

Mating Trico

August 8, 2000

Are you among that large group of angler/tyers who pale at the mention of very small flies, meaning size 20 and smaller? I can understand, because I once hated them, too. Then I was introduced to Trico (Tricorythodes) fishing, and my attitude was changed forever. And Trico season will soon be upon us; in fact, it's already started in some areas.

Trico sub-adults have a very short life span before molting and becoming spinners. If you really hate tying mini-flies, and still want to hit the Trico hatch, try using the Mating Trico; there's another name for it which won't be mentioned here. It's simply two Tricos tied in tandem on one hook. This might be a good place to start, as it is a sort of "halfway house" for beginners at mini-fly tying. It provides experience working with small components, but on a larger hook.

There are several dressings. Here's one of them:

Hook	Size 14 or 16 fine-wire regular-shank dry fly.
Working Thread	Very fine; 8/0 or smaller.
Wing(s)	Upright clumps of clear synthetic yarn; Antron or similar.
Tail, Rear Fly Only	Grizzly hackle barbs.
Body, Rear Fly	Black thread.
Body, Front Fly	Dark green thread, or black, as with the rear body.
Hackle, Both Flies	Whiting Farms (Hoffman) grizzly, on the light side, if possible.

The optional dark green body on the front fly is intended to simulate the egg mass carried by the female. You can use a white thread and change the color with a waterproof marker, or you can use a different thread, tied in and wrapped like floss. Keep in mind that there are at least five important members of the genus Tricorythodes, and this color will vary, so it helps to know what your local Trico looks like. Hatches II by Caucci and Nastasi contains a good photograph of the Tricorythodes stygiatus female dun that displays the greenish shade. They also list the body colors of the various Trico's, which is a helpful guide to the tyer.

The Tying Sequence:



Step 1. Tie on at about mid-shank. Cut off a section of the synthetic yarn about an inch long, and quite sparse; reduce the diameter, if necessary. Tie it in very slightly to the rear of mid-shank. Do not stand it up yet.



Step 2. Wrap smoothly to the bend, and tie on a short tail, consisting of about six hackle barbs, trim the butts, and tie in a size 20 or smaller hackle.

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Step 3. Wrap a few turns of hackle behind and in front of the wing; don't overdress.



Step 4. Repeat the process using the green thread, creating a second body/hackle/ wing assembly on the front half of the hook. Whip finish, head for the stream.

I wrote up this fly in my column in *American Angler Magazine's* July/August 2000 issue.

Need more assistance? I'd be delighted to have you in one of my tying classes. Check the Classes and Shows page at www.dicktalleur.com for the up-coming schedule.

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