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Subject: : Mayflies (Order: Ephemeroptera )

Topic: : Cream Cahill - Maccaffertium Interpunctatum

Re: One from last year

Author: : pcray1231

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URL:

Quote:

Does anyone know why they they don't still use Stenacron?

Science. :)

Family/genus/species, etc. are classifications which describe how close species are related to one another evolutionarily. Species within a genus are close cousins. Within a family are distant cousins. Between families are fairly unrelated.

When we first classified them, you could consider it educated guesses based on observed traits. They did pretty good, considering the thousands of species out there and they only screwed up a few! But with more advanced methods, such as DNA analysis, we are finding our mistakes.

Stenacron still exists. It's just that some of the former members were more closely related to the species in maccaffertium than they were to the species which still reside in stenacron. So they moved them. Making things clearer for entomologists, and more confusing for us fishermen!

When you compare the light/cream cahills to, say, March Browns, the close relation is obvious. All that's really different is color and timing. Which are two things that genetically can change very easily, unlike, say, growing an extra tail or a hind wing, which takes a very long time to develop.