



# Your Delicious Future!

## News from the Blue Shell Hive, Beta Canum

August 12, 2313

### **New!**

#### **Gloo Larvae**

An addition to our range of mini-ecosystems. Gloo larvae are bioluminescent larvae that live from detritus in dark locations. When disturbed by sound they will activate strong yellow bioluminescence, lighting up the environment. Implant their eggs in a cellar, outhouse, under furniture or other place with organic detritus that need to be slowly cleaned up. The adult form is excellent food for the pest controller during lean times and the larvae compete with many unwanted natural detritivores. We have also found the larvae excellent for personal cleaning during aestivation.



#### **Insulation plant**

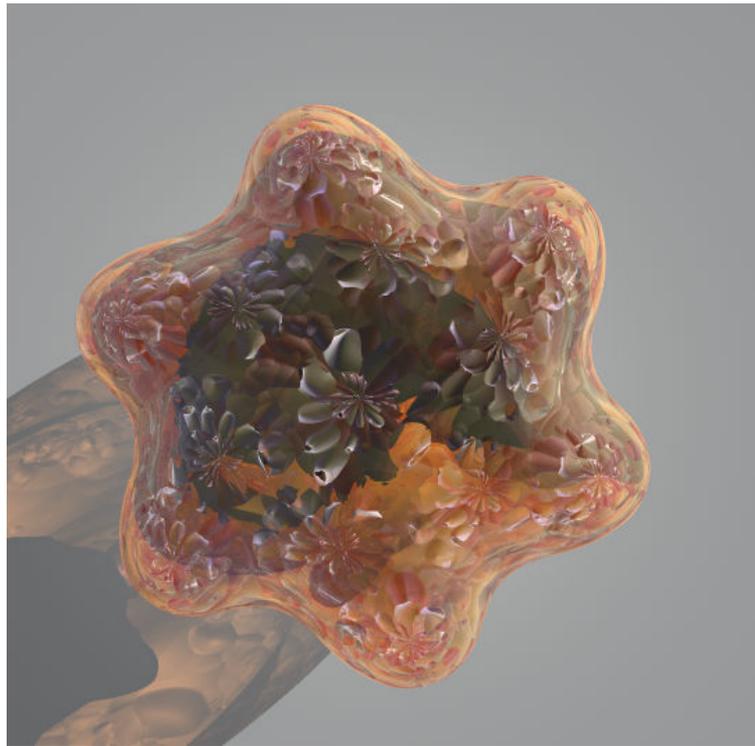
We are happy to introduce a cheap way of keeping warm, intended for chilly places like Sans Souchi and Crater. It is a fast-growing moss that is well adapted to cold climates, covered with fine silky hair protecting it from the elements. Like wool it is crimped, trapping warm air. The entire plant can be dried and used as thermal insulation or clothing (when dried the surface becomes hydrophobic). The hairs can be extracted for production of vegetable wool.

#### **The pet storage unit**

A development of the hibernation inducers and life support cocoon, the pet storage unit helps store terrestrial mammals in a hibernating form for when they will be used again. Just place the pet inside the cocoon, stow the cocoon until needed, and then open. The nutrient supply will last several months and the oxygen, temperature and pressure requirements are modest. The shell is transparent to ease identification of the stored pet. Nearby individuals link rhizomes to exchange nutrients (see also the digestion unit below). Currently comes in rodent size and dog size; discussions about cattle-sized individuals are underway. These units are compatible with the equipment hibernation units we sell.

## Digestion unit

While we recommend feeding your equipment standard nutrient solutions (available in our shops across the arm) sometimes long-range expeditions or emergency projects require long-term storage or emergency nutrition. The digestion unit is an adaptation of the standard life support cocoon that absorbs nutrients from inserted organisms to provide nutrient solution to equipment stored in its surface pouches or linked through a rhizome system. This way local wildlife (the digestion unit is compatible with most terrestrial biochemistries), broken equipment or surplus crewmembers can be used in an environmentally friendly way. The digestion unit is clearly perfume marked to minimize the risk of confusing it with the pet storage unit or a life support cocoon.



