



Wild, Whimsical, and Wondrous
Reptiles & Amphibians

By Jessica Feinberg & Daniel Faccio

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Alexandra Iguana

Inhabiting Papua New Guinea rainforests is the ten-inch Alexandra Iguana. This insectoid-reptile species is often remarked upon for its stunning colors, but spotting one may be difficult as they spend most of their time high in the rainforest canopy.

Alexandra Iguanas begin as tiny eggs that hatch into iguana-faced caterpillar larvae. They eventually cocoon themselves to reach full adult form.

Young larvae are fed toxic pipevine plants which makes them poisonous to predators and thus an undesirable snack for most larger creatures.





Arthromander

Existing in a time known as the Carboniferous period, the Arthromander may have been a distant ancestor to the present-day Giant Salamander. This amphibian is eight to ten feet in length with multiple limbs for traversing various types of terrain. What really sets it apart is the carapace on its back, akin to the Anthropleura that also roamed during the same time period. Paleontologists are still studying how this species could have evolved.



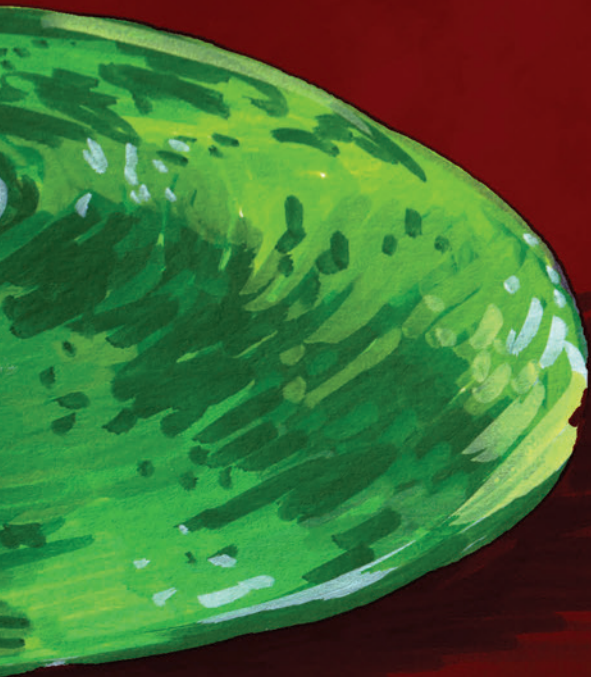
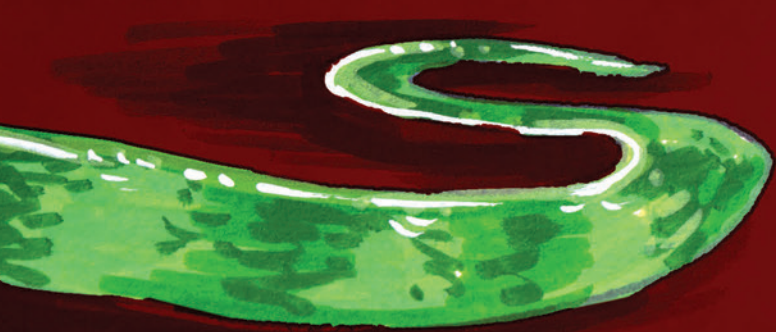




Red-Eyed Tree Cobra

While most cobra species are only occasional climbers, this frog-snake hybrid loves to lurk amongst the tree branches in the tropical rain forests of Costa Rica.

Adults are around three feet long, highly alert, and extremely fast. If threatened the Red-Eyed Tree Cobra will flare a colorful hood open and strike quickly, delivering a powerful toxin that attacks the nervous systems and impedes breathing.



This species is a nocturnal hunter, but will not attack humans unless provoked. Enjoys a diet of rainforest insects and smaller frogs.

