Proper Name: *Symphilia Fata*

Common Name: *Bee-kin*

World of Origin: *Noctis*

Class: *Mammalia*

Overview: These bee-like humanoids evolved from nomads who followed around forests of ents after their arrival in Noctis. After the ents' rapid decline upon losing their original pollinator, these Noctis humans evolved quickly through there harvesting of the ent's nectar for food. This nectar was full of concentrated unfocused mana, which hastened the evolution of the Symphilia. In only three generations, the Symphilia as they are recognize today were born, and have since diversified. Symphilia range from closely knitted hive units similar to the honeybee, to individuals who live almost their entire lives alone. Some Symphilia, such as the paint bee subspecies, have even adopted a mega-hive format to take advantage of numbers, and farm their own food rather than relying on wild plants. These hives boast several active laying queens and countless princesses waiting to take their place.

Symphilia queens and kings most closely resemble there insectoid counterparts, having large portions of their body covered in yellow and black fuzz, and sport some of the largest abdomen to thorax ratios amongst the hive. In fact, this is the easiest way to distinguish a worker who has become a queen rather than a matured princess, as they lack much of this fuzz. Queens and kings possess no stingers, unlike other members of their species. These Symphilia, along with the handmaidens (noted below), are the only individuals who can be born with a loss of humanoid facial features.

Symphilia are some of the only known creatures that are resistant to plant-kin spore infestation at birth, and become systematically immune once they pupate out of there larval stage. Because of this, plant-kin and symphilia are often found cohabitating. As plant-kin and Symphilia both share a common predator, the Vespaphone, a large plantkin population is a good indication of a strong healthy hive.

Species Classes:

Queen: A mature Symphilia that is able to produce eggs. These individuals usually have enlarged abdomens in order to carry more eggs, and a limited capability to fly. Queens normally come from princesses, however, if a princess isn't available, a young worker can be fed royal jelly in order to make a substitute queen until such a time that a proper queen cell can be created. Some subspecies have more than one queen per hive, either from the same queen mother, or from neighboring hives joining into one mega-hive. Mega hives are a good sign that the plants in the surrounding area are extremely healthy, as a massive amount of nectar is needed to keep these hives going.

Princess: A immature Symphilia fed royal jelly while in there larval stage. These females often go on diplomatic excursions to other hives in order to select an Alate for their own future hive. Princesses usually remain immature until the current queen dies or leaves the hive.

Alates: The males of the Symphilia. These individuals are often used as barging chips amongst hives. They do not possess the ability to forage nectar or produce honey. When they are unneeded by the queen they are often put to work assisting the handmaidens.

Prince: an unproven alate that has yet to produce offspring. These males are a risky gamble, as many princes find their first coupling to be a deadly affair. Unproven princes are often gifted to newly fledged princesses ready to start their own hive.

Kings: Proven alates that have produced viable offspring. These males are a coveted prize and often sent around on tours to friendly hives in order to strengthen the species genetics as a whole. If a newly fledged princess's new mate turns out to be a king, she will often send him back to her own mother hive until a time that the princess's hive can support a male. When this occurs, the mother queen will often reward her daughter on such a find by sending back extra workers and food stores to ensure the newly discovered king has adequate boarding once he returns to his new home hive. Older queens often acquire several kings over there lifetime, and should they outlive her, they become advisors to the new reigning princesses

Nursemaids: Direct assistants to the queen. These specialized workers help to deal with the load of eggs and act as temporary holding until cells become available to incubate brood. When not carrying eggs, they tend to the developing and newly hatched members of the colony, ensuring they stay healthy and happy until they are old enough to be sorted into their eventual jobs and ready to contribute to the hive

Warrior: Responsible for the protection of the hive, these bees have fully developed mandibles and are often larger than other classes. There stingers are much thinner and longer then workers, and can pierce plat mail, however they lack venom.

Worker: These bees take care of everything from food production to hive construction. Different hives will have different classifications based on need, however some of the most common are noted below

- **Builder:** These bees have given up their ability to make honey in favor of wax production, and are the ones who build everything from brood cells, to the outer walls of the hive. Skilled builders learn to incorporate outer material in order to strengthen the hive. This can range from adding fiber to the wax to harden it, or building entire wooden structures to house hive cells.
- **Shepherd:** Shepherds are in charge of leading the drones around on nectar gathering excursions. Although they can produce honey themselves, they mainly stick to sampling nectar of nearby flowers to ensure the drones collect the correct types. This class is earned rather than born into, and are usually selected from interested honey makers and scouts.

•**Honey makers:** The most common type of worker, these are the individuals who feed the hive and ensure an adequet supply of bee bread and honey remains available at all times. These honey makers are often stationed at the entrance of the hive to collect the pollen baskets and transfer the nectar from the drones.

•**Scouts:** these specialized workers are responsible for finding and reporting on new and existing nectar sources. They are often dual-classed with gardeners in order to efficiently take plant samples back to the hive.

Drone: A small non sentient creation of the Symphilia. These creatures are often gifted in herds to young hives in order to help them keep food stores up. They are often described as puppy or lamb like, and are sometimes sold in smaller numbers to avid gardeners looking for a flower loving pet. Drones make excellent pollinators of smaller species, and are often specially trained by more advanced hives to produce new hybridized flowers. Although small and cute, these creatures can sting, sometimes by accident, and some non-bee owners chose to clip the very end off of their drone's stinger to prevent accidental pokes. Although there venom is rarely deadly itself, it is extremely painful and often requires assisted pain management until it subsides.