



# Dawn of the Serpent

by Steve Hough

Night has fallen and the darkness presses in like walls as you ride along the forest road. The thin sliver of a moon above does little to dispel the gloom. A chilling wind gently stirs the leaves and the crisp air stings your exposed flesh. Your breath hangs in the air forming small halos around your heads.

Rounding a bend you see the cheerful glow of a campfire about a hundred yards ahead. You can make out the silhouettes of three figures standing around the welcoming fire. Eager to warm yourselves and perhaps share some camaraderie with fellow travelers you urge your steeds on.

As you approach, a feeling of uneasiness settles in the pit of your stomachs. The forest around you is ominously still. An oppressive silence fills the void... as if the entire forest is holding its breath expectantly.

Upon closer inspection the figures surrounding the campfire appear to be extremely life-like stone statues, their faces frozen masks of fear or surprise.

Examining the campsite, you notice a pair of deep, parallel grooves in the loamy soil leading into the brush to the north as if something heavy has been dragged away...

# Dawn of the Serpent

by Steve Hough



Requires the use of the  
**Dungeons & Dragons® Player's Handbook,  
Third Edition, published by  
Wizards of the Coast®**

*Dawn of the Serpent is a d20 System adventure booster designed for 3-4 characters levels 5-7. It can be played as a stand-alone adventure or dropped into any ongoing campaign setting.*

Dawn of the Serpent



Alderac Entertainment Group

WWW.ALDERAC.COM

© 2000 Alderac Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved.



Alderac Entertainment Group

## How to Use This Product

This adventure is designed to be easily dropped into your existing 3rd edition D&D campaign. It can be run in a single session, and makes for an excellent evening's gaming. To prepare yourself to run it, you should read it completely at least once to familiarize yourself with the material, and you may wish to photocopy the map in the center of the book for ease of use as well. The text on the back of the book can be read to your players in order to introduce them to the adventure. After that, you're ready to begin. Good luck!

## Dungeons and Dragons®

This module requires the use of the Dungeons and Dragons® Player's Handbook, Third Edition, published by Wizards of the Coast.® You won't be able to run this adventure without it.



## Adventure Boosters by AEG

- 8301 *Castle Zadrian* by Rich Wulf
- 8302 *Sundered Faith* by Kevin Wilson
- 8303 *Tomb of the Overseers* by Ken Villars and John Zinser
- 8304 *Against the Barrow King* by Steve Hough
- 8305 *Jerimond's Orb* by Ree Soesbee
- 8306 *Out of Body, Out of Mind* by Patrick Kapera
- 8307 *Crypt of St. Bethesda* by James Macduff
- 8308 *Kurishan's Garden* by Ken Carpenter
- 8309 *The Last Gods* by Kevin Wilson
- 8310 *Bring Him Back Alive* by Matt Forbeck
- 8311 *The Heart of Amun Khonshu* by Marcelo and Kat Figueroa
- 8312 *Murder of the Seven Points* by Erik Yaple

**Be sure to collect these other great d20 System "Adventure Boosters" available from AEG!**



# Dawn of the Serpent

by Steve Hough

## DM Background

Travel always has its hazards. Inclement weather, roving bandits, and the occasional monster all take their toll. In the PCs' case, they are about to encounter all three.

The Gloamwood Forest is shrouded in mystery and local legend. Tales of petrified animals, giant spiders, and lost caravans are spread by the local peasants. However, the dire stories are mostly passed off as superstition by educated members of society. Though strange disappearances do occur from time to time, the road through the Gloamwood Forest is still widely used by merchants and travelers.

A medusa and her maedar mate (Illian and Vaash) have haunted the Gloamwood Forest for months, living in a cave hidden deep in the woods. Normally content to hunt small forest animals, they do stalk larger prey when it presents itself...especially as winter draws near and food grows scarce.

Hissik, an evil drider, leads a gang of bandits that use the legends surrounding the forest to their advantage. He uses guile and trickery to lure unsuspecting travelers off the road into the woods before attacking. His efforts to propagate the wild legends about the forest have been successful so far, and the local constabulary are afraid to even enter the forest.

## Adventure Summary

The adventure begins with the PCs traveling along the Gloamwood Forest Road as night falls. They spot a welcoming campfire ahead of them and urge their steeds forward only to find the camp occupants turned to stone. Investigation reveals a pair of deep grooves in the soil leading into the wilderness. Following the trail, the PCs are led to the nest of a drider and his gang of bandits. After facing the bandits, the PCs return to the camp site to discover their horses (and any other NPCs who remained at the camp) turned to stone. A new set of tracks leads the adventurers to a cave where a medusa and her mate lurk.

