

# The Woolly Worm



Hook :- Wet fly, 14-12-10

Tail :- Wool or hackle fibres, colour of your choice

Body :- Chenille, colour of your choice

Hackle :- Grizzly preferred

The woolly worm is one of those flies that doesn't seem to represent anything in particular, although American fishermen often use it as a general nymph pattern. Ian W. rates it as one of his favourite flies that did well for him in our one fly competition last season. Greg French mentions it in one of his books as a good fly to use for tailing fish in our lakes when you can leave it sitting on the bottom in the vicinity of sighted fish, but it can also be used as a searching wet fly. Variations are practically endless with different colours for the body and tail, but the most popular hackle is grizzly. It can also be weighted.

Tying the woolly worm is easy. Take thread to bend of hook then tie in the tail. Next tie in the hackle followed by the chenille. Advance thread to just behind the eye and wind the chenille forward and tie it in. The hackle is then wound forward dry fly fashion, i.e. with the fibres pointing forward, and secured with a few turns of thread. Build up a small head with thread and varnish. Note:- the hackle should be nice and stiff with the fibres slightly wider than the gape of the hook. This helps to make the fly travel across the bottom without snagging too many weeds when you are chasing those tailers.



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The natural woolly worm is actually a caterpillar found in the American mid west. Folklore has it that the width of the brown and black markings can be used to tell how severe the next winter is going to be. ( I just thought you'd like to know that.)

Alan Taylor