

OSPREY FLY BOX

HENRI'S DAMSEL

contributed by Henri Jover

I'm certain we've all experienced at one time or another being totally puzzled and frustrated in trying to decipher what the heck those fish are rising to! But when that moment in which we take in nature's (obvious) clues and think for a change out of the box and daringly try something one has never done before and achieve the unexpected with spectacular success that is a moment that is never forgotten!

It was a partially cloudy afternoon in mid June and my faithful fishing companion Craig Graham and I were trying our luck on our favourite (and toughest) trophy lake. There was a pleasant breeze but not much happening except for a fish rising in a particular spot every so often. Hmmm, what is he taking on the surface I puzzled?

There isn't a single thing hatching on the surface Craig reaffirms in disgust as he scans the waters with his ultra high powered binoculars. "But there's a couple of chipmunks in heat going for it on the other side of the lake if you're interested", Craig points out as he hands me the binoculars which I graciously decline.

Standing at the transom, peering back across the surface of the lake I called over my shoulder "Craig, there's nothing happening, what you going to use?"

"I dunno" he says, "I've been going through my fly box wondering the same thing, except these damsel flies keep whirring past me in such a distracting manner that's really pissing me off!" Lowering my binoculars I turned around. "See...

there; at the end of my fly rod lying against the gunwale, another pair mating" says Craig, "Nothing looks promising to me, I'm going with a scud."

Again, another loud splash in the same spot, probably the same fish too. Now I have always been told that fish do not take adult damsel flies and being still a bit of a novice I had no reason to believe the contrary. But as we kept casting different flies toward that particular spot and kept seeing refusal after refusal, it started to get frustrating because that fish kept rising. I went through my fly box for the umpteenth time; a single fly leered at me, convincing me that it deserved a shot. I had only one because I purchased it for the looks and the pretty imitation. I sometimes fall into the group ... "the fly attracts more anglers than the fish".

Anyway, the moment of truth was at hand, with an adult damsel tied with precise knotting I made my very first cast with astonishing accuracy. And as I waited patiently (we're talking a few seconds) I turn to Craig and said "I guess all I have to do is just leave it sitting there right?" Never having fished an adult damsel that's all I could foresee doing...

I must be off the mark I thought to myself so I picked up and tried a second cast and within a second or two BANG! That fish was on!!! I could not believe it; I defied my own doubts and conquered!!!

Always have an ace up your sleeve (or in your fly box) 'cause you never when you'll need it...



Adult Damselflies can be found in abundance on Interior Lakes during the summer months. Below a striking adult damselfly imitation (tied by Peter Chatt.)



MATERIALS



Hook: Mustad 94840, Size #10 or to suit

Thread: Clear Mono

Tail: Cortland 20 lb mono braid
(coloured with baby blue and black permanent ink markers)

Body: Blue Dubbing to match tail.

Post: Blue Diamond Braid

Wing: Natural Grizzley Hackle
(Parachute Style)

Eyes: 30 to 50 lb mono or
small weed eater mono

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

by Peter Chatt



Prepare and colour the Cortland braid.



Debarb the hook.
Attach the tail.



Attach the Diamond braid post.



With a candle or lighter, make your eyes from the mono fishing line.



Attach the eyes then the hackle at the post
Dub a tapered body forward to the post.



Hold the post up tight and wrap the hackle around the post forming a parachute wing.
Secure it.
Dub a thorax forward to the eyes



Fold the post over the eyes tie it down forming the head.
Put the black on the tail.
Dot the eyes black,
Stiffen the tail with head cement



And.... the finished fly.

The Finished Fly



Henri's Damsel