The Gloamwood Forest the PCs are traveling through has been left deliberately vague so that you can place it anywhere within your own campaign. The only requirement is that the forest be large and have a fairly well-traveled road running through it. The boxed text entries describe the adventure as taking place in or near winter. This is used to set the atmosphere of the adventure, but does not have to be strictly followed. GMs should feel free to set this adventure in any season they wish, making sure to modify the weather descriptions and circumstance penalty (see *The Cold Weather* below) as appropriate.



## The Cold Weather

Winter has set in and the air is deathly cold. All Dexterity related skill checks, saves and attack rolls made during the course of this adventure suffer a -2 circumstance penalty due to the extreme cold. The penalty is negated if the PCs are wearing cold weather outfits.

## Scaling the Adventure

*Dawn of the Serpent* is intended for three to four characters of levels 5-7, but can easily be modified for characters of higher or lower experience levels. The easiest way to scale the adventure for higher level characters is to increase the cold-weather circumstance penalty to -3 or more. Additionally the GM may wish to increase the HP of each creature encountered to the maximum for their HD type.

For lower level characters, the easiest way to adjust the adventure is to simply drop the cold-weather circumstance penalty to skill and attack rolls. Also the GM may wish to drop the HP for all creatures to the minimum for their HD type. If the PCs look like they are still having too much trouble, Larian the Druid (see rumor 2 below) can appear and bail them out. Larian will be more than happy to help the PCs rid his forest of the bandits and the medusa. Statistics for Larian can be found on page 12.

## Rumors

The following are rumors that any PC may pick up about the Gloamwood Forest. Have each PC make a Gather Information check (DC 10) at the beginning of the adventure to learn one of the following rumors about the Gloamwood Forest. GM information regarding the veracity of each statement is provided in parentheses.

1. Petrified animals have been found in the Gloamwood Forest by woodsmen and hunters. (True. This is the favored hunting method of the medusa and maedar. Illian turns her prey to stone then sends Vaash to retrieve it. This is also why the petrified animals vanish after they are spotted by the intrepid peasants.)
2. A strange hermit dressed in rags has been seen wondering through the forest and speaking with the animals. (True. Larian is the druid that protects the forest and its inhabitants. Larian has been away from his cherished forest for several months to visit the distant Great Druid Circle. He is greatly disturbed by the recent arrival of the medusa.)
3. A beautiful nymph has been known to bathe in the cool streams found in Gloamwood Forest. However, any poor devil lucky enough to see her is instantly struck dumb and blind. (False. There is no nymph living in the Gloamwood Forest.)
4. The partially digested remains of a man was recovered from the Gloamwood Forest last month by a group of hunters. (False.)



5. Entire merchant caravans traveling through the Gloamwood Forest have been known to disappear without a trace. (Partly-true. Disappearances do occur occasionally, but never on this scale.)
6. A huge spider-like creature skulks about the edges of villages near the Gloamwood Forest. (True. A drider does indeed live in the Gloamwood Forest. He is the leader of a bandit gang that uses the forest as their base of operations.)
7. An old crone lurks deep in the woods. It is said she has the power to raise the dead! (False. There is no crone living in the forest.)
8. If you must travel through the Gloamwood Forest, carry a stick of rowan wood clenched in you teeth. It wards off the evil spirits. (False. However, the peasants do sell charms made of rowan wood specifically for this purpose. 2 cp per charm.)
9. Never leave the road as you travel through the forest. The spirits are powerless as long as you stick to the road! (Good advice, however this statement is false.)
10. A cabal of evil sorcerers has a shrine dedicated to a dark god hidden in the depths of the forest. They kidnap travelers to make bloody sacrifices every new moon. (False.)

## A Welcoming Fire

Night has fallen and the darkness presses in like walls as you ride along the forest road. The thin sliver of a moon above does little to dispel the gloom. A chilling wind gently stirs the leaves and the crisp air stings your exposed flesh. Your breath hangs in the air forming small halos around your heads.

Rounding a bend you see the cheerful glow of a campfire about a hundred yards ahead. You can make out the silhouettes of three figures standing around the welcoming fire. Eager to warm yourselves and perhaps share some camaraderie with fellow travelers you urge your steeds on.

As you approach, a feeling of uneasiness settles in the pit of your stomachs. The forest around you is ominously still. An oppressive silence fills the void... as if the entire forest is holding its breath expectantly.

Let the players react as they wish, but as they near the camp, read the following aloud:

Upon closer inspection the figures surrounding the campfire appear to be extremely life-like stone statues, their faces frozen masks of fear or surprise.

Examining the campsite, you notice a pair of deep, parallel grooves in the soil leading into the thick brush to the north as if something heavy has been dragged away.



The statues are actually the remains of an adventuring party that were turned to stone by Illian several weeks ago. Hissik happened upon the petrified adventurers before Vaash could recover them. The bandits have placed them by the side of the road, hoping to lure unsuspecting travelers off the road and into their trap.

