

Connecting Jackpoint VPN ...
... Matrix Access ID Spoofed.
... Encryption Keys Generated.
... Connected to Onion Routers.
> Login

> Enter Passcode

... Biometric Scan Confirmed.
Connected to <ERROR: NODE UNKNOWN>
"Eat your vegetables, before they eat you."

JackPoint Stats

2 users currently active
in the network

Latest News

* <032112> The nominations are open—let me know who you think would be a nice addition here.
—FastJack

Personal Alerts

* You have 4 new private messages.
* You have 3 messages queued for anonymous re-routing.
* You have received 4 new Metalink Friends add requests.
* You have 8 new responses to your JackPoint posts.
* PDA: Prime planting season has started! Don't wait!

First Degree

Two Members are online and in your area.

Your Current Rep Score:

618 (41% Positive)

Current Time: 21 March 2074,
0454 hrs

PREFERENCES

FEEDS

TASKS

LINKS

HISTORY

Welcome back to JackPoint, chummer;
your last connection was severed:
50 hours, 13 minutes, 13 seconds ago

Today's Heads Up

* Attached is an excerpt of Dr. David Wright's continued work, The World to Come, categorizing Awakened plants and animals. Joining him in this work is parobotanist Dr. Justin Bogue. This document is mainly from Dr. Bogue's travels and it's an interesting read about the greener side of our Awakened world. Both Dr. Wright and Dr. Bogue are protégés of the famous parabiologist, Dr. Paterson, who brought us Paranormal Animals of North America. Even if you weren't good in biology class, check this out—there's information all of us can use. I hope to get the rest of Dr. Wright's parazoology section of the book posted at some point, but there's a backlog of other stuff. Enjoy. —FastJack

Incoming

- * Sometimes it's wise to join a group that would, in fact, have someone like you as a member. [Tag: [Magical Societies](#)]
- * Because we get paid to do things other people don't want to do, that's why. [Tag: [Hazard Pay](#)]

Top News Items

- * The recall of 1.2 million packages of Lightning's k-Turkey and k-Beef snacks due to potentially contaminated krill with saxitoxins continues. Ten confirmed deaths and four hundred illnesses have resulted from eating Lightning's krill snacks. [Link](#)
- * UK's Royal Botanical Garden in Edinburgh is the first to display an austas koks. Security has been tightened around this golden specimen. [Link](#)
- * Protestors lobbied again for the fifth straight day in Los Angeles to legalize the purchase the yann orchid for personal use. [Link](#)



CHAT

MESSAGES

FILES

POSTS

NEXUS

SEARCH

PARABOTANY

Posts/Files tagged with
"Parabotany":

- * Power of Plants
- * Austras Koks
- * Black Mana Orchid
- * Brazilian Kiwi

[More]

CONTINUE

ADVANCED
SEARCH

SAVE

Active

ComStar
Firewall

Active

Jack-in-the-Box
Antivirus

Active

SpamWitch
Filter

On/Receiving

Comcode

Excellent

Signal

Active

Hidden
Mode

Local
Map

PARANORMAL PLANTS

**From *The World to Come*
by Dr. Justin Bogue and Dr. David Wright**

It took ten thousand years of domestication for humans to create the vast biodiversity in our food supply. In a span of two hundred years we've squandered it all. An international study in 1983 compared the seed varieties then to those sold in 1903, and it found that 93 percent of the species had gone extinct. Today, that percentage is at 97, and there are fewer than ten varieties of any given commercial fruit or vegetable. The focus and dependency on high-yield varieties have led us to genetically weaker crops. UG99, BXW, NRO16, and Phyto2010 are the code names of some of the fast-mutating fungi and diseases that have devastated crop production in every agricultural staple across the globe. On top of this, industrial pollution and the plowing under of natural habitats to make way for factories, mines and sprawls have taken their toll. Wars were fought over agricultural land as governments tried to feed their people. Dust storms, heavy metal runoff, and pest swarms became frequent. By 1999, global temperatures had risen two degrees, and every agricultural region had to deal with heat waves, droughts, and/or flooding. Those staple varieties that remain are greenhouse controlled and/or heavily modified to produce a variety of nutrients or survive harsher environments since there's not enough traditionally fertile growing space to meet humanity's consumption needs. This is why we pay such a high price for "real food"—there simply is not enough to go around. Soy's dominance

as one of the cheap vegetarian staples came about through corporate choice rather than survival of the fittest. Soybeans were the most efficient and profitable super-yielding crop, and the thinking that led to the soybean becoming a leading food source is the same industrial methodology that put us in this predicament. Generations have been weaned upon "Nutrisoy" and other corporate labeled varieties of soy. The convenience of a soy processor and its creation of variety of flavors and textures have left many ignorant of the real flavors and nutrition they are missing.

