

Selacine Subspecies: pt1

By [Kai](#)

Originally published July 29, 2015 on [Qa.Kauske.Org](#)

The Selacine have a number of different subspecies, differing in colour, pheromonal scent patterns and slightly in adapted behaviors. These subspecies are a lot like differing races of human, distinct, but close enough to interbreed. It's rare though that two colonies will intermingle outside of absolute necessity, or outside of Imperial influence.

Even with encouragement within the Empire, Selacine do not regularly breed across subspecies, preferring to keep their more unique traits then to become homogenous. There are a total of eight different subspecies that occur naturally, and one that was lab created.

Each subspecies of Selacine tends to identify with a tribe like moniker for their kind, it's a more embraced label then what you see in modernized human cultures. Though their colony group and lineage are considered important, even in modern Selacine culture.

Although different in some ways, most notably colourations, All Selacine subspecies are able to interbreed. Much of their adaptations are able to be activated and deactivated on the genetic level as needed, save for the Rho, which are engineered, more than being a true subspecies.

Below you will find four of the 9 different sub-breeds of Selacine detailed briefly. Being that Selacine were more or less pre-tribal, there is little culture to get into.



First up are the Selacine-Roh, these are the engineered synthetic variety, and as one who is familiar with the overall canon might notice, they have the same colouration as Revika's daughters. The Roh are quite similar in design to Revika's own offspring, and are the Selacine equivalent.

When Revika became the queen of the Selacine, he did start to make her own offspring, though the don't outright replace the others. Selacine not only come from their queen, but freely breed within the colony too. This keeps the other subspecies from becoming overtaken by their new queen.

Much like Revika's other daughters, the [NAK-0-MII](#), Selacine-Roh share a mental link with Revika and each other. Their link lets them share emotions, memories, and even entire consciousnesses. Due to this link, and the synthetic nature of their bodies and minds, Roh can freely swap bodies when close enough to connect.

For the most part, Roh are not seen in the Empire at large, and stick with Revika, or work to escort or keep other high profile Imperials company. Roh share a mix between customs of Revika's direct family and Selacine, though the Selacine behavioral traits are making their way into Revika's close family.

Notably, since Roh are biological synthetics, Revika is able to use the Selacine-Roh as a body quite directly, and she does. Ever present upon Selaris is a facet of the synthetic Empress in Roh form, acting as a queen for the Selacine loyal to the [Empire](#).



Equatorial Selacine, otherwise known as the Reeja are much more vibrant and contain red and purple hues taken from native foliage, letting them blend into the blacks and purples found in the warmer jungles of Selaris' equator. The purple and red foliage is mostly limited to the underbrush of the equatorial jungles, with the higher canopies having a more green and purple hue.

The plant's hue comes from the variety of chlorophyll within the leaves, it's thought that the darker hues of the underbrush pick up more solar energy, which is at a premium under thicker parts of the canopy. Equatorial Selacine vary in specific coloration from deep crimson to lovely purple. Like most of their other cousins, they have blue tinged flesh.

The purple and red colourations of the Equatorial Selacine is not permanent, and they cannot produce it themselves. removed from the local diet, they will return to a more subdued pale olive/green colouration over successive sheddings. However, it is taken from a genetic switch. So not all Selacine can be purple from diet, as they lack the molecules to bind the red pigment molecules into their carapace.



Subtropical, or Highland Selacine feature a more muted green/olive and black tone, as well as a more purple hued flesh. These Selacine are known as Hava and tend to dominate the mountainous region to the north of Selaris' equator. Hava have darker more purple flesh due to their blood being more rich with Hemoglobin. Other sub breeds use primarily Hemocyanin in their blood.

The iron rich foliage of the northern mountainous regions and subtropical rainforest allow the Hava to produce much greater concentrations of Hemoglobin, dying their flesh a lovely purple. Their Green colouration helps to blend into the lush green foliage better as well.

A side effect to the double density [metalloproteins](#) in Hava blood makes them able to survive at higher elevations, coupled with increased lung capacity. In the Empire, many Hava are found working aboard spaceships, or as ODS. Even low concentrations of O2 such as found in depressurization or extreme altitude don't hamper them much.



Plains Selacine are native to the southern plains of [Selaris](#). Their yellow colouration helps them blend into the long grasses and scrub common to the region. To a degree, Plains Selacine also extend into the mud flats, though the ones that make their homes deeper in tend to have a more brown colouration. The plains Selacine are known more colloquially as Gia.

The plains Selacine are one of the more Niche breeds, since open grasslands are a more sparse biome upon Selaris. Hence why you see them moving into mud flats as well. Gia are the most resistant group to the Empire, keeping separate and moving further south away from the major zones of Imperial development. Some break this and do move into the Empire, but most prefer independence, despite Imperial diplomacy.

The Gia also still have an independent queen, wherase Revika infiltrated and succeeded the queens of most other subspecies, the Gia resisted and extradited her from their colony quickly. This behavior is a product of being such a niche and limited number subspecies.

Glossary:

- **Selaris:** The homeworld of the Selacine, and the name of the star their world orbits. Selaris is quaternary star system further towards the lee side of Imperial space, away from the front of major conflicts. It has since become a core system of the Empire, and become highly developed. The System is a large red giant, orbited by 3 vastly smaller red dwarfs.

One dwarf orbits within the inner planetary area, while the two others sit at 0.4 LY and 1.2 LY with greatly eccentric orbits shared by all three. Aside from the dwarf stars, Selaris consists of 6 total major planetoids. Three of the planets are rocky giants, larger than earth by a fair margin, two of the planets rest within the main star's habitable zone, one lies further out and is quite icy.

The other 3 planets are two gas giants, and one mostly ice based world 70% of the way out to Selaris-Minoris-C, the closer of the two far orbiting stars. As you may expect of gas giants, the two in the Selaris system have quite a few moons. Selacine did not do a lot of stargazing before Imperial uplifting, so aside from their moon and closest neighbours, there aren't names for other planets outside basic Imperial designations.

Selaris' stars are fairly stable, without any majorly close passes with the planets, making the system somewhat uneventful. The system is also rather devoid of asteroids, theorized to be due to the red dwarfs clearing most of the spare material up when the quaternary system formed some 6.35B ISY ago.

- **NAK-0-MII:** A species of biological synthetic created to serve as guards for Empress Revika. These creatures are the direct successor to the NAK-0-MI-S that acted as guards for Revika's mother, Katsuke. These chimera-like creatures are rarely seen, and almost always in concealing armour when they are. Only a scant few know about these "daughters of Revika" in any detail.
- **The Empire:** An interstellar Empire within the milky way, and the largest singular faction within it. Its full name is the Pan-Galactic Oligarchic Hibiki Empire. The Empire is built of many races with a fairly egalitarian society. While semi-autocratic, it's leaders are specifically engineered for the role of leadership.

Writing and Selacine species belong to [Kai](#)
Art by - [FSMaverick](#)