

CYGNIANS

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Personality: The women of Cygnet XIV, most commonly, are a jovial people who value peace and tranquility, as it is imperative to their light-hearted nature. Peaceful and serene, they are rather knowledgeable in many aspects of starship operations. On occasion, the Cygnian women have displayed a slightly impish behavior, such as reprogramming a starship's computer with "an unfortunate tendency to giggle."

Physical Description: Cygnians have the same average height and weight as Humans. Their hair color also falls within Human ranges, as well, though the women of Cygnet XIV usually possess beauty equal to that of their intellect.



Homeworld: Cygnet XIV, the fourteenth planet orbiting the star of Cygnetian; a green and lush world of near-paradise proportions.

Culture: The Cygnians are a matriarchal society in which the gender roles common to many other species are reversed. Or rather, to the Cygnians, it is the gender roles of other species which are backward. Cygnian women are schooled from the time they can speak, and their academic studies do not end until they are approximately twenty-two years of age. This is perhaps part of the source of their commonly high intelligence. Males undergo a similar process of academic learning, though it only takes place between the ages of ten and eighteen years old.

On Cygnet XIV, women possess the most lucrative of professions, those that support the family the most, such as owning businesses, managing resources, scientific operations, and so forth. The males of their society manage the home, including most domestic duties, and those that have jobs are usually common laborers involved in farming and mining operations.

Crime is virtually unheard of in the near-utopian Cygnian society, as their laws and regulations make it rather simple for most members of their culture, female or male, to go about their daily life in peace and harmony.

Marriage involves the woman choosing an unwed man she adores, then coming to a monetary agreement with the male's mother so that she may attain his hand in marriage. Normally, this is preceded by a two-week period of time in which the two spend copious amounts of time together so that they may become more familiar with one another. The mother usually ensures that her son desires to marry the woman courting him, since she knows there will always be another who wishes to wed her son.

Languages: Cygnian and Federation Standard

Common Names: Cygnians usually only possess one name, but if they require further identification, this name is followed by their mother's name, such as Nyree, daughter of Melara. Men are identified similarly, as "son of" their mother or "husband of" their wife if married.

Female Names: Adara, Alysia, Celina, Cyrena, Evania, Kaia, Lysandra, Medea, Melara, Nyree, Sirena.

Male Names: Admes, Alcander, Corban, Darien, Esidor, Evander, Gyles, Kiron, Nicodemus, Pearce, Priam.

Favored Profession: Scientist or Starship Engineer (females); Soldier or Starship Security Officer (males). The women of Cygnet XIV possess the academic knowledge and education to prevail in scientific areas, while the men, coming from a background of manual labor positions, are better suited for a profession that requires excellent health and stamina.

Species Adjustments: +1 Intellect, +1 Presence (females); +1 Vitality, -1 Intellect (males). Cygnian women are educated from a very early age, while men receive less education and more concentration on physical tasks.

Species Abilities:

- **Amiable:** Friendly and peaceful, the often outgoing Cygnian women gain a +2 bonus to Influence (Charm or Seduce) checks. Males gain a +2 bonus to Influence (Fraternize) checks.
- **Bonus Edge: Exceptional Concentration (females only):** Cygnian women are conditioned to concentrate on their studies or current project, and thus, are difficult to distract.
- **Scientific Mind (females only):** Cygnian women have little trouble envisioning the design of new systems. They gain a +2 species bonus to the Engineering: Systems (specialty) of their choice OR a +1 species bonus to any Computer Use skill check.
- **Scientific Maintenance (females only):** Cygnian females have exceptional hardware skills, and gain a +2 species bonus to the Repair specialty of her choice.
- **Radiation Tolerance (males only):** Due to constant outside conditions, Cygnian men develop a tolerance for radiation and gain a +2 bonus to all tests to resist the deleterious effects of radiation (assuming that a test is allowed – see the *Star Trek RPG Narrator's Guide*, page 226).
- **Sedation Endurance (males only):** Cygnian men gain a +4 species bonus to resist chemical attempts to sedate them.
- **Species Flaw: Gullible:** In many ways, Cygnians find it difficult to understand why anyone would want to willingly deceive or take advantage of another. This flaw can be “bought off” as the character progresses and has more interaction with the world outside Cygnet XIV.

Notes:

- ❖ The planet Cygnet XIV was only briefly mentioned in TOS: "Tomorrow is Yesterday", in which the crew of the USS *Enterprise* had traveled there for general repair and maintenance.
- ❖ Therefore, this species write-up should be considered nothing near canon.
- ❖ As the author, I only took the information presented in TOS: "Tomorrow is Yesterday" and expanded upon that knowledge. In this event, I thought it would be very much a nod toward Gene Roddenberry to present the women of Cygnet XIV in a fashion different than what would be expected, with an explanation to follow.
- ❖ For starters, like many TOS species, the women (and men) of Cygnet XIV are indistinguishable from normal humans.
- ❖ Secondly, I decided to go against the tired old approach of "Oh, look, a matriarchy – they must be man-hating Amazons." Instead, my write-up of the women of Cygnet XIV takes a different turn – these women have created an advanced and nearly utopian society in which their dominance is established by their greater intellect and education.
- ❖ Please feel free to use this species write-up in your games as you wish. Thank you for reading!
- ❖ For those wondering, the images were taken from an episode of *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*, ironically entitled "Planet of the Amazon Women."
- ❖ Any comments, suggestions or thoughts can reach me at asylum77@gmail.com
- ❖ This document is free, and should not be distributed for any amount of money.
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Coming Soon: The Cygnet XIV Sourcebook

- ❖ More goodness from the women of Cygnet XIV!
- ❖ Weapons and equipment of Cygnet XIV.
- ❖ Starships of Cygnet XIV.
- ❖ World information on Cygnet XIV and the Cygnet star system.
- ❖ Further information detailing the history and customs of Cygnet XIV, including social ranks and benefits, details on how the Grand Matriarch is chosen, and the revelation that Cygnet XIV isn't quite the crime-free and fully benevolent world it is believed to be.
- ❖ Details for running an entire series set in the Cygnet system, in any era, with the Cygnian women as the series' heroines.
- ❖ A new evil from near the Cygnet system, the V'Lidikre (vuh-LID-uh-kur)! Will their sudden appearance spell doom for the Cygnian women?