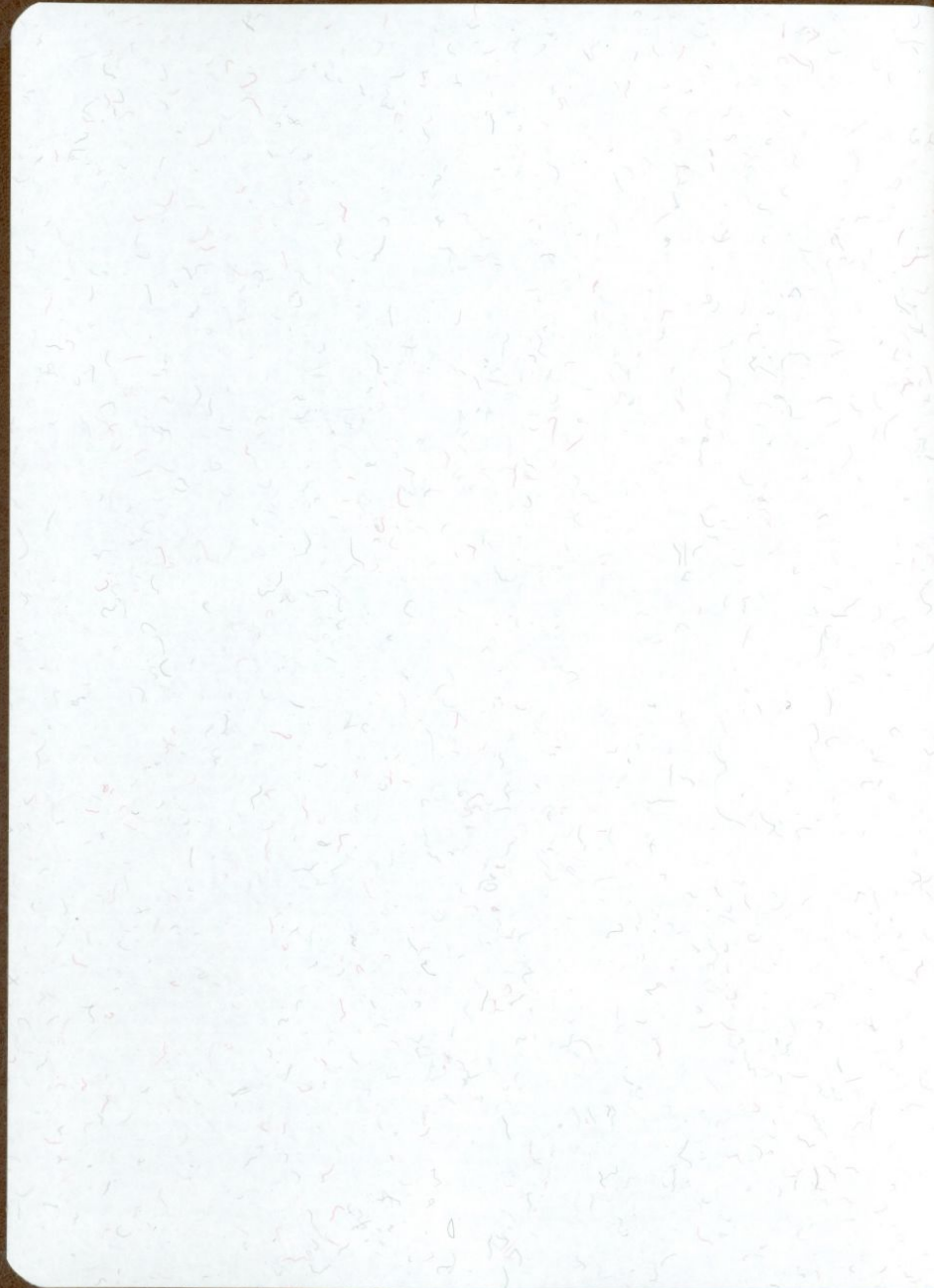



JOURNAL

Volume 3





*D'ni Zoological Studies*  
*Volume 3*  
*-Ainia*



Sunday 12 Feb 2012

I had thought my zoological studies were more or less complete—hah! Apparently the Ages are never quite done with us...

I have been very involved lately with the Cavern Heritage Night celebrations, in particular helping to flesh out and publish the older history of the two DRC restoration efforts. I've learned a huge amount regarding the relatively recent Cavern history and am gratified at how much it has been helping me to understand all things D'ni in a new way. There are some profound and deeply important relationships between many of the ages that I hadn't appreciated before, and which still remain very much a mystery.

