

## Fly of the Month

## The Possum Emerger



Hook :- 14-12-10 dry fly

Thread :- Black

Tail, body, wing and thorax, all of possum tail fur.

The possum emerger is a fly of Tasmanian origin and is supposed to represent an emerging mayfly, although it doesn't look very much like any of the emerging dun patterns we are more familiar with. However, there's no doubt that it catches plenty of fish when the duns are on and its popularity is spreading worldwide, so much so that it is now included in the catalogues of many European online fly shops.

The only materials required for the possum emerger are a hook, tying thread and a possum tail. A few strands of the guard fur are tied in for the tail, and the body is then dubbed for about two thirds of the distance to the eye of the hook. You then form a loop wing with some long strands of the guard fur, followed by a little more dubbed fur in front of the wing to make a thorax slightly thicker than the body. The possum emerger is deliberately scruffy. If it's not scruffy enough tease it out with some Velcro.

Being such a simple fly there aren't many variations possible. The wing can be in the centre or front and either slanting forward, back, or upright. It can be tied in light or dark fur, and some tiers like to add a fine wire rib.

You don't even have to use possum fur; the one on the right is one of mine but can't really be called a possum emerger because it is tied out of fox tail. It does the job.



*Foxy emerger*

Well known Tasmanian fly fisher and guide, Christopher Bassano, has a good YouTube video on tying the possum emerger, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKoQwsQIGz4>

Jan Spencer ties a version without the loop wing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8bPentIu2A>

*Alan Taylor*

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