

OSPREY FLY BOX

GRANTHAM SEDGE

by Ron Grantham

(Member of Totem Flyfishers)

The idea of using a front-extended body for skating flies was conceived in 1993 on the Thompson River in British Columbia while fly fishing for those magnificent summer-run steelhead.

Riffle-hitched flies and flies with forward-slanting wings work well enough for a while, but I wanted a fly that was attached securely and directly to the leader, and one that would skate high on the water without pulling under.

The pattern shown below is the final result of many trial-and-error shapes and sizes, from a mouse to a sedge, but all dressed with deer hair and with a forward extension to make the fly skate better.

When used with a floating fly line this unsinkable fly will stay on the surface as long as it is moving. In principle, it acts like a kite where the line is attached to a point back of the leading edge. The fly will skate in line with the leader so directional changes can be made by tossing upstream or downstream mends in the flyline.



MATERIALS:

- Hook: #6 Mustad 7957B, 7948A or 94840 down-eye, bronzed, forged, regular length, or equivalent
- Tying thread: dark brown
- Extension: .063" nylon monofilament as used on lawn edgers
- Body: brown dubbing
- Wing: natural deer hair, length of body

TIPS:

- Forged hooks are stronger for their size and weight than standard round-wire hooks.
- The fly was designed with no tail so the body will sink slightly and cause the forward extension to ride higher on the surface.
- There is no hackle which could cause the fly to ride on its side, and which could prevent solid hookups.
- When using floatant with deer hair, apply it at home before you go fishing. The floatant will be better absorbed and the fly will stay dry much longer.
- Tie this fly on with a turle or clinch knot, but don't riffle-hitch it.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

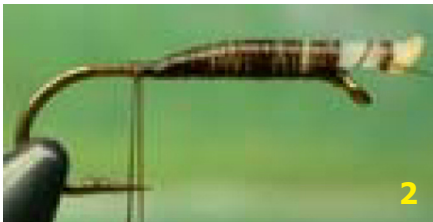
Cut a piece of .063" nylon monofilament the length of the hook shank, and heat and blunt the forward end. The back end can be angle-cut with toe-nail clippers for a smoother body. For smaller-sized hooks, use a smaller diameter nylon.



Debarb the hook.

Wrap the shank of the hook with thread.

Tie the shaped nylon piece on top of the hook with the blunt end extending 1/8" to 1/4" forward of the eye.



Leave a dubbing loop for the body material at the rear of the hook.

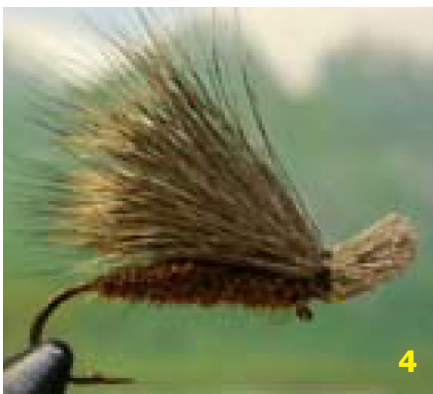
Wrap the hook and nylon piece tightly together.

Cover with flex cement to prevent shifting.



Wrap the body material from just forward of the hook bend to the blunt end of the extension.

The Finished Fly



Grantham Sedge

Tie in a large clump of deer hair at the front end of the extension

Whip finish and clip head.

Coat thread and deer hair head with flex cement.