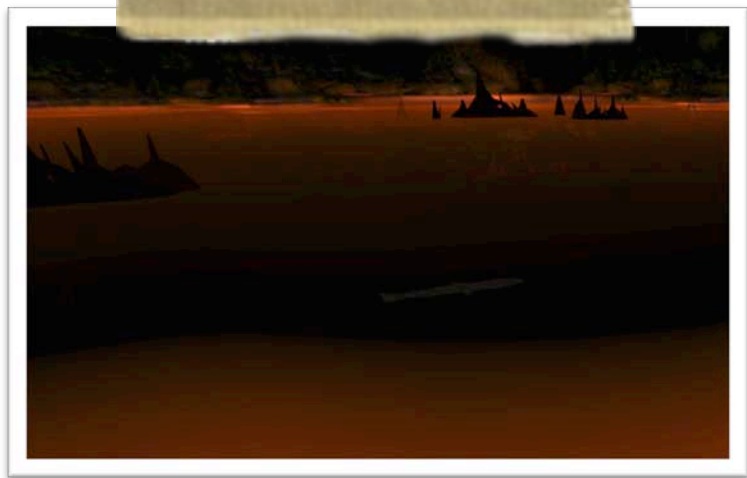
So in the course of doing this work on the Heritage Documents, I naturally revisited most of the ages and unexpectedly wound up gathering a great deal of new zoological information. I now have some behavioral studies of the Panuhdooy and Urwin of Negilahn as well as the Sandscrit of Paziferen.

Just a few days ago, I was thrilled to spot a Cavern Tredfish while documenting other things in Berin, and I have wound up capturing many more pictures of Bahro in the Cavern.

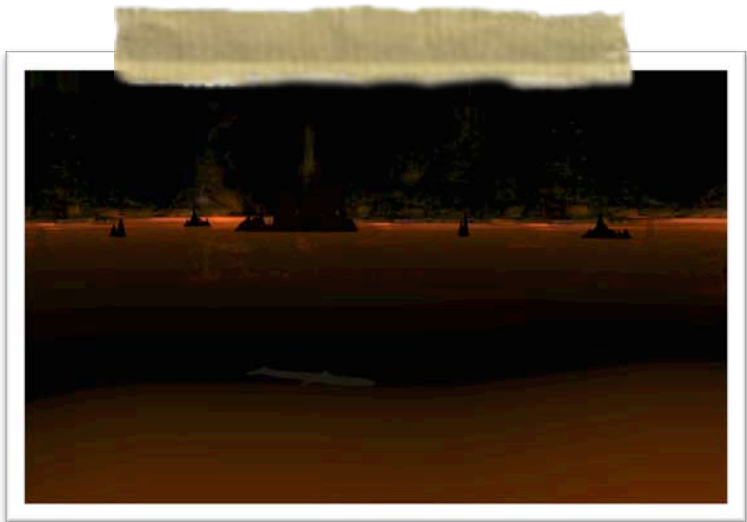
All in all, I took many hundreds of photos and my poor second volume is already stuffed to the gills. So here I am, beginning yet another journal.

\* \* \* \*

I think I will begin with the Tredfish simply because it is the simplest of my new studies.



He is a shadow moving slowly through the water.



He seems to prefer the darker waters away from  
the Berin telescope balcony.



I am able to use my zoom to get a better shot; he is large although his fins seem rather small.



He ventures into the brighter waters only briefly  
before he disappears beneath the rocky  
outcroppings.

Saturday 18 Feb 2012

Strangely enough, I have been unable to find my new Bahro photos. I have searched everywhere I can think, but have yet to find them. \*Sigh\*, I suppose I will have to redo this research...

In the meanwhile, I will pursue my Cavern pest project.

Sunday 22 Apr 2012

I have begun my pest researches and have decided it would be wise to suit up first as I don't know how noxious these unknown species might be. I spent this weekend retrieving a Maintainer suit from Gahreesen and testing it for safety and usability. These suits are relatively comfortable, though definitely take some getting used to.



I start out by changing into some lightweight clothing.



I head for Gahreesen and one of the suit rooms there.



Here is the suiting mechanism.



I take a deep breath and step onto the platform;  
the machine engages almost immediately.



It's a strange sensation, being clothed  
automatically by this thing.



Job Done.



I check the breathing apparatus; I find it is quite  
easy to move around.



Okay, now to give this baby a test run.



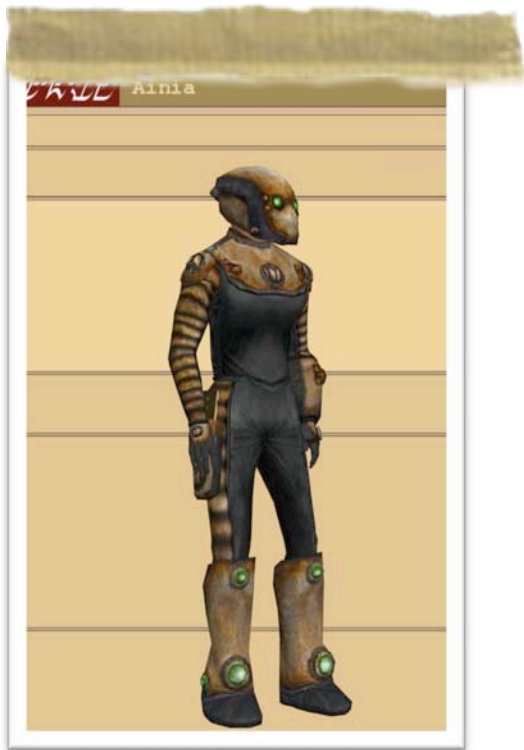
I head for the Nexus; so far, linking works as  
expected in this thing.



