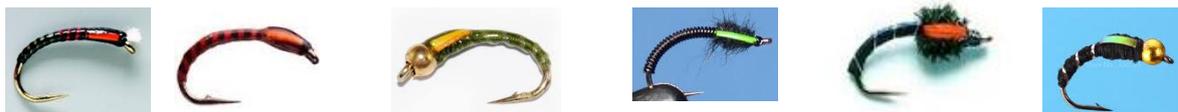
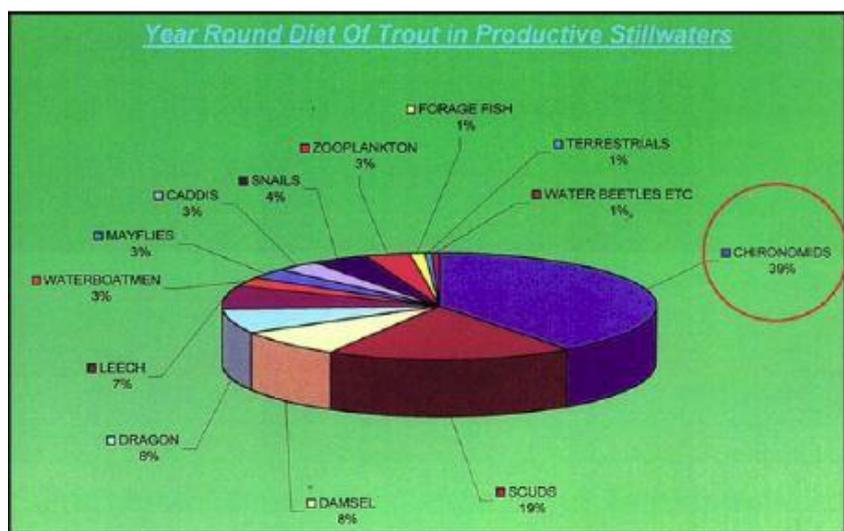


## Fly of the Month

## Buzzers



Buzzer is the name given to the nymph of chironomids, the non biting midges which are found on every continent, although strictly speaking it's the adult flying midge that makes the buzzing sound. Fishing with buzzers is very popular in European and UK stillwaters and their popularity stems from the fact that chironomid hatches can happen at any time of the year and that the rising nymphs form a large part of the trout diet, as can be seen in the pie chart below. (Chart taken from an article by Grant White in the SAFFA Bulletin and reproduced with their permission.)



Strangely, although chironomids are common in Tasmania very little fishing is done with buzzer nymphs. One of our members, Ron W., catches a few on his "little green buzzer" at Lamberts Dam and Huntsman Lake but he's the only fisherman I know who regularly uses them.

It is said that there are as many variations in buzzer patterns as there are fly tyers who tie them and a quick search on the

internet seems to bear that out. The common theme is the slim but well segmented body with a slightly wider thorax area. They are usually tied on a shrimp or grub hook such as the Kamasan B100 or B110 because, conveniently, that is the most common shape that buzzers adopt as they wriggle their way to the surface. And although midges are quite small the buzzer nymphs are comparatively large and imitations are tied on hooks ranging up to size 10 and sometimes even 8, with the usual range 16-14-12. As can be seen from the sample pics above they can be tied with bead heads or a wire body.....think Brassies or Copper Johns..... to get down deep and they are often coated with two part epoxy or nail varnish, which is said to represent the gas that coats them and helps them on their rise to the surface. ( Come to think of it, the red bead black nymph which so many of our members have enjoyed success with over the past few seasons could well pass as a buzzer. )

Methods of fishing buzzers are many and varied. The most commonly practiced on UK stillwaters is to fish two or three on a long leader and fish them either dead drift or with just enough retrieve to avoid slack between you and the flies. Also popular are hanging one or two under and indicator or, if it's very calm and the fish are spooky, just a leader greased to within a couple of feet of the fly. The naturals are very slow movers and take a long time to wriggle their way to the surface .....easy pickings for the trout so takes are usually quite gentle. When the buzzers reach the surface they have trouble breaking through the meniscus and tend to hang there, which could often be the explanation for those frustrating times when we see those bulging rise forms that don't quite break the surface and we say that they're midging.



A selection of naturals.

That innovative fly tyer, Frank Sawyer, who gave us the original pheasant tail nymph, came up with the ingenious bow-tie nymph to target those fish going for buzzers or any other nymphs stuck in the meniscus. You take any nymph and thread the tippet through the eye **from below**. You then tie a piece of white antron or wool to the tippet and slide the nymph up against it. It looks a bit precarious but if the knot is big enough and the wool thick enough the nymph won't pull off. The nymph will hang freely just below the surface and any little wave or ripple will give it 'struggle' type movement .



So, nymphs of the buzzer variety can be fished anywhere from the bottom to the surface. The main thing all UK fishermen seem to stress is that they are fished either dead drift or very slowly. I'm going to give them a go next season, I can't see why they wouldn't work on our still waters, especially those with a silty or muddy bottom.

There is a lot of information on the internet about tying and fishing buzzers, this link is not bad :-

[http://www.badger.rchomepage.com/chironomid\\_patterns.html](http://www.badger.rchomepage.com/chironomid_patterns.html)

For tying instructions on a few buzzer patterns check out Davy McPhail's YouTube videos. Some are a tad complicated but here's a fairly simple one

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suURvgiz2fs>

*Alan T.*

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