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Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Stone Clinger Nymphs

Re: Stone Clinger Nymphs

Author: : DanW

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URL:

While those j:son mayfly legs "look" like insect legs, as sandfly said, you want some motion in them. I wonder just how flexible they are.

I do feel I should add that there was a time when I tried to tie flies as realistic looking as possible. But over the years I realized flies that are suggestive of the insect you're imitating work just as well, if not better, than a fly that looks exactly like the insect. I think it was one successful day when I had caught several fish on the same GR Hares Ear and that poor fly was so chewed up there was only a little dubbing left and a few frayed strands of the peacock herl I use for the wing case (a Gary Borger tip), and it was still catching fish. That was when I realized it wasn't worth the time or effort to try making an exact copy of the insect. Color and size/proportions are what is really important. A little picked out dubbing at the thorax does a good enough job of suggesting legs instead of very real looking rubber legs that may not move anything like real insect legs in the water. IMHO, flies that look exactly like the insect are more attractive to fisherman than fish.

That said, if you enjoy spending time at the vice to make a fly as realistic looking as possible then by all means go for it. It's just my opinion that it isn't necessary to catch fish.