

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Sulphurs

Re: Sulphurs

Author: : pcray1231

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URL:

Jack, if your just after size and color you can lump epeorus vitreus in with other sulfurs, but personally I agree with Penzzz. They are in entirely different families, and there are many important differences to the fishermen.

For instance, epeorus vitreus are clinger nymphs, more closely related to March Browns. They inhabit fast water. Hatches will be heaviest in and just below riffles, not so much in the slow pools. Further, the nymphs emerge from the shuck on the bottom and "fly" as adults to the surface. Meaning, if you wish to fish the hatch underneath, traditional winged wet flies are perhaps very effective. Nymphs in the film? Not so much. The only place nymphs are important are truly dredged right on the bottom, where some trout "pick" them directly off rocks and such, almost never will a nymph be "in the drift".

The ephemerella sulfurs such as invaria and dorothea are closely related. They are crawler mayflies, and inhabit all types of water, from riffles to slow pools. They're not very good swimmers, but prior to emergence, the nymphs struggle to swim to the surface, so nymphs are in the drift. Further, once they get there, they float just under the surface for some time, so often when you see those boils they are actually taking NYMPHS in the film, or at least emergers with shucks still attached. And aside from maybe drowned adults below heavy riffs, traditional winged wets aren't so important.

Further, the ephemerella sulphurs tend to produce more impressive and consistent spinner falls. So when you see a big hatch, you know it's important to stick around till dark...

If you know the fish are absolutely taking duns on the surface, it probably doesn't matter much. But when things get tough and you're not quite sure what the fish are up to, knowing the species can indeed help you decide how to fish. And that absolutely helps you catch more. The more you know....