The brambles that the trail leads through is too thick for horses to pass, so the PCs will be forced to leave their mounts behind.

While the others are away, any mounts or members of the adventuring party left behind at the campsite will be attacked by Illian the medusa (See #9 below for statistics).

Attracted by the firelight, Illian will approach the campsite to discover who has invaded her hunting grounds. Her first attacks will always be against any PCs that remain behind. She will attempt to remain out of melee range and use her gaze attack against her foes. Failing that she will flee to the south toward her lair leaving an obvious trail in her haste (Tracking check DC 8 to follow).

NPCs and mounts left alone at the campsite automatically succumb to Illian's gaze attacks for the PCs to discover in *Returning to the Campsite* below. After Illian has petrified them, she will return to her lair to tell Vaash of her successful hunt. (Tracking check DC 15 to follow).

Don't worry, petrified PCs and NPCs can be returned to their original state later in the adventure.

## Following the Trail

The trail leads through the entangling undergrowth for about 100 yards before opening up in a large clearing. The roughly circular clearing is about 30 ft. across. The trees surrounding the clearing are draped in huge spiderwebs that gently undulate in the breeze.

Two unsavory looking individuals stand in the center of the clearing arguing over a heavy wooden chest. The grooves in the soft soil lead around the edge of the clearing to the chest on the ground.

Have the first PC to enter the clearing make a Reflex save (remember to include the circumstance penalty for the cold weather) to avoid the **pit trap** at the entrance to the clearing.

**Pit trap (20 ft. deep):** CR 2 (Due to the save penalty). no attack roll necessary (2d6); Reflex save (DC 20) avoids; Search (DC 20); Disable Device (DC 20).

The bandits are alert and waiting for the PCs to attack from the direction of the clearing entrance. If the PCs try to sneak around and attack from a different direction, They may be able to surprise the bandits (opposed Spot vs. Hide check).

Besides the **2 bandits (hp 7,6)** in the center of the clearing, **Hissik the Drider (hp 58)** is lurking in the tree branches above (Spot check DC 20 to notice). He will drop down into the clearing during the first round of combat.



**Bandits (2):** CR 1/2. SZ M (humanoid); HD 1d8; hp 7,6; Init +1 (Dex); Spd 30 ft.; AC 14 (+1 Dex, +3 studded leather); Atk: longsword +1 melee (1d8+1); Face 5 ft. by 5 ft.; Reach 5 ft.; AL LE; SV Fort +1, Ref +1, Will +1; Str 13, Dex 13, Con 13, Int 11, Wis 11, Cha 13; Skills: Hide +1, Move Silently +1, Spot +2, Wilderness Lore +1.

**Hissik the Drider (1):** CR 7. SZ L (aberration); HD 6d8+18; hp 58; Init +2 (Dex); Spd 30 ft., climb 15 ft.; AC 17 (-1 size, +2 Dex, +6 natural); Atk: 2 short swords +3 melee (1d6+2, 1d6+1), bite +0 melee (1d4+1), shortbow +5 ranged (1d6); SA spells, spell-like Abilities, poison; SQ SR 14; Face 10 ft. by 10 ft.; Reach 5 ft.; AL CE; SV Fort +5, Ref +4, Will +8; Str 15, Dex 15, Con 16, Int 15, Wis 16, Cha 16; Skills: Climb +14, Concentration +10, Hide +8, Listen +9, Move Silently +7, Spell Craft +10, Spot +9; Feats: Ambidexterity, Combat Casting, Two-Weapon Fighting; Spells: (All spells cast as a 6 level wizard) 0 - ray of frost, daze, flare, ghost sound, 1 - magic missile, burning hands, shield, 2 - blur, summon swarm, web, 3 - lightning bolt, summon monster III.

The bandits are dim and will fight to the death out of misguided loyalty to the drider. Hissik will fight viciously, using ranged attacks as long as he can, and closing only when he feels that the PCs have been 'softened up'. Hissik is unconcerned about the welfare of the two bandits and will cast spells even if they are in the area of effect. After suffering 40 HP of damage, Hissik will try to flee from the PCs. Hissik will use *darkness*, *ghost sound*, *web*, *summon monster*, or some similar spell or spell-like ability to draw the PCs' attention away from himself as he tries to escape.

The chest contains 2,200 gp in varied coins, 1 amethyst (100 gp), 1 golden yellow topaz (500 gp), 2 moonstones (50 gp each), 1 jar of *keoghtom's ointment*, and 1 potion of *cat's grace*.

## Returning to the Campsite

By the time the PCs have defeated Hissik and dragged all their loot back to the campsite, Vaash and Illian will have ransacked the PC's belongings and lugged the first statue back to their lair.

The following boxed text assumes that only mounts were left behind at the campsite as the PCs followed the path to the forest clearing. The encounter description should be adjusted to fit the particular situation left by your PCs.

