

Episode Eighteen: Litoria Mira | Week of August 2nd

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

KIM

To whom it may concern, it's August 2nd, 2021, I'm Kim, and the frog of the week is *Litoria mira*.

Litoria mira is a tree frog and is native to the lowland rainforests of New Guinea. It's also known as the "chocolate frog" because of its brown coloring.

Scientists first observed *Litoria mira* in 2016, but it was only in the past few months that this frog was officially identified as a new species. Supposedly, this is because the rainforests of New Guinea can be difficult to access due to a lack of roads, frequent flooding, and a robust population of crocodiles.

Litoria mira is closely related to *Litoria cerulea*, also known as the Australian green tree frog. Scientists were surprised to discover this previously overlooked relative, hence the name "mira," meaning "surprise" or "strange" in Latin.

Comparisons of these species are providing valuable new data about the prehistoric connections between New Guinea and Australia and how their habitats have changed over time.

There doesn't seem to be much research about this frog's behavior, which is likely due to its recent discovery. In fact, we couldn't even find a recording of its call. But researchers say it is indistinguishable from the call of *Litoria cerulea*.

[LITORIA CERULEA CALL PLAYS]

KIM

I like this frog because it just wanted to be left alone in its swamp, kind of like Shrek. Hey now, chocolate frog. You're an all star. Get the game on. Go play.

And that's the frog of the week. Thank you to "warm stew" for recommending *Litoria mira* and for having an excellent name. If you have a frog recommendation or a funny name, but especially both, you can submit them at frogpod.online. You can also check us out on Twitter, @WeeklyFrogPod.

Thanks for joining us. See you next week.

[DISTORTED AUDIO OF SMASH MOUTH'S "ALL STAR" PLAYS: "Only shooting stars break the mold"]

[HOP BY [BOQEH](#) FADES OUT]