I can run quite easily too; the suit is proving to be flexible and lightweight.



I run about in the City for a bit; the stairs are  
no hindrance to the function and use of the suit.



Enough testing for this weekend; it's back to Relto and a change back into my usual clothing.

Sunday 3 Jun 2012

I have spent a number of weekends searching the Cavern City for pests but have found nothing notable thus far. Perhaps some of these critters are shy... or perhaps I need to be more stealthy. The suit can be a bit noisy, and perhaps the look of me in such a contraption makes my quarry wary.



I search around the King's Palace.



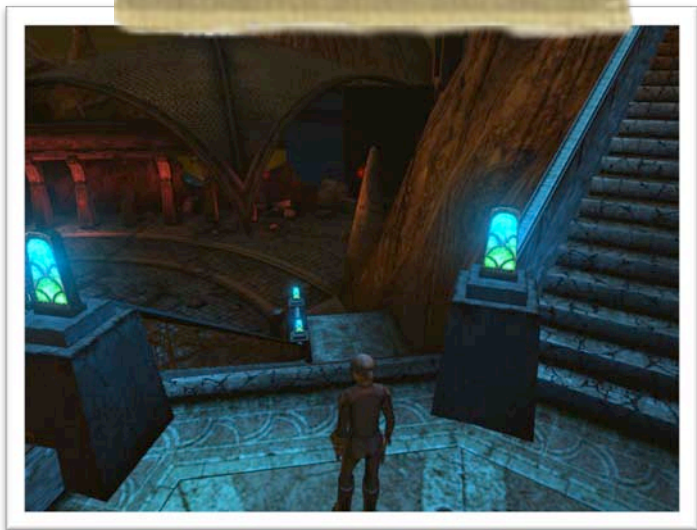
I can see nothing down by the "strip mall" and  
Kadish Gallery.



I look back toward Tokotah from the bridge but still see nothing of note.

Saturday 28 Jul 2012

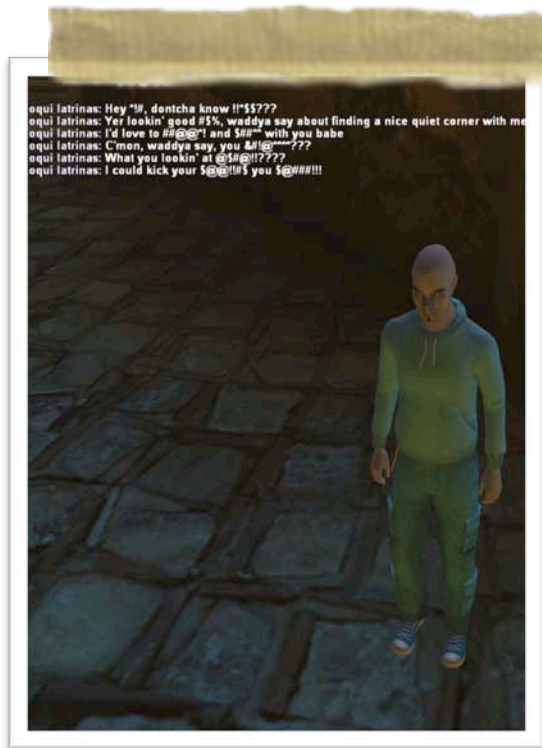
It's been a most exciting and fruitful day! I have discovered and documented my first species, *Loqui latrinas*, the Common Potty-Mouth. I found him hanging about the ferry terminal area. This species seems to be brash by nature and so he was unfazed by my presence and the look of my Maintainer suit. Most fortuitous!



I made my way down the staircase as quietly as possible.



I didn't spot him right away; he was loitering  
about the KJ station behind me.

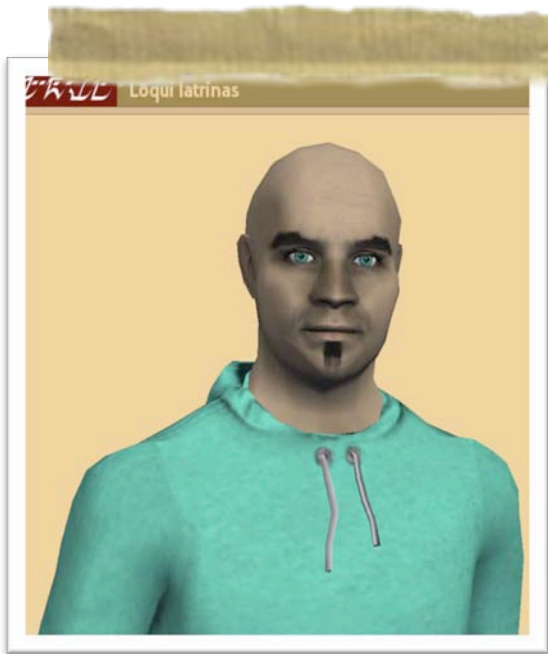


Although foul-tongued, this species seems relatively harmless.

