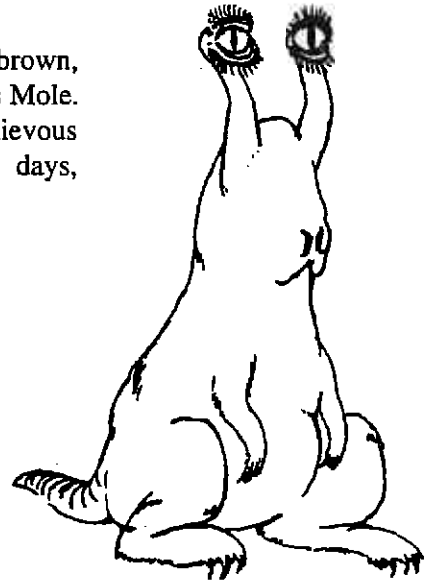


The Country Diary of a Mearden Lady

(being the observations of the Yorkni Iscin Laynara Elayne on the flora and fauna of the Tahs plains during her sojourn in Meard, Simbi and Vamdrey)

The Tahsian False Thriddle

Thriddle, of course, insist that it looks nothing like a thriddle. This brown, thriddle-sized creature is a hopping herbivore related to the Andro's Mole. It eats keether, and is frequently lured into muad villages by mischievous non-muads dangling keether on the end of a string. In olden days, Mearden muads were lashed to False Thriddle in isho storms.

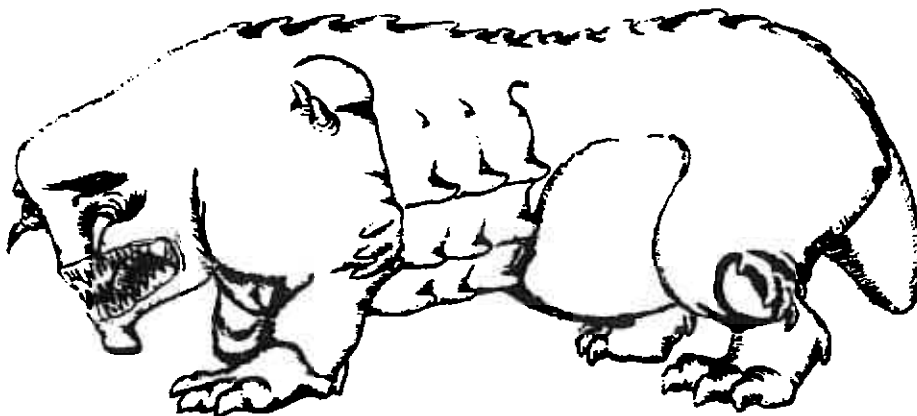


The Tahsian Fandancer

Related to the beagre, this larger cousin is just as blind and twice as nasty. The height of a man, it finds its way by smell and sonar. Since its sensitive olfactory organs are mounted on the end of its nose, giving it a good bash on the nose is often the only way to get it to go away.

The Gourmand

A blue-skinned, ramian-descended beast, a giant form of creatures originally transported to Jorune on board Lamorri starships as pets. Once on Jorune, they became highly effective predators of the native Jorune life which has little or no defence against them. Known to shanthas as the "Gliding Iceberg" (Ash Teshen), a shanthic term for a large, dead, dangerous thing one only sees when it is too late. Like ramian, Gourmands possess no isho and are virtually invisible to Jorune life, although Terran life finds it ridiculously easy to avoid them (frighteningly large and ornery though they may be). The giant form of the Gourmand species was discovered on the island of Sood by Dowsenian sailors in 3007, and has subsequently spread to the hills and mountains of Heridoth.



Dominic Green