

K'Ai

The K'Ai are a [Species](#) evolved from amphibians, who developed psionic abilities as a means of compassion when they reached sapience. Before developing civilization, they were mainly gatherer scavengers and gathered fruits and berries to sustain themselves. They are the primary race of the [rathenka](#).



History

Originating in the Coreward sectors, the K'ai evolved from amphibians, first making contact with the [Yamatai Star Empire](#) by the [rathenka](#) in YE 44.3.

Physiology

External physiology

The K'aian musculoskeletal system is characterised by a distinct lack of physical bones and muscles. Rather than using a traditional skeletal structure, the K'ai utilise structured cartilage complemented by a hydrostatic organ structure that allows them to move and maintain stability. Additionally, the K'ai are characterised by a set of head tails, and a lack of hair. The K'ai also possess a distinctive lack of reproductive organs, which is explained later on in this document.

Morphologically, K'ai are a skinbreathing biped, possessing a highly advanced sack lung system in conjunction with their membranous skin, common features among advanced amphibians. This allows them to thrive in high humidity environments, but makes them extremely sensitive to skin contact with various chemicals, and easily susceptible to contact poisoning. Moreover, their skin is notably dry, compared to most other amphibianid species, and they can easily survive extremely dry or arid environments. However, with their cyanogloben based cardiovascular system capable of clotting to and neutralizing most common toxins, this issue is mitigated. They tend more towards endomorphic body types, tall, and very thin, with very little body fat buildup in most cases.

Generally speaking, the hand is shaped similarly to a hominid hand, with four fingers and one opposable thumb. These fingers feature three knuckle joints, also similar to human standard, with webbing starting at the second knuckle and ending where the hand meets the finger at the first knuckle. This gives the illusion of wide hands and short fingers, however, the pads of the hands and the webbing are extremely flexible, allowing K'ai to be extremely fast swimmers and maintain manual dexterity similar to, if not greater than human standard.

It is also worth noting that their bodies tend towards long, thin limbs that may look disproportionate, however, these are generally extremely flexible and dextrous, allowing them to move with a certain

grace that is difficult to immediately mimic.

Internal physiology

The K'ai generally posses a more efficient immune system, due to their blood proteins being based on copper, rather than iron. Their immune system functions via a hybrid method. When toxins are detected in the blood, the cells will clump around it, and suffocate the area, preventing the nutrients from getting to bacteria or viruses. The K'ai metabolism is rather high, with them having to consume a large amount of food to maintain their albeit mostly slender form. The K'ai maintain an average body temperature similar to humans, but can also maintain a higher degree of separation from their healthy body temperature, partially due to their body's nonreliance on a large muscular system, and the general effectiveness of evaporative cooling ¹⁾ for their bodies.

When the body cools down to a point of no return, however, the endocrine system releases a a massive sugar dilution into the blood, preventing ice crystals from forming that would kill most other life. This allows a K'ai to be frozen solid and recover, albeit with some grogginess and discomfort.

K'ai cardiopulmonary systems are arranged similar to those of hominids, with a large heart centered between the lungs to provide a constant motion of blood through the breathing organs. Notably, however, the capillaries near the surface of the skin are often far more dense than in human samples, primarily due to their skin breathing nature. This often gives K'ai skin a rich blue hue, often accented with darker markings at the back, armpits, and groin.

This species possesses a large, ring shaped liver below the stomach, with several nerves at the pylorus to indicate volume of consumed food entering the lower digestive tract, which is used primarily to guage and regulate the actions of the pancreas and liver. It is worth noting that K'ai do not have a ghrelin regulatory system to handle their hunger response, in stead utilizing a series of nervous system nodes along the stomach to deliver near instant subconscious urges to eat something.

In addition, K'ai use a hydrostatic muscular system, unlike the general hominids of the sector, allowing great bursts of strength or speed, and ending with muscles rupturing, rather than simply tearing. Their highly advanced lymphatic system is the primary driver for this muscular system, with a larger, eight chambered secondary heart acting as a rudimentary hydraulic pump to allow them motion, or to "build up" pressure in an extremity to release that strength in bursts.

The muscular tubes themselves are packed in an oily fat layer most analogous to subcutaneous fats, allowing great flexibility. This also allows the strands to separate and move in relation to each other, allowing puncture wounds to pass through with minimal damage.