I was able to follow him back to his native habitat and get a couple detailed photographs for future identification purposes.



He is a sizeable creature but is only aggressive verbally.



Blue is the predominant plumage for this species, though he is nearly hairless.

## Analysis:

Genus-Species Name: *Loqui latrinus*

Common Name: *Common Potty-mouth*

*Loqui* prefers public places and thrives on conversation and attention. He defends his verbal territory aggressively and displays few boundaries with other species. He is comfortable intruding on conversations and is loud when staking out his conversational territory. His foul-tongued natural state is a strong deterrent to other species and thus most give him a wide berth.

He sports bright plumage, perhaps to compensate for his nearly hairless appearance and to counteract the active avoidance displayed by others. He nests in a fairly normal *Relto* but

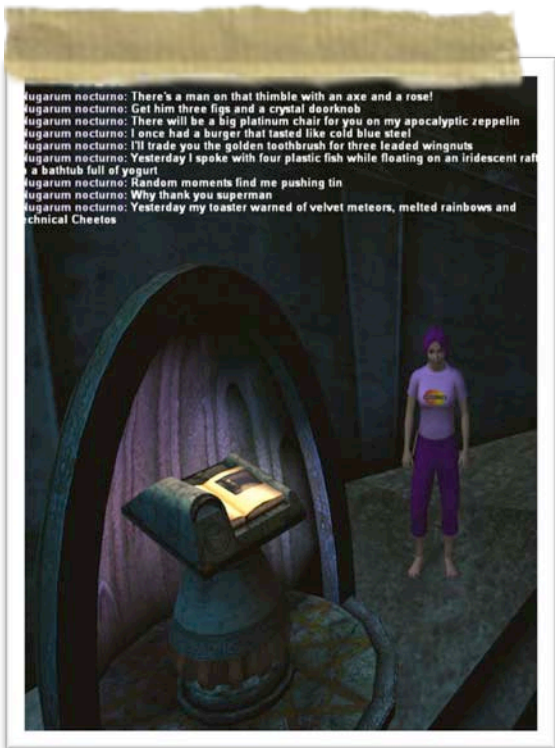
appears to have difficulty attracting long-term companionship and thus lives a semi-solitary life.

Recommendation:

Because of his solitary lifestyle, Loqui may need to be added to our Threatened Wildlife list and studied further to assess what steps are needed to prevent his extinction.

Saturday 1 Sep 2012

I have found a second species of pest! This particular species is nocturnal and so I had missed it on my earlier expeditions. It is fortunate that I had to remain later than usual in the City tonight.



She was hanging about the concert hall,  
apparently hoping for an audience.



She is not a shy creature and so I was able to follow her home and take some identifying photos there.



She sports purple plumage, right down to her eyebrows.

## Analysis:

Genus-Species Name: *Nugarum nocturno*

Common Name: *Midnight babbler*

As with Loqui, little *Nugarum* prefers public places though is equally comfortable with or without an attentive audience. She spouts nonsensical verbiage constantly, even compulsively. She prefers to have others within visual range, moving as necessary when she finds herself alone; however, once others are in sight, it seems to matter little whether they notice her.

Other species soon find themselves working a hopeless cause when attempting to speak with her, as she seems incapable of coherent conversation. This makes her another solitary

species, though perhaps inadvertently so. Her desire for a semblance of social contact implies that her communication skills have been arrested in some way.

Nugarum prefers the night hours for Cavern activity and can be found nesting in her Relto during the daytime.

Recommendation:

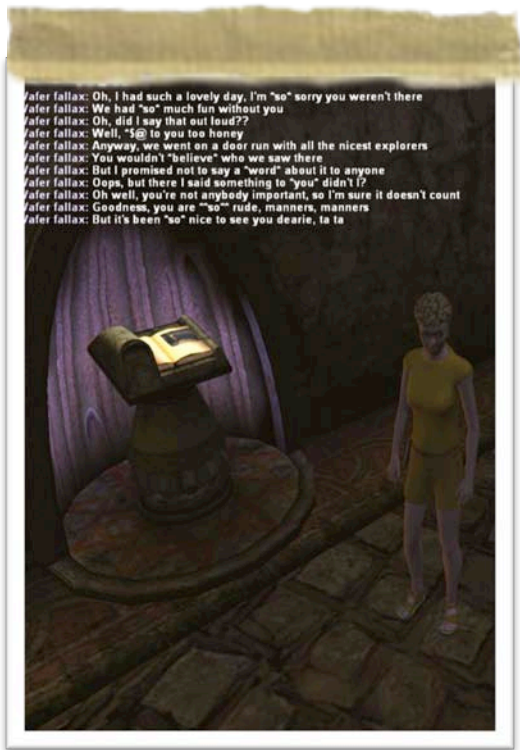
Because of her solitary lifestyle, Nugarum may need to be added to our Threatened Wildlife list and studied further to assess what steps are needed to prevent her extinction.

