

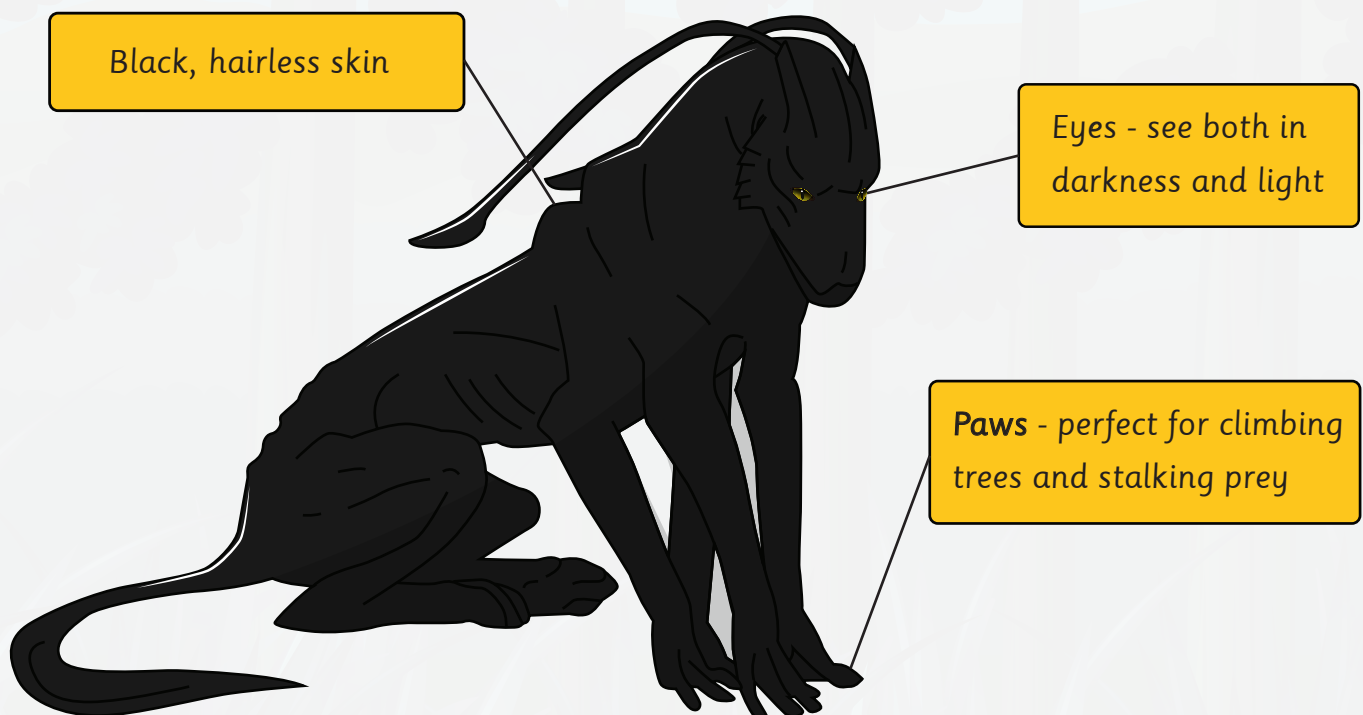
# Scaled Inkdogs

Non-chronological report

Solarias is a moon that orbits the giant planet Colythamas. This spherical body of rock and gas contains many unusual and fascinating creatures which make this world so special. There is one creature, in particular, that has dominated the rainforests of Solarias for centuries - the vicious scaled inkdog. Because these creatures have mastered their way of life, humans have spent years studying and learning about them.

## Background:

According to the natives of Solarias, the scaled inkdog is fiercely intelligent, has strong familial bonds and is completely devoted to its pack. This is why it is not only feared but respected by beings, who have studied its true nature. Unlike similar species, the brain size of the average adult scaled inkdog indicates a high level of mental processing, pattern recognition and communication skills explaining how these beasts are so dominant in their habitat.



Some of the noises made by these dogs are reminiscent of hyena laughter and snake hisses but it is believed they come from the same family tree as wolves on Earth because, even though they are far more evolved, they display the same hunting techniques and pack survival behaviours.

### **Habitat:**

These violent, aggressive yet highly intelligent creatures live in the rainforests of Solarias and are perfectly adapted to thrive in their habitat. They are nocturnal; therefore, they enjoy the shelter of the trees during the day and the darkness provides camouflage for hunting at night. Although they are elite hunters and almost top of the food chain, they do have their own predators that attack from the sky, making the rainforest the perfect place for safety and protection. As well as equipping them with the perfect hunting ground, the weather is also ideal. The scaled inkdog's oily skin is waterproof and has a UV protective layer to guard it against the sun.

### **How do they hunt?**

The scaled inkdog, with six legs and a lean, powerful torso, has evolved to travel swiftly in search of its prey. Their keen, alert, green eyes can see as clearly at night as in the day. They have moderate, long distance vision but their sense of smell is superb. Scaled inkdogs hunt in small packs and communicate with short barks and yelps. Their paws (which include opposable thumbs) allow them to climb trees as well as stalk from the ground; thereby, creating a varied and deadly hunting field. First the scaled inkdog stalks its prey either by hugging the ground or clinging to trees. As it is hidden, it can then approach its unsuspecting prey and attack with frightening efficiency. This graceful method of hunting has been described as 'liquid darkness'.