First edit of tree octopus

Me: Good morning, and welcome to today’s edition of “Oh yeah? Prove it.” Let’s jump right in.

\*\*\*music\*\*\*

Me: There are not many people in the world who can say that they have seen an octopus in the ocean. There are far fewer who can see that they’ve seen an octopus in a tree. Now, some of you may be saying, “Obviously we haven’t seen an octopus in a tree...Octopi live in the ocean. They can’t breathe unless they’re in the water.” Yes, the claim of a tree octopus may seem very counterintuitive and the claim could even be called dumb, but you’ll learn that’s false. The land octopi species does exist.

\*\*\*shocked music/sound effect\*\*\*

Me: Today, we are joined by a special guest. This guest happens to be one of my closest friends, but he also happens to be a scientist who is here to tell you all about the mysterious “Tree Octopus”. You’ll hear all about the facts that prove its existence, including its habitat, lifestyle, reproductive success, and much, much more. \_\_\_\_\_ has followed the species since its existence became known in 1998. Since then, he has moved to the rainforests of Oregon in order to increase his chances of naturally observing these creatures. Now, without further adieu, here is Tree Octocologist \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_: “Thank you for having me! It’s a pleasure to be asked to speak to such an interested crowd. Normally, people stay away from me as I speak so passionately and endlessly about the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus. It’s nice to share what I know with people who actually are open-minded to the possibility of an amphibious octopus! Usually people disregard the possibility, but you’re listening, so let’s get started. Octopus Paxabolis, better known as the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus, has been sighted along America’s West Coast in coniferous forests. They require temperate rainforest environments, specifically that of the Olympic Peninsula in Western Oregon. The species---

Me: Pardon my interruption, but how is it possible for octopi to live in a forest?

\_\_\_\_: Oh, sorry. I thought that was common sense. While octopi as a species are generally considered solitary cephalopods, this particular species is amphibious. Therefore, due to certain skin adaptations that prevent desiccation, which means they survive on land without drying out, they can live in rainforests. The Pacific Northwest forest environment is moist enough for their survival in association with their unique skin adaptations.

\*\*\*insert sound effect of amazement\*\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_: The species’ size generally ranges from 30-33 cm and they have the largest brain to body ratio of any mollusk. It’s not anything equal to that of humans, but their eyesight does compare to that of humans.

Me: So a tree octopus could have 20/20 vision?

\_\_\_\_: Theoretically, yes. They use their sight to sense changes in colors in other octopi. These color changes are the method they use to communicate. For example, when the Pacific Tree Octopus turns red, it generally symbolizes anger.

Me: Wouldn’t it be cool if humans could do that? You would go to New York and just see red humans everywhere!

\*\*\*music\*\*\* Me: Sorry, bad joke. Please continue.

\_\_\_\_: Okay. So in looking at the species’ reproductive processes, we’ve observed that every spring, they migrate from their home in the Olympic National Forest to Hook Canal in order to congregate and find mates. All males and females of reproductive age use tentaculation, which is the process of grabbing branches with one of their 8 tentacles to move from one branch to another, in order to travel from their home in the forest to the canal. The male leaves the female at the canal after mating and she remains there until her eggs hatch. During this time, the mother does not eat or take care of herself, but selflessly guards her eggs from predators. Often, she dies at the birth of her babies due to her altruism. This process almost directly replicates that of the aquatic octopus, except for the part when the male walks back to the forest after mating. After the babies are born, they grow for about a month in Hook Canal and the Puget Sound until they are strong and large enough to travel to their permanent home, the Olympic National Forest. So, those are the main facts regarding the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus.

Me: Awesome! Thank you for making this seemingly unrealistic species a factual reality. Do you know where we can go to learn more about this?

\_\_\_\_\_: The Save the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus organization has tried to raise awareness about their existence mostly because the species is endangered. The Cephlanews newspaper is also a good source to hear updates along with the Republic of Cascadia who frequently updates their website with facts and news concerning the rare species.

Me: Also, I just saw a twitter update from one of our followers, so a quick shout out to Calvin Stork for trying to raise awareness about the elusive species’ endangerment. Thank you to \_\_\_for your time. That wraps up this episode of “Oh yeah, prove it!”. Hope you enjoyed the segment, and I don’t know about you, but now I’m quite curious as to what kinds of animals could really exist in the world. If octopi can live in trees, then can mermaids really exist? Can sharks walk on land? Do penguins actually fly? What if------

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