Spatium Bitumine

“Space Blobs”

Spatium Bitumines are shapeshifting parasites who take the form of the creature they first consume.

Native Habitat

Spatium Bitumine first evolved on a desolate planet known as Xunia, but the nature of their biology quickly led to their spread across the stars. They stick to regions of the universe more densely populated by intelligent and powerful organisms, yet lack any area they’re truly native to. Many consider them to be parasites.

Distribution

Bitumines can be found across the entire universe, incredibly widespread due to their adaptive biology. This makes their numbers entirely unknown. They aren’t very common though, and thus there’s been minimal scientific study around this species.

Appearance

As an adolescent, Spatium Bitumine appear as small gelatinous blobs; thus their common name as “Space Blobs”. They come in a variety of different colors, usually bright neon and unnatural.



Their adult appearance is almost entirely dependent on their lineage and the first organism they consume. They retain the color of their blob form in traits such as their eye color. The only common visual similarity among this species seems to be their tendency to inherit more enhanced or extra sensory organs (EX: big ears, extra eyes, an extra mouth)

Diet

The diet of Bitumines almost entirely consists of the creature they initially consume (so, carnivorous). This is necessary in order to maintain their form and appearance as said creature. They can generally consume other foods, but it won't provide them ample nutrients to survive.

Biology

Spatium Bitumine functions very similarly to a single cellular organism. At its center is a structure resembling a nucleus that functions a lot like a brain, albeit a very rudimentary one. It is responsible for processing and reacting to stimuli in order to safely navigate the universe, but its central functionality is to seek out and consume an intelligent life form.
This ‘nucleus’ is covered in a thick mucus membrane that allows for movement and protects the nucleus. It is resistant to most temperatures and forms of radiation. It can also withstand major changes in atmospheric pressure.

Spatium Bitumine is essentially immortal in its initial blob form. It derives its energy from the sun, and does not need to feed upon anything to survive. It can definitely be killed if pierced through its protective membrane though. There is no

means of reproducing in this form, and it only has small traces of DNA that are derived from its parent. This blob form is its juvenile state.

POST-CONSUMPTION BIOLOGY

Spatium Bitumine naturally seeks out intelligent life forms to consume. They will trap their victim in their mucus membrane, breaking down its DNA and brain cells to analyze and replicate it. This allows them to take the form of their victim, and become nearly identical on a cellular level. Their replication is not perfect, though, usually many physical features are morphed by traces of existing DNA they retained from their parent.

This first meal is what determines the spatium's form for the rest of its life cycle. To maintain this form it must consume members of the same species to continue gaining energy in order to replicate its DNA. They generally must consume their respective life form at least once a week.

This replication ability can be harnessed beyond mimicking a species though. They can harness the traits and genetic data they've gathered to modify and 'shift' their own body (ex: giving itself extra limbs, morphing its features, etc). This ability is mostly used for hunting purposes.

Their weaknesses for the most part appear to be inherited from the species they are replicating. When injured though, they seem to heal at an accelerated rate.

REPRODUCTION

as a juvenile blob, Spatium Bitumine cannot reproduce. When having consumed and replicated a species, they are essentially in their adult state. When they die in this state, 2-4 juvenile blob Spatium Bitumines will emerge from their corpse. If the corpse is incinerated or destroyed this will not happen.

Thus their reproduction is asexual. While they can take on the sexual characteristics of their consumed species, they will be entirely sterile.

GENETICS

Spatium Bitumine have very unique genetics despite their means of asexual reproduction. They retain a portion of DNA from their parent which is combined with that of the victim they consume. This makes them an entirely new and unique organism on a genetic level, and thus offers resistance to most afflictions and diseases; overcoming a major flaw most asexual organisms struggle with.

The inherited DNA is not just determined by the creature their parent consumed, it includes DNA from their entire lineage. If great great grandma ate a rhinoceros, the later offspring would still have traces of that Rhinoceros DNA. This DNA can impact the offspring's appearance or physical abilities, making it preferable for

Spatium Bitumine to target powerful sapient creatures that will pass on helpful traits to their offspring. This is essentially their method of evolving.

Their genetic reproduction is not always perfect, Spatium Bitumine can sometimes fail to precisely recreate and combine their genetics. The consequence is usually fatal, although sometimes they manage to survive. These Spatium Bitumine will usually have abnormal appearances that many describe as ‘grotesque’. They generally don’t live long, as their genetic abnormalities make it difficult to fit in and complete basic tasks.

Average lifespan

Their lifespan is almost entirely the same as the species they first consume.

Abilities

Spatium Bitumine inherit all the same abilities of the organism they first consume; as well as enhanced senses and agility in order to hunt more efficiently. Their most notable ability, however, is their capacity for shapeshifting. They can morph their own features for advantages in combat, such as bone armor, extra arms, or stronger limbs. They can't shift entirely to a different creature though, and may only morph and mutate their appearance with features their consumed species already has.

History

Spatium Bitumine started out as a primitive single-celled organism on Xunia, but when another alien species started colonizing their planet they quickly adapted and evolved, stealing the genetic data of their colonizers and taking on their form. From there they have continued to rapidly evolve, using the spaceships of their colonizers to spread all across the universe. Most Bitumine are entirely unaware of their own history though, since their solitary nature and asexual reproduction makes passing down information nigh impossible.

Culture

Spatium Bitumines are solitary creatures. Thus they’ve yet to develop any culture of their own, and instead insist on adapting the culture and behaviors of the organism they first consume