

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Stonefly Wiggle Nymphs

Re: Stonefly Wiggle Nymphs

Author: : OldLefty

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URL:

I understood exactly what was meant by "freezing up." I do appreciate your effort to explain. Hopefully, my reason for expressing my curiosity can be understood by the following.

Just some food for thought. Let me put myself in a bug's shoes, so to speak. Imagine, if you will, I am a stonefly (or mayfly) nymph. I feel right at home on the stream bottom rock when, for some reason, I experience an unplanned departure from my secure position. Oh, my gosh, what do I do now?? I'm totally insecure - and quite uncomfortable - drifting at the mercy of the current. Panic sets in. I long for the security of a nice stream bottom rock so I can resume feeling comfortable and secure and doing those things which I must do to ensure my survival. I'm being tossed to and fro at the mercy of the currents. Every time I come close to thinking I can settle on the next rock the current sweeps me away again. Finally, I realize that, in order to make my way to the security of the stream bottom rocks I've got to try to do something to help myself. I wriggle my body back and forth and up and down and I move my legs in a frenzy to make my way to safety. Finally, it works. I'm back to where I can feel safe and secure (somewhat, anyway).

My experience is that, for the most part, when a nymph is picked up by the stream current it does its best to get back to the bottom. That means there can be a fair amount of movement as it struggles to reach safety. There may be brief moments when a nymph drifts without movement but the way to security takes some serious effort on their part.