

Occidendum et Crabrones

Aka: Murder Hornet

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<Uploaded to Seattle Shadownet May 2055 by Fear of Bugs>

<I swear these things are spirits manifested! I watched two of them take out our mage. He was stung repeatedly while another worked at his neck until his head popped off.> Fear of Bugs

Description

This creature is a varriant of the Murder Wasp that migrated to Seattle from Japan in the 2020's. It is NOT as harmless as the insect that it once was as it has been awakened through the surge of 2022.

These hornets are mostly deadly to honey bees and other bees that are not native to Asia. They will move in and take over a hive by ripping the heads off of all the bees in the hive. In Asia, bees have found defences to these hornets.

Asian giant hornets are the largest species of hornet in the world. They grow to sizes of 1.5 inches to more than 2 inches (Un awakened), with some being measured at 6 inches (Awakened). For comparison, the much more common European hornet is about half the size, and yellowjacket wasps are around 0.5 inches to 0.75 inches.

<Big bee> Queen Bee

<Not a bee. A bee killer> Hornet Hunter

The larger awakened variant of the wasp seems to be leaders of these insects. There are approximately 1-5 awakened wasps to every hive. These awakened wasps lead the normal wasps as a tactical group killing not only honey bees, but also anything they see as a threat.

<When an awakened hornet is present, these killers use tactics. I swear they fly in formations, swarm and overpower whatever they are attacking, and use movements that are never seen in nature to throw off their predators.> Amazed Runner

Not only are they deadly, dangerous, and smart, but they are fast. The smaller ones have been clocked at over 32Kph with the larger ones making it up to over 40Kph. They have been known to travel up to 30K in a day, but become less violent the further out they go from their home hive.

History

The “giant sparrow hornets”, as they are known in Japan, are both deadly and a delicacy. The grubs are often preserved in jars, pan-fried or steamed with rice to make a savory dish called hebo-gohan. The adults, which can be two inches long, are fried on skewers, stinger and all, until the carapace becomes light and crunchy. They leave a warming, tingling sensation when eaten.

<They Good! Specilly in Shochu!> Troll Bug Eater

For hundreds of years, these insects averaged 50 kills of humans who were hunting them annually. Since the awakening, the eating of these bugs is no longer legal, but is still practiced as some wealthy members of Metahumanity send out runner teams to capture these awakened insects to continue the traditions set by their ancestors.



Post Surge (2022)

The death rate has risen drastically as the awakened insects came into power of the hives. Hunters, farmers, bee keepers, and the like have all been killed as a threat to the insect. In Japan, the average death rate from these insects has risen from the 50 a year to well over 2000 humans/metahumans a year.

Because of the rise in the death rate, the government has made it illegal to hunt and harvest these insects for anything more than just extermination. The government has created exterminator teams of large trolls carrying poisons to go into an area, spraying the poison in the hopes of thinning the numbers of these deadly insects. <Dangerous work. That's why trolls get it. Japan hates Meta's still.> Officer Dan

Once again, the spread of these bugs seems inevitable. There have been sightings of them across the oceans on mainland Asia, North America, and even some in Europe. Caution is always advised if seeing these creatures in the area. Report any sightings to government officials with any proof for a response team to be mobilized and start cleaning up the mess.

Current Territory



The current territory is still mostly in Japan, but sightings of these insects have been seen on multiple continents around the world. It can be reasoned that if there is one awakened insect, others must be nearby. That being said, seeing one of these murder wasps is extreammly rare.

In Japan, they are more common but still rare. Their non-awakened counterparts can be found across the country, but the awakened ones seem to stay closer to the hive unless leading an attack on an enemy. <Good thing too, I saw some of these smaller ones. They will sting if bothered, trust me. Just lucky the awakened ones were not present.> Stung once.

Why the interest?

There are several reasons why corporations are willing to pay good money for living samples of both the normal wasps, but the awakened ones as well. First is the venom. Not only are Asian giant hornet stingers long enough to sting through normal beekeeper suits, getting stung by one of these hornets will cause excruciating pain, paralysis, and even death.

The awakened variant is reported to have some powers that instill fear into their target, causing the target to panic and not think while reacting. They have also been able to create a bubble of silence that further confuses their prey while making it harder for the prey to fight back using magic of their own. <Corporations are always looking for a way to make a buck off of things they don't own. If something is discovered, you fraggin know they will copyright the venom and sell it as a poison.> Doubtful Thomas



The second reason is that corporations want to study how these creatures use tactics to mass their attacks. The Murder Wasps of the past used a scent that was sprayed on the entrance of the targeted hive, but today there is no spray. It is believed that they use an astral beacon to lure all the wasps to that location to attack the enemy. <I wounder if I could hit them fast enough so they couldn't attach the beacon to me.> Ou!!!

<You're fast Ou!!!, but not that fast.> Chrome

Possible Similar Species

With the migration of these wasps to the far reaches of the planet, it is only a matter of time for a new or similar species to emerge. The new species will likely be immune to the current poison that is used to thin the hives off today, and may have new powers to offset the strength of the Meta-humans that are hunting them. Be warned, these bugs will mark a target, then follow it to a safe location where they attack en masse.

<I had them mark one of my team as a threat. We went to the safe house to lay low after a job when we heard them coming. There was a buzzing coming from the fraggin chimney. We had to fight a dreck ton of those fraggin things. No one died, but it was close.> Chrome

Occidendum et Crabrones (Awakened)

B	A	R	S	W	L	I	C	E	Ess	M/R
2	6	5	2	3	3	2	1	2	6	6M

Initiative: 1D6+7

Limits: Physical 4 Mental 4 Social 4

Powers: Fear, Paralyzing Touch, Silence, Venom

Occidendum et Crabrones (Non Awakened)

B	A	R	S	W	L	I	C	E	Ess	M/R
1	4	3	1	2	2	2	1	1	6	6M

Initiative: 1D6+5

Limits: Physical 2 Mental 3 Social 3

Powers: Venom

Gamemasters Note:

These insects are deadly if they attack en masse. If their scout is killed, the hive sends out another two scouts to that area. As long as the PC's moved on it will not be an issue. If they are still in the area, they have 2D6 minutes until the hornets arrive en masse. The minimum attack for these creatures is 10 groups of 10. Each group consists of 9 non awakened and 1 awakened hornet.

If the awakened hornet is killed, the group falls into chaos for 1 round then they attack whatever the other groups are attacking. If all awakened hornets are killed, the hornets will flee the area.