Saturday 17 Nov 2012

After more than two months of searching, I have finally found a third species! This is exciting news indeed.



I first spotted her hiding behind a lamp at the top of the great stairway, spying on some explorers below.



She soon wandered down to Tokotah Alley and engaged another explorer in gossip.



Knowing I wanted her photo, she welcomed the opportunity to preen in her Relto.



Her primary plumage is yellow.

Analysis:

Genus-Species Name: *Vafer fallax*

Common Name: *Large-eyed sneak*

Vafer is an insatiable gossip and constantly searches out private information about others

only to pass it on in the course of her numerous conversations. She is extremely social and will talk to anyone within earshot. She enjoys bragging about her own hobnobbing exploits and prefers to keep conversations centered on herself when she isn't gossip-mongering.

Although usually polite on the surface, she typically injects a venomous comment here and there. One of her favorite defenses to this with others is wide-eyed incredulity.

Vafer can be found in the Cavern during peak explorer activity, though can be difficult to spot easily. She is a somewhat subtle creature.

Recommendation:

Because Vafer is difficult to identify readily, her numbers are unknown. A species survey

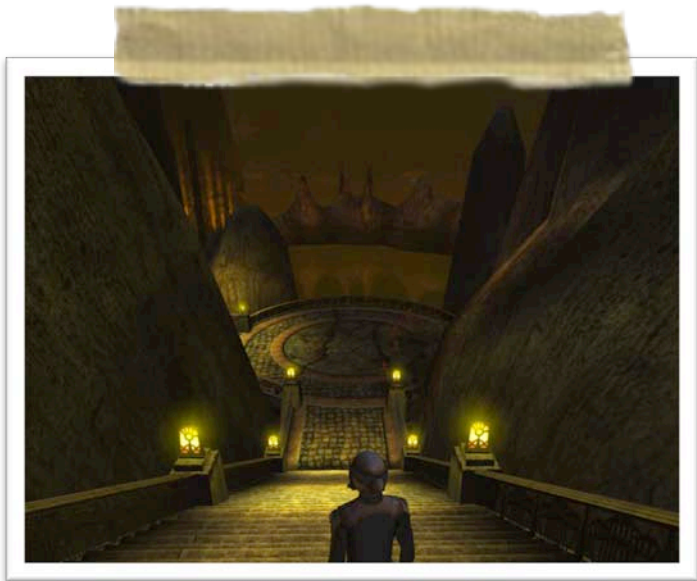
and headcount is warranted; if they are prolific, we will need to assess if the Cavern is in danger of becoming overrun, in which case we might need to institute population control measures.

Saturday 26 Jan 2013

It is a new year and I have now found a fourth species of Cavern pest. This fellow was quite difficult to track down but was well worth the effort.



I spotted movement over in the library area and decided to investigate.



All seemed quiet as I approached.

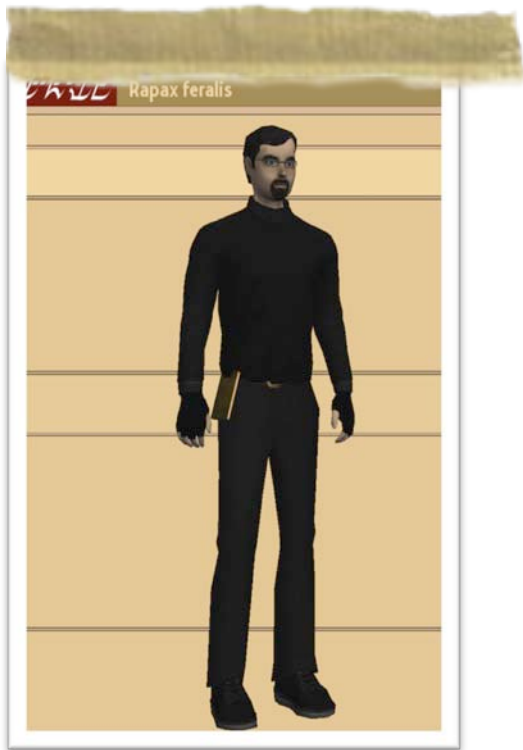


Still nothing... I could have sworn I saw  
something.



Ah, here he is by the KJ station; he loses no time in asking me to keep my distance.

