

## The First Forest

Cairo, the oldest known forest that lived 385 million years ago by the Hudson Valley, New York, USA

**Soil**  
A warm, rounded smell of rich humus and loam

**Quartz sandstone**

**Liverwort and Moss**  
Deep green lushness with an acerbic tone

**Green**

**Rotting vegetation**

**Swamp**

**Humidity**

**Clay**  
Stream water running through silty clay mud. The aroma is earthy, a little like the smell of freshly turned soil

**Dry**

**Sea water**  
Merivesi

**Quiet**  
Rain and wind in the vegetation would have been the only sounds

**Lycopsid**  
Smells of wet grass, hay. The aroma has a hint of bitterness. The hay element smells of late summer grass meadows after a rain shower – sun-dried grasses are moistened. The crushed leaf has a very clean, green aroma, like torn baby lettuce leaves

**Ferns**  
Sweetly vegetal, edged with woody spiciness

**Algae**  
Levät

**Fungi**

## The Last Forest

The Amazon Rainforest,  
Tiputini Biodiversity Station,  
Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, Ecuador

**Copal**  
Tree resin

**Humidity**  
The choking-like air of the forest's  
humidity

### Algae, moss, lichen

Algal and moss aroma in the understory. The high humidity means that every twig and leaf is coated with a film of living algae, moss, and lichen, producing an aroma sometimes of clean chlorophyll and sometimes with an almost briny or iodine tang

**Inga tree**  
A genus of small tropical,  
tough-leaved, nitrogen-fixing  
trees and shrubs

**Garlic vine**  
A sweet, medicine smell

**Wood**  
A treebark smell  
of nutmeg

**Wet clay, mud, earth**  
A smell like fresh peanuts

### Animals

The scent of animals active in the forest: howler monkeys (the smell of a cow pasture, with a perfumy note on top), armadillos (a smell like cilantro or spoiled raspberries), peccary pigs (concentrated, salty broth), bed bugs, and tiger beetles (bubblegum)

**Volatile organic compounds**

**Decaying  
vegetation**

**Tree leaves**  
Folded layers of green tree leaves often have a bitter or acrid aroma when broken or rubbed, revealing their extensive chemical defenses – like the sharp, chemical odour of a bottle of cocktail bitters

**Guava tree**  
The alcoholic fizz of fermenting fruitsweet bitter, acidic, like edible perfumes