

The case for Salvation being brought to justice



The INRA Mycoid Logo

So what was Mycoid? Our first reasonably official accounts happen in 3302

[Galactic News: The Thargoids](#)

*"But public opinion shifted in 3250 when reports emerged that the disappearance of the Thargoids might have been a direct consequence of a covert anti-Thargoid operation. An anonymous message, delivered to a number of media outlets, claimed that an organisation known as the **Intergalactic Naval Reserve Arm** had developed a chemical weapon specifically designed to target Thargoid technology. This chemical – known as the mycoid virus – was designed to attack plastic polymers, which were believed to be present in Thargoid hyperdrive systems. The fact that the virus also appeared to harm the Thargoids led to speculation that the aliens' bodies might contain some kind of polymer-like material. The report was dismissed by many leading political figures as a conspiracy theory, but some asserted that it contained enough plausible detail to be believable."*

This is further added to with details from the INRA bases - two of the most important are Hollis Gateway and Klatt Enterprises:

From [Hollis Gateway](#):

He's a specialist in agricultural science, trying to wipe out famine or something, Apparently he's created a biological agent that incapacitates the alien technology. Here we are, devoting millions of credits and countless hours to understanding this technology, and he's trying to destroy it. If it were up to me I'd cut him from the project entirely, but our employers seem to think his work has merit.

[Klatt Enterprises](#) tells us what was developed:

Essentially, it's a kind of fungus – one that appears to have a significant effect on Thargoid technology. We knew their tech was partly biological, but until now we couldn't find a way to use that fact to our advantage.

The theory is that if we could somehow get the fungus into their starships – specifically their hyperdrives – we could shut them down. They'd be unable to leave their system.

Fast forwarding to 3300-3301 we have the Cerberus Plague...

The case for Salvation being brought to justice



Cerberus, the three-headed guard dog of Hades

What we know about Cereberus..

Heike has some significance in the field of medicine – a species of tea plant native to the system played a vital role in the development of a cure for the Cerberus Plague. Sap Core Legion believes that this detail makes Heike an ideal location for the new installation.

Professor Macklin Fox, speaking on behalf of Sap Core Legion, said:

"Sap Core Legion wishes to build this facility in response to a number of recent outbreaks and epidemics. When one also considers the current Thargoid conflict, we feel humanity would benefit from additional off-world medical resources."

-["Sap Core Legion Commodity Drive"](#)

Since news of the epidemic first broke, questions have been raised about how Professor Palin and his colleagues could have been infected by the pathogen. Drusus Kane, head of an Imperial counter-insurgency unit in the Achenar system, offered his opinion:

"The chances of these individuals being contaminated by accident are extremely small. I believe the abductors deliberately infected Professor Palin and his colleagues, possibly in order to disseminate the disease among the wider galactic population. Fortunately, on this occasion their plans were not successful."

-["Galactic News: Wilkes Orbital Appeal Comes to an End"](#)

"The original Cerberus plague spread to over 30 systems inside a month, putting billions of lives at risk," said Simmons. "It is unlikely we would have been able to eradicate the disease had the cure been discovered any later, as ceremonial Heike tea would not have been available in sufficient quantities. Trillions could have perished."

"We cannot afford to underestimate this new strain of Cerberus plague, and I urge the medical community to take the outbreak seriously. If Heike tea is not delivered in sufficient quantities, or if this strain proves resistant to the tea's effects, the consequences could be catastrophic."

-["Freelance Report: Cerberus Plague Past and Present"](#)

"Early signs of infection include vomiting blood, excessive sweating, sores and waves of intense dizziness. If you suspect you've been infected, please report to the local authorities at the earliest available opportunity. They will inform you how to proceed."

-["Infection Running Rampant in BD-02 4304"](#)

"The issue arises at the same time that some medics in the systems have stated that the vaccines are not proving as effective against these cases, leading to speculation that the organism has mutated. Carl Simmons, the Chief Medical Officer of Newton Dock and leading the medical team combating this infection, commented:

"While there are some indications that the organism has changed, we are still analysing the data and it is too early to draw any conclusions."

