

# Unbelievable Defense Mechanisms

The following is from the September 2019 issue of *Reader's Digest* in an article titled, "Stranger Things" (pages 96-100). My comments are added.

## 1. The Hairy Frog of West Africa.

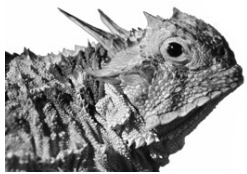
When threatened, it can contract muscles that are connected to its hind claws, breaking the bones. The frog then thrusts the shards through the underside of its tow pads, turning them into weapons.



When the foe has been vanquished, the bones retreat back into the foot, where it's believed the tissue around the bony claws eventually regenerates.

? How could such an ability ever evolve from mindless, natural processes apart from any kind of intelligence?

## 2. The Horned Lizard.



This creature has a neat trick to fend off hawks, snakes, canines, and other hunters: It shoots blood from ducts in the corners of its eyes into the eyes of mouths of stunned predators, allowing the lizard to make a hasty retreat. The blood can travel up to four feet

and is thought to contain a substance that's unpleasant for dogs and coyotes.

? Isn't evolution wonderful? ☹

## 3. The Sea Cucumber.

When under threat by, say, a crab, some sea cucumber species shoot out their guts---their intestines and respiratory tracts, and even their reproductive organs! --from their anuses.



Believe it or not, certain predators find this appetizing. As they dig

in, the sea cucumber hides under a rock or in the sand and plots its escape. Going on with life after you've literally spilled your guts isn't easy, and afterward the sea cucumber finds itself in a kind of suspended animation for a few months, regenerating its organs and getting ready to escape the next unsuspecting crab.

? How could blind chance ever devise such a complex method of defense which includes losing vital organs and then regenerating them!

## 4. The Honey Badger.



The honey badger defends itself by turning the pouch in its rear end inside out to spray enemies with a musky, suffocating stench. This action sends predators fleeing which is exactly what you would do if someone you just met pulled the same stunt. Here's another fact: the honey badger usually lives alone. I wonder why?

? While this story is crudely told by the *Reader's Digest* author, we should recog-

nize that such a complex defense mechanism could never have developed by chance and mindless natural processes.

## 5. The Xenomorph Wasp.

About a year ago a researcher in Australia discovered a wasp that injects its eggs into its victim, such as a moth caterpillar. As the eggs grow, they consume the caterpillar's insides until they burst out of its body as fully formed larvae. It



doesn't end there. Sometimes the caterpillar survives in a zombified state, doomed to live out its life protecting the new communal cocoon until the day the larvae emerge as wasps.

? How did evolution think up such an ingenious method of development for these young wasps? It didn't, because evolution doesn't think at all.

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)