## In the Egg Tube

### Internal Food Converter

Since “living off the land” has become more relevant on many worlds recently, we are working on introducing a convenient internal food converter. The symbiont lives in the foregut, absorbing alien nutrients and converting them to human-friendly substances that can be absorbed. It converts d-amino acids to l-amino acids, absorbs heavy metals and excess sulphur, phosphorous and iodide compounds (these are removed through convenient insoluble pellets expelled with the faecal waste) as well as producing necessary vitamins. Installation consists of eating an embryo in a practical capsule, which will then install itself just beneath the biliary duct. Over the span of two months it will grow to adult size. Initial animal testing has been successful and beta testers are now sought.

### Taste Polyps

Why settle for merely tongue-taste? Now you can continue enjoying your food as it is digested! While there are some taste-receptors along the mammalian gut, they merely inform the hypothalamus about sugar content. We have developed adhesive taste polyps (a development of pentapod mobile taste-glands) that will enable full chemoreception along the gastrointestinal tract. The polyp cysts are swallowed and will implant along the epithelial lining. There they will send out fibres that link to the vagus nerve, enabling taste perception. Initial animal testing has been successful and beta testers are now sought.

### Identification Markers

Other human individuals having trouble identifying you? Now you can get easy individual visual and scent markings! The identification skin symbionts act as normal facial skin bacteria but produce emergent colouring and aroma based on your unique genome. Guaranteed to be different for each non-clonal human.

### **Insulation Plant**

We are currently looking for volunteers to test a symbiotic adaptation of the insulation plant that grows on skin as well as broad-population allergenicity testing of plant-wool.

### **Focus Group Testers Wanted**

If you are near Nauseville on Beta Canum, why not help us understand human reactions to our products? We offer Lv 200 for a one-day focus group activity where you will try out the latest Pentapod consumer products. We are interested in hearing your honest opinion about our offspring.

### **Therapy Patches**

A hormone patch to some of our earplugs are available at all outlets. A small mutation in one subspecies of earplugs produce a tendency for self-humming that can be irritating to sensitive people. The subspecies can be recognized by a thin green line along their dorsal surface and that they respond with a sweet smell when subjected to the presence of garlic. We apologize for any aesthetic inconvenience.

### **Product Notes**

The biocontact lenses sold on Nibelungen are not compatible with the Beta Canum lenses. They come from two different lineages. Wearing one on top of the other will not improve vision but will cause a corrosive hypersensitivity reaction between them. As noted before (previous newsletter), we do not recommend double wearing for mammalian eyes except for short-term recreation.

The tyrosine-producing yeast strain we sell is intended for industrial use. While it can be used to nutritionally enhance bread, we have received reports that high doses of tyrosine can give humans high blood pressure, agitation, insomnia and gastric ecology disturbance. If you wish to nutritionally enhance your diet, why not try the food converter product instead?

Some bionic implants are covered with a q-polylysine layer to encourage neural fixation. It should be noted that this can confuse life support cocoons into believing they are exposed nerve tissue, stimulating excessive growth of glial hyphae onto the implant. We urge medical professional to exercise caution in disentangling the supported person if this is the case, as the hyphae may tangle with neural growth. Spray local with withdrawal antigen D (supplied with the cocoon kit) for orderly apoptosis. Apparently the implants may also suffer from confusing inhibitory input signals from the hyphae; contact the implant manufacturer for reset instructions.

Our popular actin-cadherin glue (just daub it onto any organic surface, add the ATP curing agent) has recently been updated to resist bacterial caspases. This increases its outdoors longevity by 43%. This however makes the glue unsuited for gluing organisms where cell-death is intended to be apoptotic, since the caspase inhibition promotes necrotic and autophagic cell-death instead. Ask for the Outdoors Actin-Cadherin Glue for the new kind; the old one will be continually exuded as Actin-Cadherin Glue Classic.

### **Just for beta testers: new biosampler fur pills**

Yes! You can be first in your habitat with a biosampler with a new, unique fur. The next years body shapes and personalities are still evolving, but several fur textures have already reached fixation in our breeding populations. As an honoured beta tester, you can order gene insertion capsules to give your biosampler one of the new fur colors and patterns. Each bag of pills contain three different

surprise textures. Protofection takes a few hours followed by shedding and fur regrowth. We predict that few juvenile humans will be able to resist the maroon-lilac biosamplers.

### **Excess Sale: Direction Finders**

We still have a number of homeless direction finders at our hive; their apex mucus is quivering for being used. When stocking up on pentapod products, why not buy a few at the bargain price of Lv 1?