Returning to the campsite the familiar lump of uneasiness settles once again in your stomachs.

The gear you left behind lies scattered about the road. Your mounts are motionless, petrified statues. Of the three statues that stood around the fire before, only two remain. Where the third stood, a deep groove leads to the south, across the road and into the brush on the far side.

If any PCs or NPCs were left at the camp, be sure to include them in the description of the statues that now surround the campfire. Also, it may be useful to get the PCs



more personally involved by making the missing statue a favorite NPC or mount rather than one of the strangers.

The new path starts where the missing statue stood and leads across the road and into the brush on the far side. After following it for about a half mile, the PCs will find the hidden entrance to the medusa's lair (See #1 below).

## 1. The Lair Entrance

After following the new trail for about half a mile, you push your way through the brambles to reveal a hidden cave in the side of a cliff face.

The entrance is low and roughly circular, about 3 feet in diameter. Small toadstools and other fungi grow in patches around the cave mouth. The thin moonlight does little to illuminate the interior of the cavern.

Vaash often has to break pieces off the statues he recovers to fit them inside the cave. There is a limb from one such unfortunate soul lying at the base of one of the bramble bushes outside the cave entrance (Spot check DC 15 to notice).

If you are feeling particularly fiendish, the limb can belong to the statue that Vaash just lugged from the campsite.

## 2. The Crawl

This narrow passage stretches for about 40 feet before forking. At the far end you can see that the cave narrows further and a large passage opens to the northeast.

About halfway down the passage, a **rattle snake** (hp 4) is curled and hiding (opposed Spot vs. Hide check to notice). Using its Scent ability the viper will be ready to strike when the PCs come upon it.

Attacking the snake in the close environment of the cave with a slashing weapon will incur a -1 circumstance penalty.

**Rattle Snake (1):** CR 1/2. SZ S (animal); HD 1d8; hp 4; Init +3 (Dex); Spd 20 ft.; AC 17 (+1 size, +3 Dex, +3 natural); Atk: bite +4 melee (1d2-2 and poison); SA poison, SQ scent, SV Fort +2, Ref +1, Will +1; Str 6, Dex 17, Con 11, Int 1, Wis 12, Cha 2; Skills: balance +11, Climb +12, Hide +15, Listen +9, Spot +9; Feats: Weapon Finesse (bite).

## 3. The Fork

At the fork, further progress to the northwest is impeded by the narrowing of the already cramped passage. A larger passage roughly 7 feet in diameter opens to the northeast leading to area #4.

Only a small creature, such as a halfling or gnome is tiny enough to explore the narrow passage to the northwest. After twisting and turning for about 55 feet it leads to area #8.



Illian and Vaash don't consider creatures small enough to navigate the narrow passage much of a threat and so have not blocked the passage. However they have set a **spear trap** just inside the entrance to discourage such creatures anyway.

**Spear Trap:** CR 2. +12 ranged (1d8/x3 crit); Search (DC 20); Disable Device (DC 20); 200 ft. max range.

## 4. The Digester

This irregularly shaped room is roughly 15 feet across at the widest point. The air is thick and stale. Large mushrooms standing about 4 feet tall sprout randomly from the sandy floor. There is no obvious path through the fungi.

You can hear a slight scuffling noise from behind a dense group of fungi in the far corner. The sound of dripping water can be heard from down the corridor in the eastern wall.

The fungus in this room is completely harmless apart from causing the stale scent of the air.

Lurking back in the darkest corner of the room behind a thick stand of the mushrooms, is a **digester** (hp 68). The digester will attack with its acid spray as the PCs near the center of the room.

**Digester (1):** CR 6. SZ M (magical beast); HD 8d10+24; hp 80; Init +6 (+2 Dex, +4 Improved Initiative); Spd 60 ft.; AC 17 (+2 Dex, +5 natural); Atk: rake +11 melee (1d8+4); SA acid spray; SQ acid immunity, scent; SV Fort +9, Ref +8, Will +3; Str 17, Dex 15, Con 17, Int 2, Wis 12, Cha 10; Skills: Hide +11, Listen +6, Jump +7, Spot +6; Feats: Alertness, Improved Initiative.

