

Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : increasing hookups with tiny dry flies

Re: increasing hookups with tiny dry flies

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URL:

Yes, the hook up rate will be worse with smaller flies. But yes, you can improve it some too.

Fishing down does make things tough. Bad angle for hook setting. Unfortunate, as it's often a good angle to get the right drift. You can help, though, with the direction of the hook set. You always want to strike to pull the fly towards the side of the fish. Towards it's tail isn't bad, but towards it's nose is. So if you're fishing down and across, then set the hook on your downstream side as much as you can.

Strike lighter. Tiny hooks penetrate lips more easily, you don't need much force.

It could be that the fish aren't fully committing to your fly. You may be striking on last second refusals or "test" sips. Common with midges, and tough to correct. But generally I take it to mean that I "almost" have everything right. You've got whatever attracts them down, but they're noticing something at that last moment. The slightest change can sometimes help, a change in the way the hackle is tied, or 1 size different, etc.

Make sure the hook isn't bent. That happens easily with tiny hooks, and skinny wires for dry flies.

I think you gotta strike a touch quicker with smaller flies. Fish take em in and spit em out so quick. With bigger flies, getting it in their mouth is a bigger commitment and takes a split second longer.

If it remains a problem, you can get oversized hook gaps.