

Fly of the Month

The Jassid beetle.



- Hook :- Dry fly, 12 or 14
- Body :- Bright red seals fur
- Wing case :- Black foam or black crow wing slips.
- Hackle :- Black cock

The jassid is not really a beetle although that's what most people call it. It's actually a leaf hopper and they can be seen on Tasmania's highland lakes any time after Christmas, tending to peak at the tag end of the season in March and April. Folklore has it that there are seven years between good jassid falls but regular highland lakes fishers dispute that and say jassids are seen on the water most years. Whatever the truth is when they are falling on the water the trout love them and will select one jassid from a raft of other food on the surface. Maybe it's the colour that makes them so visible to the trout or maybe they are just plain delicious. I recently saw it described as, " a strawberry in a plate of peas".

The jassid is easy to tie. Start your foundation thread at the eye and take it back to the bend where you tie in your wing case material, be it a strip of foam, crow wing slip, black Stretchback or just about anything black that will do the job. Apply the brightest red seals fur dubbing you can find to your thread and wind it forward, building up a nice fat body to just behind the eye. Pull your wing case material over the body and tie it down. Four or five turns of black hackle and the fly is finished.

Being such a simple pattern there isn't much room for variation. You could add some legs Bruce Gibson style, or tie the wing case detached. I sometimes do the latter using a strip of that black styrofoam packaging supermarket meat trays are made of it floats for ever.



Jassid falls tend to be localised and you could fish the lakes for years and not come across one but how would you feel if you came across one and didn't have a couple of jassid patterns with you ?

A.T.

