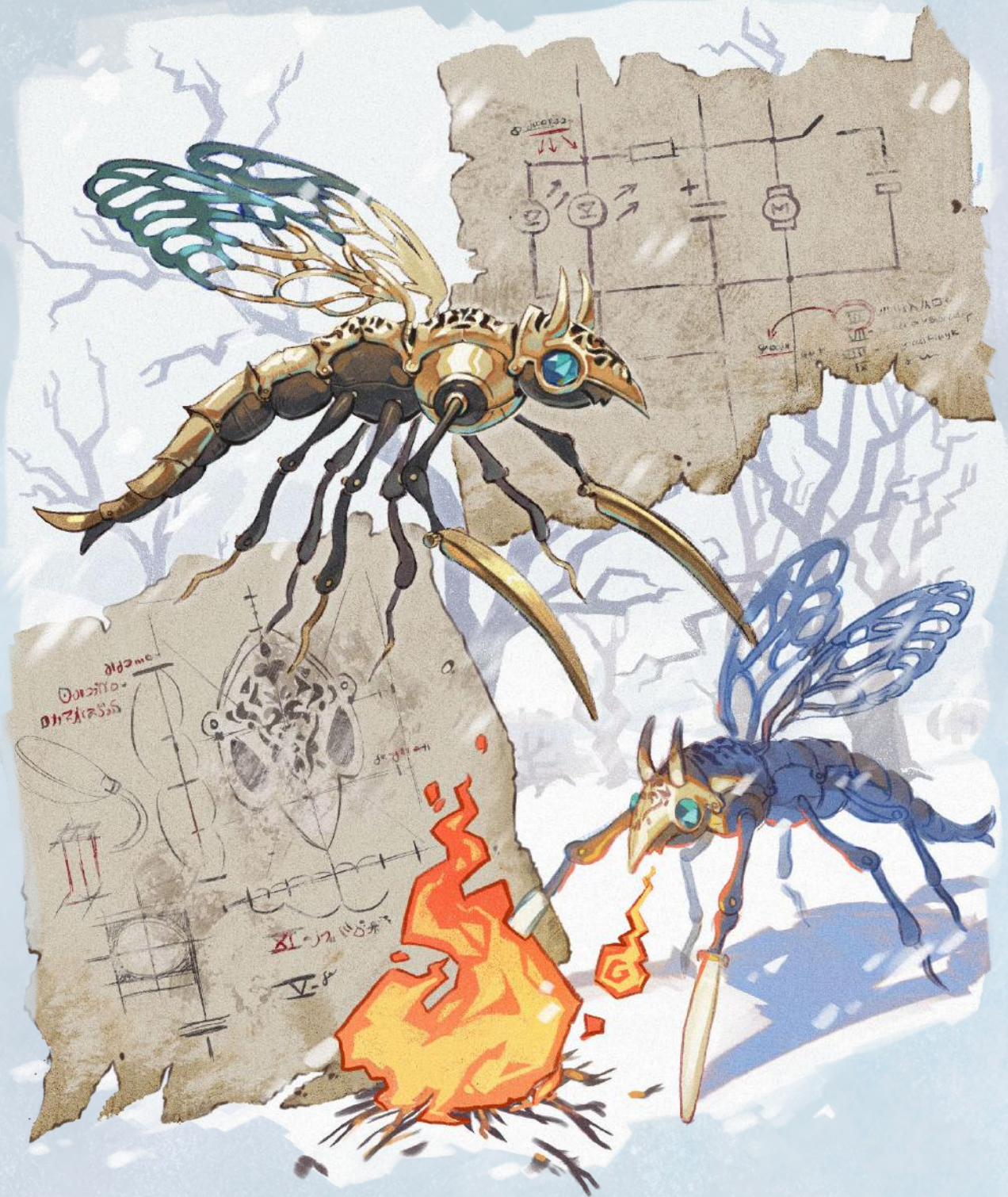




The Hollow Moth is a unique type of moth characterized by their glowing bodies found where roots of the Hollow Tree are exposed above ground. In the spring, the glow of the moths are at their brightest, heralding the end of a dreary landscape. Moths that survive winter set to work laying eggs on the tree roots and when summer arrives, the larvae have already grown into adult moths. During colder months, the glow of the Hollow Moth gradually dims, a signal for the moths to cluster together on one spot, where they spend the rest of the season eating the tree roots. The Hollow Moth has been recorded to sometimes eat smaller insects during all phases of their life cycle, however during winter, the tree roots are its only source of food. Researchers also concluded that the moths are only able to glow by feasting on the roots of the tree, leaving behind a deep enough depression for moths to lay their eggs.

