ROLYWERE

here are secrets whispered in the slow and gentle rot of loam, heard only in hidden places of ancient shade, beneath rock unmoved for aeons. The rolywere is birthed and empowered by these whispers, awakened to the world beyond that shade, and yet its ambition remains small; it wishes only to crawl, to smell,

to remain safe and hidden and damp.

The rolywere's secrets, though intelligible only to it, are precious, and so it seeks out an object to pour them into, an investiture through which the object grows in power as the caked earth and moss of long years accumulate over it. The item is often one of great personal significance to the rolywere - perhaps a desiccated potato or mouldy stick, perhaps a mighty artefact long-forgotten, and these treasures are much sought after by those callous enough to take them.



ROLYWERE LORE

Arcana DC 10: Rolyweres often carry an item with them that resonates with a unique magical signature, though opinions are mixed on whether they create these magical items or simply discover them within the depths of their burrows.
Nature DC 10: Odd, semi-humanoid bugfolk, rolyweres are incredibly timid, solitary creatures that nest in winding burrows that they roll through at speed if startled.
Nature DC 15: Rolyweres are a form of antherion, or hengeyokai, beasts endowed with the power to shapeshift into humanoid or semihumanoid forms. Despite their humanoid levels of intelligence, rolyweres are primarily concered with the same detritus of the forest floor as their mundane pill bug kin.

Rolywere

Small monstrosity (shapechanger), unaligned

Armor Class 13 (Natural Armor) Hit Points 11 (2d6 + 4) Speed 20 ft., burrow 5 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
7 (-2)	12 (+1)	14 (+2)	11 (+0)	17 (+3)	14 (+2)

Skills Nature +2, Survival +7

Damage Resistances Bludgeoning, Piercing, and Slashing from Nonmagical Attacks that aren't Silvered

Senses Darkvision 60 ft., Passive Perception 13 Languages Gnomish, Sylvan Challenge 0 (10 XP)

Shapechanger. As a bonus action, the rolywere can transform into a Small pillbug-humanoid hybrid, or back into its Small pillbug form. Its statistics are the same in each form. It reverts to its pillbug form if it dies.

Moist Underside. The rolywere can breathe only while its torso is slightly damp. While in a dry environment, the rolywere must dampen its chest at least once every twelve hours to maintain its moisture.

Rolystone Bearer. The rolywere can tell, by touch, how long a plant or creature has been dead.

Actions

Prickly Antennae. Melee Weapon Attack: +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. Hit: 1 piercing damage and the rolywere learns what organic items the target is carying, what it ate for its last meal, and if it is afflicted with any disease.

Curl Up. The rolywere curls its body into a small ball, gaining the following effects until it uses an action to uncurl:

- The rolywere's AC is increased to 16
- Attacks of opportunity against the rolywere and checks made to grapple it are made at disadvantage.
- The rolywere can't take actions other than to Dash or uncurl.

Reactions

Anxious Scrunch. As a reaction when a creature ends its movement within 15 feet of the rolywere, the rolywere uses its Curl Up ability.

ART CREDITS

• Rolywere by The Fluffy Folio

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