

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Griffith's Gnat Emerger

Leave it to fly fishermen to take an already great fly and mess with it trying to improve it. The Griffith's Gnat is such a simple and effective fly, and yet it does have some room for improvement. By tying it as an emerger, it sits in the film almost vertically and mimics a cripple or defective fly. As soon as I saw it, I had to tie some up.



Hook: Dai-Riki 125 size 16 - 20
Thread: Black 8/0 or smaller
Tail: "Mayfly brown" Z-Lon
Body: Black tying thread
Hackle: Grizzly Neck or Saddle Hackle
Thorax: Peacock Herl

- 1) Secure hook in vise and start thread behind hook eye and advance to just slightly around the hook bend.
- 2) Tie in a short sparse tail of Z-Lon about the length of the hook gap. Trim to length and tie down using touching thread turns to the mid-point of the hook shank. Trim excess Z-Lon.
- 3) Prepare and tie in grizzly hackle at the mid-point, then tie in 1 strand of peacock herl.
- 4) Wrap a thorax of peacock to just behind the hook eye and trim excess.
- 5) Palmer wrap the hackle forward to the hook eye and secure. Trim excess and form a neat thread head and whip finish.

I fish this fly dead-drift to rising or "bulging" fish. It is just about impossible to see on the water, so I will tie it on below a bigger dry fly to act as an indicator. The flush-floating midge emerger has just the right profile and rides low enough to entice those midging fish.