## 5. The Feeding Room

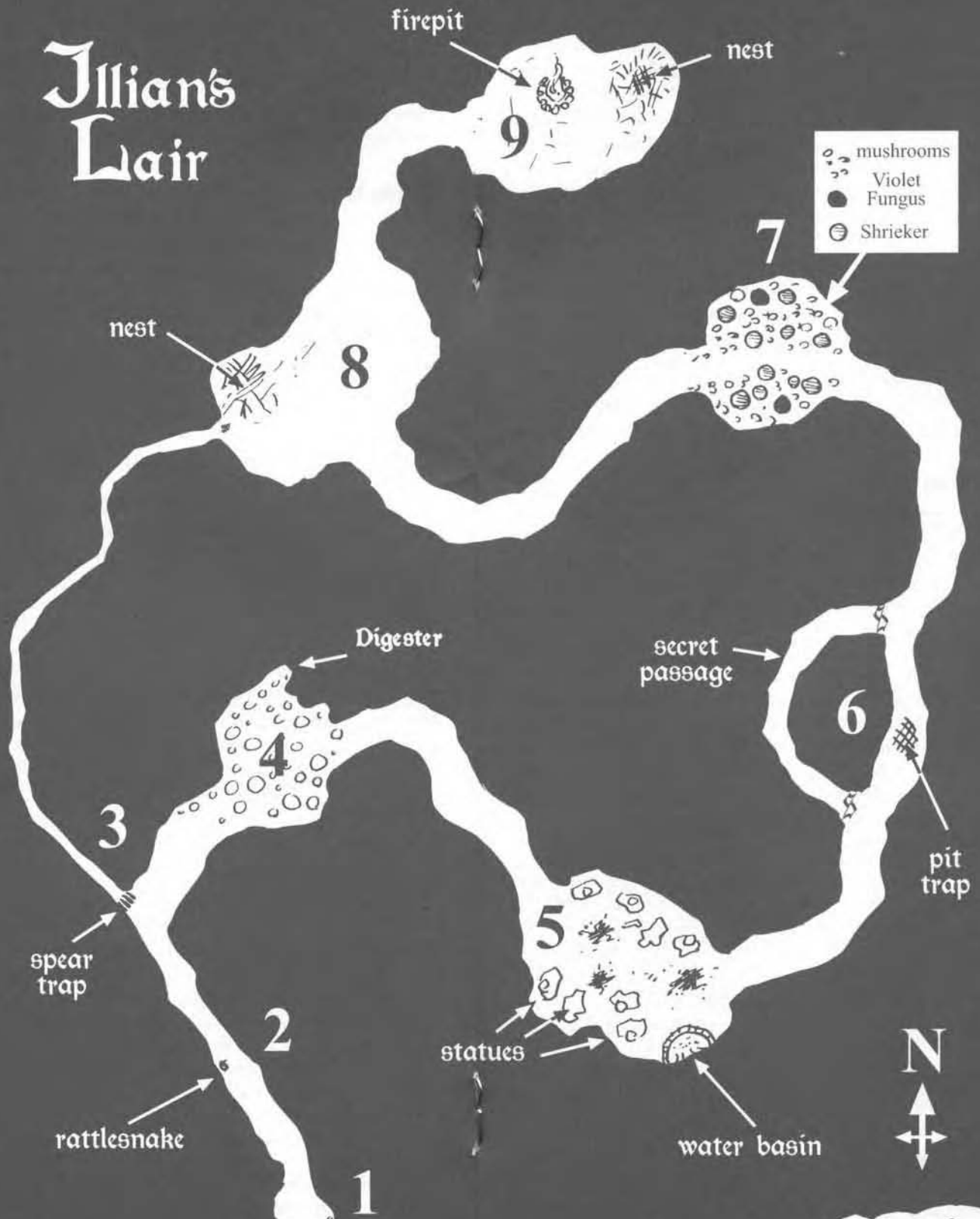
Standing along the walls of this 20 foot by 10 foot kidney-shaped room are 8 statues similar to the ones you found at the campsite. Two of the statues are heavily damaged – one is missing an arm and the other is not much more than a torso. Dark stains like dried blood cover the floor around both statues.

Against the southeastern edge of the room is a stone well. Water gently trickles down the wall to be collected in the basin below.

Be sure to describe one of the statues as the one that was taken from the campsite while the PCs were fighting Hissik and his bandits.

This room is where Illian and Vaash eat. After Illian has subdued the prey with her gaze attack, Vaash drags the petrified victims into this room for storage. When they grow hungry Vaash will use his great strength to break parts off of the statues and then use his *reversing gaze* (see *new monster*) to return the stone bits into edible morsels.

# Jllian's Lair





Anyone gazing into the well will see a faint glow coming from the bottom. The glow emanates from the blade of a **keen longsword** (threat range 17-20). The blade continually glows with a pale green light and will light a 20 foot area in the same fashion as a torch.

Submerged in the well is a **large water elemental** (hp 68). If the water in the well is disturbed, the elemental will rise up and attack immediately.

Illian the medusa is protected from the elemental by her ring of Water Elemental Command (see #9 below).

## 6. Pit Trap

Halfway along the the corridor between #5 and #7 is a **pit trap**. Illian and Vaash use the secret tunnel in the western wall to circumvent the pit as they move about their lair.