"Once again we are calling on the resources of the independent pilots in the region to help ensure that these cases do not develop into a full-blown outbreak as seen here on Newton Dock."

While he denied that the team were calling the new disease the Cerberus Plague, one technician did confirm that the name was being used unofficially and came from an unusual three-pronged structure at the 'head' of the phage-like organism.

-["Reports of the Cerberus Plague beyond BD-02 4304"](#)

Now on to the distant past and back to a backwater system presently known as Soholia....

The case for Salvation being brought to justice

WASTING FEVER LEAVES SOHALIA A GHOST CITY

In contrast to optimistic official reports issued by the Federation, eyewitnesses painted a horrific picture of the devastation caused by an outbreak of Sohalian fever on [PIG1(F edge)]. The origins of the present outbreak are still unknown, but unofficial estimates suggest that the death toll may be as high as three hundred thousand.

The Federation authorities reacted swiftly to initial reports of the disease, Imposing a complete news blackout and martial law and grounding all starships landed at the time.

Travellers from [CiG1(F edge)], where the disease was first reported, were placed under medical confinement or sent back to the local Federal civic headquarters. Credible reports suggest that initially at least the disease was allowed to run its course, and that Federation medical teams did not intervene until forty-eight hours after the first reported cases.

One source commented "***The reason that no new cases have been reported is because there's practically no one left to infect in the entire system.***"

Observers also speak of Federation shock troops being used to enforce quarantine, and of running battles between the elite units and elements of the local militia that attempted to oppose the seizure of transport and communications hubs.

MEDICAL PROCEDURES VIOLATED ON FRONTIERS EDGE

Officials of the Independent Centre for Disease Control criticised the Federation authorities of Soholia yesterday for failing to observe standard procedures for handling an outbreak of a Severity 9 infectious disease.

Standard practise requires that the ICDC be informed within twelve hours of the first reported case of any disease classified as Severity 7 or above, but reports of the outbreak of Sohalian fever on [PIG1(F edge)] did not reach the ICDC for nearly three days, by which time Federation medics had already been sent in.

The ICDC was also investigating allegations that no medical assistance was sent to the site of the first outbreak until forty-eight hours after positive identification of the disease, although quarantine procedures were apparently enforced immediately. Sohalian fever has broken out three times since it was first observed on the edge of Independent space, where it killed more than six million people.

Conditions on Soholia and the rapid response of the Federation authorities appear to have prevented the spread of the disease, but the final death toll is expected to be in the hundreds of thousands.

AUTOMUTAGENIC EFFECT CITED TO EXPLAIN WASTING FEVER LETHALITY

Researchers at the Independent Centre for Disease Control yesterday released details of the process by which parasites causing Sohalian fever are believed to acquire resistance to antibodies in the human immune system. One of the most dangerous features of the disease is that it appears to be caused not by a single parasite, but by a trio of related organisms, whose rapid mutation rate renders effective inoculation strategies difficult.

According to the ICDC, the organisms may in fact mutate in response to toxins generated in the bloodstream by parasites killed by the immune system. This fits well with the observed symptoms of the disease, in which a mild fever - caused by the initial infection - gives way to the more virulent form of the disease as the parasites evolve towards more lethal variants.

"The irony is," says Dr Walter Holland of ICDC, "that a person with no immunity to the disease may be better off than someone who has developed immunity. If the theory is correct, inoculation may practically amount to a death sentence for the person inoculated."

The case for Salvation being brought to justice

NOVEL VIRUS AFFLICTS SETTLERS

Medical reports from the medical technicians of the Imperial Navy assigned to the Alliance world of Sohalia report a further outbreak of the Sohalian Fever affecting settlers in the region.

Symptoms are specific and are related to slow onset deterioration of the cardiovascular system. Affected individuals show progressive lethargy, pallor of the mucous membranes and chalky skin tones in those of caucasian human descent and reduced exercise tolerance, especially in low oxygen atmospheres.

Affected individuals have been taken on board the fleet hospital ship for exhaustive medical examination with full localised cardiac output measurements and internal cardioscopy via the ship-board conscious scan mechanisms.

