

Trout Flies

The most successful angler along trout streams is one who studies the insect life ~~along~~^{on} the borders of the stream. The natural food supply of the fish are the various flies that develop and are abundant at different seasons of the year. Every expert angler ~~knows~~ not only knows the art of casting but also the ~~kind~~^{type} of an artificial fly that attracts a trout according to the season and the locality.

The stoneflies are important items in the diet of rainbow and cutthroat trout. According to R. E. Dimick of the Oregon State Agricultural College, these flies are on the wing from April until September. After mating, the female deposits its eggs about dusk by darting down quickly with a sort of a slap on the surface. This is the action an alert trout is watching for. The majority of these flies found in a trout's stomach are egg-depositing females.

The eggs of the stonefly sink to the bottom, hatch into tiny crawling insects which feed and grow, ~~as a crawling water insect~~. This is called the nymph stage. When the nymph has completed its growth in about a year's time, it crawls out of the water, the skin splits down the back and ~~a~~^{an} ~~four-winged~~ adult stonefly is on the wing again. The cycle of a year's life is from the egg through the pupa or nymph stage to the four-winged adult.

One of the larger stoneflies is known as the big curler because in the nymph stage it curls up or lies in a curled position. It spends two years in the nymph stage feeding on algae and leaves that fall into the water. It is generally on the wing in April and May in Oregon.

Another stonefly is known as the western drummer because ~~it~~^{the male} has a hammer-like appendage at the ~~end~~ of the body which

taps on a leaf apparently to attract the attention of the female.
Both of these stoneflies are very abundant in the bushes along
the banks of the De^schutes River during the early part of May.
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