Callibaetis Paranymph

by Bob Pearcy

Recipe

Hook:	Tiemco TMC100BL, size 16
Thread:	Uni-Thread 8/0, gray
Tail:	Mottled hen neck fibers
Abdomen:	Superfine dubbing, Adams gray
Rib:	Copper wire, small
Thorax:	Same as abdomen
Wing case and wing:	Natural deer hair
Hackle:	Grizzly

The Callibaetis Paranymph is another pattern developed by the famous fly tyer, Bob Quigley. It simulates a nymph that has just reached the surface and is in the early stages of shedding its nymphal shuck. Deer hair is tied on at about the 50% point of the hook shank and folded over to simulate the wing case. It is then tied down before being clipped short to simulate emerging wings.   Overall it is a relatively easy fly to tie. The tail and abdomen sink below the surface, whereas the thorax, wing case and developing wings sit in the surface film. The duns spend little time on the water, particularly on bright sunny days, so trout often seem to key on the more readily captured nymphs in the surface film that this pattern imitates.

Callibaetis mayflies are common in weedy lakes and reservoirs such as Hebgen Lake, Clark Canyon Reservoir and Georgetown Lake. They typically hatch from late morning to mid afternoon and from July into September. There can be as many as three generations per year in some lakes, with each successive generation being smaller than the previous one. Flies in sizes 14 to 18 are therefore necessary to imitate the full range of sizes. In Hebgen fish feed on them by slowly cruising just under the surface and then rising every few feet to pick one off. These are the famous gulpers of this lake. The strategy is to pick a fish within casting distance and then try and cast the fly 4 to 5 feet in front of it and then hope that the fish doesn't turn. With a little luck it will eat your paranymph!

 Callibaetis are also found in some slow-moving spring creeks and in weedy tail waters like the Missouri below Holter dam. The Headhunters Fly Shop blog states that Callibaetis hatches are locally important in September on the Missouri.