All cardiac parameters are showing progressive deterioration and to date there is no obvious cause. This in turn means that no prophylactic treatment is available and there is no method of determining those at highest risk.

Surgical technicians are advocating full cardio-pulmonary transplant as the only viable treatment modality. On-board primate stocks are high and there is a good availability of hearts for transplant although the International Convention on Species Rights is being invoked by local settlers who are unwilling to accept organs from other species.

As an interim, affected individuals are being maintained within a high oxygen environment and are not being required to exercise. Alternative work options are being offered to minimise risk to those with the most severe clinical signs.

Rumours abound in the region as to the cause of the disease with most credence being given to the release of a genetically engineered virus either by design or accident from the Imperial Naval Reserve Arm thought to have been in the vicinity recently.

The Imperial Naval spokes beings have so far failed to comment on the rumours.

CMDR WINS RACE FOR JJAGGED BBANNER

...

OTHER news this month surrounds the sudden outbreak of Sohalian fever on all three inhabited planets and their surrounding moons, orbital stations and orbital trading posts in the system of Sohalia (-1,5). The fever was first reported in 3239 after the import of some Imperial grain to the system's second planet: Molotovworld. That outbreak spread within hours to all inhabited areas and proved so exceptionally difficult to control that all landing areas were quarantined. Medical experts on this occasion have created isolation units at all star ports and space stations so that incoming pilots should be completely safe.

There is, however, an urgent need for medical aid in the system to replace dwindling stocks.

OUTSIDER WINS RACE

...

On a more serious note, the horrifying disease of Sohalian fever has struck once again in the system after which it is named. Hundreds of Alliance citizens have died in the past week and the physicians on the ground are predicting deaths in the thousands, if not tens of thousands if urgent medical supplies are not flown in from the surrounding inhabited worlds. Goods needed extend from simple intra-venous fluids to the full multiple transplant units - all of which are available as part of the 'medical goods' units sold in all trading posts. Federal and all allied commanders in the area are urged to provide such support as is needed as a gesture of goodwill from the citizens of the Federation to the Alliance.

We would like to remind you that medical supplies will make premium prices on all worlds in the system of Sohalia (-1,5).

The case for Salvation being brought to justice

PLAGUE HITS SOHALIA AGAIN

The so-called Sohalian fever is running rife again in all three of the inhabited worlds in the system of Sohalia (-1,5). ***Symptoms range from the starting signs of a mild head cold with tension headache and run rapidly through to pyrexia together with gastro-intestinal pain, hameorrhagic diarrhoea, haematemesis and death within twelve hours of onset. Both pulmonary and neurological variants have been reported with sudden onset pneumonia in the former and progressive paresis, ataxia and collapse in the latter. The disease is highly contagious and the infectious period is twenty four hours before the onset of symptoms making it particularly difficult to isolate infected individuals. There is some evidence to suggest that the plague was engineered at the Imperial research laboratories and that Sohalia was used as a testing ground although this has always been strenuously denied by the Imperial authorities.***

Tourist beacon #0152 ("[Innitu's Assassination](#)")

In 3251, the publication of "The Thargoids: Truth and Fiction" by the Dr Joreb Innitu of the Alien Studies Department of the Ghandi Institute based on Wicca's World (Alioth) inflamed tensions between the Alliance and other political powers. He was ambushed and assassinated whilst leaving the Beta Hydri system after a scientific conference.

MYCOIDS - THE KEY TO THE THARGOID'S DEPARTURE

Dr Innitu today gave the keynote address to the Alien Races Convention (held on New Caledonia in the Beta Hydri system) claiming to be in possession of documents that detail the genetic engineering of a mycoid with anti-plastic properties.

Thargoid hyperdrives have long been known to contain heavy plastics containing long-chain polymers entirely unlike anything in human-designed drives and the claim is that INRA deliberately developed a virulent infective agent specifically tailored to infect only the Thargoid technology. The hypothesis suggests that the INRA mycoid was capable of selectively disabling the Thargoid hyperdrives and rendering long-distance travel impossible.

Innitu claims to have proof that the Veliazee system served as a forward base for the Thargoids, equivalent to one of our outer 'Frontier' worlds and that their home system was several thousand light years distant. In this case, absence of hyperdrive capabilities would effectively confine the Thargoids to their home systems.

