

PMD Emerger



By Bob Bates

In the Western part of the USA the PMD is considered by many anglers as the most important mayfly hatch. Katie Kluchko from Bozeman, Montana tied this pattern at the 2007 FFF Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Livingston, MT. She said that this is a great fly to use during the hatch or maybe just before it. Many fly anglers will stop and listen when somebody says “This emerger catches fish.” What attracts their attention is first “emerger” and second “catches fish.” This style of fly pattern is becoming more important to many of us because they are great fish catchers. Also they are a bit easier to use than high floating patterns that require re-dressing to keep them effective.

Ephemerella intermi, *E. infrequens* and a couple other species are called PMDs (Pale Morning Duns) by anglers. Depending on elevation, latitude, weather, etc., PMDs hatch from May to October and from 9am to noon. So you need to be ready to fish by 8am to get in on the pre-emergence activity when the nymphs become more active and are moving along the bottom. If you are not familiar with the stream and its hatches, it is a good idea to cultivate a friendship with a knowledgeable person. You can also check with a good fly shop or take the time (years) to learn what is going on. Usually the early season hatches are larger (size 14) than the later ones (size 18).

When the hatch starts switch to this pattern and start having fun. Since this is an emerger pattern use a floating line and don't grease the fly or the leader. You want the fly to drift just below the surface. Cast across stream and down a little. You can let the fly drift drag free to simulate a helpless insect, but it is sometimes more effective to jiggle it a little bit to simulate the struggling nymph. Moving the fly a bit can be as simple as wiggling the rod a little or giving the line short strips. On drizzly cool days a hatch will often last longer so don't give up when you see the first rain drop.

Materials list:

Hook: Mustad 9671 or similar hook, sizes 14 – 18

Thread: Uni 8/0, rusty dun

Tail: Wood duck

Body: Turkey biot, rusty spinner

Wing case: Turkey or goose biot, medium brown

Thorax: Dubbing, soft yellow

Legs: Wood duck

If you need to go barbless smash the barb before you start tying.

Tying Steps:



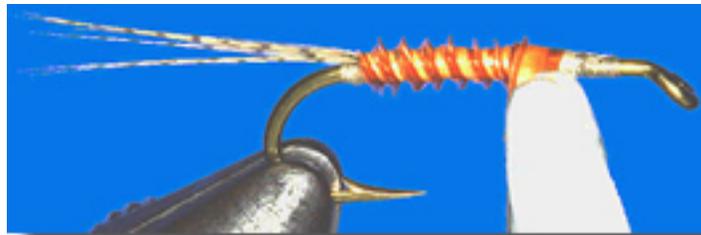
1. Start thread about one eye width behind the eye and wind to bend. Put a few extra thread winds at bend to help the tail point up a little. Cover body smoothly.



2. Take a few (6) fibers of wood duck, and tie them on in front of the thread bump. Make the tail about 1-1/2 gap widths long. Trim excess wood duck. Wind back to the bump to make the tail raise and separate slightly. Wind forward smoothly then back to bend.



3. Let the thread hang at the rearmost thread wind for the tail. Trim off the narrowest part of a biot, leaving at least 1.5 inches of the biot for wrapping. Tie it in with the curved side a little on the side of the hook facing the tier. Let the thread torque bring the fiber to the top of the hook. Secure and move the thread forward to a point about $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the shank length in front of the bend.



4. Carefully spiral wrap the biot forward. Put one wrap in front of the previous one without overlapping. Use hackle pliers from start to make wrapping easier. Secure it well before releasing the hackle pliers. Don't get discouraged the first time the biot gets away (maybe several times). It happens to everyone. To secure the biot take a loose thread wind to prevent the biot from folding then put on tighter winds.



5. Trim a little of the butt part of the wing case biot. Moisten biot before tying it onto the hook. Tie it at a point about one third shank length back from the eye with the curved side up and tip to rear. Put some of the soft yellow dubbing on the thread and wrap the thorax. Make the thorax fairly large by doing a figure eight wrap over previous layers. End wrapping with the thread at front of thorax. Make sure there is about an eye width of bare shank between the eye and front of thorax.



6. Carefully cut 5 or 6 wood duck fibers for legs on each side of hook. Handle them so the tips remain even, and tie them onto the bare hook in front of thorax. Legs almost extend to the point of the hook. The thickness of the thorax ball holds them in a proper outward position.



7. Bring biot forward and secure it. Use a loose wind first and then tighter thread winds. Trim excess, and then whip finish.

Closing comments: This pattern was designed for PMDs, but it can be changed to be successful during hatches of Blue Winged Olives, Callibaetis, Flavs, Green Drakes and Gray Drakes. For Callibaetis and the drakes use larger hooks, BWOs smaller hooks and Flavs about this size. Also change the color to match the hatch. It is a great pattern, so be sure to keep an ample supply with you.

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