

## Fly of the Month

by Greg Chester

### Bigg's Sheep Creek Nymph

#### Recipe



Hook:	#10 standard nymph hook
Thread:	olive 6/0 Unithread
Hackle:	Brown
Weight:	None or varying sizes and quantity of lead wire
Abdomen:	Olive chenille, medium
Overwing:	Mallard flank feather, grey, 6-8 fibers
Head	Tying thread

I always look forward to the challenge required to create detailed, fussy patterns with unique materials and techniques. However, it's also enjoyable to just whip out some simple bugs to pass the time, fill your flybox, and leave the intricacies to another day. It's most gratifying when these simple bugs fish well, and nothing accomplishes that reality more than the Sheep Creek Nymph. This pattern is rarely confused with anything else with its unique hackle placement and sparse mallard flank over-wing – makes one wonder what inspired Mr. Biggs in coming up with such a design.

I became aware of this pattern about 12 years ago while fishing some private ponds in the Dillon area where it was the go-to pattern day in and day out for huge rainbows. The Sheep Creek is now a permanent member of my still water fly box and I fish it anytime damselfly are present. However, it's worked well even when damselfly weren't active so it's often my first choice as a dropper fly behind a streamer or larger nymph on a full-sink rig. I've even had occasional success on slow moving water so put a few in your regular nymph box while you're at it.

During damselfly emergence it fishes well bounced along the bottom with a floating or sink-tip line using a deep-to-shallow retrieve, often most easily accomplished while wading close to shore. You've probably seen nice trout chasing damselfly into very shallow water necessitating either a curved cast or standing well back from the shore line. If fish are taking damselfly among weed fields try fishing it un-weighted with a floating line concentrating on pockets and seams within the weeds.

About the only options I consider in tying the pattern is adding weight. For the most part having a range of un-weighted through heavily weighted patterns on a #10 hook should bring you success.

Good tying and good fishing!