

Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : "Emerger" pattern questions

Re: "Emerger" pattern questions

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URL:

Think of it this way. Who cares what the pattern is categorized as?

Know the biology of how the bug behaves, and match it. I realize the biological classifications change, but that's just switching species/subspecies, sometimes as high as genus. Almost never is a bug put into a new FAMILY. And families often have very similar traits.

For instance, in nymphs, you have clingers, swimmers, crawlers, and burrowers. They are shaped differently, located in different areas of the stream, and act differently in the water. These are important differences to the fishermen.

On emergence, there are some families of mayflies, for instance, that molt on the streambed, and "fly" to the surface as adults. In other families, the nymphs swim to the surface, glide in the film, and the bug emerges on top. Some swim to shore and crawl out like a stonefly. Some emerge from riffles while others emerge from slow water. Some float on top for a while, others are airborne quick. Some flutter a lot, others are like perfectly stoic little sailboats coming down. These are important differences to the fishermen.

And when you see a hatch, you may want to catch a spinner fall. Some come back the same day they hatched. Others take weeks, so it's very possible to get a good spinner fall despite no hatching for weeks. Some fall in the morning, others in evening.

Identifying the bug, knowing what it does, and then using that to help determining what the fish are focusing on is extremely important. But from there, you know what you WANT the fly to do, and find a fly, any fly, that'll do it, and don't worry about what the pattern is classified as. I've fished dries as wets, I've floated nymphs, etc. I've drastically altered flies streamside to make em do what I want. And I don't care how you classify them. I just know that if fish are taking nymphs just under the surface, I want a nymph looking thing just under the surface.