**Pit trap (20 feet deep):** CR 1. no attack roll necessary (2d6); Reflex save (DC 20) avoids; Search (DC 20); Disable Device (DC 20).

## 7. Mushroom Forest

This roughly circular room is about 15 feet in diameter. The air is thick and musty. Large purple fungi grow to almost the height of a man from the sandy floor. An obvious path runs through the center of the room to another corridor in the western wall.

Most of the mushrooms are relatively harmless **shriekers** (hp 11 each), however there are 2 **violet fungus** (hp 17, 20) hidden among them (one on each side of the path). As soon as the PCs move into the room, the shriekers begin to emit a piercing wail of alarm. The violet fungus will begin to attack with their poisonous tentacles once the majority of the party has entered the room.

**Shriekers (10):** CR 1. SZ M (plant); HD 2d8+2; hp 11 each; Init -5; Spd 0 ft.; AC 13 (+3 natural); Atk: none; Face 5 ft. by 5 ft./0 ft.; SA shriek (1d3 rounds); SQ plant; SV Fort +4, Ref -, Will -, Str -, Dex -, Con 13, Int 1, Wis 2, Cha 1.

**Violet Fungus (2):** CR 3. SZ M (plant); HD 2d8+6; hp 17,20; Init -1 (Dex); Spd 10 ft.; AC 13 (-1 Dex, +4 natural); Atk: 4 tentacles +3 melee (1d6+2 and poison); Face 5 ft. by 5 ft./10 ft.; SA -; SQ plant; SV Fort +6, Ref -1, Will +0; Str 14, Dex 8, Con 16, Int 2, Wis 11, Cha 9.

## 8. Living Chamber

This irregularly shaped room is roughly 20 feet by 15 feet. Straw carpets the floor. In the western corner a large heap of straw has been gathered to form a kind of nest.

Standing in the center of the room is a tall man with vaguely reptilian features. Wielding a large, gleaming falchion he charges your party.

The man in the room is Vaash, the **maedar** (hp 48) (see *new monster for statistics*). Vaash is alert and waiting for the intruders, having heard the warning of the shriekers. He is wielding a +2 **falchion** (damage 2d4+6). Vaash will fight to the death to protect his mate Illian who is in the nursery (#9).

## 9. The Nursery

This room is roughly 20 feet deep by 15 feet wide. The floor is carpeted with loose straw. A fire pit ringed with stones stands near the center of the room, a merry fire burning brightly within. Strange paintings of large snakes and other reptiles adorn the walls of the cavern.

In the far corner, near another straw nest, stands a tall figure dressed in a hooded cloak.

The hooded figure is Illian the **Medusa** (hp 50).

Besides her natural attacks, Illian is armed with a shortbow, a dagger, and a *ring of water elemental command* (200,000 gp).

Illian is not a fool, but she will fight to the death to defend her clutch of 3 eggs which lie in the straw nest behind her. During the first round Illian will soften up the PCs by using her ring to cast *ice storm* (twice). After that she will begin using her more mundane forms of attack.

Behind the medusa, hidden among the straw that forms the nest, is a large wooden chest (Spot check, DC 15 to find).

The chest contains 2,000 gp and a silver chalice with lapis lazuli gems (105 gp).

The 3 medusa eggs from the nest are quite valuable as well. Mages, druids or collectors of strange artifacts may pay as much as 300 gp per egg. The value increases if the embryo within is still viable. Broken eggs are worthless.

**Illian the Medusa (1):** CR 8 (due to the ring of water elemental command). SZ M (monstrous humanoid); HD 6d8+6; hp 50; Init +2 (Dex); Spd 30 ft.; AC 15 (+2 Dex, +3 natural); Atk: shortbow +8/+3 ranged (1d6), or dagger +6/+1 melee (1d4), snakes +3 melee (1d4 and poison); SA Petrifying gaze, poison, spells (as per ring of water elemental command); SV Fort +3, Ref +7, Will +6; Str 10, Dex 15, Con 12, Int 12, Wis 13, Cha 15; Skills: Bluff +11, Disguise +11, Move Silently +9, Spot +10; Feats: Point Blank Shot, Precise Shot, Weapon Finesse (snakes).

## Larian the Druid

Larian the Druid is intended as an alternative encounter to be used by the GM in one of two ways. First, Larian can lend the party his aid if the PCs need some healing or a hand in defeating the medusa. Second, Larian can be used to thwart the PCs if they try something completely unscrupulous like starting a forest fire in order to kill the drider, bandits, and the medusa.

Larian is a male human, 45 years old. He has a bushy gray beard and wears his salt-and-pepper hair long and wild. Although not physically imposing, standing only 5 feet tall, his keen steel-colored eyes are unsettling.





