

Cullen's Caenid



Hook :- Shrimp/grub hook, such as Daiichi 1510, Partidge K4A or Kamasan B100. Size 22-16, the smaller the better.

Thread :- Black

Tag :- Fluoro orange poly yarn, keep it small.

Body :- Black seals fur

Hackle :- Light grey dun

Cullen's Caenid is nice and straightforward to tie, although sourcing the small hackle feathers could be difficult and its small size might be a bit of a challenge for some tyers' eyes and fingers.

Foundation thread is laid from eye to bend where a small piece of the orange tag material is attached. Dub the thread with the seal's fur and form a slim body by winding it forward to just back from the eye where you attach the grey hackle. Three or four turns of that, a whip finish or wrap knot and the fly is finished.

Gary readily agrees that his pattern doesn't look much like the real thing or like some of the other patterns on the internet, most of which seem to feature white or grey wings, but he says it's the grey hackle that does the job. Sixty-three fish in a season speaks for itself !

Gary uses two of the flies twelve inches apart, sometimes with one of them a bit bigger than the other, and likes to get as close as possible to the fish. It's important to put the fly right in front of the fish and having two flies on increases the chances of one of them being in the zone.

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