



April Fly of the Month Modified Chromie

By Dell Swearingen

Modified Chromie:

Hook: Dai-Riki #135, size 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 or equivalent. Hook size to match insect shucks on the water surface.

Bead: White glass, brass or tungsten, Brass 1/8" or to fit hook size

Gills: White Z-Lon

Collar: Black ice dub or peacock herl

Thread: Black, Veevus 16/0, 10/0, 8/0 or 6/0

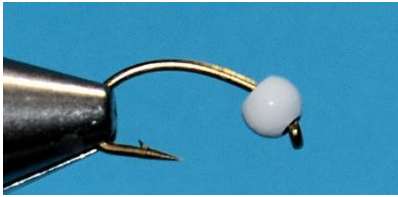
Rib: Small silver, gold or copper Ultra Wire

Body: Black tying thread palmered with gray antistatic tinsel

Note: Antistatic pouches are used to protect electronic components such as motherboards. A paper cutter was used to slice the antistatic material into small tinsel strips. The tinsel creates a shiny surface, which resembles the trapped air and gases under the chironomid pupa's skin. This material was introduced to the author by Bob Racanello, a British Columbian fishing guide. His Chromie had a black bead head and a black collar. However, at Saturday's NW Fly Fishing and Tyers Expo, Bob Wolfe made an interesting presentation entitled, "Why Fish Chironomids." He shared samples of chironomids of various colors: white, green, olive, brown, red and maroon. In each case, they had white toward the head as well as white gills. Thus, the name Modified Chromie.

Bob's talk was very convincing. He used Phil Rowley's Trout Spring Diet Chart to point out that chironomids make up 50% of a trout's Spring diet. Phil's charts may viewed by googling. "www.flycraftangling.com," Tap on entomology and then on diet charts. Phil suggests that 70% of the trout's chironomid diet is made up of the pupa stage.

In the past, the author has not been a big on Chironomid fishing. However, has had some success using green adult midges as dry flies on Klamath Lake. However, Bob's presentation inspired the April Fly of the Month.



Modified Chromie Tying Steps:

Pinch the barb down and insert a white bead on the hook. Slide the bead back and tie on a small piece of white Z-Lon, with white thread, in front of the bead and trim the back of the Z-Lon. Whip finish and force the bead back in position over the Z-Lon.

In back of the bead add four or five wraps of the black thread and start the silver wire on the far side of the hook starting at the bead. Put down a thread base until parallel to the barb.



Tie on another small piece of Z-Lon at the back of the hook serving as another gill. Tie in a piece of the antistatic tinsel and wrap the black tying thread back to the bead. Palmer the tinsel forward barely overlapping each wrap. Tie down and trim off the tinsel. The tinsel adds a sheen representing the trapped air and gases which propels the midge pupa slowly towards the water surface.



Make a full turn of the silver wire and then use equal spacing to wraps five to nine times around the hook to represent a segmented body. Helicopter the excess wire or trim it off short. Dub in a small color of black ice dub. Whip finish the tying thread and cut the thread. Cover the segmented portion of the fly with UV finish and cure with UV light enhances the appearance and adds durability to the fly.

The body of the fly could also be tied with white, green, olive, brown, red and maroon thread.

Below are some other coloration variations.



Red Chromie With Peacock Herl Collar



Green Chromie With Ice Dub Collar



Black and Red Chromie With Black Ice Dub



Green Chromie With Red Tag



Light Green With Peacock Herl Collar

According to Bob Wolfe, when there are rise forms under the water, fish the Chromie. It should be fished under a strike indicator, one to two feet off the bottom in five to 20 feet of water close to shore or over weed beds. The size should match the midge pupa shucks drifting in the surface tension. Size seems to be more important than color. Make sure to keep the slack out of your line and set the hook with any movement of the strike indicator.