

SPENT WING CADDIS



By Bob Bates

Oh No not another caddis pattern!!!! Yes, and there are good reasons for it. Caddisflies are among the most abundant of insects with about 7,000 species worldwide (1,200 species in North America). They can tolerate water that is not pristine, and fish like to eat them. Sizes range from micro-caddis 1/8th-inch long to monsters 1-1/2 inches long. Fortunately the angler doesn't have to imitate all of them. There are a lot of browns, tans and olives among them , with a few other colors. They all have about the same shape.

Depending on the species and water they will hatch from April to November and from early morning to late evening. In many waters the evening time is the most exciting. Clouds of caddis might be seen hovering over fence posts, bushes, or animals. They look like smoke over the bush or post. One evening when I was fishing the Missouri River in Montana the light suddenly became noticeably dimmer. I think that I became a handy place for the caddis to hover. When they drop to the water then the fish get interested, and a properly drifted fly will also interest fish.

This pattern was tied by Koichi Kawai from the Hatch Finders Flyshop in Livingston, Montana. Koichi was one of over a hundred demonstration fly tiers at the 2006 FFF Conclave and Show in Bozeman, MT. It is a pattern that works great on many streams

around Livingston. Spent is in the name of the pattern so it is intended to look and act like a caddis that has fallen into the water. If the fish follow the normal rules they want a drag free float. Short casts with a floating line let you control the line better. Even as the line is in the air you can mend the it with a reach cast to give you a longer float. After the line is on the water give it a quick flip with the wrist to remove any belly that forms. If the fish don't hit a drag free fly, jiggle it a little.

Materials List:

Hook: Mustad R50, size 16

Thread: Brown, 16/0

Rib: Monothread yellow

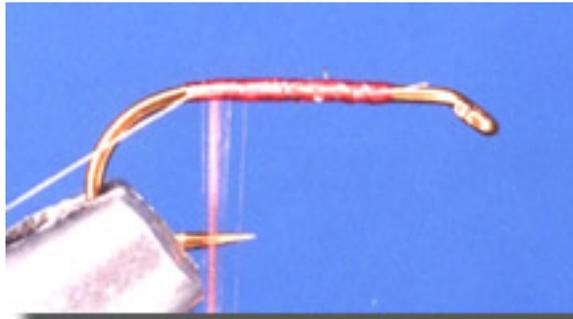
Body: Goose biot, tan

Wing: CDC, brown

Thorax: Fly Right or Scintilla, brown

CDC is short for Cul de Canard. These feathers from around the preen gland of a duck are used for dry, wet and nymph patterns. It has tremendous movement and makes any fly look alive.

Tying Steps:



1. Put thread on the shank, tie in the rib and wind thread rearward to bend.



2. Attach biot by the tip at bend of hook with the long part of the biot pointing rearward. The pattern calls for a smooth body so tie it in with the notch down. This notch was formed when the biot was pulled off of the wing quill. Wrap the biot smoothly forward to a point about two eye widths back from the eye and secure. Counter wrap rib forward, secure and trim excess.



3. Match the tips of at least four CDC feathers. Tie them in with tips forward, to make a wing that is a little longer than the hook shank.



4. Divide the CDC tips so there is at least two feathers on each side. Wind the thread through them with a figure eight to keep them divided and in a horizontal position to simulate a spent wing insect.



5. Put a little dubbing on the thread and figure eight it around and between the wings. Bring the rearward pointing CDC forward and secure it at the eye. Whip finish between the CDC and the eye. Trim excess CDC.

Closing comments: This pattern in size 16 will fool a lot of fish. So tie a few and go fishing if you have someplace to fish in December and January. You might have to wait to a couple of months before you can test this fly, but if you are like me you will have a few tied and ready when the time comes.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemoth@fedflyfishers.org