

## Fly of the Month

### March Brown Quigley Cripple

by Bob Pearcy

This cripple pattern is tied in the style developed by Bob Quigley, an innovative fly tier in Southern Oregon. Shown is a march brown pattern but almost any mayfly from a size 6 Hexagenia to a size 20 BWO can be tied by varying the hook size and the colors. During a hatch many mayflies get stuck in the shuck and cannot complete emergence, thus becoming a "cripple". These are easy prey for trout and are often picked off in preference to duns. Quigley Cripples work well for me during Callibaetis hatches on Hebgen and Georgetown Lakes where the secret is to get them 3-5 feet in front of a cruising fish as evidenced by a series of rises (and hope the fish doesn't turn!). On Hebgen these fish are called gulpers. On the Bitterroot I have had success with this type of pattern during March Brown, Green Drake and PMD hatches. An advantage is that in my opinion a Quigley Cripple is easier to tie than a dun pattern such as a parachute or a compara dun. The materials can be varied; CDC can be substituted for an elk or deer hair wing, the abdomen can be dubbed or in larger patterns, twisted and wrapped marabou barbs. The shuck can be Marabou or emu barbs. When fishing, add floatant only to the wing, thorax and hackles so that the shuck and abdomen hang below the water surface.



- Hook: 12 or 14 std. dry fly
- Thread: 8/0 Rust Brown
- Shuck: Brown Zelon, optionally over a few barred wood duck barbs
- Abdomen: Medium brown goose biot (for durability wrap this over a glue or head cement base)
- Thorax: March brown superfine dubbing
- Wing: Deer hair tied just forward of the thorax and extending forward. Trim butts to form a wing case.
- Hackle: Brown-died grizzly hackle wrapped between wing and wing case. Tie off in front of wing.