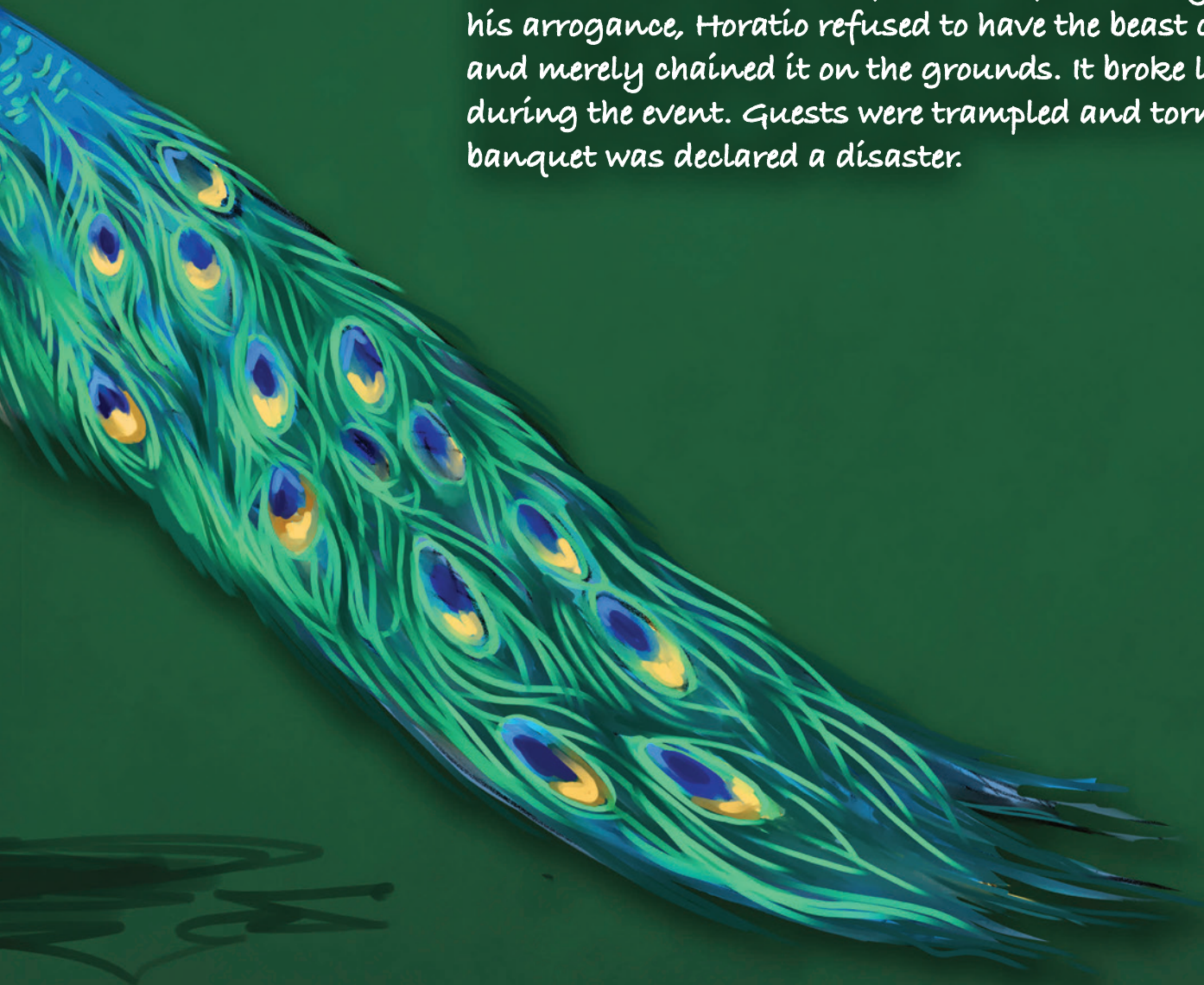


Resplendent Therizinosaurus

Coined by the aristocrat and explorer Horatio Hemlock Horowitz, who discovered this opulent dinosaurian creature back in 1925 during an expedition deep in the forests of Mongolia. It had all the regality, coloration, and plumage of a peacock mixed with the imposing claws, body of a Therizinosaurus.

Horatio, in all his hubris, had to have it to one-up his fellow aristocrats, who had just normal peacocks on their estates. Not without loss, he did manage to capture one and bring it to his estate.

Horatio planned a grand banquet to commemorate his achievement, inviting his friends and rivals to marvel at the wonder he'd found. Unfortunately, in his arrogance, Horatio refused to have the beast caged and merely chained it on the grounds. It broke loose during the event. Guests were trampled and torn, the banquet was declared a disaster.



Yule Toad

A plant-amphibian hybrid, the Yule Toad is bright emerald green in hue, with holly growing upon its back. During the winter season red berries and sparkles also form.

Spotting a Yule Toad in full "bloom" during the month of December is considered great luck.

This species is highly cold tolerant and seems happiest when it is snowing. Found in Northern Europe and the colder parts of North America.



