

Black Stonefly for Steelhead

During the November 2009 Erie Steelhead trip, three locals were killing them on 20 Mile Creek with black stonefly nymphs that had some purple in them. Dennis Covert and I couldn't catch anything with our black stonefly patterns. That evening, we bought some size 12 bead head black stoneflies from BAC that had a purple estaz collar. While it wasn't the same pattern that the locals were using, it produced several hookups for Dennis and myself during the rest of the trip. I've attempted to copy this pattern below.



Recipe

Hook: Mustad 3906 Nymph Hook or equivalent, sizes 8-12

Thread: Black 6/0

Tail: Two Black Goose Biots

Ribbing: Thin Silver Tinsel or Wire

Body: Black Glo Bug Yarn

Wings: Two White Goose Biots

Collar: Purple Estaz

Tying Instructions

1. Place hook in vise with bead head and wrap thread over shank from head to bend.
2. Wrap thread onto hook at bend to form a small ball.
3. Tie in two black biots with 3 wraps of thread and trim off excess (these biots should be tied on opposite sides of the hook just in front of the little ball from step 2 so the biot points curve away from each other - the little ball will help keep the biots separated).
4. Tie in silver tinsel or wire with 3 wraps of thread.
5. Tie in black Glo Bug Yarn and wrap thread forward to bead head.
6. Wrap Glo Bug Yarn forward to the bead head, tie off, and trim off excess.
7. Wrap silver tinsel or wire forward over the body (3-4 wraps depending on size) to form the segmented body, tie off at the bead head, and trim off excess.
8. Tie in two white biots for the wings on top of the shank just behind the bead head (like a prince nymph) so the ends are about the length of the body and trim off excess.
9. Tie in purple estaz just behind bead head, form collar with 1 or 2 wraps, tie off, and trim excess.
10. Whip finish and place a drop of head cement on the whip finish.

Ken Bowyer