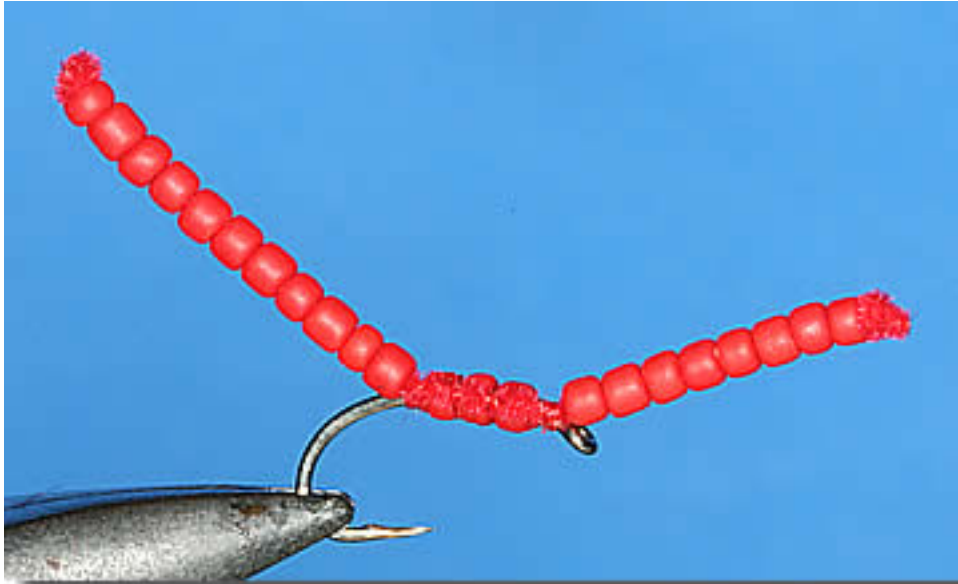


BLOOD WORM, VAR



By Bob Bates

Undoubtedly you have seen many versions of the San Juan Worm, but this version has some advantages. Steven Jackson, Kenmore, WA tied this and several other patterns at the 2008 North West Fly Tyers Expo in Albany, Oregon. Fish at Pay-To-Play lakes where Stephan hosts anglers have seen every variation of San Juan Worms or Bionic Worms. Since this pattern is a little bit different the fish accept it with aggression.

The weight of all the beads makes it sink faster than other versions. It is usually suspended 6 inches off the bottom using a strike indicator. If you strip it or pop it the Vernille will wiggle a little, but it doesn't fold back against the body like a regular Vernille pattern. I know the fish don't seem to mind the folded Vernille, but it doesn't look pretty.

Stephen got his beads from Joe Warren who wrote book on using glass beads. These beads are uniform in diameter and hole size. Differences in hole size with some cheap beads make threading the Vernille difficult.

Materials list:

Body: Vernille, mini (1 mm), red

Beads: Glass seed beads, Frosted red

Hook: Daiichi X point 120, 10 & 12

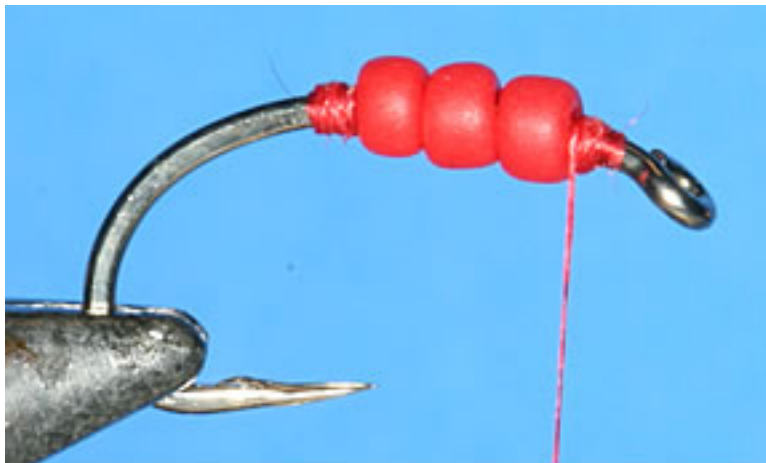
Thread: 8/0 red

Tying steps:

1. The materials list is in a different order than most instructions because the first step is to string the beads on the Vernille or Ultra chenille. Cut off a 3- or 4-inch piece of Vernille. It is possible to use a 3-inch piece, but tying the required overhand knots is easier with a 4-inch piece. Tie a tight overhand knot near one end.. At the other end, melt about 1/4-inch of the Vernille so you have only the thin thread core. Don't hold the flame too close or you will have a fire in your hands. Steven didn't say he was counting the beads, but he has tied so many of this pattern that he knows when he has enough. For stubby fingers pick up each bead with hackle pliers, and thread the Vernille through it. Tie an overhand knot in the Vernille. Leave a little space to tie the Vernille and beads onto the hook. Root beer colored beads are sometimes added to simulate the hump on some worms.



2. Wind a thread base on the hook. He makes sure at least half of the shank is covered to satisfy Washington State regulations, which define a fly as “A lure on which thread, feathers, hackle, or yarn cover a minimum of half of the shank of the hook.” WDFW 2007/2008 Sport Fishing Rules. Can whip finish and cut thread.



3. If necessary put glass beads on shank to fill in the gap in the Vernille/bead body. Wind a thread cone behind the beads so they don't slide back too far and whip finish. Reattach thread in front of beads on hook, and build a little thread cone.



4. Start tying down the Vernille/bead body. In this case put a couple of thread wraps at the front of the beads. Loosely move the thread over the first bead, and put a couple winds of thread between the first and second beads. Repeat the process putting a couple of thread winds between the second and third beads. Move behind the last bead, and repeat the process moving forward. The Vernille/bead body will wiggle and move if not too tight.



5. Trim excess Vernille in front and sneak a whip finish over the beads. Put a drop of head cement on the whip finish.

Closing comments: This pattern is better than the original San Juan Worm or Red Worm. Fish haven't seen as many copies of this one, so they will think that is something to eat. Tight lines.

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