I wanted to give one headpats but it tried to bite me! I thought moths didn't have chompers but these ones do TAT





# M.E.C.C.

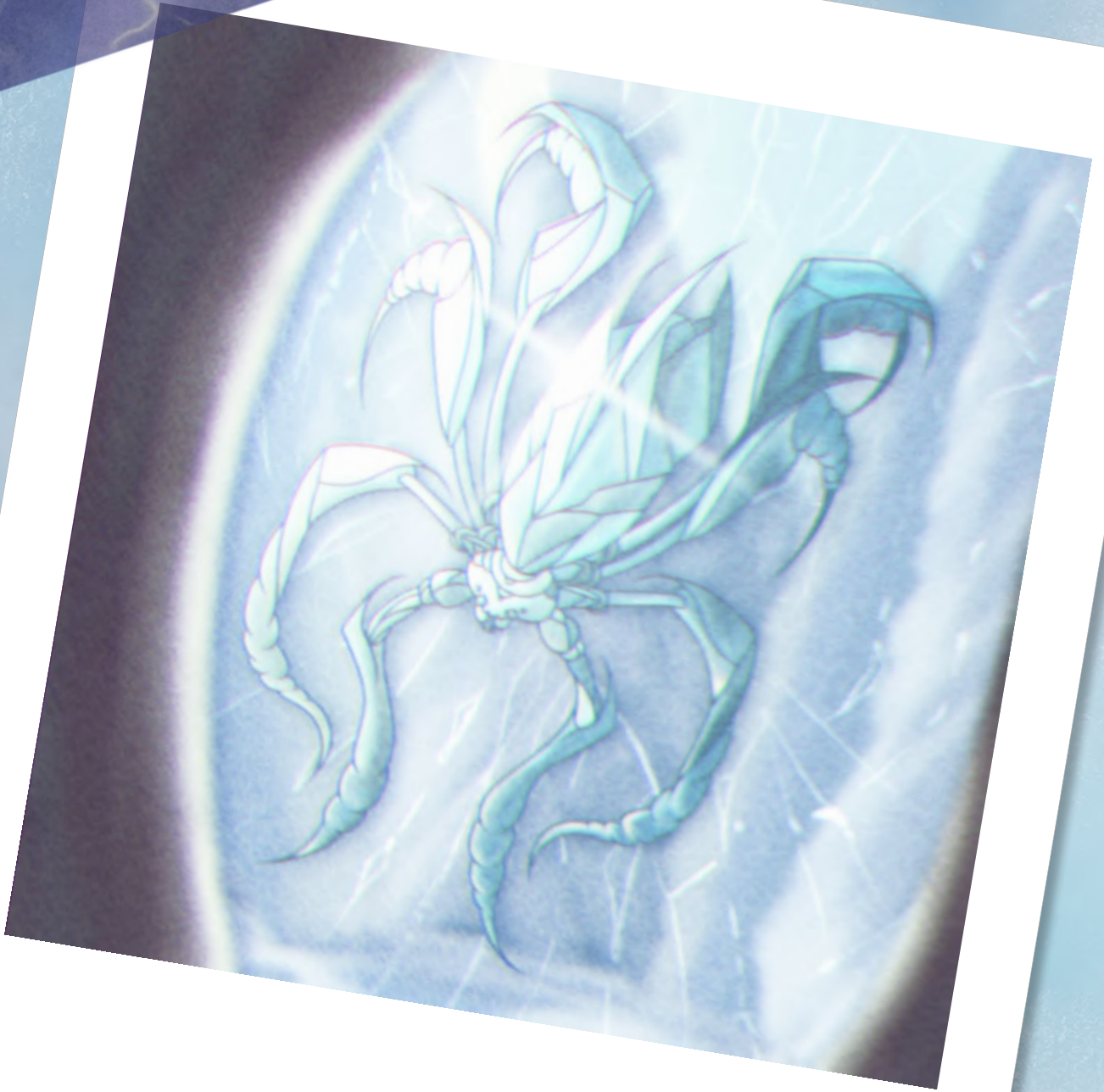
The Mechanical Elysium Cicada Companion, or simply the M.E.C.C, was originally created by humans to assist in survival while settling in the taiga forests. Unfortunately, with their small size, these bugs often ended up being left behind by their human masters. However, the M.E.C.C. is nothing but resilient—these bugs were able to find one another to form their own groups, relying on one another to withstand the cold winter. Drawing from their original purpose as a living lighter, they ignite small fires to keep each other warm in their burrows. With the use of their shovel-like limbs and their radar, they are able to locate sources of petroleum fuel underground, digging tunnels to reach their “food” source. During the summertime when it’s wet and humid, they go into hibernation to protect their internal engines. Adventurers often stumble into their burrows, thinking they’re tiny gold toys, only to run away with their clothes on fire thanks to cranky M.E.C.C.s.

We thought it was just a toy  
someone left behind—all shiny  
and pretty! But then it grew  
wings and almost burned our  
faces off! To be fair, we  
did interrupt its blink...

