

"The ground shook as the first comet emerged from the earth, ascend towards the stars where it should belong, and with a brilliant flare, the skies shattered." - Journal of N, "Biologica magnifique"

Brief background

Found on the planet PO-G2 and currently inhabiting the entirety of star system 901a, the Kikimora is found to have "replaced" the entire system down to every single atom, including the star burning bright in the center of the system. It is unknown where the Kikimora come from, some suggest that the expedition of PO-G2 by foreign parties has brought them in and thus able to thrive carelessly in such an ideal environment, while others suggest that the attempt of colonization and harvesting on PO-G2 merely aids it, and Kikimora is native to the planet. Regardless of stance, all agree that this species is found to originate from PO-G2, with its emergence firmly tied to the intervention of foreign galactic factions.

The Prelude

Due to PO-G2's unique origination, many materials previously unseen are discovered, attracting numerous galactic powers to come and attempt harvest, perhaps even to seize it all to themselves. As such, frontier outposts of different shapes and sizes are built, fortifications rise, and aliens forage through the local ecosphere. It all began as merely a rumor, that occasional geological features seem to "move" between each exploration, or misput equipment are found to be moving on its own, alas, such rumors are handled lightly, regarded as mere homesickness for prolonged living on a foreign planet, and thus no direct measures (to the kikimora) are employed aside from additional surveillance to make sure it's just a ruse.

The Emergence

A Few months had passed since the rise of rumors, with no additional report from either the personnel or the surveillance systems finding any abnormal movements. But then, on an originally eventless night, a rocky spire emerges from the ground at the north pole and ascends rapidly right as the planet's moon passes from above. Allegedly, defenses and interception were scrambled by most factions on-site, but the lithic missile still managed to connect with the moon's surface, resulting in approximately 40% of the moon's mass falling back into PO-G2 as a catastrophic meteor strike and forcing the factions to wrap up their respective expeditions.

Recreation, and Thrivation

With the foreign factions occupied to save personnel lives (as well as buzy accusing each other for initiating this "attack"), numerous equipments as well as several unfortunate personnel are left on the surface of PO-G2. Utilizing such benefits, the

kikimora quickly gained “sentience”, and proceed to rebuilt PO-G2’s moon. Perhaps feeling a little guilty of their past actions and what the action has led to, the Kikimora sends out a message in the form of a combined energy pulse on all wavelengths that they can access:

Greetings starfarers, We are the Kikimora, now claiming the entirety of star system 901a, we look forward to a peaceful meeting as contact but do respect our authority.

Any hostile action shall be treated formally and will be responded with force. In addition, we claim full responsibility for the destruction of PO-G2’s moon: Champ, and any related losses. It is not our goal to harm anyone, but we are still guilty of the consequences. As compensation, assorted minerals can now be found back on Champ and those who had proof of losses have the right to mine on it.

Biology

Individual Kikimora are unicellular organisms, only in a mass of 23mm³ at its peak and weighing close to 0.5kg (including husk). Their appearance vastly varies depending on the material they are “borned” with, from gases to liquid and even matter, though regardless of appearance their ability remains the same.

Individual Kikimora is composed of 99% of their “husk”, with only 1% and sometimes even lower of assorted cellular materials, thus it is hard to distinguish whether a piece of material is a kikimora or not unless it wants to show itself. It can still be identified, albeit with some troubles as the “husk” do contain strands of Kikimora RNA.

Reproduction usually requires material of at least 5mm³ as well as >5mm³ of the mother Kikimora, which the mother Kikimora will ingest the material, before isolating a part of itself equivalent to the mass of the ingested material away from its body. The isolated part will remain dormant for around 5-10 weeks before being able to perform basic unicellular actions, at the same time, a “husk” of the previously consumed material will form around the body of the juvenile, and slowly grow in size along with the cell itself, taking around 10 years to grow 1mm³ in size. Said “husk” is actually part of Kikimora’s body, as any attempt of sampling had ended with uncontrolled spillage of the cellular content within. Materials required for reproduction are often solid, though high-viscosity liquids are found to be applicable as well.

Flesh is also applicable for breeding new Kikimora, though it is seldom preferred nor actively sought out as cellular units of muscle tissue have a low affinity with other, especially more common, materials.

Being unicellular, the strength on their own isn't exactly great, as mere phagocytosis and pseudopodia are all they can do, but once conglomerated with others, each and every Kikimora serves as omnicells, performing functions including but not limited to sensory, motor, nervous, and cognitive at the same time, forming a single cluster of Kikimora able to undergo complex actions and roles. With this logic, it is estimated that Kikimora has already reached the computing power rivaling the usual quantum computer judging from the collective mass within system 901a, but Kikimora themselves neither deny nor support the claim.

It is not known whether Kikimora is a collective hivemind or able to generate individual consciousness, but individual Kikimora does exchange synthesized proteins and electrical impulses through direct contact or in close proximity, perhaps acting as a form of communication within their species. Although it has not been known that kikimoras communicate via speech or any other objective means, once reaching a certain cluster size they do have the ability to speak standard Universal Language, estimated to be originating from those that were consumed by them.

Aside from being potentially telepathic, kikimora boast substantial physical resistance due to their biological composition, but in turn, any damage will be permanent until death. Their movement are very, very slow when in singular, but increases exponentially as the size of a cluster increases.

It is unsure what energy source Kikimora relies on, but studies suggest that they can obtain energy via radiation, as identical experiments in which subjects under stronger radiation are particularly active, while compared groups inside sealed lead containers are found to be completely dormant.



