

Primer on Ormiold

Dr. Tobias Funke, Max Plank Institut für Xenobiologie Göttingen

This paper is a primer on the 'Ormiold', an sapient species that originally evolved on the planet Darass of Beta Virginis. They share a rather unique evolutionary relationship to Earth biota.

Introduction

The Ormiold are a very unique species from a human point of view and the reaction during the first time a human saw an Ormiold was dumfounded astonishment with one or two dropped yaws. Later comparasion of Darass DNA with Earthern DNA showed that the majority of Darass biota was fact related to Earth biota.

Current speculation has it that the planet Darass has been terraformed in the original sense of the world, about 75 million years ago by an unknown species of non-human sophonts, who than used Earth biota to populate Darass.

In short Dinosaurs were transplanted to Darass by unknown aliens 75 million years ago during the Late Cretaceous.

The Ormiold are the result of the continued evolution of Dinosaurs on Darass and managed to develop interstellar space flight capabilities about 3200 years ago, before their homeworld was destroyed about 3000 years ago.

Appearance

The Ormiold rather closely resemble a member of the Family of Dromaeosauridae and it is speculated that they are the descendants of the Dromaeosaurus¹. The size of the Ormiold can be compared to that of the Deinonychus², with a length of about 3.3 meters, a hip height of 90 centimeters and a weight of about 80 kilograms. They have a larger skull with a shortened muzzle to contain their large brain, but which still

¹The Dromaeosaurus lived about 75 million years ago in the western North American area

²The Deinonychus lived about 115 million years ago in the Western United States.

contains a powerful jaw and about 70 curved, blade-like teeth. The claws on their three fingered hands are shorter compared to those of their ancestors, while their feet still contain large sickle claws on one toe.

The Ormiold are covered by a layer of symmetric feathers, with long feathers coming from their lower arms and a plume of feathers at the tips of their tails. Their feathers are colored in earth tones, with mostly individual markings in darker or lighter colors. Male Ormiold additionally possess a plumage of larger head crest feathers in an orange to red coloration, which can be spread out and display various emotions, though they play a great role in their procreation rites.

It is of note that the Ormiold possess a forked tongue that has developed into a pair of half meter long tentacle like gripping organs that they use for fine manipulation of objects, while their arms and jaws themselves are used for gross motoric tasks.

Biology

Darass biota are fully compatible to Earth biota for consumption, which means that, aside from some little problems³, the Ormiold are fully able to digest Earth flora and fauna. Generally the Ormiold are a carnivorous species, though they do digest some plant matter to deal with deficiencies of vitamins and minerals. Additionally they are dependent on gizzard stones to support their digestion.

The average life span of the Ormiold is about 78 Earth years.

Procreation

The Ormiold are a two gendered species and mate for life. Females have a oestrus cycle of 20 days every about 386 days. Following a successful mating, the female will lay up to ten eggs, which she incubates over 143 days, never leaving the eggs in their nest⁴ unsupervised for longer than 30 minutes. This incubation remains strong even in modern Ormiold society and males are expected to fully support their mates.

Following a successful hatching, where only two to three eggs even hatch, an Ormiold female is unable to mate for five mating cycles.

³Caffeine is poisonous to the Ormiold

⁴While traditional nests are built with clay, twigs and filage, modern nests are constructed from plastics and foams to support the incubation.

Life stages

Following hatching the Ormiold young remain in their nest for the next five months and are cared for by both parents, during which time they develop far enough to be able to leave their nest, usually following their mothers around, until they can be 'unloaded' to communal caretakers and grow up with the other nestlings of a mating cycle during the work day, while they remain with their family during the rest of the day.

The nestlings remain with their caretakers for the next ten years, where they begin to be educated for their future life in Ormiold society. After these ten years, they begin a training period for communal work for two years⁵, before they may enter a higher educational track for higher skilled or academic work. The majority of Ormiold however receive only basic education⁶, though this does not stop them from becoming highly valued parts of their community.

The young Ormiold are considered to become adults when the males develop their head crest feathers with 13 years, and the females enter their first oestrus cycle.

Society/Sociology

The Ormiold evolved from group hunting ancestors that had already very highly developed social rules and skill, even before developing sapience. From Ormiold documents, it appears that the Ormiold ancestors had already developed a form of herding life style of domesticated prey animals during their early evolutionary stages and that this ready supply of food, supplemented by hunting, which may have sped up their evolutionary development towards sapience.

Eventually the Ormiold discovered agriculture, which allowed them to settle down and feed their herds of prey animals. Due to their group hunting ancestry, they were already inclined towards living in groups and their family groups began to band together into larger communities, the Ontan. Over time the Ontan developed into the equivalent of villages and eventually several Ontan, while remaining separate, settled together into larger towns and eventually cities.

While the Ormiold are very communal, they remain strong individualists and express it in various ways, though mostly through jewelry and other coloring of their plumage. Here it is irrelevant whether the individual is male or female.

As the Ormiold remain predatory sapients, they have channeled their aggression towards constructive

⁵Usually working with the younger nestlings.

⁶Reading, writing, arithmetics, algebra, home economics, basic science

means, as well as a quite active scene for competitive sports, some of which are closely related to their hunting behavior.

In war times, the Ormiold do recognize the existence of non-combatants, even though these non-combatants can become combatants. Remains of their initial group hunting behavior leads to more ready submission to the victor of a war, though resistance after the fact is not unheard of.

Technology Level

Ormiold technology has been less advanced than that of the Quetzal during the *Final War*, but on par with that of humanity as a whole⁷.

Unique Technologies

Due to their evolutionary history and their physiology, the Ormiold have developed a unique layout for their technology. Most of their fine motorical skills are set into their forked tentacle like tongues and their jaws are extremely strong and capable of holding objects. As such their technology is based around these facts and they make extremely frequent use of labor saving devices.

Government

Much like humans the Ormiold have developed a quite large range of governmental types during their long history, though for the most part they have developed towards a more community driven forms of government.

Religion

The Ormiold have developed a wide range of different religions, whether they may be mono, poly or non-theistic and many of them revolve around the imigry of eggs, while some revolve around the predator and pray relationship. There is one religion, the Choim Temple, that reveres pray for giving its life to sustain the Ormiuld.

Ormiold on Earth

Due to their origin on Earth itself, there is no known Ormiold that has been on Earth 3000 years ago. If there were any discovered, they may have been mistaken for an member of the Dromaeosauridae Family

⁷At around 2132.

of dinosaurs.

Today, the majority of all Ormiold are living on Earth, as they have no problems at all with Earth biota nor the reverse. However a larger population does live on Ceres. On Earth they have build a settlement in the continental plains of the Midwestern United States, which is currently growing. They have introduced several of their domesticated animals⁸ as well as their food plants and are largely profiting from the tourist trade, though there is internal resistance at being a large tourist trap.

⁸Sauropods and ceratops