Since the Awakening, new and unusual plant species have been discovered. Through much experimentation and review of books such as Pliny's *Natural History* and the *Ebers Papyrus*, parobotanists are validating some of the mythical claims of plants that were previously dismissed by mundane science. The relationship of plants and ancient cultures were rediscovered in magical potions, poultices, and paints. A whole new world of magical reagents as well as the beauty of these new plants has been trickling into mainstream talismongering and commercialism.

The point is that while people "oohed" and "aahed" over dragons and trolls, no one paid much attention to changes in vegetation. What I present here is the new flora of our world, whether magical or engineered to match previously published descriptions of fauna species.

- I think the reaction to dragons was more "AAAAGH!" than "ooh."
- Slamm-O!

AUSTRAS KOKS

Sorbus illuferis

Austras koks, also known as the Tree of the East, is an extremely rare species of plant capable of not only photosynthesis but also lithotrophy. Legends state that austras koks leaves are silver, their branches are gold, and roots are copper, but the reality is that this primeval tree bioleaches many minerals for energy. Concentrations of iron, copper, zinc, lead, arsenic, antimony, nickel, molybdenum, gold, silver, and cobalt can be found in various specimens of this tree, depending on the soil. The austras koks incorporates these metals in its growth, depositing them in the cellulose. This makes the tree difficult to cut into, and the metal content also means that the sap of this tree is a poisonous insecticide.

The roots of the austras koks push deep into the ground, sometimes as far as one hundred meters, with many small rootlets. At these depths, some of the respired oxygen and water commence the chemical process to break down the stone. If the tree is one of the few that absorbs some gold or silver, it deposits those metals into the leaves, which then glow and flash in metallic shades ranging from red to yellow.

It's possible that these trees could be used to clean up sites where heavy metals have contaminated the ground, but there are several problems. One is that experiments have indicated that pollution concentrations are generally more than austras koks can handle and they end up killing the roots. Second, the extreme rarity of the tree makes it hard to find. Third, its metabolism is slow, and it takes decades to absorb minerals in high enough concentration to be of any value to a mining operation.

While the metals the tree gathers are not easily harvested, they can make the tree dangerous, especially if it absorbs arsenic or lead. To date, rarity of the tree has prevented further testing or engineering of a heartier or faster version of the austras koks. This rarity and various unique properties make it a valuable tree, and shipping and smuggling of the tree has already been observed.

Habitat: Wetlands, along rivers and mineral deposits in mountainous regions.

Range: Eastern Europe (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Konigsberg); located on one of four rivers, the Daugava, Kurzeme, Vidzeme, or Latgale.

Frequency: Extremely rare

Plant Type: Tree

Description: Eight- to ten-meters-tall deciduous tree with small, soft, oval leaves that are usually red to yellow in color and glowing. The bark is rough with varying shades of blue or green.

Usage: All components of the tree can be used in making both fetishes and foci. Wands made of austras koks branches (coated with a silver stain made from its sap) are in demand. Rural tanners use the sap in the tanning of animal hides into vellum. This vellum can be used in magically binding contracts or as a preparation for manuscripts. Older trees can also be burned and the mineral contents smelted for a few kilos of various minerals.

Availability: 25F

Powers: Hardened Armor

Qualities: Bioluminescence, Poisonous

Notes: An austras koks contains its Body Rating (not including Force) in kilograms of metals. It should be divided between various local metals, with copper and iron being the most common elements.

