



Brian Chan's "MAROON MIDGE EMERGER"

August 2007 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed

By Robert Rountree

MATERIALS

HOOK: Scud Hook IX size 12-22.

THREAD: 6/0 or 8/0 maroon (or common color referenced in introduction)

BODY: Spanflex color to match thread body—optional.

RIB: Silver wire small diameter

WING CASE: Pheasant center tail fibers

THORAX: Peacock herl.

GILLS: White ostrich plume..

A couple of recent fishing trips convinced me not to ignore midges, and I was happy that Dave Sylstra had addressed Midge Pupa in an earlier Fly of the Month column (see February 2005). I had tied up a few, and successfully used those patterns this past June while fishing Lake Manzanita in Lassen National Park. After watching multiple random trout sipping something that I couldn't see, I tied on a brown midge pupa, and was quickly rewarded with a brown trout. An important axiom to remember is to suspect midge pupae whenever trout are rising, but you can't tell what they're taking. If you pay attention, you can see empty midge shucks floating on the surface. Midge pupa comprise a high proportion of a trout's diet, and common colors include: Black, dark brown, dark green, maroon, and red. The following pattern is easy and imitates a more mature midge pupa further up in the water column with some emphasis on imitating it's breathing gills.

Tying Instructions

Evidently, there are over 2,500 different midges! Midge pupa wriggle and rise from the mud bottom, and hatch into a winged adult at the water's surface. Midge pupa can be fished by themselves under an indicator near the bottom or anywhere in between the surface. If one disdains the sleep-inducing factor of indicator fishing, agonizingly slow hand twist retrieves using some type of sinking or floating line with a long leader is also an option. I'll often tie on a midge pattern as a trailer (approximately 12 inches) behind a wooley bugger to offer as a second option to hungry trout.



Photo 1

1. (Photo 1 at left) Place hook in vise, wrap thread just past bend of hook. Keep body slim, but need to cover hook. Tie in wire for rib at end of body and move thread forward. If you prefer to add the Spanflex for more depth of body color, tie it in after the wire rib, and then wrap forward. I omitted the Spanflex here due to photography space limitations, but it adds a more glowing look to the body. Make 2-3 wraps of wire at tie-in point. Then wrap forward in tight turns and tie off at approximately 3/4 point of hook.



Photo 2

2. (Photo 2 at left) Tie in 6-7 pheasant tail fibers for wing case with shiny side up. Next, tie in a single peacock herl. Stroke the peacock herl backwards, and give a few twists without breaking it.



Photo 3

3. (Photo 3 at left) Wrap the peacock herl around the hook a few times, and tie-off. Now, repeat the same process with a single ostrich plume feather and remember to leave yourself enough room to tie off pheasant tail fibers plus a head.



Photo 4

4. (Photo 4 at left) Bring pheasant tail fibers over for wing case, and tie off. Whip finish a head, and a dab of head cement. Give the body a coating of head cement to give it a shinier finish, and hopefully, attract more fish. You're done.

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