SPECIES PROFILE

RODULAN

SPECIES ADJUSTMENTS
-1 Presence, +2 Perception

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION
The Rodulans are nearly identical to Humans save that the Rodulan eye is completely and totally black without any other pigmentation. This gives the Rodulans a rather alarming appearance to most other species and as such, some Rodulans (mostly those few in Starfleet) will wear contact lenses when in prolonged contact with other races. They have highly sensitive taste buds, spicy foods extremely difficult for them to tolerate, with many of their home cuisines quite bland.

Internally the Rodulans resemble Ferengi and Boslics with a four lobed brain though this brain is far more compact and has not resulted in an enlarged head. This brain structure has left the Rodulans difficult to read by most telepathic species and many Betazoids find the Rodulan’s minds very alien and uncomfortable from the brief glimpses they gain.

Rodulans have similar lifespans to Romulans and maintain a youthful appearance for over 300 years before aging normally for another fifty to seventy.

CULTURE
A civilization of artisans and farmers (Though mostly farmers) with craftsmanship second to none, the Rodulans are best known for their sculptures erroneously called Basotile by outsiders though Basotile is actually the name of the unique and incredible material Rodulans use in the creation of these highly sought after works of art. What makes Basotile so valuable is that it is pure thought given physical form and the Basotile itself molds like clay in the hands of the telepathic Rodulans. These sculptures also contain the thought that shaped them and it is this combination of the seen and unseen that makes Basotile so valued off their homeworld of Basul-Rodul. In 2134 the Rodulans broke the Warp 2 barrier and encountered a Freighter limping towards their system for a place to gather resources and repair. The Freighter crew were the first to export Rodulan art in the form of a few early and inferior pieces that are currently found on places such as Deep Space Nine, Trill and elsewhere.

Eventually others picked up on the location of Basul-Rodul and started to export their own Rodulan art in the form of the more aesthetically pleasing and mentally stimulating pieces though these later pieces lack the standardized style of early Basotile works and no two are the same. Also a civilization of agriculturalists and ecologists, the few Rodulans to leave their homeworld have become highly valued in the Terraforming business.

However in the 24th Century the Rodulan's previously unimportant region of space the Betreka Nebula became a war zone between the Cardassian Union and the Klingon Empire. Basul Rodul was occupied and contested between the two powers for most of the 18 year conflict and further occupied for another three years before the Federation forced a Klingon withdrawal. Many priceless Rodulan pieces of art were either lost or destroyed in this occupation of their world and the Rodulans have begun an effort to recover some of these pieces of art in the wake of the Dominion War.

Politically the Rodulans are neutral, though they have formed with several other species of the Betreka Nebula to create the Betreka League, an alliance of species within the Nebula to ensure that they are able to enforce their own neutrality. Other members of the League see the Rodulans as freeloaders as they offer very few things to the League besides food and agricultural technology but the Rodulan’s invest more of their GDP in the League than any other species. The Rodulan’s also purchased several damaged Warships from Ferengi Salvage crews as a gift to the League for their defense fleet. The Rodulans themselves lack the ability (Or more likely the will) to repair these ships but the ships themselves were seen as a great gift by some of the League members.

Rodulans have four major racial phenotypes and one or two minor sub-racial groups. Some outside geneticists like to group the Tikani, Krzexxi and Attraxans together since they share most of the same traits but the Attraxans and Tikani feel closer to the Idanii and reject what biology and genetics dictates. The three eastern cultures have a long history of mutual cooperation and trust while there are still ill feelings towards the Krzexxi and deep cultural divides.

Tikani
The largest racial group, the Tikani are pale skinned and dark haired and never exhibit light hair colors save for a dark auburn. The Tikani have an average height of 1.9 meters and are usually quite thin and somewhat muscular though they are rarely ever extremely buff or extremely thin.

Primarily agrarian, the Tikani are a warm, some would call ‘simple’ folk who enjoy village and farm life. Automation and
advances in agricultural technology have made life easy for them and most will find a rustic tranquility among their communities, burdened by little and affected by little.

**Idanii**

Darker skinned than the Tikani, the Idanii resemble Sub-Saharan Africans though exhibit different traits. The Idanii vary most Rodulans engage in Basotile crafting as a past time and frequently remodel the Basotile to represent a new thought to reflect their current state of mind. Basotile art is also highly personal and representative of an individual’s mental state and the Rodulans believe that a part of them lies within these sculptures. A few pieces have made it off world though many of these pieces were looted from Occupation of Basul Rodul during the Betreka Nebula Incident and the Rodulans are very insistent on getting them back.

Basotile sculpture as an exported art form exist in rarities since the exchange of a Basotile that embodies a couple’s first meeting is a sort of ‘Proposal’ indicating that one party desires the other in the art that they create. If the artwork is returned it symbolizes the loss of a relationship and separation. The Basotile returned to the Rodulans and it was confirmed as a very early example of Basotile through the thought held within it though it is still impossible to know if it was the first.

It is considered rude to divert one’s gaze from the person that they are conversing with save for if one is performing another task like pouring a cup of tea or they are not sitting down together.

Rodulans have no concept of marriage, two souls are bound together in mutual understanding but that bond is not always eternal and Rodulans do not force or expect two people to stay together forever.

While the early forms of Basotile are rather complex, unattractive, and bulky, later forms of Basotile (Most notably those crafted with 'Diamond Glass Basotile') are usually serene, flowing and incredibly beautiful.

**Attraxans**

Overall the Attraxans should be considered a sub-group of Tikani but the Attraxans themselves reject this idea because of the cultural divides between the two peoples. The Attraxans have but two hair colors, an extremely dark red that appears black lest light is shown upon it or looked at in individual strands, and a like colored dark blue that also appears similarly black lest in the light. The Attraxans are overall slightly taller than the Tikani and marginally tanner due to their island homelands.