- It shouldn't be that hard to find a glowing tree in the woods.
- Slamm-O!
- Its glow mirrors the sun's rising and setting. By nightfall it's glow is "dead," ready to be renewed by the next rising of the sun.
- Lyran
- So it's a solar powered flashlight. How useful.
- Slamm-O!
- The problem actually is that it's too useful. The biological properties of the tree make it worth studying for low-grade ore extraction. The variety of metals that this tree can absorb is extraordinary, and if science can figure out a way to duplicate what it does, it could help mining processes. Then you have the fact that parts of the tree, including its sap, can be used in fetishes, foci, and wands. When one of these is located, it becomes a battleground for competing interests.
- Ecotope
- What is it with the wands? I thought mages can just stare at you and you'd burst into flames?
- 2XL
- Not everyone has a strong enough belief to channel magic. Some need a physical device to help them focus their energies. Items such as an austras wand turn a handicap like that into an advantage.
- Winterhawk



BLACK MANA ORCHID

Coelogyne manangre

The black mana orchid is a new species found in the jungles of Central America. Closely resembling the mundane black magic hybrid orchid, the black mana orchid is believed to be the closest species to the fabled and elusive black orchid much sought after by parobotanists. After the discovery of the black mana orchid, pharmacologists exploring its ecology found colonies of ants feeding on the flower's nectar. Once the ants feasted, they exhibited bizarre behavior, building amazingly complex geometrical patterns in trees and their colony hills in manic displays of hyperactivity. Scores of ants create shapes by chewing leaves and bark while also arranging dirt into precise patterns. Then, abruptly, they die. It is unclear if the liquid is a defense mechanism, and the significance of the geometry created by the ants is unclear. The nectar of the black mana orchid has been extracted and refined into the street drug known as overdrive. Overdrive is an organic compound that stimulates neural receptors and the analytical left part of the brain. A few hydroponic labs illegally grow black mana orchids on the North American West Coast for overdrive production, especially in Cal Free State.

- So that's where it comes from. I wonder how they figure these things out.
- Sticks
- I would have said it's from explorers getting word of mouth from the indigenous population that's been using it for centuries, but you can't say that now. Like the writer said, a majority of their findings come from going back to older books to reevaluate their content. In this case, you have probably sixty years of experimentation by everyone and their brother running around in Central America, seeing the crazy ant shapes, figuring out what loco juice the ants are drinking, and getting them to share.
- Clockwork
- So what's this legendary black orchid?
- Netcat
- Most black orchids are not truly black; they are slightly red or blue. That particular orchid is so black, even astrally, that mana level drops off into a micro void. Supposedly it's a breathtaking sight to perceive.
- Winterhawk



Habitat: Branches of trees in jungles

Range: Central America

Frequency: Rare

Plant Type: Flower

Description: Ten centimeters tall with three narrow, black, blade-like petals and three shorter, dark maroon petals offset from them.

Usage: An extract of the sap from the rhizomes (root system) can be purified and manufactured into the drug overdrive. Special hydroponics are needed to simulate the high UV, precipitation, and nutrient conditions the black mana orchid requires to grow artificially.

Availability: 18F

Powers: Poisonous (see overdrive, p. 77 Arsenal)

BRAZILIAN KIWI

Actinidia Dunkelzahnii

Following the execution of Dunkelzahn's Will in the late '50s, expeditions searching for the Brazilian kiwi erupted, with corporations sending teams into the Amazonian jungle in search of the fruit. In an attempt to claim the financial reward from cultivating the Brazilian kiwi outside its native environment, several corporations harvested samples of the species for immediate research. Sun Temple Agriculture and Starfield Botanical Engineering were the first to collect enough to attempt cultivation in 2066. It wasn't until 2070 that Sun Temple Agriculture claimed success, but before their findings could be published, all samples and data were destroyed when the research facility was bombed during the onset of the Amazonia/Aztlan War. Starfield Botanical Engineering has made great progress in determining soil conditions for growing Brazilian kiwi, and they also initiated an intensive study of the fruit (which informed my research). The seeds were improperly stored during experimentation, however, and mold destroyed them, halting their research. Starfield Botanical Engineering has expressed the desire to send excursions into Amazonia to gather additional specimens in spite of the war.

In addition to the hazards of the Amazon jungle and the ongoing conflict, the Brazilian kiwi has another obstacle to be overcome by those wishing to collect samples. Many Brazilian kiwi plants have been infested with the spider-beast, *Nephila gigantus*. The spider-beast prefers to nest in the Brazilian kiwi over other plants and incubates their larvae in its hanging fruits.

