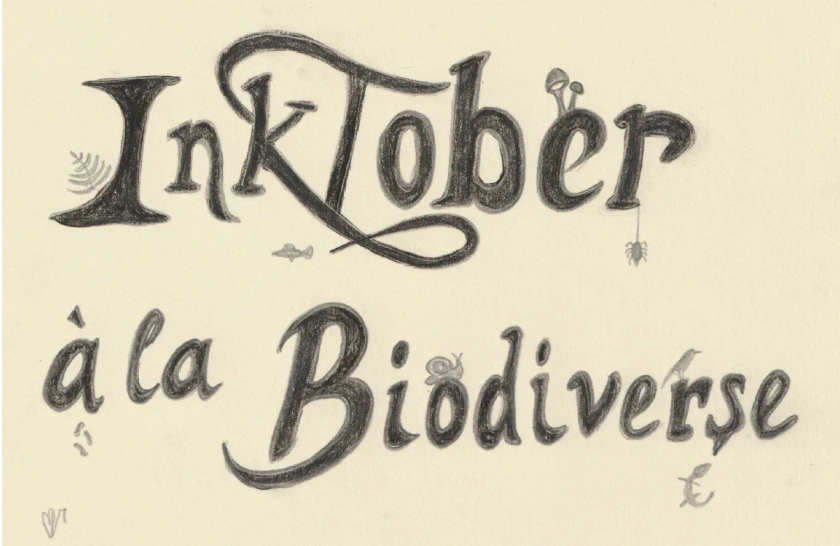
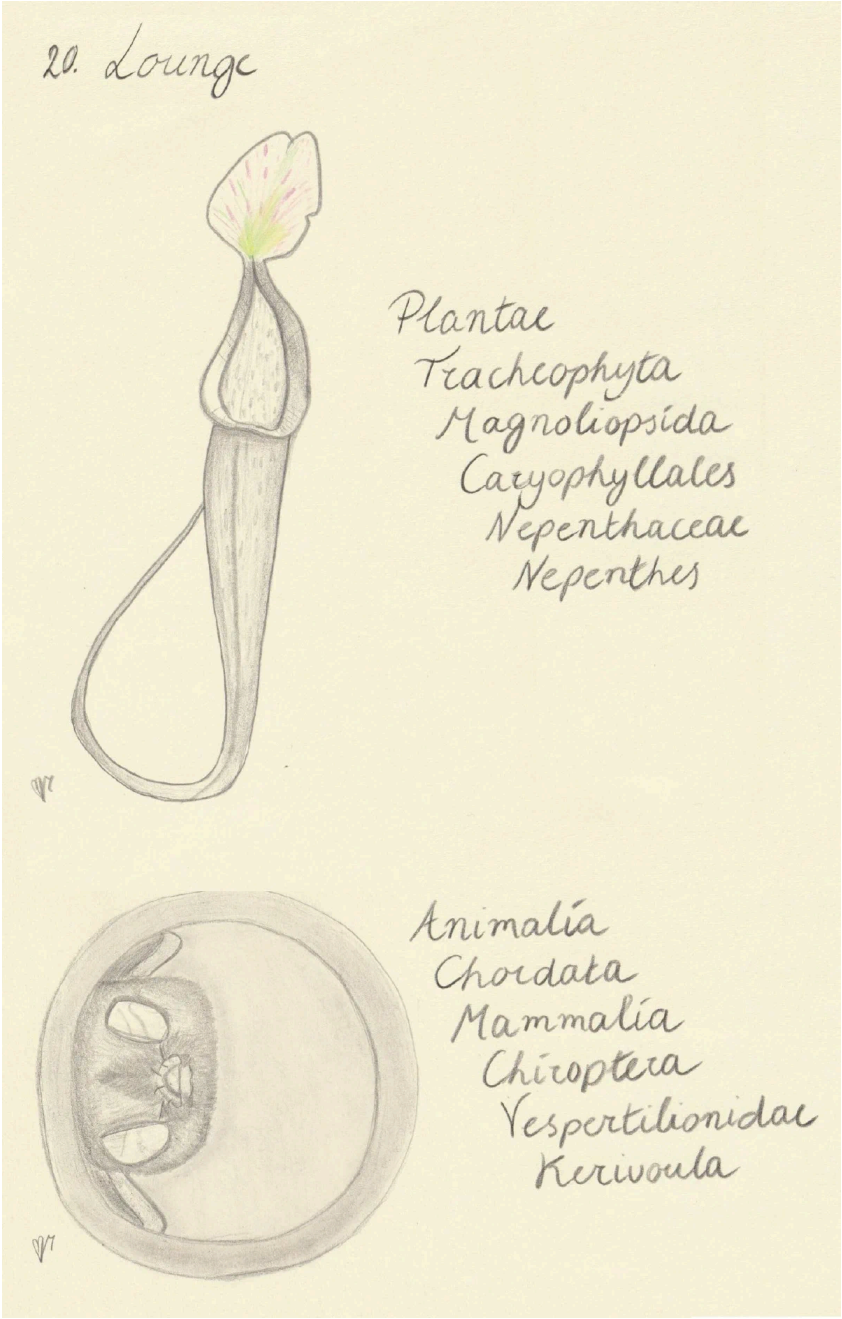
CREATURES

