

Fly of the Month

by Earl Schenberg

THE SAN JUAN WORM

Tied by: Joseph Aimonette 08/27/2009



MATERIALS:

Hook: # 10 to 14 scud hook Thread: Red 8/0

Body: Copper Wire, Micro Chenille, 2" long (red is traditional but you may use any color)

Gold Bead Optional (1/8 or size best for hook chosen)

This is a very simple and effective pattern that can be fished for trout as well as warm water species.

HOW TO TIE:

Slide bead on to hook shank, Lay down a thread base up to, hook bend securing the bead in center of hook. Attach copper wire and chenille at the bend of the hook. Wind thread back to bead and secure chenille behind bead. Pull chenille over top of bead and secure in front of bead. Wind thread to front to hook and tie down chenille one hook eye back from front of hook. Counter wrap wire from back to front as if you were putting down a ribbing pattern up to and over the bead and finish at the tie down point at the front of the hook whip finish, apply cement. Trim chenille to length (Approx. 1 to 2 inches) singe ends with a flame.

HOW TO FISH:

Dead drift near the bottom with the indicator or tight line presentations.

HISTORY AND INFORMATION:

Some people consider this a controversial fly, mostly because it has the word "worm" in its name. Don Bryant, a Westfly user who has fished New Mexico's San Juan River for 25 years, says of this fly: "The nymph pattern was first developed on the San Juan River below Navajo Dam in NW New Mexico to imitate the river's large population of aquatic worms. They are generally one inch to two inches long and live in the riverbed itself. They turn up in great numbers if you seine the bottom by turning over rocks or stirring up the muck with your wader boot. They look very much like earthworms or miniature night crawlers (some even having the distinctive worm collar). They come in a variety of mostly neutral colors. The trout feed on them extensively and find flamboyant colors an added attraction. The trout definitely take the SJW fly pattern to be exactly what it is designed to represent, the worms of the San Juan River."