Starfield Botanical Engineering findings on the Brazilian kiwi indicate the fruit contains a high amount of vitamins and minerals as well as bizarre hallucinogenic properties. Reports have claimed that the hallucinogens do not seem to work by psychoactive effects alone and may be magical manifestations.

- Has anyone figured out why Dunkelzahn was so interested in this kiwi?
- 2XL

Habitat: Tropical rainforest at more than 1,000 meters altitude

Range: Eastern Amazonia

Frequency: Rare

Plant Type: Bush

Description: The Brazilian kiwi is a thick, woody vine/climbing shrub that can reach ten meters in length. On mature branches, the plant displays leaves that are generally about fifteen centimeters long, oval in shape, and dark green in color. Greener branches have red variegated heart-shaped leaves. It is part of the family of actinidia, but not an Awakened variant of the *Actinidia deliciosa* (kiwi fruit). Flowers are five centimeters in diameter, cream colored, with a heavy strawberry-like fragrance. They grow in umbels from one to three flowers. The fruit of the Brazilian kiwi is ovoid shape, up to eight centimeters long and six centimeters in diameter. It is dark blue, leathery in texture, with a fuzzy hair-like coating. The Brazilian kiwi is an aggregate fruit, like a strawberry, which gives this fruit a scale pattern. The fruit is likewise blue in color with few seeds, most averaging three millimeters in diameter.

Usage: Investigations of the Brazilian kiwi are ongoing to determine their importance to Dunkelzahn. Starfield Botanical's impending release is expected to reveal more information.

Availability: n/a



- I heard it held the secret of immortality—a forever drug.
- Plan 9
- Yeah, I don't see that being the case. The author talks how inconclusive the studies have been, so no one really knows what it can do yet.
- Lyan
- You think they'd tell anyone if they had a drug giving them immortality? And you probably think those setbacks were real.
- Plan 9
- I already know one of them was real. I helped firebomb the Sun Temple lab.
- Ecotope
- But was destroying the kiwis your target, or did you just want to firebomb the place? Were you actively trying to interrupt the research, or were you being planted to be a convenient excuse for a research delay?
- Plan 9
- I've heard of a dozen excursions packing up for the Amazon after the monsoon season whether they have the proper permits or not. High pay, high risk with various positions open, mainly protection.
- Black Mamba

CHIMERA TREE

Betula durate

Chimera tree fruit has a naturally unappealing look and taste, but fruit-eaters are enticed by a full sensory illusion that conceals that truth. Sentient creatures are fooled by this illusion and are the preferred targets of the fruit's trickery. Appealing to metahumans with tranquility, comfort, and a sense of well-being, the seemingly delicious fruit is consumed with euphoria. Victims may gorge themselves on several before feeling sated and then wandering off. Hours later, victims realize that the flesh of the fruit contained a strong diuretic. Seeds of the fruit are indigestible and pass quickly through victims' systems, and they are eventually deposited wherever the urge to evacuate abruptly strikes. Chimera seeds are hardy and have been known to be viable after passing through sewage treatment plants. New plants sprout in a few months depending on water and soil content. The chimera is a robust tree able to survive in drought environments thanks to long roots that can gather nutrients with both breadth and depth. The most prevalent locations of groves of chimera trees are near storm and sewage drains.

Habitat: Rural fields and urban parks

- Manhattan's Central Park is overrun with this weedy tree. I don't know if they were planted there by local herb shops or what. The park also has a variety of wild herbs growing here and there. At a distance you can see how dead the chimera tree looks in comparison. The people I've seen eat the fruit look desperate for food anyways so it's no surprise that it propagates well.
- Pistons
- Shiawase work overtime to keep the park clean of the various weeds and poisons for all visitors, but the people they hired can't tell the difference between poison oak and fern. Some of them may be bribed to overlook herb gardens in the park.
- Ecotope



Range: Global

Frequency: Uncommon

Plant Type: Tree

Identification: This tree appears mostly dead with peeling, brown, parchment-like bark, and yellowing leaves during the fall and winter. In the spring and summer it grows large, toothed leaves. It produces lightly sweet fragrant, star shaped flowers, which become brown, pear shaped fruit that have a bland to bitter taste. Chimera trees can grow to approximately two to three meters in height, occasionally developing multiple trunks.

Usage: Chimera fruit is sold as a cheap homeopathic laxative in some stores

Availability: 4

Powers: Fey Glamour, Poisonous (Diuretic)