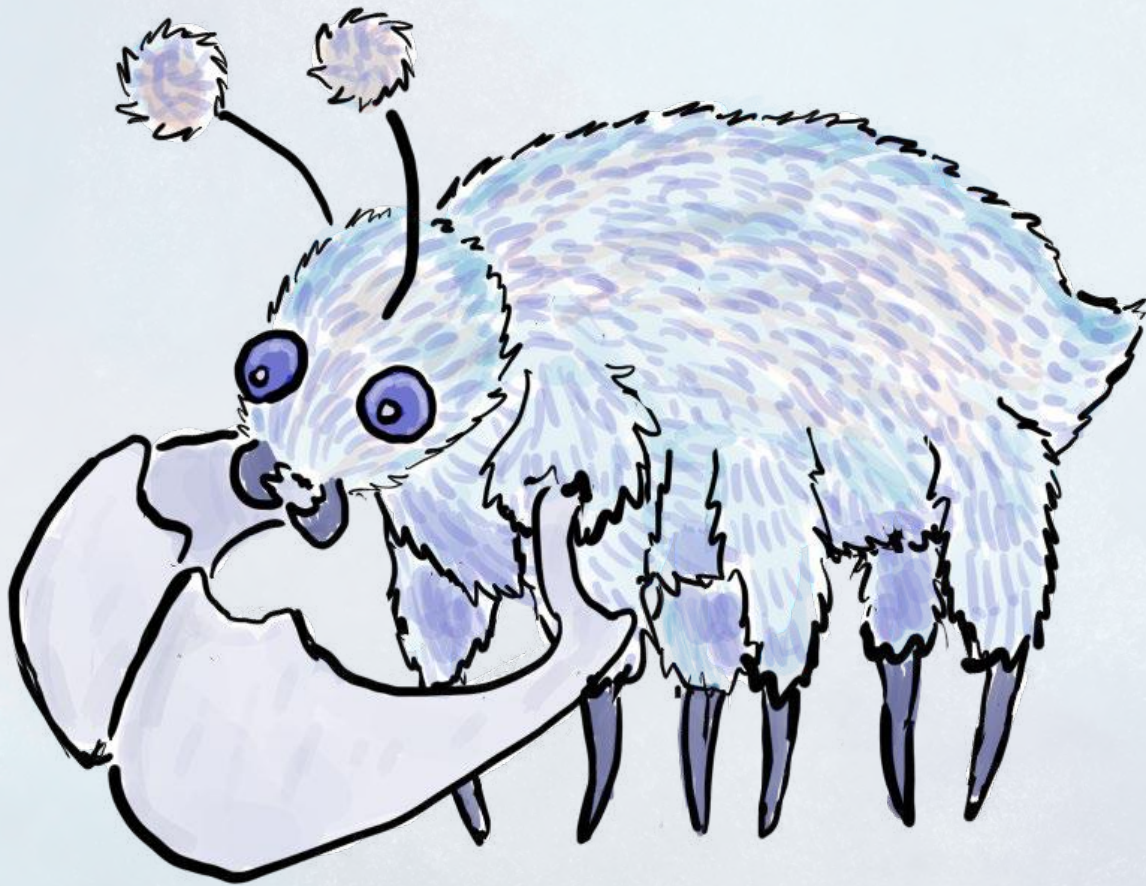
# Snowflake Spider

Up in the branches of the frozen trees, you might spot a snowflake spider and its sparkling array of icicles nested in a unique design of never-freezing super-adhesive webbing. Though the largest are perhaps a bit too large for comfort, it's difficult to ignore that icy beauty. Each is as unique as the frozen structure they are named after, as are their webs. Even the tiniest ones - a mere 46 microns long - have no mercy to spare, and no sweetness in their souls. Given enough time, their webs can span between branches of different trees. The accumulation of moisture along the strings leads to dripping icicle formation since the strands themselves don't freeze. Make sure to stay away from that sticky trap or YOU might be the next frozen treat on the menu.

*My baby cousin rode one  
like a horse! No really,  
I swear-*



# Snowy Woolbeetle



The Snowy Woolbeetle is a small but resilient residence of the Taiga. To survive the freezing temperatures of its environment this beetle has developed a coat of fine hairs to keep itself warm. This coat is thinner in the warmer months but grows into a thick fur during the colder months.

