

The Osprey Flybox

“Sheridan Sedge Pupa”

by Ken Baker

I've never had great success at Sheridan Lake. I've been there 4 times on joint fish outs with the Kamloops Flyfishers and despite always having a great time when the 2 clubs get together I always seem to have difficulties getting fish while others are getting at least the odd one. Last year a few people had luck fishing dragonfly nymphs, chironomid and sedges (ask Tom Wishlow) while I was humbled once again, not quite getting skunked this time though.

A few years ago I had a good afternoon while tucked in out of the wind behind the big island. Sheridan is a lot like White Lake, when it's calm and sunny it's not uncommon to see trout cruising along the edge of the marl shoal in the crystal clear water as they leisurely feed on the chironomid, mayflies or sedge pupae as migrate toward the surface. That particular afternoon I managed to land 3 or 4 nice chrome fish up to approximately 3 pounds using a sedge pupa on a dry line over the edge of the shoal. This month **Ken Baker** shares with us a pattern that has produced well on the lake and for him also on the Thompson River this past summer.

When Ken told me about this pattern and showed it to me he didn't have a name for it, so I've taken liberties by giving it one. As with all patterns, don't limit yourself by tying it only as shown below, feel free to experiment with it yourself trying different renditions until you find something you think just may work. I tied some on a size 10 hook with a rib of yellowy green Superfloss which I think will do well when smaller sedges are active. As Ken mentions, the material used for the dubbing has many different coloured metallic fibres that will reflect well, possibly catching the eye of a feeding rainbow.

I write this the evening following the blustery, cold, fish out to the Gil Road area of the Fraser, the skies were bright but the gale force winds made casting all but impossible, how I long for the lazy warm sunny days of summer fishing sedges on a glass calm interior lake, I can't wait to give this fly a try!

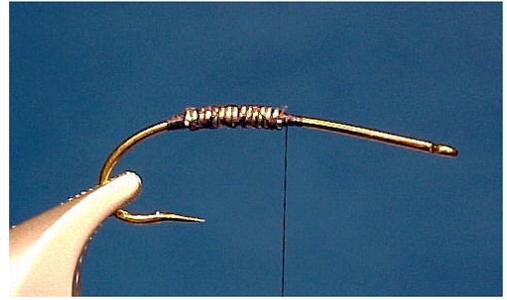
“I came across this pattern while at Sheridan Lake for the Doug Mark Memorial Fish Out last July. Fishing had been tougher than usual but one fisherman from Kelowna was having moderate success using this fly when the traveling sedges were hatching. The rendition here is very close to what he was using. As usual I had most of the materials except for the dubbing. I had a small sample given to me, showed it to Doug Wright and asked if he had anything similar. As luck would have it he had a large bag and he gave me some. You will note that this blend has a lot of different colours in it. A comment was made by someone at Sheridan that it looked that they used all of their leftovers to get this blend as you can see red, purple, green, brown, black and gold fibers in the mix. Although I cannot recall catching anything on it at Sheridan it has produced some fine trout on the Thompson River. Weighing the back of the hook serves to give shape to the abdomen and help make the fly hang vertically while you are fishing it. I like to use this fly on a dry line with a long leader. A clear nymph tip should make a nice set up as well.”

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials	
Hook:	Tiemco 200R, Eagle Claw L 52 size 4,6,8.
Thread:	6/0 black, brown, green, does not matter as long as it is dark.
Underbody:	.020 Lead wire, dark green or brown wool.
Rib (optional):	Gold oval tinsel
Abdomen:	Arizona Simi Seal No. 25 Canadian Olive
Legs:	Pheasant Tail or Rump.
Thorax/Head:	Peacock herl.

Step 1

Wrap lead wire around hook from above hook point to about middle of shank.



Step 2

Build a slim tapered body using wool. Tie one piece down each side of the back 2/3 and one piece along the top 1/2. Follow this with another layer on top and on the sides slightly smaller than the first so you end up with a tapered body slim at the front and fatter at the back. Tie in rib if desired.



Step 3

Top view of the tapered body.



Step 4

Using your favorite dubbing method spin dubbing on to form abdomen. This should take up 2/3 to 3/4 of hook shank



Step 5

Bring rib forward and trim away any pieces of stray dubbing.



Step 6

Tie 5-6 strands of Pheasant tail on each side just a wee bit shorter than the abdomen, or alternatively tie on a rump feather and take 2-3 turns to form legs.



Step 7

Tie in 3 to 5 strands of peacock herl (depending on hook size) and wrap the herl around your thread to form a rope. Wind forward to form the thorax and head and tie off and whip finish.



Side view of the finished fly.

