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Welcome

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PAGE 82

28 | Hackle, twist, and clip for a perfect Mayfly.



Mayday, Mayday!

Drop those DIY tools; every fly fisher should be on the water this month

May is the month for the fly fisher to be on the water. Any water. Spring is in full blossom, fly life is blooming, and the water temperatures are perfect for feeding and growth. Not too cold for trout any more, and not too hot either. It's a month when on our stillwaters the buzzer hatches are in full swing, and from studying hundreds of reservoir reports over the years I've noticed that May is the month when some of the biggest reservoir/lake and lough specimens fall to the fly, as over-wintered and wise specimens swim high and fast to reap the benefits of the first heavy hatches of fly of the year in tandem with perfect feeding temperatures for trout (15-16°C).

We all live in hope of catching a monster fish – it's in the genetic make-up of every angler –

and Charles Jardine sketches out his strategy for snaring a big 'un on page 66.

And if you want a buzzer pattern to outsmart the smartest and biggest, look no further than Mick Huffer's fantastic Bug-Bond Pupa (page 32). As soon as I saw this one crawl out of his 'Buzzer box' I couldn't believe my eyes – the way he has combined two relatively new materials has produced a stunning effect for the orange wing-pads of the mature pupa.

Spring salmon fishing also peaks in May. It's the time when you can land the biggest bar of silver of your life. And if you are looking for an alternative tactic to entice one, then Ally Gowans has detailed a when-all-else-fails tactic and gives the pick of the flies to suit the style (page 56).

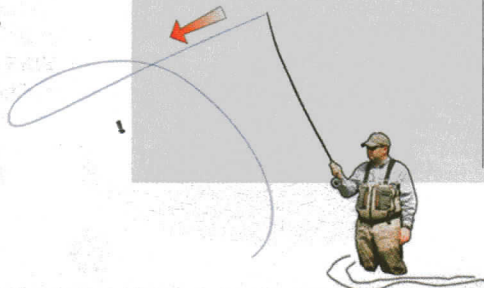
Mark Bowler, Editor

Three things to do this month

PAGE 42

SNAP OUT OF A TIGHT CORNER

High banks or trees encroaching behind? The Snap T can be a get-out-of-jail free cast.



PAGE 62

TIE A PARACHUTE LIKE A PRO!

Learn the simple technique to tie this highly popular and impressive dun imitation.



PAGE 70

DISCOVER THE WILD LAKES OF SNOWDONIA

Pick up the rucksack, four-piece and wet flies and head for the distant hills.



Dun to make an impression

ANDRE BRUN ties a fly that floats forever, and gives a convincing surface impression of a newly emerged upwing. Here, he uses it to imitate the sepia dun

The Micro Dun tying style has gained a lot of popularity in Scandinavia during the last years. And the reason is simply because it works so well during hatches of upwings. It is tied on a short-shank hook, and the body extends well beyond the hook-bend. First of all, this makes a very light impression on the surface. And maybe that is all there is to its secret. The best part is that this is a simple fly design that is easy and fast to tie. We can even exclude the tails when imitating some smaller species. This is especially when tying to imitate the popular *Ephemerella aurivillii* (a Scandinavian species similar to the blue-winged olive) which arches its body upwards as soon as it has emerged.

In Scandinavia, one of the most beautiful happenings for a fly fisher, is when the two

Vespertina Micro Dun

Skill level: ●●●●●

Hook: TMC 111, size 16.

Thread: UNI 8/0, dark grey.

Body: AB's Micro Polychenille, dark brown.

Thorax: Fly-Rite, dark brown.

Hackle: Whiting saddle, dark dun.

Wing: Aero DryWing, dark grey.

popular stillwater species emerges in early spring. *Leptophlebia vespertina* and *L. marginata* are a couple of species that bring many fly fishers on to the lakes for the first time of the season. Well, at least the remainder of those that haven't been out there with buzzers a couple of weeks already. (*L. vespertina* and *L. marginata* are the claret and sepia duns found on UK's wilder, upland lakes, which hatch

between April and July; the claret dun favouring waters with a peaty bed – Editor.)

