# On Egregorians: A Summary Report

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REPORT HAS BEEN ABBREVIATED FROM ITS ORIGINAL FORM.

>> APPROVED BY PATIENCE-1 10.5013

### Introduction

Hercynia was first discovered in the early part of the 46th century of Union by a Second Committee Far Field Team. Upon arrival, they found it inhabited by an aggressive crablike or insectoid predator species which they named the Egregorians.

The etymology of this name, as well as most details about this species, have been lost to the annals of history. For reasons that remain elusive to us - in no small part due to extensive data purges during the Revolutionary Crisis - the Second Committee initiated a Total Biome Kill (TBK) on Hercynia several years after making their first landing. Much of Hercynia’s wildlife, the Egregorians included, was annihilated over the course of this operation.

Based on the databases we have been able to reconstruct, the Egregorian population numbered in the billions prior SecComm’s arrival, and was present across all of the planet’s continents. They possessed a decentralized, self-organized system of consciousness centered around an ‘Overmind’ of sorts. The reported behaviour they exhibited bears stark similarities to the swarm intelligence of eusocial insects of the formic, vespid, and apis families.

A fragmented corollary paper on their behavior indicates that they possessed the capacity to craft crude tools in reflexive response to external stimuli predicated on fulfilling base needs. Their adaptability was their most striking feature. With extensive instruction, individual members of the species could be taught to use human tools with reasonable proficiency. These individuals were later observed disseminating this learned knowledge among others within their swarm unit via their ‘Overmind’.

A similar capacity for learning and sharing taught behaviors has been observed in various avian and molluscoid species both terrestrial and extraterrestrial. Just as these creatures have been found to not possess a form of intelligence comparable to humans, there is nothing in the reconstructed databases to suggest that the Egregorians possessed human-level intelligence. These observed actions were likely the byproduct of the same ingrained survival instincts which allowed them to become the dominant species of Hercynia.

Unfortunately this is where much of our available knowledge of the Egregorians ends. Beyond crude, corroded survey data and limited analysis of an Egregorian worker, there are large gaps in the local databases we have managed to recover.

The remnants of extensive hive structures, similar in construction to termites, arthropods, and some species of rodents - have been found by Landmark Colonial’s survey teams on Solo Terra. There are frustratingly few remains available to us, fossilized or otherwise, of this species as well. If it were not for the SecComm reports, it would be easy to dismiss the Egregorians as a myth constructed by overeager anthrochauvinists.

What remains unclear is why the same planet which contained the Egregorians species was also one of the first testing grounds for the design, construction, and testing of the efficacy of mechanized chassis in hostile native fauna eradication operations. I have assembled the following theory which attempts to explain this peculiar connection.

### Wargame Extinction Hypothesis

Based on the presence of then-experimental chassis and the high amount of abandoned material, I hypothesize that Hercynia was converted into a planet scale military base. SecComm military officers believed that the readily-teachable Egregorians as a biological alternative to the subalterns used in the Expeditionary Legionnate’s war game training scenarios. The knowledge of how to operate advanced weaponry and move in formations was taught to select swarms, who then disseminated this information among other Egregorian populations. Lacking any form of higher consciousness or method by which they might be readily controlled, the Egregorians were unable to make a distinction between the high-intensity war games they were subjected to and their natural predation patterns, and SecComm’s military officials were unable to prevent the oncoming catastrophe.

Within the span of a few years, the Egregorians would have had advanced operational knowledge of SecComm tactics and materiel ingrained into their instincts. They were able to leverage this new knowledge in order to hunt humans just as they hunted other prey-species on Hercynia, this time using SecComm’s own tools against them. Their swarm intelligence allowed them to adapt quickly to new tactics adopted by the extant human population on Hercynia at the time. This precipitated an escalation of violence whereby the Egregorians would become exponentially more dangerous foes the longer they were engaged in conflict. Faced against an enemy that would eventually surpass them whose Overminds might one day gain knowledge of spaceflight, SecComm’s military authority decided to employ Total Biome Kill protocols in an effort to prevent this from happening.

Even with this drastic course of action, the Egregorians would not be so readily defeated. The war lasted for years. SecComm’s goal was the total extinction of the Egregorian Species, and the Egregorians fought for survival with every tool in their biological arsenal. There is evidence to suggest that civilian personnel on planet sided with the Egregorians against the SecComm legionnaire in an effort to preserve this radical form of alien life. Their fates are, unfortunately, all too well documented by the planet’s ghost signals. SecComm made no distinction between Egregorian and Human lives in the late phases their campaign of extermination.

### Conclusions

While it is possible that some members of the Egregorian species might have survived in some distant corners of this planet, none have been encountered thus far. There is little evidence to suggest that any non-pioneer species survived the extinction-level climatic collapse induced by SecComm. We also cannot ignore the possibility that the Egregorian’s remarkable swarm intelligence may have been the result of SeccComm-era tampering with Hercynian fauna. There are records from this time to suggest that many such experiments were underway prior to the

I have included a simulated visualization of an Egregorian worker based on reconstructed databases and the few samples Landmark Colonial surveyors have come across over the course of their own explorations. I would request for additional resources and funding to be made available to Evergreen’s Survey Teams in order to conduct an expedition into an Egregorian hive.

Addendum: Egregorian Visualization

This visualization is based on limited fossil records, partial chitin samples, and reconstructed diagrams of Egregorian physiology from SecComm databases. Artistic liberties were taken. Egregrorians are believed to have possessed a secondary set of manipulator arms which could be extended from their lower carapace.

Post-production of this visualization, we uncovered evidence to suggest that the Egregorian’s possessed some manner of extrasensory ‘horns’.

With additional research and specimen samples, we may be able to uncover additional information that sheds a light onto this species’s true appearance.