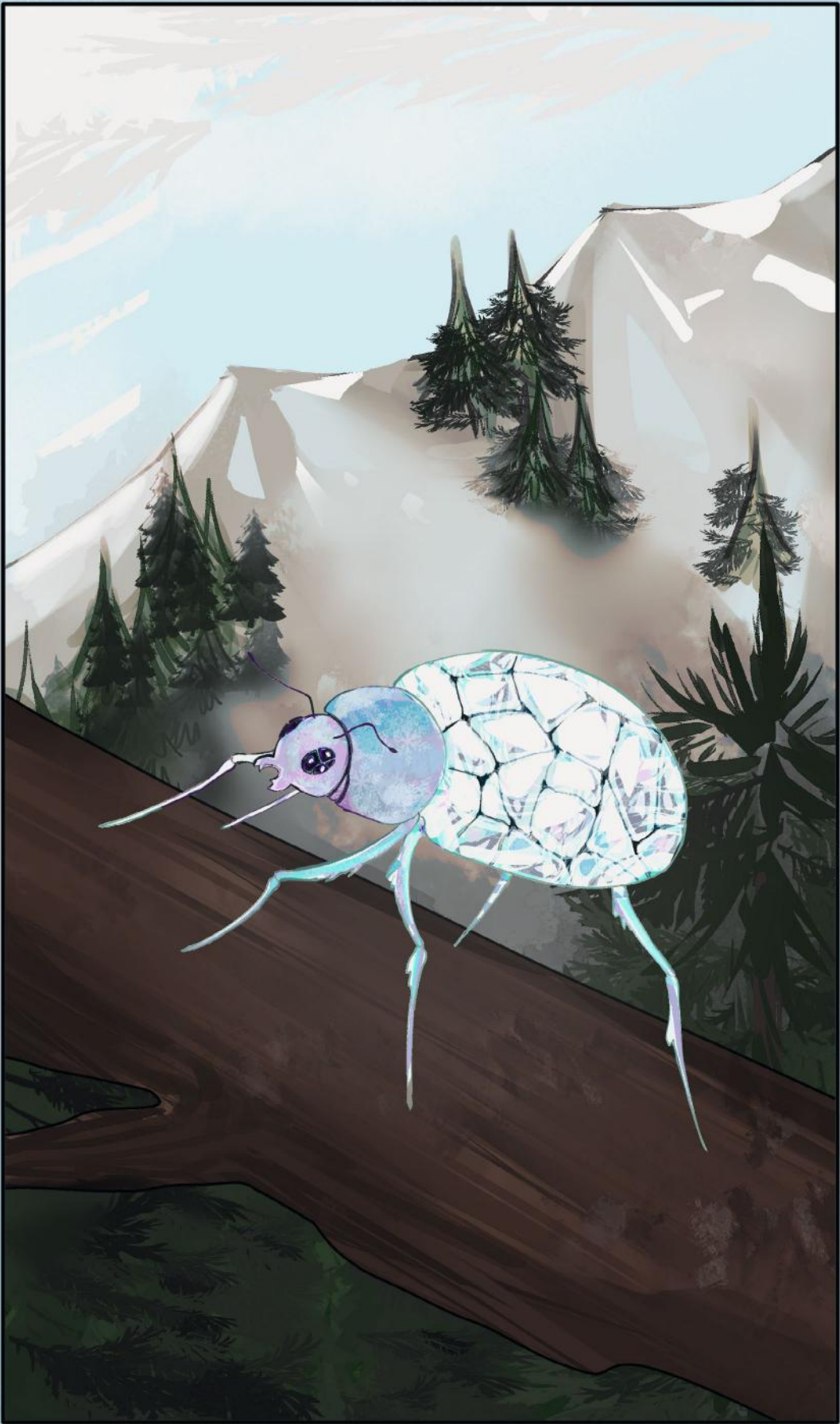
With its shovel-shaped front claws it is equipped to plow through both earth and snow to look for sprouts, bulbs and nuts. This act of plowing through snow to forage creates distinct curving trails in the landscape.

When resting the Snowy Woolbeetle will burrow deep in the snow to create an air pocket to stay safe from predators. Above ground this beetle is always alert to more powerful hunters using its antenna that can detect heat signals from far away. The beetle is also aided by its camouflage, as its fuzzy coat will grow white in winter and an earthy brown in summer.

If forced to fight the Snowy Woolbeetle will use its hardened claws to knock foes away, but it will prefer to burrow underground as far as it can to avoid a fight.

This bug is really fuzzy, after we caught one we petted its fur and it was super soft! Because the bug was really scared, we quickly put him back. It went into the snow suuuuper fast. Later we found another one and we gave it a tiny gemstone. It pushed it through the snow but didnt eat it. Then we tried to give it a chip, it did eat that! :)







# The Ice Lady

The Ice Lady, an insect with a body of ladybug and shadow of a spider, lives in the Gelid Forest, preferring its lush vegetation and chilly conditions. Despite being safe to handle, it may become an invasive species if removed.

The Ice Lady prefers hunting alone and primarily eats smaller bugs and eggs, occasionally consuming plants with its tiny fangs.

The Ice Lady is a tiny, stunning insect with soft light purple fur and two black eyes that resemble broken mirror shards. With two long purple antennae and nerves on its legs, two long back legs, four tiny upper arms, and six hairy spider legs that are equipped with nerves at the tips of their hairs, the insect can taste, feel, grip, and sense. Its pale turquoise-colored shell is sturdy and sufficiently thick to provide protection. The little insect has slender, transparent violet wings that are decorated with snowflakes.

The Ice Lady uses hissing or chittering to warn predators or greet them with friendly expressions to communicate with other insects. Its chittering sounds kindred to the moment the wind hits ice strongly in a cave, more like a distinct high note.