Inktober à la Biodiverse, day 20 to 25

Biodiversity covers the daily drawing prompts.



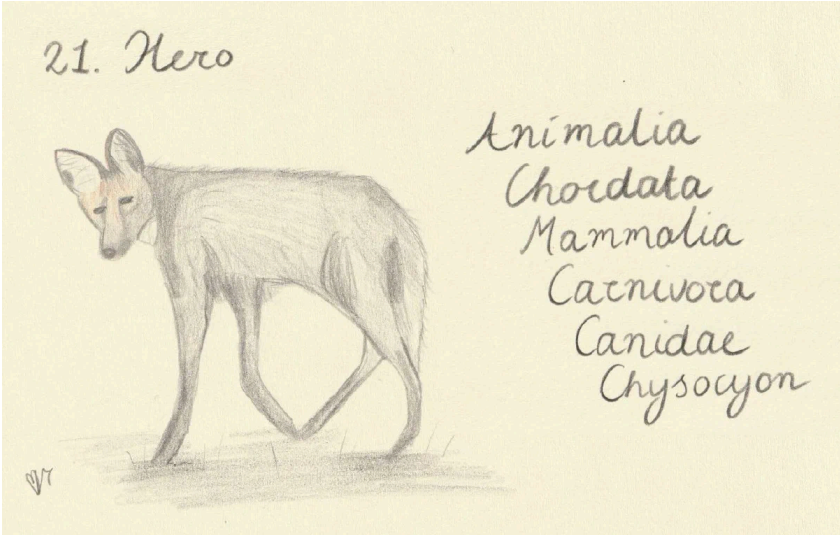


Based on 'Aerial and lower pitcher of N. hemsleyana in its natural habitat on Borneo (Fig. 1)' by Julien L. Bota. Licensed under CC BY 4.0. Based on 'Hardwicke's woolly bat (Kerivoula hardwickii)' by James Eaton. Licensed under CC0 1.0.

20. Lounge - Pitcher plant and woolly bat

Some **pitcher plants** get quite extraordinary visitors. Pitcher plants are carnivorous and typically attract insects or even small vertebrates to slowly digest once trapped inside[1]. But one pitcher plant species actually provides a safe space for a **woolly bat**. The bats roost inside the plant during the day hidden from

view and sheltered from rain and sun, while an estimated 34% of the nitrogen in the plant's leaves comes from bat poop. In this mutualism nitrogen (in poop) is exchanged for shelter to the benefit of both organisms.

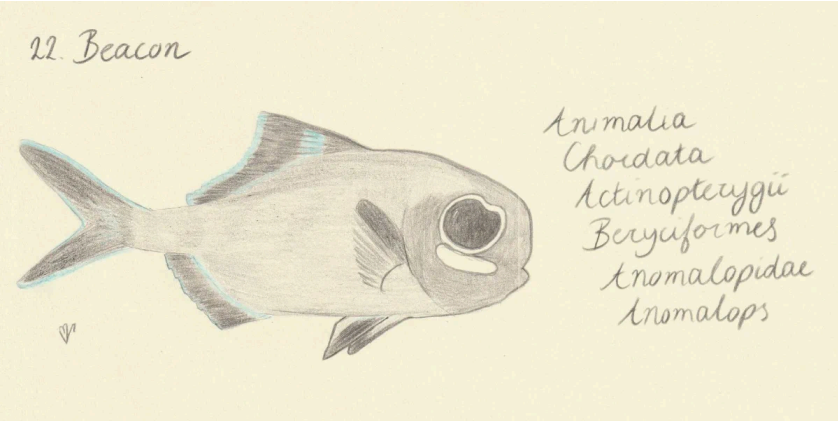


Based on 'Lobo de Crín (Chrysocyon brachyurus) al norte de Reserva Lagunas de Beni, provincia de Yacuma, El Beni, Bolivia' by Vincent A. Vos.
Licensed under CC BY 4.0.