If Innitu's claim is fact, then the Thargoids did not leave of their own accord and the only thing preventing their return is the continuing virulence of the mycoid. Logic suggests that as soon as the Thargoids develop the technology to engineer an anti-dote or a vaccine, they will be able to return.

Perhaps this time, we should ask questions first and save the shooting for later?

MYCOID ON MOON

A new terror biological agent has been discovered among many Federation and Independent space craft and stations. ***The mystery organism, thought to be of mycoidal origin, attacks sporadically and affects all known plastics.*** The mycoid first appeared on a remote moon base in the Aackin System, where it first ate through a chair in the command console of a passing courier ship. From there it swiftly spread to infect all the plastic switches, controls and surfaces in the post. ***The station was evacuated when it was discovered that the majority of the sealing ducts were of a plastic composite. Some of the Mycoid must have been brought on board the escape ships as further outbreaks of infection have been reported in other sectors and the original ships have all been forced into major overhauls due to system failures. The agent does have an apparent life cycle however, and apparently only 'eats' during a relatively infrequent virulent phase, returning afterward to a near dormant state. Scientists will investigate the outbreak in the near future but are first looking to modify their life support suits, with the replacement of all plastic parts.***

The case for Salvation being brought to justice

KILLER IN YOUR PLASTIC!

Confidential papers leaked from the **Federation head office have told of a mystery fungus that eats plastic and has already claimed one moon-base** and the lives of a dozen crew. The fungus then spread from the base by the panic stricken survivors fleeing in tainted space craft. The bug which attacks all known plastics, has little or no effect on humans, but can apparently be carried by us. Androids, hazard workers in survival suits, and those with bio implants have the most to fear and are cautioned to take extra care. The good news for environmentalists however is that at long last we've found something to destroy the styrophome packaging cases used for the kiddie- burgers. Trust your raceaway RIG say, always look for the bright side in every story.

ANTI-THARGOID FUNGUS?

Professor Joreb Innitu, whose death at the hands of a paid assassin was reported in our last issue, had been addressing the ninth annual meeting of the Alien Races Convention, presenting a paper which represented the culmination of twenty years' research by the entire team at the Ghandi Institute (based on Wicca's World, Alioth).

The team suggests that the research arm of INRA created a Thargoid-specific mycoid agent capable of destroying the Thargoid hyperdrives and thereby prevented the aliens from travelling the distances required to reach our sector of the Universe.

Innitu's group has always held the belief that the entire Thargoid War was a deliberate policy decision by a key group of leaders within the three galactic powers as part of a controlled colonial expansion and that they ended it only when the aliens posed a serious threat to the safety and political stability of the Inner Core. There can be little doubt that Innitu's assassination supports the contention that there are those in authority in the upper reaches of the Federal and Imperial states who will go to any lengths to see to it that the truth does not emerge.

Accusations that the research arm of INRA not only still exists and but attracts substantial 'soft' funding have been strenuously denied by both authorities.

We would remind you of the ancient truism: "Never believe anything until it is officially denied."

LEADING SCIENTIST DIES IN STARPORT ATTACK

Dr Joreb Innitu of the Alien Studies Department of the Ghandi Institute (Alioth) was killed yesterday only hours after delivering the keynote speech to the delegates of the Alien Races Convention on New Caledonia (Beta Hydri).

Dr Innitu put forward the controversial theory of Thargoid Removal to a packed auditorium in the Convention Suite of the Tri-Delta Hostel, Fort Grant and then left for Alioth to chair a meeting of the Racial Definitions Council. The ship in which Dr Innitu was travelling was shot down shortly after take off, killing all 180 passengers and 12 crew members.

The motivation for the attack is, as yet unknown, although there is speculation that the real target was the Android Rights activist, C.Ten Haften, who was due to attend the same meeting of the RDC. Haften failed to board the ship and is still on Beta Hydri, aiding the authorities in their investigations.