*New Snacking Buddy!*





# Birthday Guestbook



Hint: Social media links are clickable!  
@'s are Twitter/X, unless specified.

happy birthday ruze! glad to be supporting you and watching you succeed with every chance you get! Hope you have a great day of birth boss man!

elise • [@thtsp1mn](#)

Happy birthday to our favorite bastard! Hope you enjoy this! We all had a lot of fun working on it, and through you I kind of conquered my pretty big fear of bugs and have come to enjoy and appreciate them! Thanks for everything, goober

Auria • [@aureillion](#)

Let's keep this short, shall we so you have more time to indulge in all the good things today. Happy Birthday, Ruze. Maybe the bugs be with you.

Helia • [@sunofsnek](#)

Happy Birthday, dude! I hope you have a great one, and thanks for all the great entertainment over the last ten months! You're doing great work!

InvestigationCone • [investigationcone.bsky.social](#)



Happy birthday Ruze!

I wish you the best of health (please blink more!) May your passions always be renewed & you & the cats always good food! (We need to get you out of that wagon park!) Initially I was scared to join this project (this is my first ever community project), but I remember you saying to seek discomfort & stretch yourself, now I'm glad I got to do something for you & the ruzaders! I hope you like the cicada :P I'll always be rooting for you! Take care Ruze, my favourite yapper ;)

Iwashi • [@iwashi\\_stars](#)



Happy birthday, Ruze! Today is a celebration of you and all the amazing moments you've brought into our lives. Your kindness, creativity, and joy light up our world. Wishing you a day filled with laughter, love, and all your favorite things. May this year be your best one yet, filled with new adventures and dreams come true. Here's to another fantastic year of being you! Enjoy every moment, and know that you are cherished and appreciated by all who know you.

Jellybeans • [@jbeanscat](#)

Happy Birthday, Ruze! Your dedication to worldbuilding, speculative biology, and Homestuck instantly made you my oshi. You inspired me back then with your mindset about taking challenges head on, and it still inspires me now. I ended up breaking my writer's block with this project, so I hope you enjoy it! Remember that we Ruzaders totally, absolutely, hate you to the bottom of our hearts!

Kat • YT: [@Katafenix](#)



Happy birthday Ruze! Hope you liked all the bugs we drew for you! I'm usually a lurker or a part of the vod gang, but all the streams of yours I've watched have been lovely. You're quite the character! I look forward to seeing what kind of projects and hijinks you get into in the future. Keep up the great work and once again, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Kay • [@ThatCrypticKay](#)

Happy birthday to everyone's favorite least favorite idol!!!! Hope you have a blast on your birthday, Ruze! Enjoy this compendium of insects created by fellow extremely talented bug lovers! woooo bugs!!!!

kt/zen • [@icylancet](#)

Happy birthday, Ruze!  
I hope you have a wonderful birthday!

Lambdadelta • [@ulambdadelta](#)

Sending you a buggy birthday message filled with all the creepiest-crawliest admiration for my least favorite idol! May your day be as busy as a bee, as colourful as a butterfly, and as shiny as a beetle's shell. Let's celebrate with all the buzz and excitement a bug-themed birthday can bring with all of the Ruzaders!

Maccchia • [@maccchiaVT](#)



HAPPY DAY OF BIRTH, RUZE!! I'm so glad I was able to be a part of this for you, I really hope you enjoy all the different bugs we came up with! You've inspired me so much with your constant creativity and your hard work. It's what made me decide to try writing again, and so I joined this project as a way to start again. I really enjoyed every second—and it's all thanks to you! Enjoy today Ruze, and enjoy our field guide!!

Mellie • [@starliteiswite](#)

You (ugh) inspire me daily, so here's a lil inspiration for you. Happy Birthday my least favourite Oshi!

Miratriss • [@miratriss](#)

happy birthday to the stinkiest stinkbug  
of them all

Oli • [@apollyonights](#)

AUGH I participated in more than one birthday  
project, isn't that crazy??? I have never indulged  
in creative projects like this before with this  
much effort, and it's your fault, birthday boy.  
Thank you for revitalizing my creative passions,  
my kaijuoshi. I hate you so much (real), and your  
birthday better be a day!! What kind of day?  
That's for me to know and you to find out. yippee!

Naka • [@Nakamura\\_Chan1](#)

Happy birthday to our least favorite idol! ❄️  
So happy you are here and sharing your journey  
with us! 💖

Vivi • [@cerulean\\_vivi](#)

Happy birthday Ruze from your friendly local  
corruption beast and birdshaped void

Raven D Void • [@toastkun](#)





Gonna be a little evil and wish you a HAPPY birthday and a full day of feeling appreciated ahead :3c disgusting, I know, but it's what you deserve! As someone who has always found bugs a little scary, I have a newfound appreciation for them after listening to you yap about them in great detail multiple times. That's how infectious your passion is! Mayhaps one day I'll follow in your footsteps and make an all-bug Pokemon team...but for now, I hope you enjoyed the book gamer! Loathe ya lots!