## Maedar

*Medium-Size Monstrous Humanoid*

The maedar is the male counterpart to the medusa. A maedar is indistinguishable from a normal human at distances greater than 30 feet (or closer if they conceal their faces). However, their true features, once revealed, are unsettling.

They are tall, averaging 6 feet, with well built, muscular bodies. Although earthen-colored, their bodies are exceptionally well proportioned and attractive. In contrast, their faces are hideous and reptilian with a short, flat nose and deep-set red eyes. They sport two large fangs and concealed poison sacks in their wide mouths. Unlike medusae, whose heads are crowned with writhing snakes, maedar have long dark hair. The creatures often wear only rags and let their hair hang wild, giving them a feral appearance.



Hit Dice: 6d8+6 (33 hp)  
 Initiative: +6 (+2 Dex, +4 Improved Initiative)  
 Speed: 30 ft.  
 AC: 15 (+2 Dex, +3 natural)  
 Attacks: falchion +11/+6 melee, or bite +6/+1 melee  
 Damage: falchion 2d4+4, bite 1d4 and poison  
 Face/Reach: 5 ft. by 5 ft./5 ft.  
 Special Attacks: bite, poison  
 Special Qualities: reversing gaze  
 Saves: Fort +3, Reflex +7, Will +6  
 Abilities: Str 18, Dex 15,

Con 12, Int 12, Wis 13, Cha 15  
 Skills: Bluff +11, Disguise +11, Hide +7, Move Silently +9, Spot +10  
 Feats: Improved Initiative, Power Attack, Weapon Focus (falchion)  
 Climate/Terrain: Any land and underground  
 Organization: solitary or coupled with a medusa  
 Challenge Rating: 7  
 Treasure: standard  
 Alignment: usually lawful evil  
 Advancement Range: by character class

Maedar are exceedingly rare, as most offspring of their kind are female and therefore medusae.

### Combat

In combat maedar prefer heavy-bladed weapons (falchions, battle axes, etc.) that make use of their great strength. Alternatively, the maedar may make a bite attack, injecting poison secreted from poison sacks located in the roof of his mouth.

**Poison (Ex):** bite, Fortitude save (DC 14); initial damage 1d6 temporary Strength, secondary damage 2d6 temporary Strength.

**Reversing Gaze (Su):** Reverse the effects of a Petrifying Gaze or similar spell or spell-like ability (like *Flesh to Stone* and *Statue*), returning the target to its original state.

### The Head of the Maedar

Even in death the head of a maedar retains the ability to reverse the effects of a Petrifying Gaze or similar spell or spell-like ability (like *Flesh to Stone* and *Statue*), returning the target to its original state.

The head will begin to decay after 12 hours and become useless in 3 days unless taxidermy or some kind of preserving magic is used to protect it.





## Alderac Entertainment Group

Alderac Entertainment Group, Inc. (AEG) is an innovator and award-winning industry leader in the collectible card game, roleplaying game, and miniatures game categories. AEG develops and publishes popular game-based entertainment products, including: *Legends of the Five Rings RPG*, *7th Sea CCG* and *RPG*, *Doomtown CCG*, and the *Clan War* miniatures game. For more information on Alderac Entertainment Group, visit the company's website at [www.alderac.com](http://www.alderac.com).

## Open Game Content

All material in the module with a gray background is Open Game Content, except for the proper names of NPC's, and may be used pursuant to the Open Game License. Material contained in the "New Monster," "New Magic Item," and "New Spell" sections is also Open Game Content. Illustrations on those pages are not Open Game Content and are owned solely by Alderac Entertainment Group, Inc. In addition, to the extent any material is derived wholly from the d20 SRD and/or the *Dungeons and Dragons® Player's Handbook, Third Edition*, such as spell names and magic items, that material is also designated as Open Game Content. All other content is designated as closed content, including but not limited to: NPC and Pre-generated character names, character background text, monster descriptions and all other module text not otherwise required to be Open Games Content.

Alderac Entertainment Group (AEG) reserves the right to publish addenda and/or modification to the designation of Open Game Content within this adventure on our web site if either by the unilateral action of AEG, by agreement of parties (including AEG) or by operation of law there is a change to the designation of Open Game Content.

## Legal Stuff

*Dungeons and Dragons®* and *Wizards of the Coast®* are trademarks of Wizards of the Coast, and are used in accordance with the Open Game and d20 Licenses.

Links to the full text of both the Open Game and d20 licenses, when available, can be found on the Alderac Entertainment Group web site, and are hereby incorporated by this reference as if fully set forth herein. Future versions of this adventure will contain the entire text of those licenses, once finalized.

