

NARRATIVE DECLARATION 

ROTGRIND

A WORLD
IN DECAY



BESTIARY

ROTBORN

PATHFINDER
COMPATIBLE

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Uncommon

Medium

Mindless

Undead

Rot

A simple ceramic, turned upside down, rises up from the ground. An emaciated, near-skeletal, humanoid within lifts up the urn on its back, as tendrils of writing rotten black matter coil around it. Eyes peer from the join between the figure's back and the urn.

Perception +19; darkvision

Skills Athletics +20, Acrobatics +18, Intimidation +17, Stealth +18 (+22 when hiding as urn)

Str +6, **Dex** +4, **Con** +4, **Int** +2, **Wis** +3, **Cha** +0

AC 27; **Fort** +19, **Ref** +17, **Will** +15

HP 160; **Immunities** bleed, death effects, disease, paralyzed, poison, rot, unconscious; **Weaknesses** moss 10

Rot Spill  **Trigger** The rotborn takes damage; **Effect** The rotborn shakes its urn, dealing 5d6 rot damage to all adjacent creatures (DC 28 basic Reflex save).

Speed 25 feet

Melee  rot tendril +21 (agile), **Damage** 2d8+11 bludgeoning plus 1d8 rot

Ranged  rot blast +19 (range increment 20 feet), **Damage** 2d8+10 rot

Occult Innate Spells DC 28; **6th** *mislead*, *vampiric exsanguination*; **5th** *grim tendrils* (x3), *waves of despair*; **4th** *confusion* (x3), *dispelling globe*, *vision of death*

Rot Burst When killed, the rotborn explodes in a burst of rot as its urn shatters. Creatures in a 10-foot-radius burst take 10d8 rot damage (DC 28 basic Reflex save). A creature who critically fails this save increases their rotten condition by 1 (see *Rotgrind: The Rot - The Demise of the World*).



LORE

The tainted creatures known as rotborn inhabit the corners of civilization, in regions where the Rot has begun to take hold or has long abated. These castoffs of a Rot infestation manifest as a humanoid corpse merged into an upside down urn, with rotten growths filling the ceramic interior. Alien eyes peer from the join between body and urn, seeking out with some manner of intelligence. Such creatures waylay adventurers and explorers alike, overwhelming them with innate magical powers and their ability to infuse others with the Rot itself.

Rotborn are primarily solitary creatures, though they sometimes form into groups upwards of a dozen, known as clusters. A cluster of rotborn forms in the aftermath of a particular virulent Rot infestation, coming together from whatever remains after such taints depart or are excised. A city set to flame to prevent the spread of the Rot always leaves behind some dregs of the infestation, and while those dregs cannot reform a full re-infection, they can come together enough to form one or more rotborn to dwell in the site's more secluded regions.

There are obvious connections between rotborn and the strange Rot marrows (see *Rotgrind Bestiary: Rot Marrow*), which appear to be a lesser form of this same post-infection remnant. Other forms likely exist, though their association with ceramic urns is something of a mystery to scholars researching them. In fact, in the several dozen locations where rotborn have been previously encountered, there was no prior evidence of urns being a major part of the culture, leaving it an unsolved mystery on why the urns

appeared in the first place. The best hypothesis is that the urns are some sort of conceptual understanding from the Rot's alien intelligence that it manifests as part of the creature. Thus, rotborn are not simply creatures attached to urns, as much as the urn is a full conceived part of their overall form.

Clusters of rotborn dwell within the multiple layers of Outset's Buried City, while other groups have been spotted as far as Zeskoran. The tomb complexes that rest under the sands of much of central Kwanshiir house groups of these creatures, as the Rot seems to take temporary notice of such hidden sites and worms its way in before departing. The roving bands of Terleem often find shelter in destroyed structures from ages past, or in natural regions like canyons or caverns, only to be accosted by groups of rotborn that congregate in such safe spaces.

The now-deceased professor Endher Hhai of Outset's University proposed that the rotborn were the vanguard of some form of army being slowly mustered by the Rot. The professor's later mental decline seems to indicate that he became obsessed with the placement of rotborn clusters and where such groups congregated. When the Tyrants' Guild dispatched its agents to subdue the professor after he willingly imported a Rot specimen into Outset, the research into such matters was left unresolved. Hhai's wing of the multi-layered university remains under quarantine, guarded by tireless undead servants pledging allegiance to the Tyrants' Guild and preventing curious scholars from peering into whatever Enher Hhai had learned in his final days.

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