

Episode Forty Five: Strawberry Poison Dart Frog | Week of March 14th

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

KIM

Aloha! It's Dartch 14th, 2022, I'm Kim, and the frog of the week is the Strawberry Poison Dart Frog.

This frog is found in Central America, including Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. It is mostly terrestrial, making its home in the leaf litter on the forest floor.

The Strawberry Poison Dart Frog gets its name from its coloring, which is often a bright red. But it actually exhibits a wide range of color morphs which can include blue, orange, green, and yellow varieties. Many also have black bands or spots. The most common color morph is red with blue legs, which is known as the "blue jeans" morph.

As we discussed last week, this frog's fashionable ensemble is a warning to potential predators: Do Not Eat- I Am Toxic.

As if their appearance weren't loud enough, male Strawberry Poison Dart Frogs also call to advertise themselves to potential mates.

[STRAWBERRY POISON DART FROG CALL PLAYS]

KIM

Females lay their eggs in water-filled leaves or axils- that is, the part of a plant where the leaf meets the stem. The male will then defend and water the nest until the tadpoles hatch. A cooperative co-parenting relationship- we simply love to see it.

As we learned in last week's episode, poison dart frogs don't synthesize toxins themselves, but rather absorb the toxins from their diet. Therefore, the female frog will feed her tadpoles her own unfertilized eggs. As a result, the tadpoles will also take on some of mom's toxic traits, which will protect them from predators until they're old enough to feed themselves.

I like this frog because it looks like a strawberry wearing Levi's.

And that's the frog of the week. Thank you to Charlotte and Froggy for recommending the Strawberry Poison Dart Frog. As always, you can find us on the world wide web at [frogpod.online](#) on Twitter @WeeklyFrogPod.

Thanks for joining us. See you next week.

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