

Black Emergent Caddis Dry Fly

Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



As I scanned across a remote flat on Wickiup Reservoir last week, I saw a rise-form, then another, and another. My pulse quickened and I shut down the motor and moved forward with the electric motor in stealth mode. For a few minutes it almost looked like popcorn popping. A closer scan revealed Callibaetis on the water. I reached into my fly box and was feverishly trying to tie on a favorite Callibaetis pattern. Another rise. I looked up and saw a 25"+ inch Brown slowly sink back into the water to continue his hunt across the flat. Now my quest to tie on a fly was even more challenging as the trout popping on the surface was quite distracting to my knot tying. It was full on buck fever, or in this case, trout fever. Eventually however, I got a fly tied on and started casting towards the numerous rise forms. Nothing, not even a sniff after 15 minutes of casting. I had been fooled again. A closer inspection on the water's surface revealed a much more inconspicuous caddis fly in prodigious numbers. A small black caddis. This hatch had been ongoing for a few weeks now and the trout were keyed in on caddis, even though the larger Callibaetis were available. Thank goodness I had a few of this emerging black caddis in my box. The pattern is tried and true, and on the first cast I was tied into a nice 19" Brown trout. However, as the trout dove into the weeds and broke off, I was reminded of a quote from a good friend: "You did your job well, but trout did his job better". After an hour of steady action, another fish dove into the weeds and broke off 4x tippet and my last black emergent caddis fly. I had landed several fish, but I had broken

off four fish in the weeds and had no more of this productive pattern in my fly box. It had been a good day with fish up to 22”.



Wickiup Brown Trout

When I got home that afternoon, I sat down to replenish my supply of this pattern. Three dozen flies later, I ready for a return trip. The Emergent Black Caddis is an easy pattern to tie, and its effectiveness made it a good candidate for this month’s Fly Tying Corner. The fly has a couple unique and important characteristics. The abdomen of the natural is black, with a slight rust-colored tinge. I match this by blending black dubbing with rusty Ice Dubbing for the abdomen. Also, the pattern features a trailing shuck, which gives the impression of a crippled fly struggling to emerge. Cripples are always a trigger for trout takes. When adding floatant to the pattern, it is important to leave the shuck untouched so it can break the surface film. Lastly, I use a dark dun upright hackle, which allows the front of the fly to float high in the water. Blend these characteristics together and it is a recipe for a good fly pattern!

Black Emerging Caddis Materials List:

Hook:	Firehole 419 Barbless, Size 14 - 18
Thread:	Danville 6/0 Flat Waxed, Black
Trailing Shuck:	Zelon, Mayfly Brown
Abdomen:	85% Spikey Squirrel Dubbing, Black 15% Ice Dub, Golden Orange
Wing:	Natural Deer Hair
Hackle:	Whiting Dry Fly Saddle, Dyed Dark Dun

Tying instructions and steps are published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/adJH20ghXh8>.

Give the Black Emerging Caddis a try next time you are out fishing a favorite stillwater. If you have questions or would like additional information about this pattern, please email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at philfischer@sbcglobal.net.