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Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Early Stone Fly Patterns

Re: Early Stone Fly Patterns

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URL:

This is one of my favorite hatches...or at least it used to be. First let me say that the Early black and brown stones are #16-#20. #14 is on the lanky side. Although I've seen some larger, it will serve you well to not put all your eggs in one basket and stick with #16 & #18 My pattern is like this...

Dry fly hook #16 -#18. Black Body. white or gray poly wing, spent down wing style (over the body a little past the bend of the hook) and a Gray or grizzley hackle (4-5 turns at least.)

This fly is best used when the flies are coming back to lay their eggs where they hit the crik and skitter along the surface. Because the hatch itself consists of the nymphs moving to the shallows and climbing onto rocks to molt into adults, the nymph is not a big player in the fishing aspect of the LBS pattern. But I do tie a biot stone for use as a dropper when I am feeling under confident. It also acts as a balast when skittering and sometimes the trout cannot resist the nymph.

Another popular nymph is the Gallagher stone which is nothing more than a black body, no tail, a silver rib, and a soft hackle.

To answer the other question, you should begin to see them over the next month through early april (I saw a #18 today) with their concentration being during the sunny warm days even when the snow is on the ground. (in Feb & March) It seems the sun and warming of water triggers the hatch.

Good Luck,

Maurice