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Subject: : Hatch and Entomology Forum

Topic: : Size 4 possible 6 fly?

Re: Size 4 possible 6 fly?

Author: : barbless

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URL:

A lake where I like to fish in Maine has been known to have a nice hex hatch. I haven't been up there to see it in many years, unfortunately.

The last time I saw a good Hexagenia hatch there, it was the 1970s, and I was real new to fly fishing. It's a warmwater lake that's packed with bass and perch, and they were all feeding on top. I tried using dries and a popper, but no dice. At all. Nice warm summer night, bright moon, all those huge flies and swirling fish, and I got none. They ignored the lures on my spinning rod, too.

If only I had known that the fish were nymphing- holding close to the surface and grabbing the bugs off just before they shucked off their nymph cases (which were all over the water). I'm sure a good-sized brown/yellow wet fly, like a green drake nymph or yellow stonefly nymph, would have taken fish as fast as I could put it out there. The hatch was on for at least two hours, from around 10pm to past midnight.

It was a riot just to watch, like all heavy hatches that boil the water with feeding fish. Gives you some idea of exactly how rich a healthy habitat really is.