

TINGERS

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Guide written in theme of lore in raw text form.

Project Thunderhome

The following documents are classified and contain research into the alien earth species designated [REDACTED]. The species have earned the moniker 'Tingers' amongst the junior researchers pending further genetic and phylogenetic analysis.

Study into the Tingers located through site codename 'Hellenbach' first opened XX/06/2XXX XX:XX:XX in relation to Project Thunderhome.

Tingers have been first documented traversing at site 'Hellenbach'.

Summary

All Tingers have similar basic forms, however with variance of genes and climate adaptations, the details of the form vary vastly. Quick defining features of the species include long ears (either erect or lopped), hooked tusks, long claws on forpaws and all dewclaws, and the distinctive parietal eye (third eye). Notably they are between 3ft-6ft when standing quadruped. With this in mind, great caution should be taken in their presence, and they should be avoided at all costs. It is not currently clear how much of a risk they pose to the project or personnel.

They have a somewhat developed intelligence (hypothesised to be of a similar level to that of the earliest sapiens) and have a clear understanding of community; with primitive use of language, culture and a very basic understanding of crafting, thanks to their dexterous front paws.

Another key feature of the Tinger is their use of a force known as Hoardsthalt, it has not yet been fully researched however [ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REDACTED - HIGHER CLASSIFICATION REQUIRED]. Having qualities such as levitation, they can affect the pull around themselves in a small, but significant way; often using this to carry 'hoards', or as an offensive or defensive force. It's believed this power is channelled through a spongy organ that is found around their necks and upper back. Although not fully understood yet, this power also appears to be related to a metabolic rate within tingers which, alongside their nourishing blood properties, can lead to higher rates of personal healing. [ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REDACTED - HIGHER CLASSIFICATION REQUIRED]

Anatomy and Morphology

General appearance

Tingers are a varied genus, their height can range at average from 3 feet to around 6 feet when stood quadruped, and much taller if stood bipedally. They have colourations that vary from whites to blacks, and from reds to greys and blondes with markings that are inherited, but highly unique. Patterns can include spots, stripes, patches, speckling and solid colours. Despite their variance in colouration and patterns, all Tingers have dark markings on their eyelids which is seen in all members with no exception. It is common to see characteristic markings on ear tips, eyebrows, and digits which are frequently darker in colour, or contrast the main fur colour. Summer and winter coats depict the same colours and markings, with the summer coat being thinner, and the winter with a thicker undercoat, shedding occurs seasonally.

Heads

From the Tingers catalogued so far the following can be confidently surmised as being true across the wider species;

Tingers have bulky skulls, with strong jaws and a long brain case.

Tingers have large, flat noses, with the flesh reaching their top lip. They have large nasal conchae, with pronounced lateral ala. The flesh of the nose is dimpled, and sensitive to touch and temperature.

Tingers have very long, mobile whiskers which protrude from their philtrum, bridge of nose, chin, throat, cheeks and eyebrows.

Eyes

A prominent feature of great interest to our research efforts is the Tingers' developed parietal eye (3rd eye). It is unclear why the parietal eye has evolved to in the form and function of their bilateral eyes, however it appears that this 'third eye' is used to observe additional spectrums. It appears that [REDACTED] affects this eye in particular.

Although bilateral Tinger eyes appear to be delicate and almost cateracted in appearance, Tingers have fair vision. They have light coloured iris; fleshy greens, browns, blues and pinks, with noticeably pale, round pupils and due to their reflective properties, they have good night

vision. Unlike their bilateral eyes, the parietal eye has a naturally dark, round pupil, with the accent colour present in the iris. Sclera in Tinger are naturally dark, as an off-white beige and as noted before, the eyes are marked with darker markings around all eyelids, including the third eye, this helps with glare. The bilateral pupils are highly reflective, which can be mistaken for their eyes to be seen as glowing, however bioluminescence is not present. Their bilateral eyes have large tear duct glands that continue to almost halfway down the muzzle. It has been observed that these glands appear to produce a mild scent as Tingers have been seen to rub faces with one another as a form of bonding.

Accent colours and internals

Tingers have an intense pigmentation throughout certain parts of the individual, their parietal iris, tongue and claws, such vivid melanin and keratin colours have not been documented prior to this species discovery. This pigmentation within the individual is singular, in which a Tinger will only have one distinct colour with no samples having been catalogued exhibiting even the faintest variation on this genetic rule. Also worth noting is that most are commonly very bright in hue. Another odd colouration can be seen in Tinger blood; as it is vivid, almost 'hot' pink in colour. When spilled on to soil, Tinger blood provides fast nutrition to flora, quickly sprouting shoots and smaller plants, with larger ones growing over time. This rapid growth aspect has been more thoroughly investigated by [REDACTED] for potential use in [REDACTED]. It has been noted that Tinger flesh is always dark in pigment, with muscle and organs also being dark in colour, often looking almost purple in hue. Tinger bones are strong and dense, which alongside thick muscles and large stature, leads to them being very heavy beasts.

