

Subject: : Hatch and Entomology Forum

Topic: : Spinner fall

Re: Spinner fall

Author: : dkile

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URL:

Pauly,

I think there is no one best answer for your question. Many of the traditional mayfly stages vary greatly from species to species. Most of the common mayflies we all discuss here have an annual lifecycle. So I will try and generalize the answer.

Working backwards, the spinner (imago) stage is a very short time period lasting days or hours before they mate, lay eggs and die. The dun emerger (subimago) can last hours or days before molting one final time.

As nymphs (naiads) they live under the water as part of their longest life phases. The nymph phase makes up about about 75% of their lives and they may molt many, many times as they grow over the year. They crawl, swim, burrow, cling and eat in a stream during this phase.

The eggs hatch in weeks or up to a couple of months.

Again **generalizations** not based on any one species.

This has been a pretty successful species and lifecycle. There is evidence in the fossil record that mayflies have been around for 300 million years.