

Many of us have at least seen images of The Golden Jungle: a beautiful expanse of green rolling waves, a dense jungle that enjoys sunshine around the clock. Twin suns hang in the air, providing constant illumination and accelerating the growth process of the landscape. We've all heard about The Golden Jungle.

So, would you be surprised if I told you there are three days when its in total darkness?

Join me, dear reader, as I share the tale of the...

SOLAR ECLIPSE IN THE GOLDEN JUNGLE

"This supposedly only happens once every few centuries in your Null timescale," commented Dr. Varnice Withers, a member of the Populatia Intelligentsia. He was as pompous as that statement sounded, and I was about to spend 36 hours with him in total darkness.

The Intelligentsia had contacted me through proper channels—a rarity these days since joining BRDR—and asked if I wanted to report on their expedition to study the event. Obviously, I said yes.

We weren't the only people on site to witness the event. Various other groups had made the pilgrimage. I noticed several Slugblaster crews, an Ecclesiastician priest with astrological charts hoping to uncover unknown constellations, and even celebrity chef Daniel Ruebens taking samples of the plants and documenting the effects the solar eclipse had on them.

The moon slide into place and the world plunged into darkness. With the suns no longer shining in the sky, the sounds of the jungle... changed. Even now, looking back, it's hard to articulate it any other way. It was different—a tonal shift that would be hard to miss.

"This is the start—the first connection

in a chain of events..." I heard the priest say, but I got the impression I wasn't who he was speaking to. His eyes were vacant yet intent, scanning the ground and skyline in equal measure.

Varnice moved deeper into the jungle. I decided to stay on the cliff. In response, the jungle... breathed, hot and steamy. I followed after Dr. Withers.

"BOARDERLESS doesn't provide medical insur—FUCK!" I screamed, as another blob of light-devouring slime leapt towards my face. I ducked, scrambled, and got to my feet as quickly as I could.

We'd been ambushed soon after we were engulfed by the jungle canopy. Withers was a walking torch, carrying a flashlight and activating the photonic threads woven through his bodysuit, Varnice-shaped afterimages trailing behind him. The first slime was as surprised as we were when the circle of light around us illuminated it.

When you think about it, the species of The Golden Jungle home are used to constant light—they have never experienced 'night'. Most of the animals we'd seen until then had simply stood there, frozen, unsure of what to do.

I had almost walked past the blob until it screeched suddenly and flung itself at Varnice. Withers shouted in pain, and the light around him dimmed. The slime grew in size. I put two and two together quickly.

"Turn off the lights!"

Varnice and I barely made it out of the jungle before being rescued by some other agents from DARA. Needless to say, they weren't pleased with us. I didn't make it more than 24 hours – maybe someone else will do better...

WHAT IS THIS?

SOLAR ECLIPSE IN THE GOLDEN JUNGLE is a one-shot run for **Slugblaster**. It begins with an 'in-universe' post from **BOARDERLESS**, an underground zine/blog dedicated to slugblasting, which can be used as a handout. The rest of the content is designed to help make the adventure unique to your group. There are new characters to meet and dangers to kickflip over—so feel free to pick and choose the elements that excite you.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Every few centuries, according to Dr. Withers, The Golden Jungle experiences a total solar eclipse, plunging into darkness for 36 hours. This rare event draws all walks of life (including artificial life, like Priest Alaric): from those eager to capture the eclipse for their MiPage, to those seeking a spiritual experience, to those searching for answers to unasked questions, and everything in between.

Needless to say, it's a party, and anyone could show up—use your imagination to shape the scenario to fit your campaign's narrative.

This sudden darkness would have dramatic effects on The Golden Jungle. Plants accustomed to constant sunlight would be exposed to starlight for the first time. Some would snap shut, their long-dormant protective mechanisms reactivating, while others might respond in unpredictable ways.

The impact on the wildlife would be even more chaotic. At best, most animals would be disoriented and wandering aimlessly; at worst a mass of fur and claws stampeding around the jungle, unaware of where it was going.

The guy is a !?!#wad,
see BRDR< #145 -ed.

CHARACTERS

CHEF DANIEL RUEBENS -

Ruebens, a popular MiPage food blogger, is known for his adventurous and risky cooking with unique ingredients.

BOARDERLESS has featured his exploits several times in the past, but they've since grown tired of him and now make a point of steering clear.

DR. VARNICE WITHERS -

Withers, a prominent figure in Popularia's intelligentsia, gained and maintains his popularity by live-streaming viral scientific exhibitions from across the multiverse. Sporting a high pompadour and the highest of high fashion, many wonder if Withers is there to see the eclipse or simply to be seen AT the eclipse.

PRIEST ALARIC - Alaric, a low-level Ecclesiastica member, is unpopular for his lengthy talks on "The Grand Design," but listeners may find his ideas surprisingly sound. With more tarnish and patina than most, Alaric has seen alot and has many interesting stories to share.



MONSTERS

ACTIVATED PRAETORIAN SCOUT - The sudden reappearance of stars triggered this scout—one of many that emerged from the dormant Praetorians scattered across The Golden Jungle. Why, you ask? Well, it's not spilling any secrets, but it seems very obsessed with a particular constellation in the night's sky and will go to great lengths to make contact with... something.

- Emits curious beeping sounds, like a sonar
- Constantly attempts to reach higher ground for an unobstructed view of the sky
- If someone gets in its way, it lashes out with whip-like appendages (whipped, slashed, a thousand tiny cuts)
- LASER EYES! Seriously, duck!
- Relentlessly chases anyone carrying a Lens in their inventory

LIGHT DEVOURING SLIME - These small, seemingly harmless globs of slime are rarely seen but hunt in packs, attacking sources of light from the shadows. Forced into the dark caves scattered throughout the Golden Jungle, this elusive threat fully exploits the solar eclipse.







- Uses "cute" as a defense mechanism, lulling unsuspecting victims
- Absorbs weak light sources (like torches or flashlights), growing larger as they consume more light, spreading darkness
- Stalks its prey from deep, dark shadows
- Stings like a jellyfish injected with adrenaline (stung, shocked, burned)
- Becomes vicious in environments without sunlight
- Bright lights confuse them - sunlight causes them pain

Photonic Jacket wearers enter the chat -ed.







SITUATION GENERATOR

The tables below are meant to help you generate an adventure during the **SOLAR ECLIPSE IN THE GOLDEN JUNGLE**. Roll 1D6 for each table and select the corresponding entry from.







1D6 IT APPEARS...

-  Chef Daniel Ruebens
-  Another Slugblaster crew on-site
-  Dr. Varnice Withers (or a team-member)
-  Priest Alaric
-  A pair of DARA Agents
-  A Praetorian Scout







1D6 WANTS TO...

-  Experiment on the Light Devouring Slimes
-  Harvest a rare plant that is usually unattainable
-  Steal a Praetorian power source
-  Use the cover of darkness to steal information
-  Perform a ritual
-  Trap and tag fauna only seen during the eclipse

1D6 WHICH WILL...

-  Cause the local Metasaurs to stampede
-  Be used by a rival crew for some extra cred
-  Be sold on the inter-dimensional black market
-  Trigger a fail-safe that will awaken a near-by Praetorian
-  Uncover a dark secret in a Factions past
-  Open a two way portal to a new dimension

1D6 HOWEVER...

-  A long imprisoned Soliton will escape in the process
-  The eclipse will end earlier than expected
-  Someone posted on MiPage there was a party and EVERYONE starts showing up
-  A deadly cloud of spores will be unleashed
-  A natural disaster has just begun in the area
-  A huge pack of feral Light Devouring Slimes interrupt