



“CDC EMERGER”

March 2008 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed
By Robert Rountree

MATERIALS

HOOK: Short-Shank Curved Nymph,
Sizes 10-18

TAIL: 3-5 Mottled Hungarian-Partridge
Feather Fibers.

THREAD: Tan, Size 8/0

BODY: Stripped Peacock Quill.

WING CASE & WING: Gray CDC
Feather.

THORAX: Hare's-Ear Fur.

The **CDC Emerger** is a general emerger pattern that imitates a caddis or mayfly about to pop to the surface, and it's **deadly**. It can be tied in any color to match the emerging bug of the week in your area. This pattern can be fished in multiple ways to fit your particular needs at the moment. Use a little split shot, and explore the bottom of a riffle. No weight or floatant, and it rides just under the surface film thanks to the miracle of CDC feathers trapping air bubbles. Apply floatant (a dry floatant to the body & avoid the CDC feathers), and the thorax/wings will float like a dry fly with just the tail/abdomen hanging below the surface. Three flies for the price of one. In today's economy, that's quite a bargain! You can trail it behind a dry fly, and cover all your bases. CDC feathers are plucked from the "butt of the duck" (french term *cul de canard* or *CDC*). Credit for this pattern goes to *The Orvis Fly-Tying Guide* by Tom Rosenbauer, and is an excellent reference for beginning tiers such as myself.

Tying Instructions

1. Steps 1-4 (picture #1): Tie in tail at barb using 3-5 Hungarian-partridge feather fibers. Tips should extend approximately half shank length beyond the hook. Ensure the underbody is smooth (flatten the thread), and extends to about the middle of the shank. Use a pencil eraser, and gently strip the flue from a peacock quill about the lower 2.5 inches or so. Choose peacock quill(s) from just below the eye on a peacock feather. Tie in the peacock quill from the tail with the "lower 2.5 stripped inches" extending behind the tail, and the finer tip pointing towards the eye. Trim off finer end, and, again, ensure you tie a smooth body to cover the quill without bumps. Gently, wrap the peacock quill forward with minimal overlap to approximately half-way point on hook and tie off. If the quill splits or breaks, you'll need to start over. Apply head cement to quill body and allow to dry. You can do several of these and allow them to dry.

Step 5 (picture #2): Select a gray CDC feather with dense fibers and even ends. You'll want the ends of the CDC feather to extend to approximately to the bend of the hook (or end of abdomen).

Step 6 (picture #3): Fold the butt section of the CDC feather back over the rear of the fly, and make a couple of wraps of thread to tie it in place.

Step 7 (picture #4): Use hare's-ear fur to dub thread and create a substantial thorax. Wrap the dubbing to within approximately four thread turns of the hook eye.

Step 8 (picture #5): Pull the butt section of CDC feather over the thorax towards the eye, and tie in with the "Gravity Drop method with Upward Pull". Only make a single wrap, push back on the CDC feather and lift so it develops a slight bulge. Now make a few more wraps, and secure CDC feather.

Step 9 (picture #6): Trim off CDC feather and finish off the head. At this point, if needed, you can tease out the thorax a little to ensure it's buggy looking. Add some head cement to the head, and you're done.



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