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21. Hero - Maned wolf

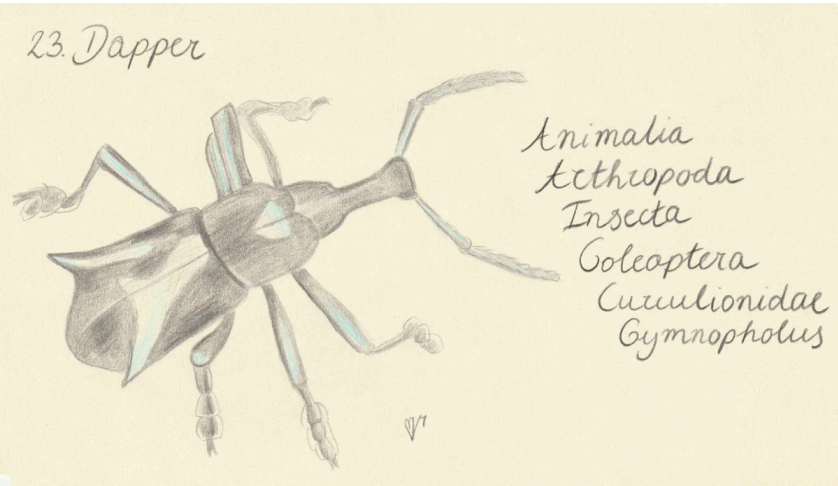
The **maned wolf** is a large canid native to South America found in the Cerrado savanna (in Brazil), grasslands and scrubland. As a large mammal, the maned wolf uses a large area for foraging, and this habitat is threatened by agriculture and tree plantations. In a study that aimed to understand what maned wolves eat, researchers collected scats (poop) in a Cerrado area surrounded by eucalyptus plantations and analysed the contents. Fruits of the nightshade family, mainly wolf's fruit, were found in all scats. Interestingly, wolf's fruit seeds that went through the wolf's digestive system were more likely to sprout in the laboratory than seeds taken from ripe fruits[2]. The wolves may thus play a role in successful plant dispersal.



Based on 'Anomalops katoptron (splitfin flashlightfish)' by Gubbi0us. Licensed under CC0 1.0.

22. Beacon - Flashlight fish

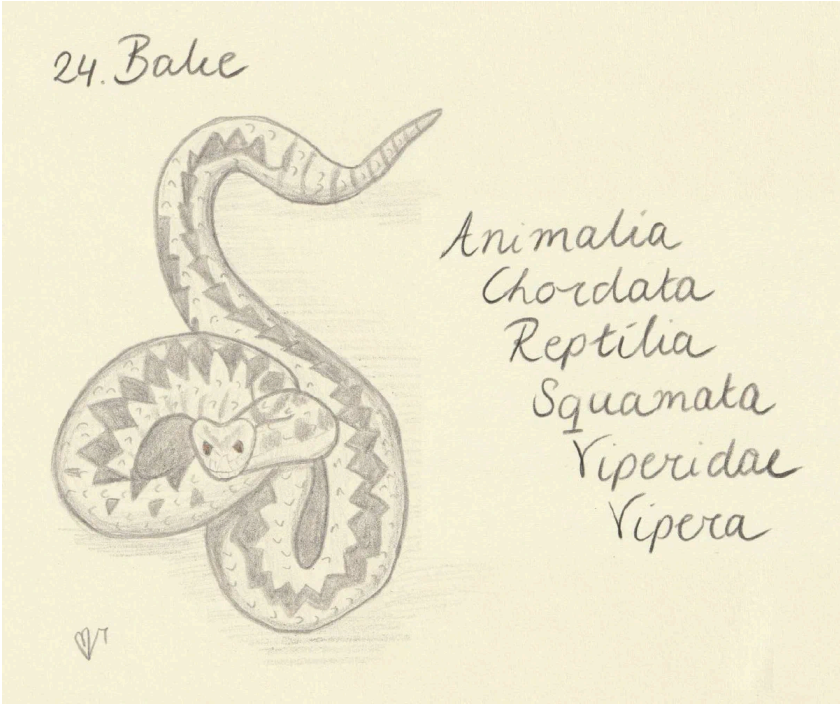
Flashlight fish have light organs that give off bioluminescence during the night. While these fish swim in an uncoordinated manner during the day, at night light signals seem to help individuals find each other and coordinate swimming in a shoal[3]. Flashlight fish that are under threat swim faster, stay closer together, and blink faster with their light organs. Moving close together is thought to be an adaptive response to stress or a threat, as seen in many species.



