

## Fly of the Month

## The Scud



The Scud is a Crustacean. A relative of the slaters you will find under pieces of rotting wood. If you like to be precise they are:

Class: Crustacea  
Order: Amphipoda  
Family:  
Gammaridae



Unlike slaters the Scud spends all its life in the water. And unlike all the other maddeningly variable flies we try and use the scud looks exactly the same from hatching to death. No nymph, emerger, dun or spinner. Just a bigger version of the same thing. The variables with Scud are their colours. However olive green or brown covers most of them. Some people do tie them with success with fluro pink or fluro orange body. This is particularly useful if you are wanting a fly that will double as a good shrimp imitation as well. The following description from Rob Sloane is helpful. "Amphipods are on the tiny side (5–10 mm) with a short, laterally compressed body and a rounded, hunch-back appearance. Natural colours are generally pale yellow to pale green. They are active swimmers and crawlers and often appear in mating couplets. Amphipods can be extremely abundant in lake shallows, particularly at Little Pine Lagoon and throughout the Little Pine River system in the Western Lakes, where hundreds can be picked up with one fistful of weed."

Every healthy body of water with an abundance of weed beds will have Scud and Shrimp. And they will typically be in greater abundance than nymphs. They are one of the classic inclusions in a Czech nymph rig and as I have found they work very effectively when fished as the last fly in a nymph rig over weed beds.

Being a fly tier of little skill I cannot vouch for the pattern included.

### Simple Scud Fly Tying Recipe:

Hook: #08-18 Tiemco 2457  
Thread: Olive UTC 70  
Weight: .015 Lead Wire  
Tail/Antenna: Partridge  
Rib: 4X Clear Mono  
Flash: Medium Pearlescent Tinsel  
Casing: 1/8" Scud Back  
Body: Olive Scud Dub Dubbing

The website <http://globalflyfisher.com> has pages of video descriptions on tying different styles of Scud; as does YouTube.

*Linden Green*

