

E-Foam-Erella Spinner

March 4, 2003

Getting Ready for the Hendricksons

The "true" Hendrickson, *Ephemereella subvaria*, is perhaps the best of the so-called super-hatches throughout the northeast and midwest. The book on this insect for that area is that it should start emerging in late April. That can -- and will -- vary with climactic conditions. It may be a little late this season, thanks to the brutal winter we're having -- but it's not too soon to begin preparations.

As many of you know, the male and female duns (subimagos) of *E. Subvaria* are unique; they are sufficiently different in appearance that it pays to carry two fly patterns. The plain Hendrickson in sizes 10 and 12 represent the female, the Red Quill in sizes 12 and 14 the male. These patterns appear in many references, so you'll have no trouble finding them -- if indeed you're not already highly familiar with the dressings.

And then there are the spinners (imagos). When conditions are favorable, these can be even more productive than the duns. Expect to see them on calm, quiet evenings, beginning right around sundown. They perform their mating ritual over the stream, and then the egg-laden females descend, distinguished by their prominent yellow egg sacs. The trout take them like candy.

If the weather turns windy or cold, and the flies don't appear in the evening, you might look for them the next morning. Unseasonably hot weather can also result in morning spinner falls.

I have a pattern for the females that I'd like to share with you. I came up with it out of urgent necessity a few springs ago when I got surprised by a major spinner fall on a stream I wasn't familiar with. Since then, I've fished it on other waters, as have friends of mine to whom I showed the pattern. It has proven to be a very dependable producer.

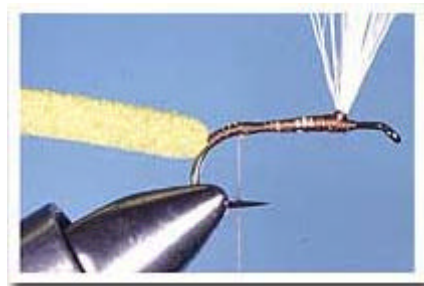
Here's the dressing for what I call my E-Foam-Erella Spinner:

Hook	Daiichi model 1180 dry fly, or model 1560 1XL light-wire nymph.
Thread	Camel Brown 8/0 Uni-Thread or similar.
Wing Post	White hair, either natural or synthetic.
Egg Sac	Yellow closed-cell foam.
Tails	(Optional) Light Gray hackle barbs or Microfibetts; several on each side.
Body	Rust-colored dubbing.
Hackle	Pale Gray or White, tied parachute-style, slightly oversized.
Also	Zap-A-Gap or similar super glue.

Tying Procedure:



Step 1. Tie an upright hair wing post, slope-cut the hair butts, then bind down neatly to the bend.



Step 2. Cut a very narrow strip of yellow closed-cell foam from a sheet and tie it in at the very rear.

E-Foam-Erella Spinner continued



Step 3. Fold the foam strip forward and tie it down, thus forming the egg sac.



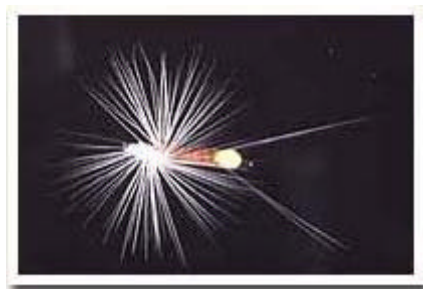
Step 4. Tie in two tails, each on one side, allowing the egg sac to spread them widely.



Step 5. To complete the fly, wrap a dubbed body and take a turn or two ahead of the wing post. Then make a parachute hackle. If you haven't tied a parachute before, please refer to my earlier instructions from the archival list.



Step 6. Views of the E-Foam-Erella.



Step 7. The trout's eye view in failing light.

For other Fly Tying Projects, please visit my website at www.dicktalleur.com. You will also find information about past and upcoming guided fishing trips, my books and instructional videotapes, recommended products, and upcoming classes and shows.



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