## Credits

Produced by: AEG  
Written by: Steve Hough  
Editing: David Lepore  
Art Direction: Jim Pinto  
Layout: Brendon Goodyear and Steve Hough  
Cover Illustration: Cris Dornaus  
Cover Colorist: Cris Dornaus  
Interior Illustrations: Cris Dornaus  
Cartography: Cris Dornaus

## The Open Game License

The following text is the property of Wizards of the Coast, Inc. and is Copyright 2000 Wizards of the Coast, Inc ("Wizards"). All Rights Reserved.

- Definitions: (a) "Contributors" means the copyright and/or trademark owners who have contributed Open Game Content; (b) "Derivative Material" means copyrighted material including derivative works and translations (including into other computer languages), potation, modification, correction, addition, extension, upgrade, improvement, compilation, abridgment or other form in which an existing work may be recast, transformed or adapted; (c) "Distribute" means to reproduce, license, rent, lease, sell, broadcast, publicly display, transmit or otherwise distribute; (d) "Open Game Content" means the game mechanic and includes the methods, procedures, processes and routines to the extent such content does not embody the Product Identity and is an enhancement over the prior art and any additional content clearly identified as Open Game Content by the Contributor, and means any work covered by this License, including translations and derivative works under copyright law, but specifically excludes Product Identity. (e) "Product Identity" means product and product line names, logos and identifying marks including trade dress; artifacts; creatures characters; stories, storylines, plots, thematic elements, dialogue, incidents, language, artwork, symbols, designs, depictions, likenesses, formats, poses, concepts, themes and graphic, photographic and other visual or audio representations; names and descriptions of characters, spells, enchantments, personalities, teams, personas, likenesses and special abilities; places, locations, environments, creatures, equipment, magical or supernatural abilities or effects, logos, symbols, or graphic designs; and any other trademark or registered trademark clearly identified as Product Identity by the owner of the Product Identity, and which specifically excludes the Open Game Content; (f) "Trademark" means the logos, names, mark, sign, motto, designs that are used by a Contributor to identify itself or its products or the associated products contributed to the Open Game License by the Contributor (g) "Use", "Used" or "Using" means to use, Distribute, copy, edit, format, modify, translate and otherwise create Derivative Material of Open Game Content. (h) "You" or "Your" means the licensee in terms of this agreement.
- The License: This License applies to any Open Game Content that contains a notice indicating that the Open Game Content may only be Used under and in terms of this License. You must affix such a notice to any Open Game Content that you Use. No terms may be added to or subtracted from this License except as described by the License itself. No other terms or conditions may be applied to any Open Game Content distributed using this License.
- Offer and Acceptance: By Using the Open Game Content You indicate Your acceptance of the terms of this License.
- Grant and Consideration: In consideration for agreeing to use this License, the Contributors grant You a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, non-exclusive license with the exact terms of this License to Use, the Open Game Content.
- Representation of Authority to Contribute: If You are contributing original material as Open Game Content, You represent that Your Contributions are Your original creation and/or You have sufficient rights to grant the rights conveyed by this License.
- Notice of License Copyright: You must update the COPYRIGHT NOTICE portion of this License to include the exact text of the COPYRIGHT NOTICE of any Open Game Content You are copying, modifying or distributing, and You must add the title, the copyright date, and the copyright holder's name to the COPYRIGHT NOTICE of any original Open Game Content you Distribute.
- Use of Product Identity: You agree not to Use any Product Identity, including as an indication as to compatibility, except as expressly licensed in another, independent Agreement with the owner of each element of that Product Identity. You agree not to indicate compatibility or co-adaptability with any Trademark in conjunction with a work containing Open Game Content except as expressly licensed in another, independent Agreement with the owner of such Trademark. The use of any Product Identity in Open Game Content does not constitute a challenge to the ownership of that Product Identity. The owner of any Product Identity used in Open Game Content shall retain all rights, title and interest in and to that Product Identity.
- Identification: If you distribute Open Game Content You must clearly indicate which portions of the work that you are distributing are Open Game Content.
- Updating the License: Wizards or its designated Agents may publish updated versions of this License. You may use any authorized version of this License to copy, modify and distribute any Open Game Content originally distributed under any version of this License.
- Copy of this License: You MUST include a copy of this License with every copy of the Open Game Content You Distribute.
- Use of Contributor Credits: You may not market or advertise the Open Game Content using the name of any Contributor unless You have written permission from the Contributor to do so.
- Inability to Comply: If it is impossible for You to comply with any of the terms of this License with respect to some or all of the Open Game Content due to statute, judicial order, or governmental regulation then You may not Use any Open Game Material so affected.
- Termination: This License will terminate automatically if You fail to comply with all terms herein and fail to cure such breach within 30 days of becoming aware of the breach. All sublicenses shall survive the termination of this License.
- Reformation: If any provision of this License is held to be unenforceable, such provision shall be reformed only to the extent necessary to make it enforceable.
- COPYRIGHT NOTICE  
Open Game License v1.0 Copyright 2000, Wizards of the Coast, Inc.

