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Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Early Stone Fly Patterns

Re: Early Stone Fly Patterns

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Date: : 2006/11/23 8:40:45

URL:

Maurice - it is a fun hatch and it's the only game in town in the winter, except for midges. Trying to tie on a size #28 midge with freezing hands gets old quickly.

I tie a similar dry pattern:

Hook - #18 dry fly

Tail - 2 black dyed deer or elk fibers split

Body - black synthetic dubbing - tied very THIN and tapered

Overbody - Black deer or elk hairs tied flat over body just short of the hook bend

Wing - black colored (with marker) tyvek cut to shape (elongated tear drop) extending slightly past the hook bend

Hackle - black or dark dun

Skittering the fly sounds like a good plan. I'll have to give it a try that way. The tandem dry with a nymph dropper is a good idea. I do have some success with nymphs in the margins of the stream when I see them crawling on the bank in the snow. Most guys stand in the water that they should be fishing in. I suppose most fish are too lethargic to rise, and take the nymph when it's put right in front of its nose. The nymph pattern I use is very simple:

Hook - # 16 Scud / pupa hook or #18 nymph hook

Tails - 2 split black deer or elk fibers

Body - THIN black synthetic dubbing

Rib - black or silver wire

Thorax - black /dark gray dubbing - natural fur with lots of guard hairs

Head - small (2.0MM) black bead

No need for a wing case on such a small fly. I also tie up some nymphs substituting the dubbed abdomen with all black wire to add more weight to the fly.

I haven't fished much lately during winter stonefly time. I fished it all the time when I lived in the Poconos a few years ago. I'm going to make it my business to fish the stonefly hatch this winter. Heck, somebody has to do it!

Everyone and their families - have a great holiday!