Local police have named [MiR(thr Player or NPC) in a [MiR(thr playship) class ship with identification number [MiR(thr play id) as the Commander of the attacking ship. Warnings have been issued to all Commanders with Federal Affiliation in the vicinity to engage and fire on sight. No group or organisation has yet claimed responsibility for the attacks and the FSS are anxious to interview anyone who may have information relevant to the case.

The case for Salvation being brought to justice

LEADING SCIENTIST ASSASSINATED

M.C.S

Dr Joreb Innitu, Professor of Alien Studies at the Ghandi Institute (Alioth) was assassinated earlier this month when a ship in which the Professor was travelling was shot down shortly after take off from New Caledonia (Beta Hydri). The timing and nature of the attack carry all the hallmarks of a politically motivated 'contract'.

The local FSS are said to be searching for a single fighter flown by a Commander [MiR(thr Player or NPC) however, the hunt was not instigated until several hours after the event and it is likelihood of those responsible being brought to trial is not high. **Sources at Interpol, the Independent policing group suggest that the contract was being requested by known representatives of both the Federation and the Empire. If this is the case, then it suggests that Innitu was closer than either authority will admit to the truth regarding the disappearance of the Thargoid race.**

Next issue examines the theories proposed by Innitu's group.

DIVISIONS DRAWN

The final battle lines are drawn. The Imperial and Federal Navies are equipped as never before. The industrial might of both superpowers has been turned to military provision on a scale hitherto unseen in this Galaxy and vast sections of the populace have been variously persuaded or coerced into volunteering for military service.

On the other side of the line, the academic department at the Alien Studies Department of the Ghandi Institute (Alioth) has been publishing details of all known aspects of Thargoid culture, politics and technology and seminars are being advertised in all Independent Systems to enable those who wish it to familiarise themselves with the mechanisms of the Universal Translator (a re-development of the old INRA design).

One outcome of the upsurge in Thargoid-mania is a renewed interest in the history of their disappearance from our sector of the Universe. When they arrive, we will know their side of the story. But from our point of view, the late Professor Innitu's theory that INRA were directly involved could explain why the police states are quite so paranoid about the alien's prospective return.

ANOTHER SPECIES?

M.C.S

Further details of Thargoid cultural history are coming to light as the co-operative team on the trans-species ship currently sitting North of the Edge are able to communicate in more depth with our newly re-discovered galactic neighbours.

They are, as predicted by Professor Innitu, inherently peaceable although there appears to have been a long history of warfare in the period before the beginning of what it so be renamed the First Trans-Galactic Conflict (previously known as the Thargoid Wars). In an era corresponding to the second millennium and expanding into the early part of the third, the Thargoids were in a constant state of armed conflict.

What is not yet clear from the details made available is whether the war was inter or intra species - that is, whether Tharg was fighting Tharg (Different races? Different Species? Different cultures? Different politics?) for dominance of a small sector of space or whether there was another, unnamed species involved.

IF the latter was the case, then we must ask ourselves the question: do they still exist? If so, how are they? If not, how and why were they destroyed?

The case for Salvation being brought to justice

VIRUS RESEARCH.

Plant pathology laboratories throughout known space are fighting to save the plant species group collectively known as pelargoniums(v.i.). All known specimens are suffering from wilt, glanders of the root structure and glee. A range of fungicidal treatments, together with tissue culture regeneration has been tried but results are, as yet, discouraging. "It is as if the entire universe has become hostile to their growth" said a researcher at the New Californian horticultural Research Station. 'No matter what we do the plants refuse to grow.' ***A similar disease outbreak two thousand years ago - the cause of which was never identified - disappeared spontaneously.***

Editor's note: These plants are popularly known by gardeners as geraniums, a confusion of nomenclature that dates back into pre-history.

Earth (From the Frontier Gazetteer)

Steeped in history, the Earth has suffered many adversities before becoming the resort that it is today. Humanity began here and documented accounts tell of three planet-bound wars, the last one in 2040 almost bringing extinction due to the loss of life and environmental damage. For these reasons the landscape has changed beyond all recognition since then, mainly due to devastation and depopulation of nearly all the cities and towns. ***The final insult was a viral pandemic, for which no cure was found and many perished who were not resistant to it.***