

The Truly Alien Species Generator

This is an alien species generator I created for my VESR (Very Epic Space RPG), because the others I found around were either too human-like, or too random for my tastes and setting. This has been specially tailored to the universe I've been creating and hits that sweet spot between "bizarre biology" and "relatable as characters" for me.

Instructions

You'll need a set of dice, a random number generator, or a dice app. The first few tables are pretty self explanatory, and I've added notes in a few places where necessary. The Secondary characteristics are for notable physical characteristics that can make your species stand out from others and really give them character. Finally, the Extra Details second is a long list of unique ideas that can be used as a stepping stool towards even more outlandish characteristics. There are a lot of cultural details you can add in later, but the ideas in this sheet only pertain to biology. There are no "this species is warlike" or "every individual of this species is cowardly" or the like, because we are all more than our biology.

Body Type - d6	
1	Amorphous
2	Trilateral
3	Bilateral
4	Asymetric
5	Radial
6	Bilateral

Body Covering - d6	
1	Skin
2	Chitin
3	Fur
4	Scales
5	Gellatinous Membrane
6	Feathers

Limbs, Noses, Eyes - d10	
<i>Roll d10 for each characteristic</i>	
1	None
2-9	As shown on die face
10	Many, up to 1,000

Colors - d12	
<i>Roll again for secondary colors</i>	
1	White
2	Black
3	Red
4	Blue
5	Green
6	Purple
7	Yellow
8	Iridescent
9	Pink
10	Grey
11	Brown
12	Orange

Diet - d10	
1	Omnivore
2	Carnivore
3	Herbivore
4	Pescatarian
5	Fruitarian
6	Detritivore (ex. catfish)
7	Parasitic
8	Vegetarian
9	Scavenger (ex. vultures)
10	Decomposer (earthworms)

Habitat - d12	
<i>Sentient beings are generally smart enough to travel, so this will be their habitat of origin</i>	
1	Fresh water
2	Salt water
3	Deep sea
4	Desert
5	Arboreus
6	Grasslands
7	Arctic
8	Subterranean
9	Air
10	Earth dwellings
11	High atmosphere
12	Swamp

Secondary Characteristics - d20	
<i>Roll as many of these as you like!</i>	
1	Wings/fins (depends on habitat)
2	Claws
3	Poisons
4	Vemon
5	Armored hide
6	Batesian Mimicry (looks like something poisonous, but isn't)
7	Mullerian mimicry (conspicuous coloring)
8	Self-mimicry (eye-spots, false heads)
9	Tusks/horns/antlers
10	Antenae
11	Beak
12	Tentacles
13	Spikes
14	Whiskers
15	Hooves
16	Changes color
17	Defensive scent glands
18	Tail
19	Suckers
20	Can regenerate limbs

Extra details - d100	
<i>These just add a bit of flavor and detail to your species. Roll as many as you like! If any are contradictory, pick the one that fits best</i>	
1	This species is empathetic and can sense the emotions of their own and some other species
2	Historically this species has been known to be carnivorous, and sometimes eats the offspring of its rivals
3	This species communicates using a non-vocal language, based on rhythm, hand signals, coloring, or scent.
4	Is very sensitive to light, and prefers low-light environments
5	Often reproduces via cloning, either naturally or with technological assistance