Based on 'Swell-necked Weevil. Possibly Gymnopholus sp (G. rebeccae?)' by gailhampshire. Licensed under CC BY 2.0. The weevil in the photo and the drawing is not the lichen-carrying species and carries no lichens.

23. Dapper - Lichen weevil

The **lichen weevil** is an exceptional beetle that occurs only in the mountains of New Guinea[4]. The weevil lives on shrubs and other woody plants and can carry several different species on its back, including fungi, algae, lichens, and liverworts (small plants). The outer wings of the weevil contain specialized pits, scales, and a sticky substance that seem to help other species live on the back of the weevil. In turn, the garden growing on the weevil's back provides a place to live for other creatures, including mites, rotifers, and nematodes. The lichen weevil thus carries its own tiny ecosystem.

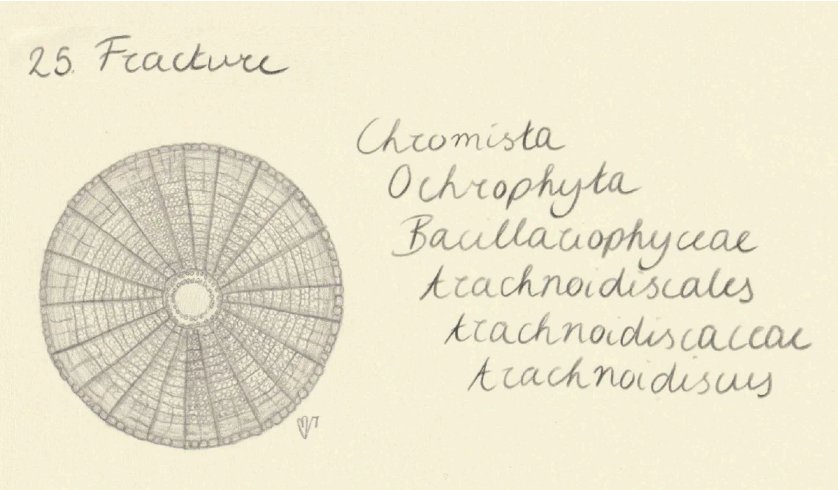


Based on 'European Adder (Vipera berus)' by Thomas Brown. Licensed under CC BY 2.0.

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24. Bake - Adder

Adders are mostly solitary and hard to observe[5]. Like many other reptiles though, adders use basking to increase their body temperature by finding a warm spot. Adders can sometimes be seen basking together, but this seems to be mainly non-social behaviour. Researchers think it is more likely that there are simply not enough warm microhabitats for the adders to warm up, but this remains to be tested experimentally.



Based on 'Diatom - Arachnoidiscus sp - 400x' by Picturepest. Licensed under CC BY 2.0.

25. Fracture - Diatom

Diatoms are microscopic algae that produce 25-40% of the organic matter made in the ocean[6]. Diatoms have a very strong shell, called a frustule, that is made of glass and it takes great force to break it. Copepods, tiny crustaceans that eat diatoms, are sometimes able to crack a diatom shell using "teeth" reinforced with glass and a rubber-like protein. Many diatoms make thicker shells when they detect chemical cues released by copepods. Diatoms and copepods appear to be in an evolutionary arms race, in which diatom shells become tougher to break and copepods' teeth evolve to be stronger.

Dr. Bertanne Visser, Research Associate of the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique at the University of Liège, Gembloux, Belgium.

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2 Veloso AC *et al*. 2026. Generalist with a narrow niche breadth: feeding ecology and seed germination effectiveness of a large canid within a silvicultural matrix. Austral Ecol 51: e70249.

3 Jägers P & Herlitze S. 2025. Fast, bioluminescent blinks attract group members of the nocturnal flashlight fish *Anomalops katoptron* (Bleeker, 1856). Front Zool 22: 1.

4 Gressitt JL. 1966. Epizoic symbiosis: the Papuan weevil genus *Gymnopholus* (Leptopiinae) symbiotic with cryptogamic plants, oribatid mites, rotifers and nematodes. Pac Insects 8: 221–280.

5 Bauwens D & Claus K. 2021. Basking aggregations in the adder (*Vipera berus*): attraction to conspecific cues or to scarce suitable microhabitats? J Ethol 39: 249–257.

6 Kiørboe T & Ryderheim F. 2026. Diatoms-copepods: an evolutionary arms race. Limnol Oceanogr 71: e70355.

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