



CADDIS EMERGER

July 2005 Fly of the Month

By
Dave Sylstra

Caddis and mayflies are the two most important insects for fly fishers. This pattern treats with the emerging stage of the caddis' life cycle. This fly is exactly the same as last month's simple Elk Hair Caddis, just on a different hook and designed to float differently. There are many variations of this fly, most of them much more complicated.

MATERIALS

HOOK: Curved body hook, similar to 2457 Tiemco. Regular dry fly hooks can be used but the curved body probably looks better (at least to the tier). The hook used here is oversize so it is easy to see. Most are tied in size 12 to 18.

THREAD: Tan, black, brown, as needed 6/0 to 8/0.

BODY MATERIAL: Dubbing in choice of color. Dry fly dubbing is used here. Choose tan, black, brown, green or yellow as needed.

WING: Elk hair. Tan is used here, but brown, light brown or olive might be used.

Tying Instructions

1. Set the hook in the vise and tie in the thread at the rear of the hook just behind the barb.. (Figure 1 at right)
2. Dub a slim body in choice of color to just behind the eye. I often tie in a little dark color head just behind the eye with a small amount of dark dubbing.. (Figure 2 at right).
3. Choose a nice bunch of elk hair, cut from the skin and comb out broken tips and excess fuzz. Tie in the elk hair WITH THE TIPS FACING FORWARD JUST BEHIND THE EYE, NOT REARWARD AS IN THE ELK HAIR CADDIS DRY WE DID LAST MONTH. This will simulate the wing of the emerging caddis. I use about 1/4 to 1/2 an inch forward of the eye. Wrap the hair securely, and tie off.. (Figure 3 at right).
4. Cut off the base of the hair as shown, so the tips project out past the eye. Put a small amount of dubbing over the wraps. I usually use a dark material. Move the thread to just behind the eye and tie off.. (Figure 4 at right)



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

This fly is designed to float just beneath the surface or at the surface and is a killer when the caddis are emerging. Its tough to see in dim light because just the wing is visible. The fly is designed to float vertically as shown in the picture, with just the wing sticking out of the water. It is important to put floatant just on the wing and not the body. Some folks use bright colors for the wing and figure the fish won't notice, but they are much easier to see. (Figure 5 at left).