

Andy's Olive Damsel Nymph – Rev April 2011

This has proved very successful for me tied both in medium olive as shown here and in yellow (just substitute yellow thread and yellow marabou for the tail and body). If you use yellow I have found that 'blotching' the top sides of thorax and body with an olive marker pen gives a good finish.



Materials

Hook: Kamasan B830 Size 10 or 12 long lure (I use a 12)

Thread 8.0 olive

Tail: Medium olive turkey marabou

Body: Medium olive turkey marabou with fine gold wire ribbing

Thorax : Dark green antron or similar dubbing

Legs: English olive partridge neck feather

Eyes: Small olive damsel eyes

+ fine lead wire for weighting.

Tying

- 1) From the eye wind thread in touching turns for 2-3mm
- 2) Tie in small olive damsel eyes with a figure of 8 wrap.
- 3) Wind thread down body of hook, in touching turns , to just over the barb.
- 4) Tie in about 75-100mm of fine gold wire on the underside of the hook.
- 5) Tie in a good pinch of medium olive turkey marabou projecting about twice the bend of the hook (you may want to leave a bit more projecting so you can pinch-trim it to shape later).
- 6) Return the thread to just behind the eyes and tie in and wrap 4 or 5 turns of fine lead wire back towards the hook.
- 7) Wrap the thread over the wire and build a small taper just behind it.
- 8) Wet and twist the projecting strands of the marabou , twist it around the body up to the lead wire and tie off with the thread. Trim any excess.
- 9) Wind the gold wire around the marabou body in the opposite direction of the marabou twist and tie off and trim just behind the lead wire.
- 10) Tie in 6 or 7 pheasant tail fibres at the same point to make the thorax cover and trim the tied ends, try to get the 'good or shiny' side of the PTF facing downwards to the hook when tying in so they are on the visible side when you fold over. When tying these down move the thread forward towards the eye for 2mm or so to catch in a good length of fibre and then return to the marabou tie-in point.
- 11) Dub on some dark green antron , Superfine #2 blue wing olive or similar and wind round to make the thorax, finishing just behind the eyes.
- 12) Tie in the partridge neck feather right behind the eyes and wind on one or two turns to make the legs. Trim off any excess over the top of the thorax.
- 13) Move the thread forward of the eyes and bend over the pheasant tail fibres forwards between the eyes to make the thorax cover.
- 14) Tie down the pheasant tail fibres , as close to the eyes as possible then trim off the spare, leaving maybe 1mm , bind this in and build up a small head with the thread.
- 15) Whip finish and apply two coats of hard as nails or similar to the thorax cover and thread at the eye allowing each one to dry. De-barb of course.

The lead wire takes this down nice and quickly when the fish are low in the water when it's cold but you may also want to make a couple without the lead wire for a slower sink when it's warmer and the fish, and damsel nymphs, are rising slightly higher. I have had the un-weighted version snatched

as it sinks down on a dead drift and more commonly on the pull and the weighted one more commonly taken on a slow jerky retrieve with the occasional quick tug, just above the bottom .

Another interesting variant of this which actually seems to pretty closely resemble a real damselfly nymph and which does *seem* more effective, though somewhat less durable, can be made by leaving out the partridge feather for the legs and using the pheasant tail fibres instead. Make sure you have 8 fibres and change the procedure as below.

First don't use quite as much marabou so you get a slightly slimmer body. When you come to bend over the fibres (after step 11) keep two of them back behind the thorax and tie them down to form the rearmost pair of legs, bend the other fibres forward between the eyes and tie them down with a couple of turns. Then bend 4 fibres back over the eyes and spread them 2 each side and tie down and trim all. Trim the remaining two fibres ahead of the eyes to about 5mm long and leave them poking out . Return the thread to in front of the eyes and whip finish and coat as (15)

The photos below hopefully show what I mean and the last one, though not terribly clear, is a real damselfly nymph (somewhat covered in silt and a broad-winged type) but you can see how much more potentially convincing this variant is.



Tight lines

Andy Hood