Dentition

Despite their large skulls, Tingers possess only 32 teeth, compared to a human who also has 32 adult teeth, and a canine which has 42. Dentition as follows -

Maxillary: 6 incisors, 2 canines (tusks), 4 premolars, 4 molars.

Mandibular: 6 incisors, 2 canines, 4 premolars, 4 molars.

Dentition formula as follows: I -3/3 C1/1 P2/2 M2/2.

Being opportunistic omnivores, their incisors are flat, and despite looking unwieldy, the iconic hooked tusks on the upper jaw are used for clashing and for conflict. These tusks replace smooth deciduous canines at the start of sexual maturity. Because of their hooking ability it is key that Tingers evolved with tough enamel, which is shown through visibly darker teeth, often looking stained; it is in fact a sign of good health and condition. As with skin of a Tinger, their gums and lips are dark in pigment, but as mentioned before their tongues feature their distinguishable accent colour. They have fleshy papillae on their lips, which with all of their flesh colour, is dark in pigment.

Ears

Tingers have characterful long ears, which are very emotive and used to convey moods and feelings. They require strong ear bases to control them in such a way, although their hearing isn't exceptional for the size of them. Some Tingers have genetically weaker cartilage in their ears which leads to drooping, this does not affect their hearing or conflict with their visual communication. Tinger ears have the characteristic darker tips, with fleshy inner ears, and long guard hairs around the ear canal.

Although differences in size of the ear is minilar, it is noted that Tingers from hotter climates typically have longer ears than those from colder regions, which suggests this aids heat dispersal or retention.

Claws

With similar attributes to their hooked tusks, Tingers have long hooked claws on their front paws, although these are kept blunt as they are in contact with surfaces constantly. Curiously, their dexterous thumbs claws (dewclaws) grow inverted, upwards and over the top of the digit, and face backwards. The back claws are all short, with exception of the dewclaws again which grow in similar fashion to the front dewclaws; up, over the digit and pointing backwards. It's unclear why this is a genetic trait which runs through all members, as the claw must be groomed short to prevent self-injury through overgrowth. Tingers use their claws as excellent digging tools (for dens and foraging for roots to eat), and have been known to scratch respectively detailed markings into materials such as wood as decoration, or as a territory mark. These claws can also be used offensively. Their claws feature each Tingers individual 'accent colour'.

Paws and dexterity

Thanks to their longer digits and flatter pads, tingers have a primitive sense of dexterity in their forepaws, this is aided further by their basic bipedal abilities. Although they prefer to levitate items (this action is being referred to as Hoardsthalt), Tingers have been known to hold items in their 'hands' and use this skill to crudely craft items. Tingers have fatty pads to protect their paws when they walk on them, and they possess a carpal pad. On their back feet, each foot sports a pair of carpal pads.

Bipedal tendencies

It is common to see Tingers standing on their hind legs for a few moments although it appears to be exceedingly difficult for them to walk like this or remain standing for longer periods of time. Ability to remain standing on their hind legs depends on their body, paws and longer tails aid in

this. It is possible for Tingers to climb trees and cliffs however, using their powerful hind legs to help alongside their dexterous front paws. Tingers spend most of their time on all of their paws, having a wide range of gaits, speeds and functions.

Tail

The structure of Tingers tails, typically long and rigid, can vary wildly from individual to individual, with documented sightings of some few Tingers with shorter, or nubbed varieties. The length of fur on the tails can also expand the range of variety, from short hair typically seen, to long, flowing hair.

Fur and mane

A distinguishing feature of a Tinger would be their impressive manes. All manes comprise dense fur on the dorsal, some reaching the entire circumference of the neck. The hair is often rigid, standing on end, but can be softer and longer depending on genetics. Typically, the mane covers the bulk of Hoardst in a protective manner, usually meaning the larger the mane, the larger and stronger the organ.

Behaviour

General Behaviour

Although acting more solitary whilst [REDACTED] documented at Hellenbach, Tingers live in tight-knit communities of relatives and small networks of companions. Inherently placid creatures, only showing aggression when threatened, enemies will often settle disputes with displays of condition, and vocally over physical confrontation. Fights between tingers (individually and between groups) are rare but occasional territory battles have been known. There are not clear leaders in the communities, all Tingers are valued members, regardless of age and ability.

A common behavioural trait is known as 'hoarding', Tingers will often store interesting or valuable miscellaneous objects using Hoardsthalt around their necks and head. Tingers very typically hoard a range of flora, collected either for medicinal purposes, for pleasant scent, or for general aesthetic purposes. Alongside the flora, Tingers may often collect miscellaneous objects of interest, these items provide no benefit to the individual but are used as a status symbol and can be used for trading. Occasionally certain items are considered art, either by pleasant

aesthetics, or by Tinger craft, and these may be highly prized and appear to be well aged as though passed through generations.

