

STEPHENS BIONIC WORM



By Bob Bates

Stephen Jackson tied some of his favorite flies at the 2008 Northwest Fly Tiers Expo in Albany, Oregon. One was this Bionic Worm which is a modification of a Bionic Worm he saw in *Flies of the Northwest* by the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, published by Frank Amato Publications, Inc. He added things he wanted and changed things he didn't want. It might be called a marriage of the Bionic Worm and bloodworm patterns. The result is a fly that catches fish better in his waters. Fly patterns are not set in concrete; if you have an idea for improving a pattern tie it and test it on the waters you fish. If you want to see another version of the Bionic Worm it is in the FFF Fly of the Month for September, 2005.

Usually the Bionic Worm is fished using a floating line and a strike indicator. In talking about another fly he said that he starts with the fly 6 inches above the bottom, and if nothing happens he raises the fly another 6 inches. Eventually he finds the fish. Fish are not always on the bottom. I have found fish 2 feet under the surface in 5 feet of water or 4 feet under the surface in 10 feet of water. Stephen fishes it early in the year.

The hook he uses makes hooking a little easier. Its patented point shape is so "sticky" that frequently the fish hook themselves. (Laboratory tests show it penetrates 7 times easier than other hooks.) Even if he is not paying attention when the strike indicator moves, the fish might be hooked anyway.

This pattern imitates the Chironomid larvae that are found in most still waters and some slow moving streams. The larvae live in the bottom mud or silt. They compensate for the oxygen deficient environment by having extra hemoglobin, which gives them their red color. Sizes of the natural might be from about 1-1/2 inches to about 1/4-inch.

Materials List:

Hook: Daiichi Xpoint 120, sizes 10, 12 and 14

Bead: Tungsten 7/64- to 1/8-inch, black or silver

Thread: Uni, red 8/0

Tail: Marabou, red

Rib: Silver wire, fine or small.

Overbody Scud Back, Red

Tying Steps:



1. Put on bead. Smash the barb before tying the fly if you want to go barbless.



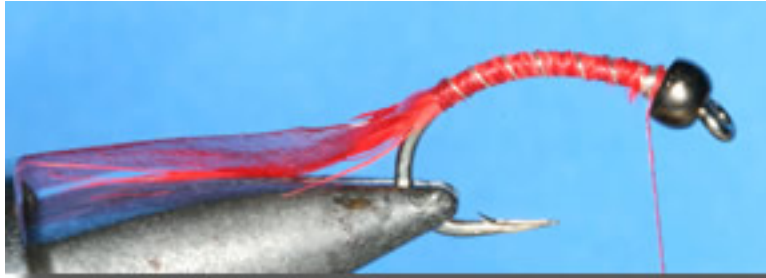
2. Start thread behind bead, and tie on marabou. Moisten fingers a little and rub marabou to control it and get a better idea of length desired.



3. Wind thread over marabou toward rear of hook. Hold the marabou on top of the hook as you wind. Cut Scud Back on a sharp angle and tie it in at back of hook. Barely trap the point of the scud back so there is no bump.



4. Tie on silver wire rib at back of body and wind thread forward.



5. Spiral wire forward and build up a little at the bead.



6. Wind Scud Back forward, overlap it just a little. This overwrap increases the fly's durability. Pull on the Scud Back as it is wrapped so the wire shows through. Be sure to pull on thread before you cut the excess Scud Back. If you don't it might unwrap on you. Whip finish and put on a little head cement on the thread.

Closing comments: This is a simple pattern that has fooled a lot of fish. Sometimes the simplest patterns are the best. I am going to tie some of these Bionic Worms as soon as I get the hooks. Your fly shop might have to order the hooks for you.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org