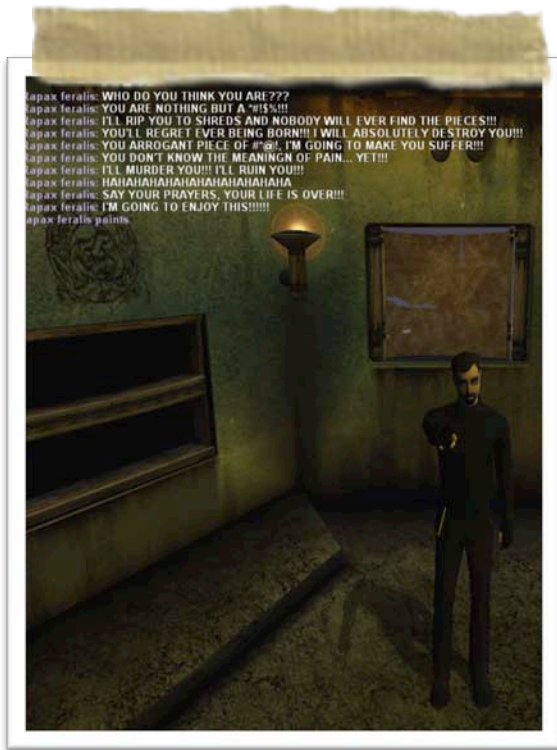
Rapax is intelligent and articulate, engaging in conversation with others readily. He eventually relaxed enough in my presence to invite me to his Relto.



Rapax allowed me to take several photographs of him in his home turf.

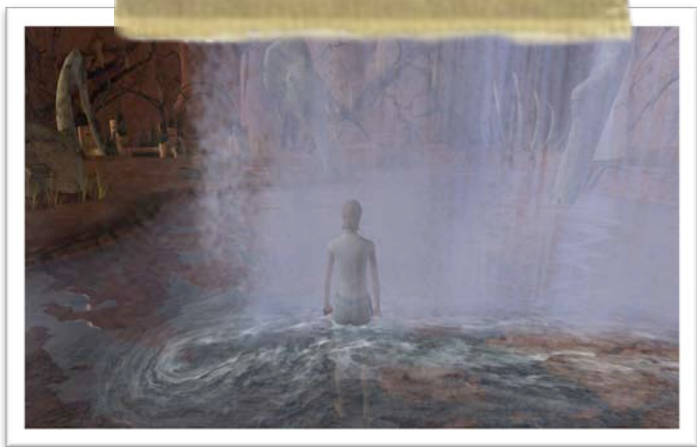


His plumage is dark and he seems to prefer dim rather than bright lighting.



*At this point, he leapt into action with a nearly overwhelming verbal assault. I realized then that he is a stealthy predator, luring in unsuspecting explorers with his stand-offishness and apparent loneliness. Thank goodness I was wearing protective gear! After heading back to*

my Relto to shed my Maintainer suit, my next stop was Eder Gira for a much-needed bath!



The temperate waterfall feels wonderful after that last encounter.



I sit and soak for at least an hour.

Analysis:

Genus-Species Name: *Rapax feralis*

Common Name: *Toxic bloodsucker*

Rapax is a subtle beast, a solitary predator of the most malignant sort. His hunting pattern is via attraction rather than stalking, luring in the overly inquisitive or soft-hearted souls who inhabit the Cavern. He displays intelligence,

even charm, with a dash of loneliness designed to disarm any wariness in his prey. He prefers to make the kill privately in his Relto, out of earshot and where his intended victim will be isolated from possible rescue by others.

Rapax is clever and is unlikely to strike at the same victim twice. It's quite possible that he is chameleon-like and that my identifying photos will be for naught.

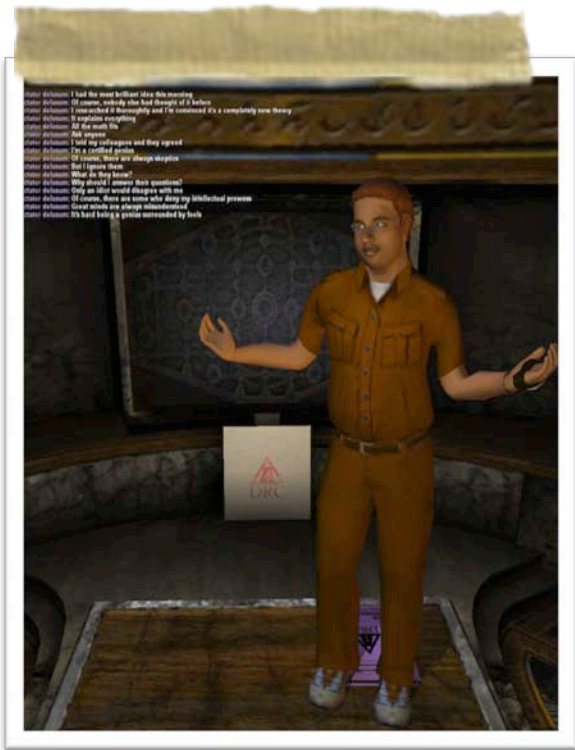
Recommendation:

Rapax is difficult to identify readily before he has chosen his prey. Because he is both malignant and stealthy, immediate extermination upon identification is warranted.