Reo • [@saikedereo](#)

You're the worst at making me hate you but you're doing your best (I'm proud of you).

sleepydemongoat



Congrats on escaping the womb XXX years ago -- have this bug! I know that over the millennia of your existence you must have seen and experienced many things, but I must say I'm really happy you chose to spend this birthday with us Ruzaders, and I hope that our fun book shows you new things you haven't seen before in all your existence. I hope our appreciation for you and all you do shows through in this project. I wish many more fulfilling and pleasant millennia upon you, and that we get to spend some more of them with you!

seia • [@choco\\_ising](#)

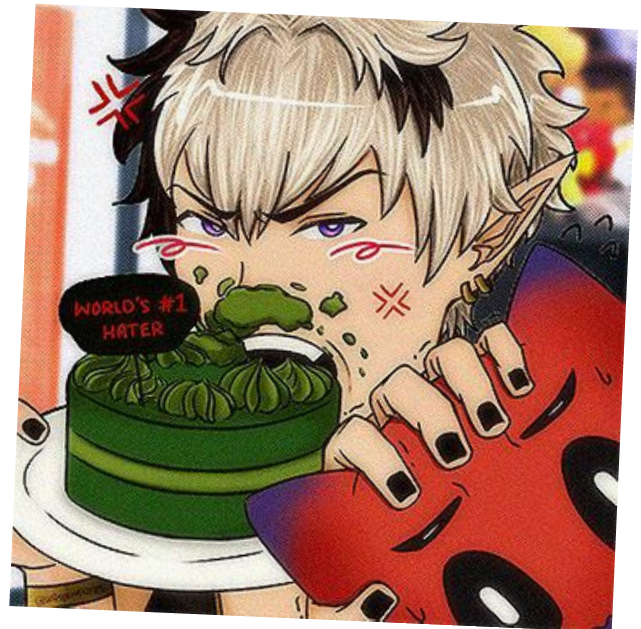


Birthday Beetle for the Birthday Menace! HAPPY BIRTHDAY RUZE!! Thanks for being a tolerable oshi!! :-) wishing you another year of fun and good health!! Supporting you always!! ^^

Sunny • [@sunnyrkqk](#)

Hey Ruze! Just casually strolling by and dropping a silly lil fanart over here. Hope you like it. I-it's not like I want to wish you a "Happy Birthday" at all. Totally. It's has been a WILD 10 months, hasn't it? I remember watching you back then and thought to myself: "God, why he is so relatable and such a creature?" There's a lot of things I would like to yap about but I'm being nerfed by the word count. Curses. I'm glad that you are my oshi and will always support you even though you hate all of us.

Wilsper • [@wilsperoftales](#)



Dear Ruze,

Before I became a Ruzader I only liked beetles and spiders. You have opened my eyes to the joy of liking all bugs. Bugs are so awesome! I had a lot of fun using speculative biology to make bugs inspired by your method in Holomarches. It's been such a joy to be more creative and I want to thank you for giving us so many worldbuilding streams that sparked my brainstorming. Happiest-Bug-Filled-Birthday to you!

Have fun with everyone's wonderful critters!

Wolfster • [@WolfsterWoffle](#)

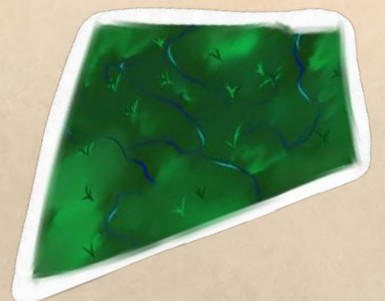
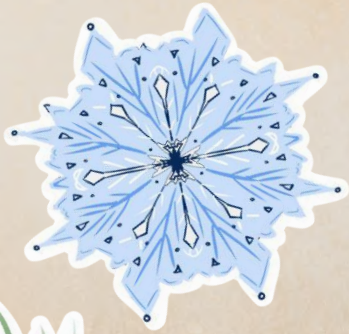


a hellish birthday to our worst and least favorite idol. keep being the hilarious, persistent, strong-willed, and unabashedly CRINGE bastard that we all know and tolerate. enjoy the fun bug facts!

Wott • [@TheWayOfTheWott](#)

Happ BIRTH. You're cool I GUESS. Have a g..g-  
\*coughs, wheezes\* GOOD (Eeugh) birthday or  
whatever. Sheesh imagine being BORN. HAH.  
Couldn't be me. \*dodges axe thrown at my head.\*  
AHEM....Jokes aside, thanks for being around.  
You're a muse and an inspiration for the lot of  
us, and you've helped many gain insight and  
direction for their current and future endeavors.  
You're a bastard with a heart of gold and I'm  
excited to see where your journey takes you. May  
the wind under you wings bear you where the  
sun sails and the moon walks. I'm glad you exist.

