

The Osprey Fly Box *“Thompson River Caddis”*

Honorary Member and web master extraordinaire **Greg Gordon** share's this month's pattern for with us, the **Thompson River Caddis**". Living up in God's Country (Kamloops of course), he's lucky enough to be able to fish the Thompson River as easily as we fish the Fraser. This is a pattern he's enjoyed great success with in pursuit of the river's great native rainbows.

“In the fall of 2000, Rob Brown of Terrace sent me a pattern he calls the Zymosedge, along with tales of double-digit steelhead days on a favoured river using his fly. I liked the look of the Zymosedge--decidedly buggy--and it provided inspiration for my Thompson caddis recipe. Although Rob fishes his Zymosedge without weight of any kind, I added a bead as I like to get this fly under the surface while still using a dry line. I often use it as a “go to” fly for Thompson River trout fishing instead of a more complex stonefly tie.

To the angler, Thompson trout appear to display many of the same characteristics as their larger brethren the Thompson steelhead. This should not be terribly surprising considering that the trout are for the most part steelhead that refused to migrate to the ocean. Often times they rise once to a dry fly and, if they refuse that first offering, they seldom rise again, (a trait I've noticed with Thompson steelhead too.) However, after a refusal, if the angler switches tactics and ties on a sub-surface fly, the fish may well be induced to rise to the fly again.”

“Frequently, my strategy is to fish a run with a dry fly first and to follow-up by progressively working down the water column. This is a tactic that works very well for multiple anglers in the same run and ensures that everyone has an opportunity to hook up.”

“The Thompson River Caddis was designed as an easy tie in comparison to many stonefly patterns that are equally as effective. I dead drift the fly on a dry line and find that the fish may take on the swing as well. The soft Hungarian partridge hackle gives the fly lots of movement in the water and the fly likely appears as a struggling stonefly to trout.”

Hook: TMC 205BL Size 8 to 12
Antennae: Two strands brown mallard flank (optional)
Head: Black tungsten bead
Rib: Silver or black wire
Body: Brown or black squirrel (loosely dubbed)
Hackle: One or two winds of brown or black
Hungarian partridge



“There are rather profuse caddis hatches on the Thompson throughout the spring and summer months and are a staple of juvenile trout and salmon. When the hatch is on, one must keep ones mouth shut for fear of ingesting copious amounts of insect life.”