It has been observed that Tingers have begun to use skulls to protect their third eye whilst [REDACTED]. Hoarded skulls will be replaced once damaged enough, Tingers appear to use them functionally over appearance so it will be common to see a Tinger replace a hoarded skull several times whilst [REDACTED].

Reproduction and Development

Data incomplete due to current timescale, this section is speculated from information gained through biological dating and initial observations.

Tingers have a lifespan of around 50 years old (due to their family networks, the elders are cared for which would aid to extend their lifespans to rare individuals reaching 70), they wean around 2 years old, although start consuming food past 6 months, provided by their caregivers, full transitioning from milk to food by 2 years old. They reach sexual maturity around the age of 12, adulthood around 18 and lose peak fertility around the age of 45.

A key defining feature of the Tinger is the entire genus being made of intersex individuals. Once an individual reaches puberty, they will have the capacity to become pregnant or impregnate, however they are not capable of self-fertilisation.

Tingers are able to breed all year round if conditions allow, but typically only a few members of the community will have offspring, with all members helping to raise young. Birthing is typically very safe, very rarely leading to complications. Gestation is 9 months, with typically one young per birth, rarely two. Tinger young (Tingerlings) are birthed in the amniotic sac which is broken through by the Tingerling, or by the birthing parent. They are born with a thin layer of down as protection, and basic sight and other senses developing in the following hours. They are able to crawl at about 2 weeks of age, but are truly mobile after 3 months, due to this, the parents will stay sheltered with the newborn until this stage. Both parents have the capacity to nurse, all Tingers have one pair of mammary organs, located on the chest. The Tingerlings are cared for by not only the parents, but the whole community, and once the Tingerling can walk the duties of raising are shared, with the parent pair being main caregivers and source of milk and food, with other members helping with cleaning, playing and education.

Tingers lose their deciduous teeth from the front to the back around the age of 3 and the hooked tusks push through at the start of sexual maturity.

Communication

Tingers have a primitive concept of language, which includes a use of clicks, chortles, warbles, gargles, snarls and snaps within more complex formed words. The language varies widely across the land as they have no formal written language to document with. Tingerlings will take a few years to develop their language skills, and will typically express themselves with giggles and whines until early language emerges before 2 years old.

Cultural and Hunting Behaviours

Being highly commutative creatures, community is very important to Tingers. Although lacking in written documents, it's clear how far back stories and traditions have been developing. Cultural traits, traditions and customs are not as apparent in Tingers [REDACTED], so these exact traits are being researched further.

Hunts are taken out frequently with specific members of the group, the young, elderly, ill and nurturing Tingers remain, where the fit Tingers partake in complex hunting procedures. Specific Tingers will have certain roles, but they all work together to bring down large prey. This team will first eat the most nutritious parts as they require the purest energy, and then return the carcass for the other members to feed from.

As larger prey is few and far between, and Tingers tend to be solitary, they hunt smaller prey and are highly defensive of their kills.

The entire community of Tingers help with foraging for vegetation, Tingers learning at an early age which plants are edible or useful, and those which are not.

Diet

Tingers are omnivores, their diets consist of meats, berries, leaves and roots. They have been known to be opportunistic and scavenge from human food wastes and will often store vegetation in their hoard for eating at a later date. Due to their high metabolism, Tingers require a very high calorie intake.

Hoardsthalt

Hoardst: organ

Hoardsthalt: the use of the organ

Hoardst appears throughout the body in thin, vein-like webbed systems, accumulating in a large, spongy mass around the neck and upper back. The Hoardst develops over time, typically growing to full strength at adulthood. Similar to muscles, the Hoardst can be conditioned and refined through dedicated training. The larger the Hoardst, the stronger the Hoardsthalt. The bulk of the hoardst, on the back of the neck, is protected by a dense mane, and a general rule of thumb states the more of the body the thick fur covers, the larger the hoardst.

Hoardsthalt is currently being researched [ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REDACTED - HIGHER CLEARANCE REQUIRED].

Initial studies show the organ generates a pulling or levitational force around the body, typically used to hoard items but can be used as a martial skill, either offensively or defensively by propelling a pulse of force, or by creating a temporary buffer 'wall' to resist strikes or projectiles. There is a growing hypothesis that the Tinger parietal eyes have cells able to detect this form of force.

Particularly strong pulses of hoardsthalt can disrupt both light and radio wavelengths.

Diseases and Injuries

The most common cause of death in Tingers is from injuries and starvation, and from organ failure in older age. Although minor injuries are healed very quickly, significant harm will cause death. Project [ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REDACTED - HIGHER CLEARANCE REQUIRED]. Presently research is being undertaken on captive Tingers into the toxicity of certain chemicals and compounds [ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REDACTED - HIGHER CLEARANCE REQUIRED].

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