

ALCYONE

Star System Data

System Name: Eta Tauri [367.5 light-years (183.3; 280.9; 150.1)]

Affiliation: Independent/Neutral

System Type: (Single) B7 III [dim, blue-white giant]

Inhabited Planets: Alcyone [Eta Tauri II, 46.2 AU (class M)].

Other Planets: Merca [Eta Tauri I, 45.6 AU (class K)]; Meka [E. Tauri III, 50.4 (F)]; Kree [E. Tauri IV, 55.2 (G)]; Kros [E. Tauri V, 64.8 (JA)]; Kros'tash [E. Tauri VI, 84.0 (JA)]; Kree'tash [E. Tauri VII, 122.4 (G)].

Other Stellar Objects: Eta Tauri (central star of the Pleiades cluster), as is typical of B stars, is a rapid spinner; with an equatorial speed of over 200 kps (Sol spins at 2 kps) gas has spun from its equator into a surrounding light-emitting disk. Bode's Law shows an empty orbit at 45.9 AU. Two asteroid belts [46.8 AU, 0.9 AU's thick/48.0 AU, 1.8 AU's thick (both type C)] orbit between Eta Tauri II and III. The fifth and sixth planets have extensive Oort like belts of debris. The massive Kuiper belt is broken into two bands [199.2 AU (115.2 AU's thick)/352.8 AU (230.4 AU's thick)], and a cometary Oort cloud from 675 to 1,350,000 AU's.

Artificial Objects: Several orbital docks and dock yards are in orbit above Alcyone, equivalent to mid twenty-third century Federation installations. Several mining facilities orbit both of the gas giants, and processing stations are abundant among the Jovian moons.

Planetary Data

Class: M

Position in System: 2 [46.2 AU (6,911,520,000 km)]

Planetary System: Alcyone has two moons, a small unnamed asteroid [91,979 km distant/30 km radius]; Meka'kris [164,594 km distant/1,930 km radius/0.11 g (2.76)].

Planetary Size

Diameter: 9,682 km

Equatorial Circumference: 30,419 km

Total Surface Area: 294,516,758 sq km

Planetary Conditions

Gravity: 0.78 g [5.63 density]

Year/Day: 31,220.9 days/44.0 hours

Atmosphere: Thin [0.68 bars] nitrogen-oxygen [0.71, 0.15 (considerable contaminants)].

Hydrosphere: 69.3% surface water in three large oceans; 6.9% glacial coverage.

Climate: Cool and dry with arid zones at the equator, semiarid and steep along the upper and lower latitudes, the average polar regions are surrounded by vast area of tundra.

Normal seasonal variation in most latitudes [26.5° axial tilt (6.8° c; 40.5% humidity)].

Lifeform Data

Sapient Species: Alcyone

Population: 18.9 million, very small transient extraterrestrial population at any given time.

Tech. Index: Level five [atomic], however level six in regards to interplanetary travel.

Government: Athenian democracy

Culture: Very free and open society among themselves, but have a tendency toward exophobia. Alcyone has limited contact with other stellar powers.

Affiliation: Independent/Neutral (Alcyone dominates the Pleiades star cluster)

Animal: Sparse

Vegetation: Moderate

Aquatic: Extensive

APPEARANCE AND PHYSIOLOGY

Ichthyohumanoid (fish-like) species easily recognized by their thick bone ridge above the eyes receding back over the skull, and large mouth. Their jaws are covered with many small, hook-like teeth. Pigmentation varies from pale gray to blueish-black, the tips of most digits are usually white. Alcyones lack any distinctive body markings, however, juveniles have reddish or brown spots. These generally fade as they age, but are sometimes still visible on adults.

Ovoviviparous, females produce eggs which will hatch inside the uterus and have no placental connection. Fertile for three months, males may be particularly aggressive toward one another when in the presence of a fertile female. Developing young hatch from the egg cases at about two months and will eat not only unfertilized eggs, but also their siblings (multiple births are rare, but do happen). After nine to twelve months the female will give birth. All Alcyones start life as females. Federation science knows little about the factors which trigger the transformation, however it is believed to occur when a certain age is reached.

ALCYONES

Attributes

Fitness 2 [5]

Vitality +2

Coordination 2 [5]

Intellect 2 [5]

Presence 2 [5]

Psi 0 [5]

Skills

Athletics (choose) 2 (3)

Computer (choose) 1 (2)

Culture (Alcyone) 2 (3)

History (Alcyone) 1 (2)

Language(s)

Alcyone 2

Science, Any (choose) 2 (3)

World Knowledge (Alcyone) 1 (2)

Typical Traits

Excellent Chemoreception +1

Poor Sight -2

SOCIETY

It is unlikely the Alcyones are native to the star system they are named after. The system (at 100 million years) has had little time enough to produce proto-organisms, let alone an advanced starfaring society. Alcyone, which shows evidence of ancient terraforming, is believed to be a lost colony or last refuge of a dead world. Alcyones dominate the Pleiades, small colonies can be found throughout the star cluste.

Due to the individualistic nature of Alcyone society, typically Alcyone lead singular, isolated existence. There is no concept of marriage in their society, nor do they have an organized religion.

While not violent by nature, they are fully capable of aggression or self-defense. They tend to be exophobic and nonnatives are required to live in special enclaves segregated from the local population. At least two colonies were lost when after contact with Turellian plague ships. Due to the threat posed by Turellians, their ships are actively pursued and destroyed; a policy which has brought Alcyone into conflict with the Federation.

POLITICAL STRUCTURE

To outsiders Alcyone seems to teeter on the brink of anarchy. Once every five years any Alcyones who wish, assemble to discuss planetary affairs. Each individual is considered capable of performing in almost any capacity, and the individual responsible for a role may not be the same Alcyone responsible next time. Anyone who wishes may speak for the entire species.

Each individual acts as they see fit, but action can only be taken when all concerned are consulted. Needless to say, this has lead to several misunderstandings since contact occurred.