A cluster subject found near a volcanic site
(picture is from the Unknown in Girl's Frontline)

Culture

The Kikimora, whilst powerful in great numbers, seem to view everyone within the species as equal while disregarding individual safety. Any opportunity for reproduction or consumption are for whoever comes first, and no apparent privilege class seems to exist even within closer relationships like parent-offspring. However, upon further observation, particular Kikimora which boasts more damage to their “husk” shall be situated in more secured locations when within a cluster, though it is unsure whether this counts as a privilege, perseverance of the experienced, or simply to minimize the chance of reducing individual numbers.

Based on the latitudes of a planet, or perhaps the difference in material compositions found in different latitudes of a planet, it is found that the Kikimora may practice different sort of clusterings, with some preferring fauna appearances, while others

preferring robotics, flora, or even landscape, albeit all able to move equally fast/slow. Same goes for different planets, thus proving the material composition theory.

There is a common dream shared among Kikimora when reaching pass certain age, which they dreamt of a small slimy yet humanoid figure, with an indescribable sense of familiarity. But perhaps due to their negligence of personal privileges, these are merely told as simple stories and not regarded as something worthy of worshipping.

As for external views, the Kikimora prefer to be left alone, albeit pretty tolerable to foreigners, At least until said foreigners are proven to be ill-intentional.

Government

It is estimated that Kikimora shares a common hivemind, and thus doesn't have a particular governmental structure for faction-wide decisions. However, like the difference in clustering, Kikimora also share some sort of council, with representative clusters meeting up bi-annually on PO-G2. But such meetings always lasted as soon as they make contact its almost as if its just for ceremonial rather than political...or perhaps bio-transmission is simply that efficient.

Economy...?

It is found that the Kikimora is able to replicate simple machinery that they previously consumed during their catastrophic emergence, but they seem to not care about it much aside from using the fabrication machine to make them more complex material that cannot be found naturally...perhaps these can be exploited for profit?

Tech

Energetic

It is found that the Kikimora are able to harness up to fusion nuclear, but it is seldom utilized in anything other than the machinery that they replicate. But aside from those obtained from other faction, their research in the energetic field is basically zero.

Mobility

It is suspected that when a Kikimora "dies", a relatively large burst of energy is release (relative to its size), and thus when a cluster *really* want to chase something down, they will start gradually decreasing in size while getting quite a tremendous boost of speed.

Space travel operates in similar manner, with just a lot more Kikimora.

Due to how Kikimora clusters boost, there is a trail of materials behind any Kikimora airborne/spaceborne vehicles, which on one hand if any ships are unfortunate enough to cross one's path they have somewhat high odds of being pelted by random rocks, but on the other hand, Kikimora vessel seems to become a sign of good boon for any asteroid harvester as one only need to open its storage door and trail along the path for an easy bonus, perhaps even better when occasional precious/undiscovered materials are in the mix.

However, in normal circumstances, Kikimora, clusters or individuals, generally move quite slowly. In contrast to their speed, their strength packs quite the punch, only bound by the strength of the material that the cluster is composed of.

Computation and Processing

Like the estimation, gigantic clusters (i.e. PO-G2) are suited as biological computing units for processing data, thus providing the best-suited answer and progression for the species, albeit often with the cost of individuals.

Combat

Although through the catastrophic emergence, the Kikimora do have knowledge and ability of recreation of basic weaponry including vehicles, guns and turrets, but the majority of them won't opt for utilizing such foreign measures and would prefer using their own abilities instead.

In terms of face-to-face combat, Kikimora generally prefer using the most of its properties, speeding around its target and reducing in size through both the speeding as well as leaving a trail of smaller clusters, before overwhelming the enemy with numbers. While not all spawned clusters will charge straight towards the enemy, some will provide cover fire with little Kikimora pellets for distal support.

Usually, unless the protection is energy-based or with additional counters (e.g. electric shock), any direct attack by Kikimora is considered serious and should be handled immediately regardless of the situation as Kikimora can consume/corrupt/utilize basically any material. Although said consumption/corruption/utilization is slow-paced, it brings severe impairment with its additional weight and uneven surface, and if it makes contact with any body parts, will bring immense pain.

As for space combat, Kikimora doesn't really boast a combat fleet, it does, however, have a singular "colony ship" as a first contact window for foreigners. Being composed entirely of Kikimora, it can launch part of itself as Kikimora missiles, or acts as an extra large one if needed.

Aside from direct contact with Kikimora, be it pellets or missiles or direct attacks, the Kikimora really do not boast many varieties for combat, of course, with a planet-size think tank...maybe things will change if they are met with too many hostilities.

Military Direct Foreign Relations

Branches

The Kikimora actually do not prefer a hostile approach towards anything despite the series of events during its emergence, or that its nature requires direct

Currently there are only two branches under the Direct Foreign Relations (DFR) system: Embassical - which is found on both the colony ship and on planets "colonized" by the Kikimora within the system of 901a; and Infiltration - mainly located on PO-G2's moon: Champ.

Embassical branch is mainly for more direct interactions with external parties, consisting of council members depending on the region that said landing party is at/closest to. With the aid of calculating units (PO-G2/colony ship), these individuals act as spokespersons and representatives of the Kikimora, and if necessary, the strike force of Kikimora.

As for the Infiltration branch, although individual cells of Kikimora do not boast the intelligence nor the strength to do much of anything, they utilize their nature of their "husk" and ability to reproduce using practically any material to scattering themselves in foreign soil. In case where the location of said spreading is also targeted by the Embassical branch, the first Kikimora missile launched will emit a signal which wakes up all infiltrating units, aiming to cause havoc and potentially weaken the enemy defenses.