Mariners and explorers, the Attraxans are less dependent on agriculture and instead their culture is rather impulsive and adventurous. The Attraxans like going off to explore the unknown and most Rodulans to leave the Homeworld are Attraxan in descent. Attraxan society is stereotypically 'tropical' having children together is a very serious undertaking in Rodulan society and many couples sometimes take decades to prepare themselves and test the strength of their relationship to prove themselves worthy of having children. Those individuals who rush into having children are looked down upon in Rodulan society and the community will often force themselves into the child’s life to fill the gaps the parent’s rash choices have made. Rodulan convention also dictates that couples should have at least two children but no more than five to teach the children how to interact with others and so thatRodulans have no concept of marriage, two souls are bound together in mutual understanding but that bond is not always eternal and Rodulans do not force or expect two people to stay together forever.

Rodulans are expected to court for a year before settling down together and are expected to move in together into a new place that was never either party’s former residence (A modified tradition of the old Rodulan custom of a bonded couple moving onto a new farm together).

The exchanging of pieces of art (In particular Basotile) between friends, family and lovers is seen as giving part of your soul to the other person as Rodulans consider part of their soul to flow into the art that they create. If the artwork is returned it symbolizes the loss of a relationship and separation.

The early versions of Basotile as an exported art form exist in rarities since the exchange of a Basotile that embodies a couple’s first meeting is a sort of ‘Proposal’ indicating that one party desires the other in the art that they create. If the artwork is returned it symbolizes the loss of a relationship and separation.

Perhaps the most sought after pieces of art in the quadrant, Rodulan Basotiles are sculptures shaped by telepathy and through long and tiring hours of working, eventually a slab of Basotile will form into a sculpture physically representing the thoughts of the individual that made it and contain an imprint of this thought within it. This combination of seen and unseen meeting is a sort of 'Proposal' indicating that one party desires to live together as one with the other. If the offer is accepted the two now bonded individuals will reform the Basotile into a
symbol of their joined lives and shared love, if a couple splits apart the Basotile is smashed. The party that presents the Basotile to the other may be male or female, Rodulans see the soul as gender neutral and gender roles and sexual discrimination are seen as utterly barbaric. As such any two Rodulans may be bonded regardless of gender, male and female, male and male, female and female, it matters not in the eyes of The Artist.

The Rodulans are a very aloof and detached people from the view of other species though among each other they are intimate and friendly, with strong bonds between each other. Rodulans will often be seen making odd faces or turning their head in unsettling poses that will unnerve others as a sign of their curiosity. Most will note that the Rodulans are among the most radically different humanoids of the galaxy and most humanoids will feel as uneasy around them as the Rodulans do.

The Rodulans are highly religiously homogeneous and many follow the Ozara Sect of Dikkennism. Dikkennism is a rather loose religion without much dogma to it and in fact preaches a limited form of skepticism in blind prostration, ritual and prayer and Dikkens should always be questioning the rationale of their belief system so that it can be modified to suit the times. The Rodulans worship a Goddess called The Artist and see the universe as her canvas. The Artist sees all and keeps her masterpiece forever in balance and ever changing. It is believed that The Artist bestowed the Prophetess Dikken with a series of prophecies and when she disappeared, Dikken was taken to the side of The Artist to help her further paint the canvas that is the Universe.

Much of original Rodulan mythology has been lost in their periods of war and strife, in fact no first hand accounts of their original tales are recorded, only what can be assumed to be later revisionist tales by later cultures. Only a few dozen myths have survived in entirety.

**LANGUAGES**

Rodulans speak their own native language, and seldom any other. A very few will speak Federation Standard.

**COMMON NAMES**

Rodulans use two names; both a surname, and a proper name or “first name”. The variety of names used by Rodulan people represents the verity of dialects spoken by the various Rodulan races.

*Male names*: Caedan, Daro, Benjiro, Damir, Nacien, Ronan, Taywor, Taniel, Tristam, Xio

*Female names*: Akeelah, Bas, Guan, Ilyazi, Talia, Zhaan, Meilyss

*Common surnames*: D'Sena, Nadia, Nkai, Conti, Medledore, Malon, Kaji, R'Ven, Rixx, Alekos, Core, Robie

**FAVORED PROFESSION**

The very few Rodulans who do leave the homeworld and venture out in space usually follow the same beliefs and lifestyles. Some, in these cases, may also become *Rogues*.
The Rodulans are an unusual people. Their often aloof mannerisms, as well as their very singular look to their eyes take some people aback. And yet Rodulans have an uncanny knack of reading people. They are good with people, whether they know it or not.

Rodulans suffer a -1 species penalty to their Presence scores, while they enjoy a +2 bonus to their Perception attributes.

Rodulans also have the following species-based traits.

**Artistic**: Rodulans are generally artistic and any average citizen practices some form of artistic expression as a major part of their daily lifestyle. Rodulans gain a +1 species bonus to any Craft skill tests.

**Iron Mind**: Because of the unique structure of the Rodulan brain it is almost impossible to read a Rodulan’s thoughts. A powerful Betazoid might be able to get a hint of a look into the Rodulan mind, but only a hint. Rodulans gain a +4 species bonus to Willpower reactions made to resist psionic attacks or effects.

**Psychometry**: While not truly psionic, Rodulans function as powerful telepaths. All Rodulans have the psionic skill, Telepathy. They begin the game with +2 in the skill, and may advance it as a Professional Skill. Rodulans use Perception as the key attribute for their type of Telepathy.