Sunday 31 Mar 2013

Kath Areara PM'd me yesterday with an alert about another undocumented species of Cavern pest. I lost no time in donning my protective gear once again and then headed down below.

After a great deal of searching, I finally found him in a Neighborhood classroom, pontificating on top of the desk to a worried-looking explorer. The explorer escaped as soon as he saw me enter but this flurry of activity didn't faze our new pest in the least.



Jactator is extolling his virtues to anyone and everyone within earshot.



Another self-absorbed pest who is delighted to let  
me photograph him in his Relto.



His plumage is a rusty orange and he prefers shirts with pockets to hold his smartphone.

Analysis:

Genus-Species Name: *Jactator delusum*

Common Name: *Big-mouthed earbender*

*Jactator* is convinced of his own intellectual brilliance and is deaf to any comments or evidence to the contrary. He rarely engages in true conversations, preferring instead to preach to others about his favorite topic—himself.

Although somewhat similar to *Vafer fallax*, *Jactator* has fewer social skills and no interest in engaging with other species.

*Jactator* is an interesting combination of solitary and social tendencies, actively seeking out an audience yet shunning any meaningful interaction with others. He is happy to let admirers talk to him so long as the topic

remains focused on his own prowess. He will sometimes resort to a diatribe if the conversation veers away from himself.

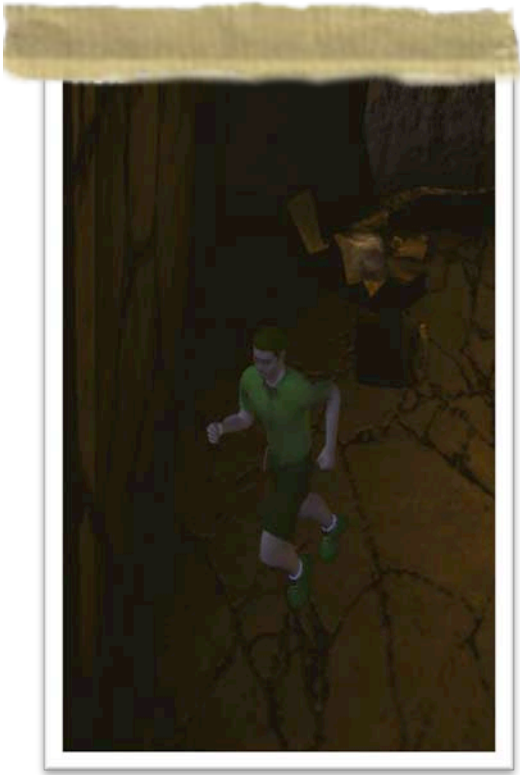
Jactator can be found in the Cavern at any time, though he is most active during peak explorer hours.

Recommendation:

Jactator is relatively harmless but his numbers are unknown. Because his social behaviors leave him isolated in the end, he may need to be added to our Threatened Wildlife list and studied further to assess what steps are needed to prevent his extinction.

Monday 1 Apr 2013

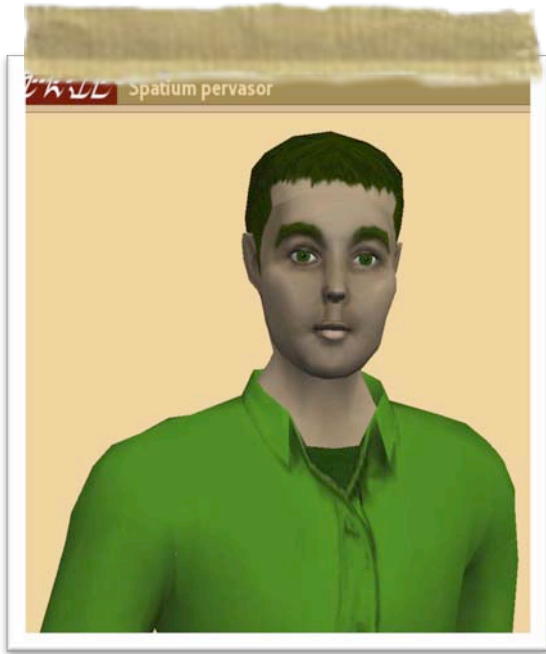
I have heard unexpectedly from Alan D regarding a Cavern pest that I need to document. He reports that he has encountered it a number of times now. I will conduct my own investigations as well, particularly as Alan D was unable to get any photos.



I found Spatium running about in Kahlö Pub  
annoying other explorers.



After running about for more than an hour, he became tired and returned to his Relto to rest.



Spatium has a perpetually blank look on his face.

Following is Alan D's field report.

