

Fly of the Month

The Deer Hair Caddis



Hook :- Dry fly 16-14-12

Thread :- Unithread 6/0 black or brown

Body :- Seals fur or your favourite dubbing in olive or colour to suit local varieties

Ribbing :- (Optional) Fine gold or silver wire

Hackle :- Grizzly, black or brown

Wing :- Deer or Elk hair

The Deer Hair Caddis, or Elk Hair Caddis, is another of those flies that would be readily recognised by flyfishers in most parts of the world, although in some parts they may call it the Deer Hair Sedge. It is not hard to tie once you learn how to stop the deer hair spinning around the hook as you tie it in.

Place hook in vice and lay foundation thread from behind eye to a point just above the barb. If you are going to have the optional rib tie it in now. Next attach the body hackle which should have fibres a bit longer than the hook gape. Leave ribbing and hackle hanging while you dub your thread and form the body by winding it forward to a point 2 or 3 mm behind the eye. Now wind the hackle forward and tie it down where the body finishes. The ribbing is now counter wound through the hackle, trying not to trap too many fibres, and tied in at the same point. Next take your scissors and trim the hackle from the top of the body. Take a small bunch of deer hair (experience and good old trial and error will tell you how much), remove any fluff and align the tips in your hair stacker. Place the bunch of deer hair on the shank of the hook in that gap between body and hook eye so that the tips reach to just past the bend. Pinch the deer hair firmly in your fingers and press it tight against the hook. Take a couple of turns of thread around the bunch and then pull down hard, still pinching the bunch firmly. A couple more turns to make sure and then take the thread forward to behind the eye and in front of the overhanging butts of hair. A few turns of thread hard against the butts will tend to lift them up a bit and away from the eye. Whip finish and then trim the overhanging butts to make a small head. A dab of head cement and the fly is finished.

Variations are many, mostly in the body and hackle colour and the shade of the deer/elk hair. But as with most successful flies it's the silhouette and footprint on the water that really matters.



The real thing



Alan T.

