

Episode Thirty Three: Hairy Frog | Week of November 22nd

[HOP BY [BOQEH](#) PLAYS THROUGHOUT]

KIM

Gobble gobble. It's November 22nd, 2021, I'm Kim, and the frog of the week is the Hairy Frog.

This frog is native to Central Africa. This is usually the part of the episode where I tell you how large this frog is, or what color its skin is, but I'm just gonna cut to the chase and answer the question I know you're all asking- yes, it really is hairy. Well, sort of.

The hairy frog gets its name because breeding males develop protuberances around their sides and their thighs called papillae. These papillae aren't actually made of hair, they just look hair-like. Scientists theorize that these filaments increase the surface area of the frog's skin, making it easier for the frog to absorb oxygen from the water. This allows male frogs to stay underwater with their eggs for an extended period of time, after they are laid by the female.

So, there you have it. Your burning question answered. But I hear the wheels turning in your head once again- Kim, you're thinking, what are you gonna talk about the rest of the episode? You've already spilled the most interesting fact about this frog.

Oh ye of little faith. I'll have you know that some hairy thighs pale in comparison to the mind-blowing fact I am about to drop.

The hairy frog is so hardcore, that when it's threatened, it produces retractable claws which it projects through its skin by breaking its own toe bones. If that's not enough to make your hair stand up on end, I don't know what will.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to find a recording of the hairy frog's call, but given everything else we know about this frog, I think that might be for the best.

I like this frog because, I mean, do I even have to say it? Its defense mechanism involved breaking its own bones. That is so metal.

And that's the frog of the week. Thank you to blep, Liv G., and Em, who all recommended the Hairy Frog.

As always, you can find us on Twitter, @WeeklyFrogPod, or our website, frogpod.online.

Thanks for joining us. See you next week.

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