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opening extract from

Spiderwick Chronicles- Care and Feeding of Sprites

written by

Holly Black

published by

Simon and Schuster

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THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES

CARE AND FEEDING OF

SPRITES

presented by

TONY DITERLIZZI
and HOLLY BLACK

SIMON & SCHUSTER
BOOKS *for* YOUNG READERS
NEW YORK LONDON TORONTO SYDNEY



Scythus barbatus

BEARDED HOPPER

fig. 1 - Lateral view

fig. 2 - Detail of wing showing venation

ACTUAL SIZE: 28 mm

EXPLANATION OF TERMS AND IMAGES USED IN THIS BOOK

1. True appearance of sprite without glamour
2. Scientific (Latin) name
3. Common name
4. Detail of distinguishing physical feature
5. Body height in millimeters



6 KEY TO SYMBOLS

This key was designed to help you understand the individual characteristics of different sprite species and to help you select the one most suited to your environment.

PREFERRED HABITAT

- Prefers cold
- Prefers hot
- Prefers wet
- Prefers humid
- Prefers foliage

PRIMARY LOCOMOTION

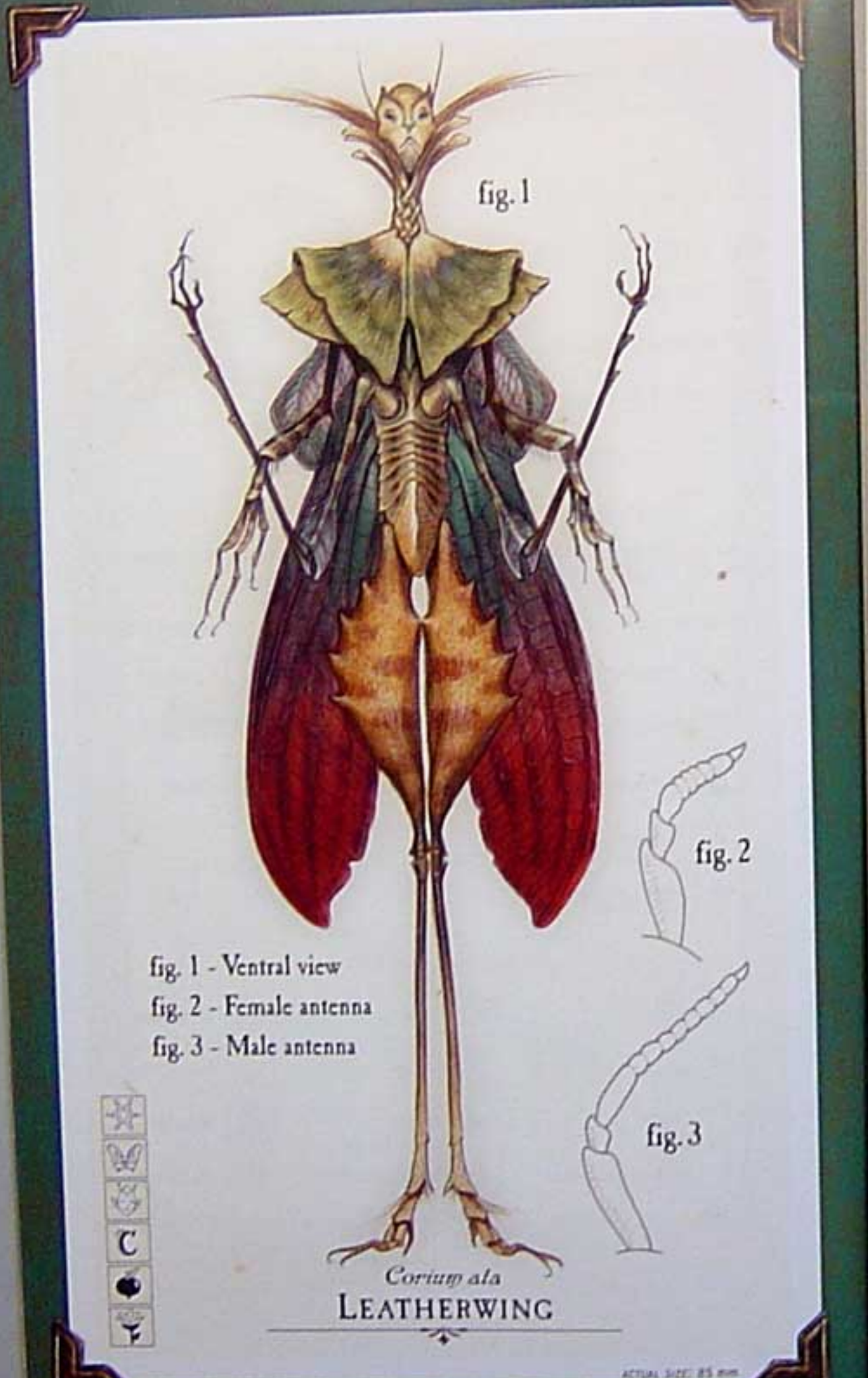
- Walks
- Hops
- Flies

GENERAL DISPOSITION

- Cheerful
- Melancholy
- Tricksy

ADDITIONAL TRAITS

- Bites
- Stings
- Sings
- Thinks it can sing
- Clean
- Messy
- Gorges
- Tempts with fruit
- Causes blooms
- Picks locks
- Steals infants
- Trainable
- Not trainable



THE MAGNIFICENT SPRITE

A sprite is a constant reminder of all that is magical. Magnificent creatures with vast variation in color and form, these tiny faeries, some smaller than a toothpick, may make flowers bloom yet can deliver surprisingly fierce bites when threatened.

Their wings are reminiscent of both insects and flowers and their bodies give off a dim glow at night. They have become iconic, even outside the community of sprite fanciers. Their tiny, winged forms are reproduced on jewelry and clothing.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO KEEP A SPRITE IF YOU HAVE NOT ACQUIRED THE SIGHT, THE ABILITY TO SEE FAERIES. ONE MEMBER OF THE SPRITE LEAGUE KEPT A GOBLIN FOR YEARS, NOT KNOWING WHAT HE HAD SIMPLY BECAUSE THE THING REMAINED INVISIBLE TO HIM. ANOTHER HAD AN ENTIRELY EMPTY CAGE THAT SHE SHOWED TO OTHERS WITH GREAT PRIDE, CLAIMING IT CONTAINED A SPRITE BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE SPRITE DEALER TOLD HER.

But when thinking about keeping a sprite as a pet, you need to do more than appreciate it. You need to consider the following: How will you acquire your sprite? Where will you house it? How will you be sure it gets the proper exercise and correct nutrition? This book provides simple and easy-to-understand guidelines that, when followed, will help keep your pet both healthy and happy.

LEFT: Some insect-sprites, like this leatherwing, are not only beautiful in appearance, but extremely intelligent as well. Conversation with them can be quite stimulating.