

The Fly Box by Will Wright “Lam’s Pupa #2”

Hook:	Tiemco 3769 sizes 6 – 10
Thread:	to match colour
Body:	dark green Phentex (laced with gold)
Collar:	Hungarian Partridge, 2 turns
Shellback:	Thick Diamond Braid from Orvis, green and gold
Head:	Peacock Herl



If you’re anything like me, the highlight of interior lake fishing season is the June or early July evenings when the Traveler Sedges begin their annual pilgrimage. Nothing beats an evening on a flat calm lake covered by these sloppy flying creatures as they skitter across the surface in their effort to become airborne. Just thinking about it brings back fond memories of exciting fishing on lakes such as Roche, Plateau, Dairy and the monsters of Island.

There are times though when the lake is covered with sedges yet feeding fish are seldom seen, or times where the classic hard hitting sedge rise is replaced by a surface wake as the trout feed on the pupa just below the surface. These are times when it’s best to put the dries away and fish the sedge pupa. While at the Kidz fish out at Island a few years ago Tom Lam did quite well with this month’s feature fly. He calls it Lam’s Pupa #2 and he wrote the following:

While fishing Island Lake several years ago, I had reasonable success with chironomids. The last morning, while it was obvious that there were many fish around feeding, my chironomid patterns weren’t producing as well as they should. A diligent search of the nearby

water didn’t reveal any other insect. Stomach pump samples produced only small amount of chironomids. This went on for a good part of the morning and everybody was picking up just the odd fish.

By noon I was getting impatient and wanted a change. Many years before I had the experience of finding Island Lake fish being selective on the size of sedges that were hatching. In spite of the absence of any pupae, I decided to give it a try. I tied on this pattern that I had tied several years ago and had only fair success. The rest of the remaining two hours was history! I gave away all five of my pupas and left for home with a sore arm.

We’ve all read that once the larvae turns into pupa they come straight up to the surface and hatch. However there must be a certain time frame that the pupa just hangs around on the bottom and semi-hides in the weeds. I guess when the fish are tired of eating lots of chironomids they welcome a more substantial meal and change of menu. That probably explains the happening that day.

Since the pupa weren’t coming to the surface I was fishing dead-drift with an indicator. That turned out to be the only successful technique. Any attempt to retrieve the fly would lift it off the bottom and resulted in refusal