6	Has a high resistance to radiation, and thrives in space
7	Cold-blooded, and needs warmth from external sources to thrive
8	Lays eggs, and tends to them for months exclusively before they hatch successfully
9	Requires more than two of its species to mate, or offspring will not be viable
10	One life stage of this species is experienced as non-sentient, either as young or when they become older.
11	After eggs have been fertilized either internally or externally, the gestating young of this species are incubated by an individual who is not the mother
12	This species requires a second species in order to give birth
13	This species lives symbiotically with another and depends on them for their survival
14	This species does not display any sexual dimorphism - there is no visual difference between males, females, and/or others
15	This species displays extreme sexual dimorphism - males, females, and/or others look extremely different, and are often mistaken for another species
16	Requires a particular type of food in order to survive, and has a very restricted diet, much like pandas
17	This species can eat almost anything, whether it sustains them or not. They are nearly impossible to poison.
18	This species instinctively cleans everything it touches, especially food
19	This species can use some of its senses to communicate over very long distances
20	Can see in the dark very well
21	Has very sensitive hearing
22	This species changes its habitat throughout its life cycle e.g. young are born and mature in water, and crawl onto land as adults
23	Some limbs are not present on young when born, and develop later in life
24	Some of this species' senses are not developed until adulthood
25	This species is colorblind
26	Has markings that resemble other species on this creature's planet of origin
27	Has sense organs that are electroreceptive
28	This species molts once a year
29	This species must shed its skin or outer covering when it grows larger
30	Can see infrared and UV
31	Can use ultrasound as a form of echolocation
32	Can sense magnetic fields, and can always tell which direction they are facing
33	Has tastebuds somewhere besides its mouth—limbs, throat, belly etc.
34	This species is extremely fast and eats constantly
35	This species is extremely slow and has a very slow metabolism
36	This species is psychic
37	These creatures hibernate during some season on their planet of origin
38	Instinctively buries its food
39	Competition among mates is very fierce and often ends in death
40	Mates are taken freely with little to no competition. Family ties are loose.
41	Historically this has been a herd species, with large numbers of them living and traveling together
42	Most members of this species are solitary
43	This species mates for life, and will not take another mate if its partner dies
44	Individuals may have many mates throughout their lives. Mating is temporary and not lifelong
45	Child rearing is handled by extended family members
46	Dies after mating
47	This species lives in colonies, with different members taking different physical forms for different roles
48	This species can change its sex in response to environmental pressures
49	Almost all members of this species are born as twins
50	This species hosts a parasitic bacteria that enables them to digest and absorb nutrients, keeping them alive. However, it eventually grows excessively and kills them
51	This species can consciously slow its metabolic processes
52	The different sexes of this species do not interact with each other except during mating
53	The different sexes of this species are not equal in number; there are large numbers of one and a handful of the other
54	Dies after giving birth
55	One or more of this species' limbs is retractable
56	One or more of their sense organs are located at the end of their limbs
57	This species has only one sex
58	Relies on one of its senses far more than others; roll or pick one at random
59	Changes color at different times of the day
60	Changes color in different seasons
61	This species can genetically pass down memories to its offspring
62	One of this species' limbs or visible organs is vestigial
63	This species' language is music-based
64	This species resembles and shares many characteristics with one of its planet's plant species
65	This species' color communicates its health status to other individuals
66	One form of this creature is diurnal while another is nocturnal
67	Individuals of this species can live for a very, very long time
68	This species' lifespan is incredibly short
69	This species' body somehow incorporates another lifeform into it
70	Requires huge amounts of heat in order to digest its food
71	This species has an incredibly sensitive sense of smell and finds it incredibly difficult to be around other species
72	Has incredibly sensitive hearing, and usually wears a specialized type of earplug around other species

73	At least one of the characteristics of this creature exists due to genetic engineering
74	Part of this species glows
75	This species is born with synesthesia
76	This species' brain interprets colors/sounds as patterns, rather than the way we do
77	Part of this species' anatomy evolved due to atomic radiation present on their planet of origin
78	This species prefers to cover its body in many wrappings. Nakedness is uncomfortable for them
79	This species wears very little clothing regardless of what situations they are in
80	Due to internal chemistry, many others find the smell of this species to be incredibly alluring
81	Can taste via touch
82	Something that this species secretes is used by another species for construction
83	This species is not at the top of its local food chain, unlike humans
84	Members of this species are covered in geometrical markings
85	Members of this species ruminate their food
86	Members of this species rely on an external process to begin digestion of their food
87	This species shares its planet of origin with another sentient species
88	Individuals have incredibly ornate plumage, which may differ among sexes
89	Individuals blend in with their native environment easily
90	Has the ability to release spores/pheromones that contain mild mind control capabilities
91	These creatures are able to psychically or chemically harness the brainpower of their peers and are difficult foes in large numbers
92	This species practices some form of vampirism
93	Gynandromorphism is very common in this species
94	This species breathes gases that are poisonous to humans
95	This species can survive in deep space
96	This species has abilities that others think are superpowers
97	These creatures have a vast civilization, spanning multiple worlds
98	These people have never left their home planet
99	These people are scattered across the universe due to multiple disasters that they have experienced
100	Actively avoids using one of its senses, because it is painful

This guide was created by PlantSim and is published under a Creative Commons International 4.0 license.