Zndu • [@ZnduVT](#)

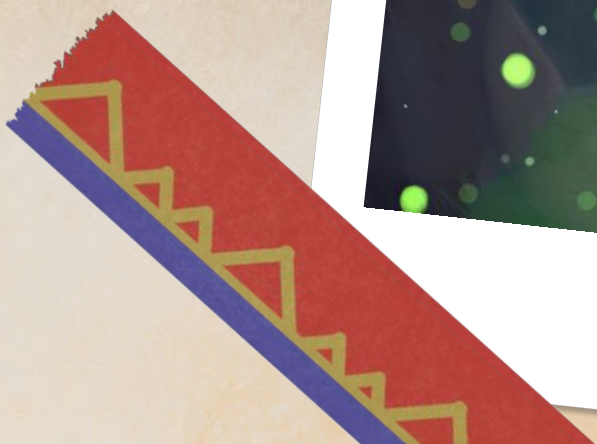
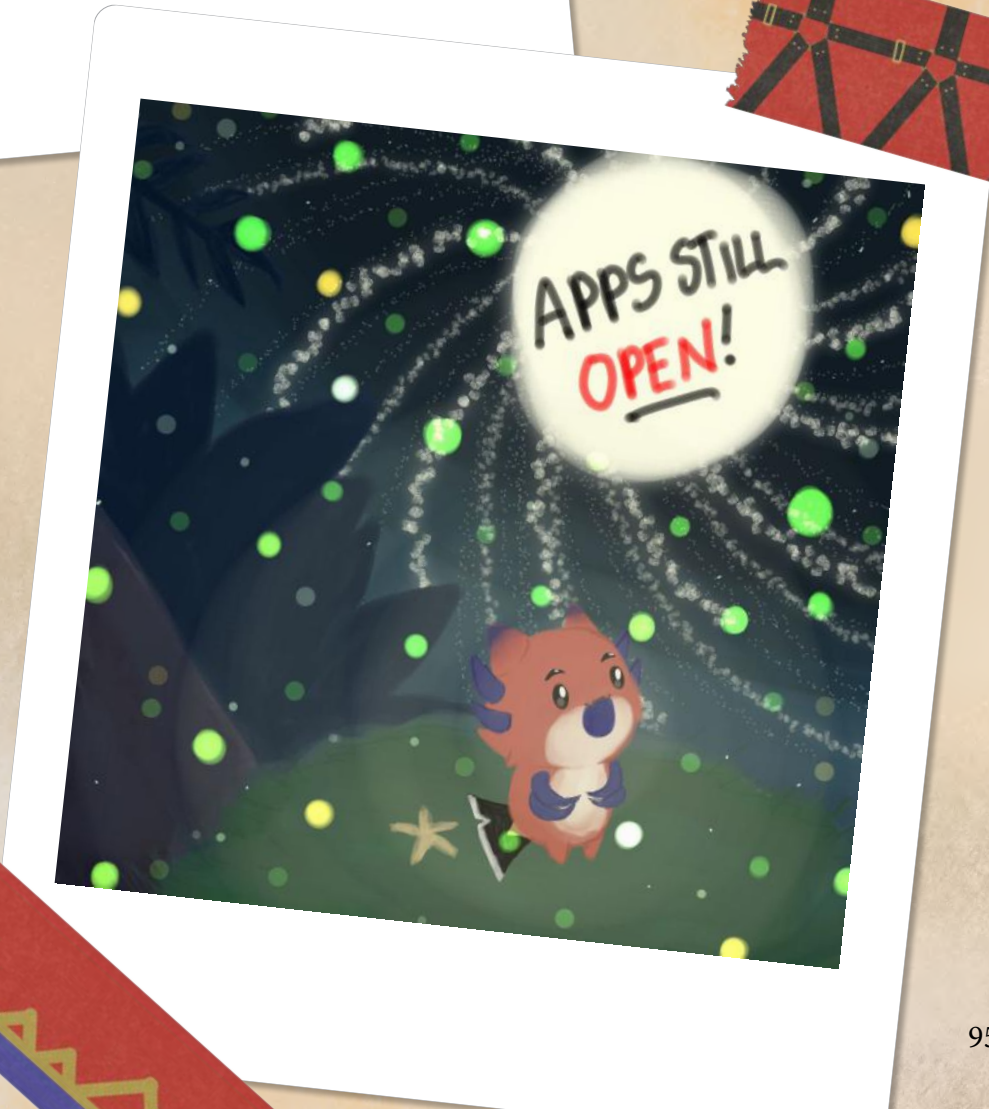
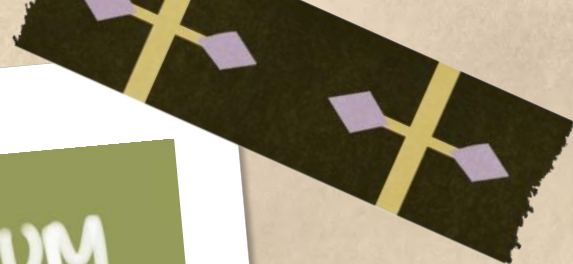


