

New See-Through Frogs!

Scientists discover two new types of frogs in South America.



Brunner helped find the frogs!

Glass frogs look unreal. The small animals have see-through bodies! You can get a glimpse of their inside body parts — such as their heart and liver. Recently, experts discovered two more species of these freaky frogs in Ecuador. Say hello (or *ribbit*) to these newly found animals!

Experts found the two new glass frog species in the Andes Mountains in South America. The official scientific names of the animals are *H. mashpi* and *H. nouns*. The team shared their findings in a report on March 18.

Becca Brunner helped discover the frogs. She said the find wasn't surprising. "The tropical Andes is one of the most biodiverse places on the planet," the expert told *News-O-Matic*. "So there are almost sure to be a lot more species there that haven't been described yet."

The glass frogs were found living 12 miles (19 km) apart from one another. When Brunner and her team discovered the see-through creatures, they looked like any other glass frogs. They had the same speckled patterns on their lime-green backs, and the same small size of 0.7 inches (2 cm) long.

"We initially thought that *H. mashpi* and *H. nouns* were the same species," Brunner explained. But DNA tests showed the two frogs were different!

The team also shared some worrying news about the animals. Brunner said the two frogs are endangered. "Many times, when a new species is discovered, that means that it was hard to find in the first place," Brunner explained.

“The fact that it’s only found in one small area means that if that area is destroyed, the entire species is gone forever,” Brunner said. She explained that “destructive mining practices” threaten the frogs’ home. “If miners start digging for gold or copper in this frog’s habitat, the water will be poisoned, and its habitat will be gone.” This means “the species will be gone too.”

It’s not too late for the frogs. Ecuador’s leaders are working to limit mining where the frogs and many other kinds of creatures live.

In the meantime, Brunner said kids can help keep these special frogs safe. “To protect this animal, we really need to think about the consequences of our actions,” the expert explained. “A lot of the things we buy had to damage the environment to make. For example, try not to buy precious metals like gold or copper. And if you need to have it, try your best to buy it used!”

Brunner added: “It’s just as important to tell your friends and family that biodiversity is important to you. We need to start thinking about how our actions affect other species!”

Updated March 25, 2022, 5:03 P.M. (ET)

By Sufia Alam