

JULY - THE BROWN SEDGEHOG



HOOK: Size 12 dry fly.

THREAD: Brown 8/0.

TAIL: A stacked bunch of roe deer hair.

BODY: Brown seal's fur or substitute.

WING: Three bunches as for the tail.

HACKLE: Red game cock. This hackle is optional, for general fishing it is not needed but for pulling the fly through a good ripple it helps to create an attractive wake.

It is usually not until July that we can expect to see significant numbers of all sizes of sedges hatching. Some will appear throughout the day but mostly they will hatch in the evenings. It is certainly worth fishing in the evening and towards dusk. If you go home at 'tea-time', you could miss out on some excellent and exciting dry fly fishing.

If there are not too many snags in the water such as bushes and weeds, I like to fish two sedge patterns on a 12-14 foot fluorocarbon leader with about 6-7 feet between the flies. If the water is calm (as it often is in the evenings) having a sunken leader

will result in more takes. Fluorocarbon is ideal for this. The flies should be buoyant enough to stay afloat when retrieved with a steady figure-of-eight, despite the sunken leader trying to draw them under. For this set up, my second fly on the leader would be a G&H Sedge, or an Elk Hair Sedge. Don't be dismayed if the flies eventually sink during the retrieve, they will still catch fish when retrieved steadily just beneath the surface.



Above: A small sedge fly on a Hallington boat.

Below: Sedge pupae spooned from a fish.



Earlier in the day, especially if the weather is bright and hot it is worth trying a sedge pupa imitation, allowing it to sink well down before starting a slow retrieve. An Amber Nymph is a good pattern to try. Many of the natural pupae are quite brightly coloured with darker markings, green and yellow seem to be the most common colours at Hallington.

At the end of June and into July there may be evening hatches of *Caenis* or the 'Angler's Curse', especially after a calm warm day. This tiny white upwinged fly hatches at the water surface from an aquatic nymph and can appear in huge numbers. The trout will often become preoccupied with them to the exclusion of all else. I have generally found that it is best to stick to sedge patterns rather than try to imitate *Caenis*, in the hope that the odd fish will prefer something more sizeable.

Other flies to look out for in July are aphids, beetles etc. If there are fish rising but you don't know what to try, a small foam beetle is as good as anything, or maybe a small Grey Duster or Griffiths Gnat. Also this month there will still be coarse fish fry about although they will obviously be a bit larger and a larger imitation may be required.

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