



California Fly Fishers Unlimited (CFFU), Sacramento, CA

## “WET ANT”

October 2011 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed  
By *Jim Berdan*

### MATERIALS

**HOOK:** TMC 2487 #10

**THREAD:** Danville Flymaster  
Plus-210 Denier-Black & Orange.

**BODY:** Tying Thread-Black.

**HACKLE:** Starling.

**HEAD:** Tying Thread-Black or  
Orange.

#### Fly originator: *Anthony Naples*

Ants are among the most prolific terrestrials on most trout streams and they are particularly plentiful during the summer months. Ants are available for months at a time and fish feed regularly on them.

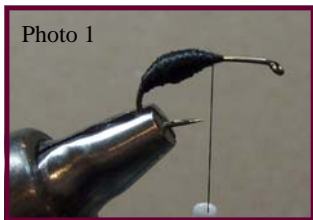
Ant patterns are easy to tie. Although a live ant has three body parts, the basic parts of ant flies are two body segments

You can build an ant with nothing more than a couple of balls of black dubbing tied along a hook shank and a sparsely hackled midsection. You can add wings, parachutes, flash, or add orange or red to simulate a red ant. An advantage to adding a brightly colored parachute posts is so you can see the small ant patterns.

This particular pattern uses only two materials, thread and starling hackle. If you don't have access to starling hackle, you can use soft black hen saddle. The hackle legs act as an attractor and will entice a feeding trout. This pattern is a wet-fly version of the ant, tied for tenkara style fishing; however this fly will work with any style of fly fishing. The soft starling hackle brings a lot of movement to the fly when fished dead drift or when twitched. The black and orange version represents a red ant.

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Body and head were coated with several coats of Griff's Thick Multi Coat to give it a glossy look similar to an actual black carpenter ant.



**(PHOTO 1)** Pinch the barb. Start the thread at the midpoint on the shank and wrap back to the bend. Build the body as shown in the photo.

**(PHOTOS 2 and 3)** Tie in the hackle by the tip end just ahead of the body section and wrap with two to three wraps, tie off, and trim waste.



**(PHOTO 4)** Wrap forward to just behind the eye and build the head with the tying thread, whip finish and you're almost done.



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Photo 5



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**(PHOTO 5)** Apply several coats of head cement or similar material to give the body segments a glossy look. I used Griff's Thick Multi Coat, which I find works best for this fly.

**(PHOTO 6)** Below is the red ant version of this fly.

Photo 2

