

Tatzelwurm

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The Alpine Tatzelwurm combines a low, serpentine body with the troubling suggestion of a cat. Its printed ancestry runs through old dragon reports and later attempts to classify them.

STATUS	Historic mountain folklore; composite displays are fabricated
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	European Alps
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Cryptids
STORY HISTORY	Swiss dragon accounts in 1680 and 1723; nineteenth-century Stollenwurm tradition

THE ACCOUNT

Along the Alpine slopes, Tatzelwurm stories describe a short, thick creature with a cat-like head and a body that seems to slide rather than walk. Related Stollenwurm descriptions entered nineteenth-century collections, while later writers reached back to Swiss dragon accounts printed by Johann Jakob Wagner in 1680 and Johann Jakob Scheuchzer in 1723. Those older illustrations do not all depict one consistent animal. The modern creature has gathered its shape from several strands of mountain storytelling.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

A Vienna Natural History Museum zoologist explains that a Tatzelwurm made for an exhibition was a constructed curiosity, not an unknown species in the collection. The historical chronology available here relies partly on a referenced secondary compilation; the original early editions were not examined. Neither a museum display nor an old engraving independently confirms that a cat-headed reptile lived behind an Alpine farm.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

This is a creature of awkward proportions: too low for a familiar predator, too expressive for an ordinary snake. The older images matter because they preserve different attempts to describe the unfamiliar. Their disagreements are part of the record, rather than defects to erase from a single definitive portrait.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Gibt es Wolpertinger wirklich?

Die Presse

<https://www.diepresse.com/17855926/gibt-es-wolpertinger-wirklich>

Tatzelwurm

Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatzelwurm>

RETURN TO THE STORY

Tatzelwurm

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-CRYPT-016>