

Fly of the Month

Fox's Poopah

by Bob Pearcy

Recipe

Hook: TMC 2302 size 14 or 16
Thread: 8/0, black
Underbody: Pearlescent tinsel
Abdomen: Olive vernille
Thorax: Black ostrich
Rib: Gold wire, BR size
Antennae: Wood duck flank feather
Legs: Olive dyed partridge

This is a California pattern originally developed by Tim Fox of the Fly Shop in Redding. It works well here too. It imitates the pupal stage of the *Brachycentrus* caddis genus, of which the mother's day caddis is a member. These caddis pupa cut loose from their case in riffles and drift for a few feet near the bottom before ultimately rising to the surface. There, the adults emerge from their pupal shuck. Although most fly fishers concentrate on the adult stage and fish dry flies, the heavy hatches provide lots of competition--for both the artificial and the many fly fishers. Often good fishing, and lesser crowds, can be had before the hatch or in its early stages by dead drifting a pupa pattern under an indicator or a dry fly. It can also be fished dead-drift near the surface or with a wet-fly swing in the current. The pattern is easy to tie.

Wrap the hook shank with pearlescent tinsel to create the illusion of air bubbles that caddis produce to aid their rise in the water column. The vernille is attached to the top of the hook shank with the wire ribbing. Before tying it in, singe the end with a match to create a pointed abdomen with a dark tip. Five turns of the wire ribbing is about right.