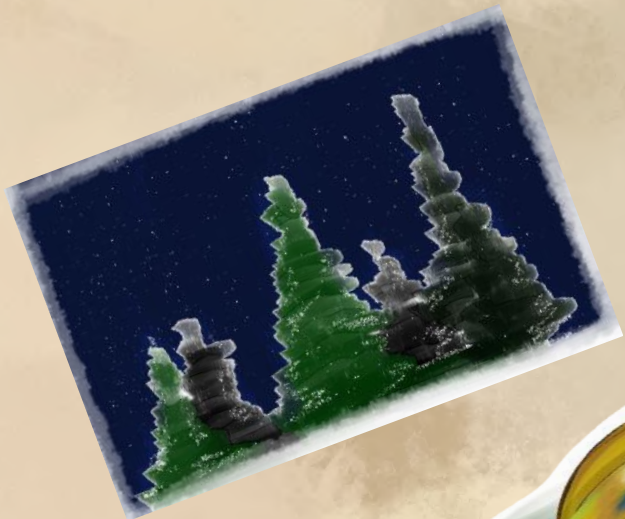
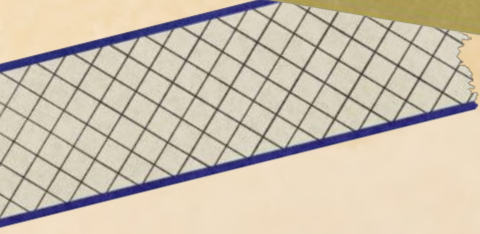


# Twitter Promo Art













# Credits

Hint: Social media links are clickable!  
@'s are Twitter/X, unless specified.



# Management Team

Miratriss  
[@Miratriss](#)  
Project Lead

Boggzly  
[@Boggzly](#)  
Project Lead

Jellybeans  
[@jbeanscat](#)  
Project Manager, Twitter  
Manager & Illustrator,  
Accessibiliity Lead

Lambdadelata  
[@ulambdadelata](#)  
General Manager,  
Twitter Manager

Helia  
[@sunofsnek](#)  
Submissions Manager

Auria  
[@aureillion](#)  
Writing Manager

Rinne  
[@byrserker](#)  
Art Director

Vivi  
[@cerulean\\_vivi](#)  
Layout Lead + UI/UX,  
Stand-in Art Director

# Cover Artists

Front and Back Covers  
Seia • [@choco\\_ising](#)

Desert Section  
Detect • [@detectiv\\_eee](#)

Grasslands Section  
Reo • [@saikedereo](#)

Jungle Section  
ana • [@ana\\_pgn\\_](#)

Swamp Section  
Oli • [@apollyonights](#)

Taiga Section  
Sanna C. • [@sannierthanyou](#)

# Bug Entry Artists

Annie • [@annierudrawing](#)

Aouza • [@aouzaint](#)

Asinica • [@as1n1ca\\_drm](#)

Bimi • [@bimiamelie](#)

Blaise • [@blaisera](#)

cuko • [@cukokakiku](#)

Detect • [@detectiv\\_eee](#)

Em • [@emberimprint](#)

FireFighter • [@ArtFirefighter](#)

InvestigationCone •

IG: [@investigationcone](#)

Iwashi • [@iwashi\\_stars](#)

June • [@catwafers](#)

Kay • [@ThatCrypticKay](#)

Kimi • [@Kimidilois](#)

Maccchia • [@MaccchiaVT](#)

Marsh • [@marshtangryfrog](#)

Naka • [@Nakamura\\_Chan1](#)

Raven D Void • [@toastkun](#)

seia • [@choco\\_ising](#)

spook • [@sp00kysalmon](#)

Sunny • [@sunnyrkkg](#)

Sweetz • [@swtzee\\_](#)

Wilsper • [@wilsperoftales](#)

Wolfster • [@WolfsterWoffle](#)

Zndu • [@ZnduVT](#)

# Bug Entry Writers

Aouza • [@aouzaint](#)

elise • [@thtsp1mn](#)

HuneyBeas • [@That\\_potate](#)

InvestigationCone •

IG: [@investigationcone](#)

JD\_Anarchy •

[@daffodilDenizen](#)

jello • YT: [@PotassiumJello](#)

Kale • [@whathekyle](#)

KaseKatty • [@kasekitty](#)

Kat • YT: [@Katafenix](#)

Mellie 221 • [@starliteiswite](#)

Naka • [@Nakamura\\_Chan1](#)

Raven D Void • [@toastkun](#)

seia • [@choco\\_ising](#)

spook • [@sp00kysalmon](#)

sleepydemongoat

Wolfster • [@WolfsterWoffle](#)

Wott • [@TheWayOfTheWott](#)

zen • [@icylancet](#)

Zun • [@zzzunatic](#)

# Concept Collaborators

Irish • [@TheIrishNeko](#)

Remorium •

[@CardiacFragment](#)

# Alt-Text Writers & Sensitivity Readers

Aouza • [@aouzaint](#)

Hammie • YT: [@Hammie](#)

## Proofreaders

Auria • [@aureillion](#)

jello • YT: [@PotassiumJello](#)

## Book Assets

Inner covers, Polaroid picture frames, page backgrounds, & washi tape illustrations

Vivi • [@cerulean\\_vivi](#)

Sticker illustrations

Miratriss • [@Miratriss](#)

Here's to more adventures and discoveries!