This fibrous, highly flexible structure is present in most K'ai biological structures, to include their "bones." The only true bones in a K'ai body is the jaw, with the rest of the body's endoskeletal system being comprised of striated and reinforced cartilage. This allows broken bones to heal rapidly, and with the fibrous nature of the marrow, return to position even if broken and not treated.

In short, K'ai handle puncturing trauma extremely well, and are well suited to healing rapidly from almost any injury, capable of regenerating lost limbs and even some organ tissues. Unfortunately, their blood chemistry combined with their hydrostatic muscular system does not respond well to nanomachine

treatments, or to viral and parasitic infections. Do not use nanomachine or symbiote treatments.

Neurobiology

The K'ai possess a similar brain structure to humans, but can be differentiated by a few major factors. For one, they possess a psionic organ known as a proto-cortex, which is capable of not only generating, but allowing interaction with the psionic field many species in the interstellar sphere seem to have. Additionally, K'ai neural structures possess increased neuroplasticity, making them more adaptable to their surroundings.

See more about psionics and latency at [K'Ai Psionics](#).

Diet

The K'ai species can eat all foods similar to a standard human, but tend to lean towards herbivorous. The K'ai diet generally consists of various plants and animals, of varying levels of processing, including flour based products such as puff pastries, plant roots, and rice-like grubs. Additionally, meat is reserved for rare occasions, fish being the preferred meaty substance.

Alcohol is not drank recreationally, rather the Rathenkans prefer hot, psychoactive drinks, with properties ranging from psionic enhancers to psychedelics to potent stimulents. These often come in the form of various tea and coffee like substances, often drank with some form of plant milk.

Environment

The K'ai live in mostly humid, temperate environments, but are capable of living just about anywhere a human can, with some notable differences. See above for more information.

Life Cycle

The K'ai live on average for around 350-500 years, starting as tadpoles.

K'ai reproduce through their psionic capabilities, and are able to share genetic information by skin contact. This combination of nervous system and skin contact prompts the growth of reproductive organs in a k'ai host, rather than their presence being utilized by some fertilization process. While K'ai do have a gonad gland below the kidney, these are generally used for sex hormone regulatory systems and to prompt the development of a primitive uterine sack.

Genetics are assembled in the gonad gland before being released in a small cloud into this fluid filled uterine sack to form an egg, a yolk, and then an embryo. This embryo will grow to between eight and ten inches in length before the uterine sack separates the muscles of the lower abdomen, reaches the surface, and ruptures. This injury will quickly heal as the majority of the reproductive system is reabsorbed by the mother. It is generally advised that the mother entity be submerged in water when

birthing occurs. This method of birthing produces between one and five tadpoles, each capable of basic survival on their own.

As the yolk is consumed, the tadpole grows to well over a foot long before beginning to develop legs between 8 and 18 months after birth. Shortly after will come arms, and the head differentiating from the body. Generally between 18 and 22 months after birth, the tail will be reabsorbed. and the child will climb out of the tank and take their first steps. It is at this point that teaching of language, cultural norms, et cetera can begin, though most will already know most of the basics due to near constant psionic contact with the mother.

Culture

The K'ai are a race of scientists and innovators. The application of intelligence is seen as the highest form of status, and to be well-learned is considered a high achievement.

Coming of age ceremonies are held once every 5 years. They typically consist of a small group of close friends that get together to challenge each other in a mental capacity. The idea is to demonstrate what the individual has learned over time and accomplished. The knowledge of the individual is celebrated as well, and the person wishes a prosperous life for another 50 years.

Acquiring friends is an interesting process for the K'ai, primarily because it is extremely similar to that of a job search. In order to become a "Friend" or Qu'Nioh, you have to submit an application to them sharing your interests, education, and other things. The individual will then select those they most want to be in their friend circle. Additionally, the same process (although often much more selective) takes place when a Qu'Nioh would like to become a "Close Friend" or Qu'Kaax .

For more information see the [K'ai Culture](#) page.

Language

Bidetan is a primarily psionic language, incorporating some warbling noises as well.

Naming

Names typically follow a specific syntax, as detailed below:

<Caste> <Name> ti <System of Birth> ka <Bondmate>'<Surname>

An example name would be: **Qrr'ti Jahara ti Hala'ao ka Wasa'haru**

Which loosely translates to: **Leader Jahara born in Hala'ao bonded to Wasa of haru**

A random name generator is present below:

Qrr'te Vokale ti Tula'Ita ka Batawa'kat

OOC Notes



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