



Personal Encounter:

While staying at my family's vacation home in France, I was building a cabin along the river with my brother, sister, and nieces. My niece and I decided that we needed more wood, so we walked upstream to look for materials. That's when I found a strange creature in the knee-deep water: a Diestrog. The creature looked distressed and used its claws to push a small pebble onto my foot. But it wasn't a normal pebble. It was an egg. I accepted the egg and promised to keep it safe. And it's a good thing I did. After doing some research, I discovered that if a Diestrog egg has no flower, the little one will die as soon as its egg hatches in daylight. I've kept it in my dark wooden chest ever since. I hope to one day find a way to make the egg hatch...



DIESTROG

If you pick a flower on an adult Diestrog during the day, both you and the Diestrog will turn to stone. If you pick the flower at night, you'll be cursed and never able to walk in daylight without turning to stone. The Diestrog will survive if it finds shelter and regrows its flower. This takes about a month. If it doesn't find shelter before the sun rises, it'll turn to stone and die.

The plants on a Diestrog's back vary according to their environment.

Species:

Troll

Subspecies:

Daylight Troll. Most trolls turn into stone when walking around during the day, but the daylight troll is a rare subspecies that thrives in sunlight.

Habitat:

Calm, clear rivers in France. They're also sometimes found in pools at the bottom of mountains.

Size:

The largest adult specimen is the size of a fat pumpkin. The smallest adult specimen is the size of an apple.

Food:

Small crabs and worms

Reproduction:

The reproduction process begins when a male releases its flower. This typically happens under a bridge, with ample protection from the sunlight. A female Diestrog catches the flower and eats it. She then lays eggs, from which new Diestrogs emerge several months later. Because of this strange reproductive process, Diestrogs are few in number.

Diestrog eggs appear like regular stones. A flower grows from the eggs before they hatch. Some of these flowers are picked by people. Picking a flower on a Diestrog egg isn't fatal to the little one or to the person who picks it, unless the egg hatches before a new flower has grown. Then the little one can't survive.

The stone egg of a Diestrog is carried in a small hump under its flower.

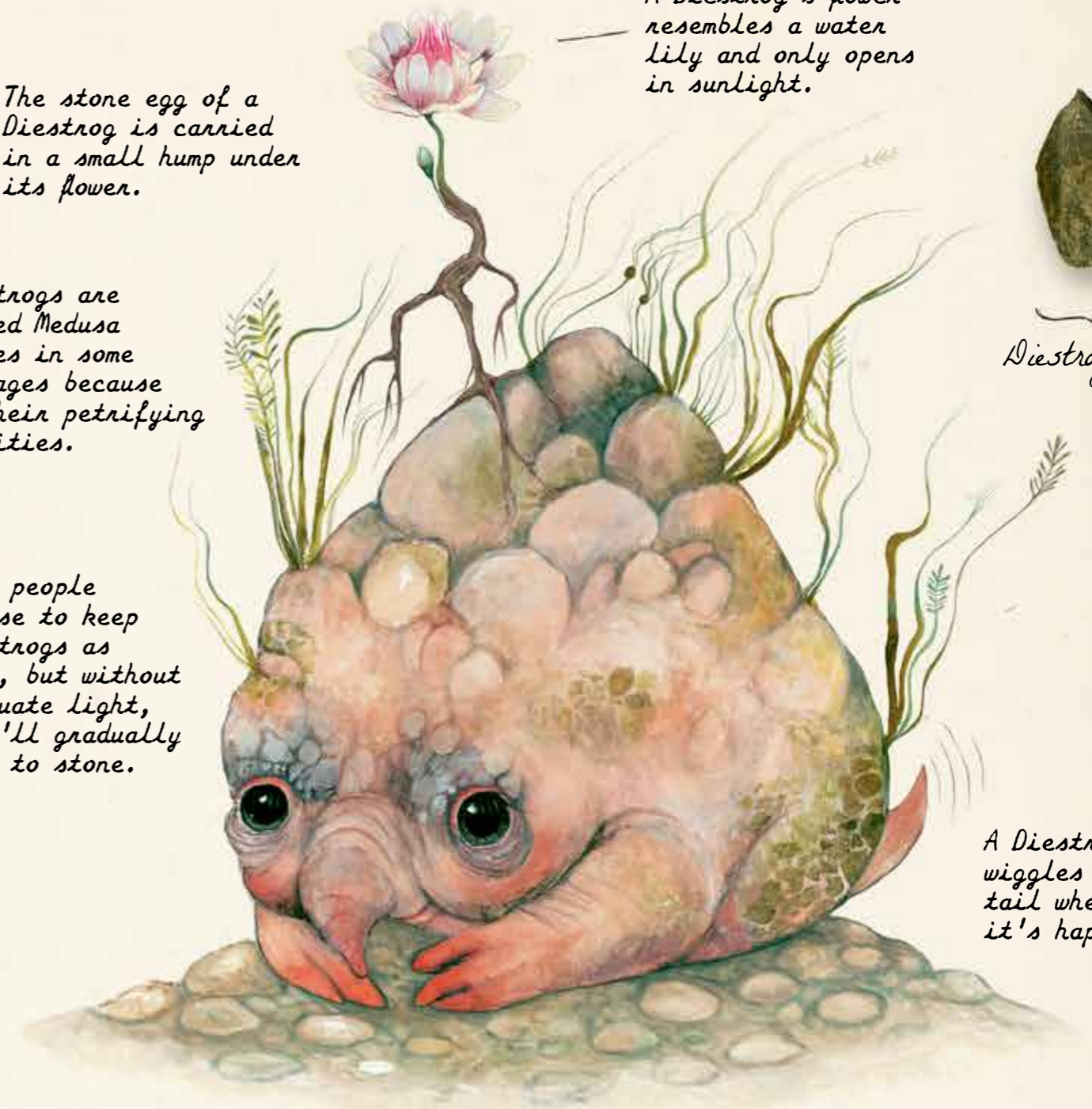
A Diestrog's flower resembles a water lily and only opens in sunlight.

Diestrogs are called Medusa stones in some villages because of their petrifying abilities.

Some people choose to keep Diestrogs as pets, but without adequate light, they'll gradually turn to stone.

Diestrog egg

A Diestrog wiggles its tail when it's happy.



Some creatures that can't survive in daylight, such as vampires, trolls, and certain witches, go out of their way to find Diestrogs at night and pick their flower. After all, the flower is very rare and has various magical properties. It's often used during rituals of dark witches. The Diestrog is then usually killed.

Diestrogs can walk, but very slowly. Their movements can be compared to those of a Stonefish.

