

## FUTURE PROSPECTS

Komarr's civilian facilities, like the soletta, are gradually being returned to local control. Komarr is also benefiting from an influx of Barrayaran immigrants. Barrayaran women, in particular, are taking the opportunity to study off-planet – and half the Barrayaran women who come to study on Komarr never return. In a similar vein, Komarrans are starting to get important jobs on Barrayar, especially in the Service or ImpSec, where talent is more important than planetary origin.

As long as no one does anything dramatically stupid, and nothing happens to Emperor Gregor, Komarr's integration into the Imperium should continue peacefully. Trade through the local wormholes has increased since Barrayar lowered the tariffs, and Barrayaran protection makes the trade fleets more profitable. With luck, the next generation of Komarrans will see themselves as "the Barrayarans with business sense," rather than as a conquered people.

# SERGYAR

Control Rating: 3

Sergyar is Barrayar's newest acquisition, a vigorous frontier planet named for the late Prince Serg. It is governed by Viceroy Aral Vorkosigan and Vicereine Cordelia Vorkosigan. There are two known wormholes in the Sergyaran system; one leads to Komarr (a journey of about three days) and the other to Escobar.

The settlers encountered unexpected hazards, such as the infamous "worm plague" (a nasty though nonlethal parasite problem), as well as the mundane hardships of frontier life. When Aral Vorkosigan resigned from his position as Prime Minister of Barrayar after his near-fatal heart attack, the Emperor offered him the Viceroyalty of Sergyar. Since then, with the help of his wife, the Viceroy has been governing a growing world. Many new colonists come from Vorkosigan's District on Barrayar, having chosen to follow their Count to his new home.

## GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Sergyar has a full range of Earthlike climates. The relatively small settled area has weather like that of East Africa on Earth, with dry and rainy seasons. It is a land of mountains and rocky badlands, with red-soiled plains cut and channeled by watercourses. In the dry season, the plains are near-desert, the spindly trees bare and leafless. When the rains return, it is a verdant and beautiful world, with turquoise skies and golden grasslands.

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Sergyar is a thriving colony, but for the next few decades it will do little more than establish an infrastructure and build its economy. While the planet is already Earthlike enough that "terraforming" will be a comparatively easy job, there is much to do . . . starting with further research on the existing ecology, a matter which interests the Vicereine in particular. Hazards worse than the worm plague may be waiting in the wings. It is also possible that Sergyar has as-yet-unsuspected mineral or biological wealth. This would interest both the Barrayaran authorities and unsanctioned would-be exploiters . . .

### *Animal Life*

Many of Sergyar's creatures display radial symmetry; others are bilateral, and usually six-legged. They include browser hexapeds that range from the size of large dogs to that cows, pig-sized "fuzzy crabs" that are scavenger carnivores with razor-sharp beaks, and floating jellyfish with hydrogen sacs and acidic tendrils to drain blood from their victims. Some of the browsers are edible; the settlers may some day farm them for food. Also common are the local equivalent of fire ants – small radial "insects" with an irritating bite, whose nests are distinctive light yellow cones of sand. (Sergyaran locals can often be distinguished from visitors by their skill in noticing and avoiding these nests.)

However, between the Viceroy's competence in administration, the Vicereine's scientific experience, and the personal honor and integrity of the two, Sergyar is in good hands for the moment.

## HISTORY

The first scientific surveys of Sergyar were performed 33 years ago by a team from Beta Colony, led by then-Commander Cordelia Naismith. However, the Barrayarans had gotten there first and made their claim stick. Barrayar later used the world as a staging post for their attack on Escobar, and then for a POW camp. After the war, the planet was formally named in honor of the dead Prince, and colonization began.

## SERGYARAN CHARACTERS

Colonists on Sergyar are likely to have backgrounds in farming, basic engineering, ecology, or administration. Most Sergyarans are immigrants from Barrayar or Komarr, but the children born to the first wave of colonists are now young adults. Some are helping their parents build a world, while others are anxious to see the galaxy. The Vicereine is doing her best to establish adequate schooling and medical facilities, and she makes sure that really talented youths have the opportunity to study offworld; a character might be, or have been, such a student. And the Viceroy, of course, makes sure that his young Sergyaran men have fair opportunities in the Service.