Analysis:

Genus-Species Name: *Spatium pervasor*

Common Name: *Frenzied wobbler*

This specimen habitually invades the personal space of others through various means, such as running at or through explorers, making bizarre gestures or pushing his Relto book in someone's face, walking into others from behind or running in circles around them. *Spatium* is strangely mute and does not respond to any attempts at communication. This could indicate deafness or even a speech disorder.

*Spatium* rarely stays in any location for a significant length of time. He may be the larval stage of another pest, in which case his fits could be a precursor to pupation.

Spatium can be found in the Cavern at any time, though he is most active during peak explorer hours.

Recommendation:

Spatium is a minor irritant warranting no special control measures at this time. His odd behavior may be a form of seizure disorder though if so, does not appear to be life-threatening. Nevertheless, the bizarre behavior of this species could make an interesting research project for a budding zoologist.





## Future Zoological Research Projects

1. Study the bonding between Laki mothers and calves; how long do they remain close? Is there a point when the calf must separate from the mother or the pod?
2. Are Laki naturally aggressive? Are they relatively docile?
3. Research whether the Crimson Kadish can link like the Kemo Fireflies.
4. Does the Direbo white firefly need the coolness or humidity of the water for survival? Is it territorial?
5. Identify the species names for the Direbo firefly, butterfly and dragonfly.
6. Study Shroomie's use of her forelegs; are they sensory organs?

7. Are the Negilahn Piranha Flowers parasitic?  
Do they actually move up the sides of the Stilt Trees? If not, how do they get there?
8. Does the Dereno Arctic Coral grow through the ice surface naturally during its life cycle?  
If so, what purpose does this serve?
9. Identify the Dereno flat green coral.
10. Study the Kemo Keanulint colony—behavior, social relationships, life cycle, etc.
11. Look into a Kemo breeding program.
12. Find out if there's a way to study the Quab's former natural habitat (probably not but it's worth looking into)
13. Is there any genetic relationship between the Cavern Firefly and the Direbo white Firefly?

14. Are the Todelmer Fireflies native only at the great heights of the column tops? Do they exist in the forests below and if so, is their social behavior different? Are there more of them there? What other animal species exist at the Todelmer surface?
15. Study the Selenitic Bats more thoroughly. What do they eat? Have they adapted to a vegetarian diet? The garden appears to be the only place with a viable food source.
16. Does the presence of the generator towers and their energy bursts have an adverse affect on the Rime sea life, in particular the Rime Whale?
17. Study the new bug found at The Cleft caldera. IN PROGRESS

18. Find out if the caldera Flies and newly discovered bug glow at night/in the dark.
19. Study the Laki'ahn Piranha Bird breeding patterns and adaptive behaviors. Being so deeply anti-social, how do they raise their young? How does their defensive style serve them? What purpose does their exaggerated body shape serve?

## Other Questions/Issues to Research

1. Did the Buggaro have an important role to the D'ni in Teledahn? Does it have a relationship with the mushrooms and spores? Why are the spore machine paddles modeled after Buggaro wings?
2. Was Kadish responsible for the butterflies migrating to the vault? Did this happen during the event of his death?
3. Was Kadish wounded by angry age natives? Is this why he retreated to his vault to die with his treasures?
4. Why does the butterfly color appear a deeper blue at The Cleft from Direbo? (suspect it's a light wavelength thing—need to consult a proper scientist)

5. Where do all the doorways in the New K'veer link-in room lead? Is it a nexus? For what or for where?
6. Is the writing in the future vault Katran's or Yeesha's? Or both? What is it saying about them both? And what do their words really mean?
7. Where are the Myst Island living quarters?
8. Did Atrus write something into Mechanical age to prevent life/decay from attaching to the islands and building?
9. Why do the Bahro structures make such constant use of the tusks? What does this tell us about them? And what creature are the tusks and bones from? Which is its native age?

10. See if there are any fellow explorers working on replicating Atrus' remote viewing machine.
11. What exactly is Yeesha's connection with the linking bubbles? The Bahro caves and other Bahro constructions?
12. Do an in-depth age survey of all things Bahro, especially structures and glyphs. IN PROGRESS

13. ~~What is the fossil-like phenomenon in the Payiferen desert? Is its arm pointing to anything? If so, what, is it something important? IN PROGRESS (being researched by DLordofTime)~~
14. ~~Investigate the odd qualities of light and shadow in Payiferen. Why can we see the sun through the mountains (but not the sand~~

~~dunes) at dawn and sunset? Why do the rocks glow colors? Why do they glow at night? Why do parts of the Payiferen body seem to disappear in direct sunlight? IN PROGRESS (being researched by DLordofTime)~~

15. Is the rift/starry expanse a Bahro nexus (or linking hub)? Why is it always associated with the Bahro journey quest caves?
16. Research whether there were any reports circa 1800s New Mexico of some strangers appearing in the desert. If so, try to find out what happened to them. If they have living descendants, see if they can be tracked down and interviewed.