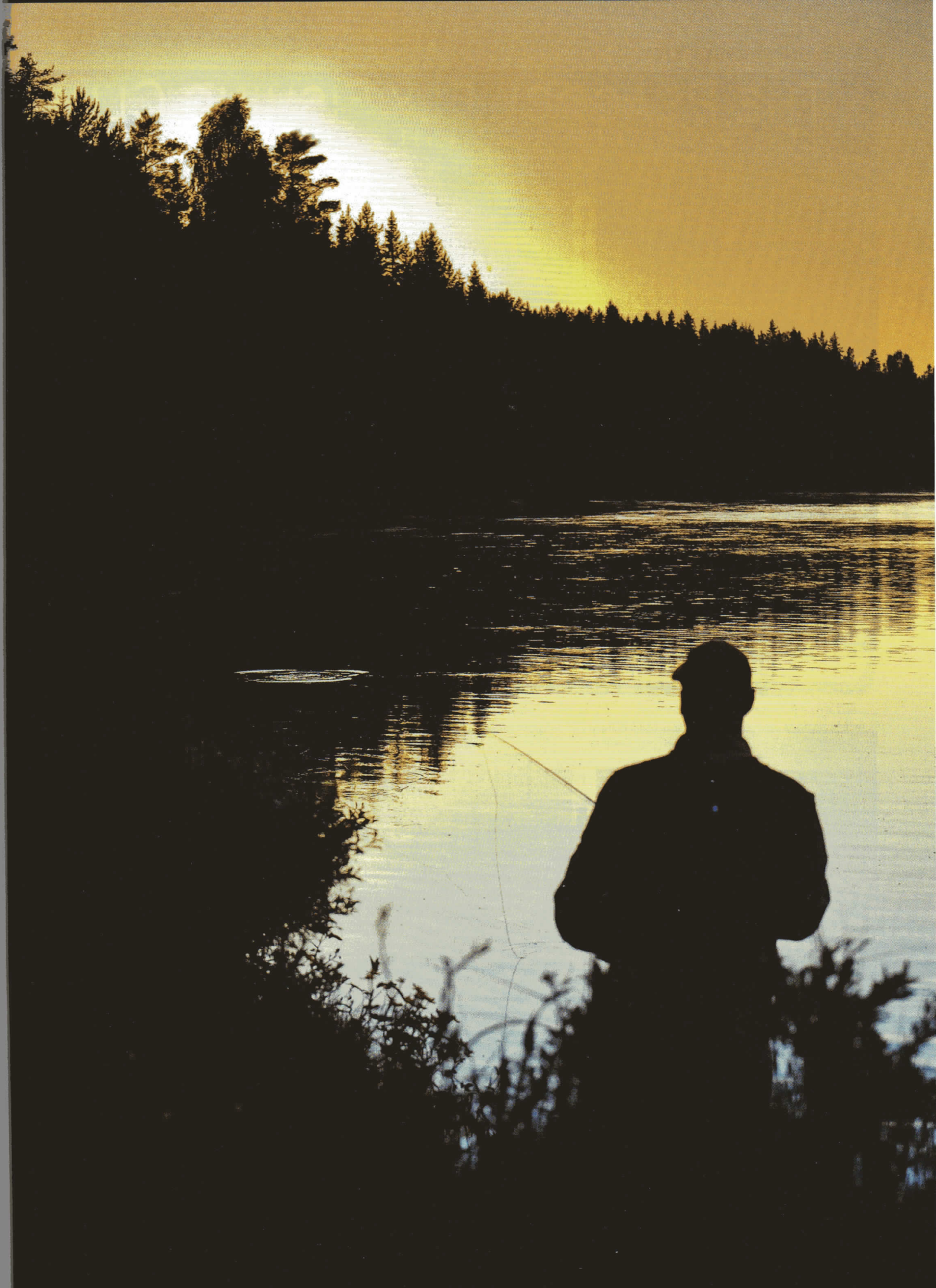
This tying instruction here is for this smaller *marginata* dun imitation. You can, of course, tie it to mimic the size and colour of any upwind species you like. And you should do so! If in doubt, a small greyish dun imitation is very often a good general fly strategy for most streams and rivers when you see the trout rise to something, but aren't really sure as to what. On upland lakes, if you see a dark brown-bodied upwing hatching with a body of between 7-12mm long try this pattern on the surface.

André Brun is one of Scandinavia's most popular writers and has written many fly fishing articles for local magazines. He appears in a popular Scandinavian film series, which has also been aired on national TV.

CREDIT: CYRIL BENNETT



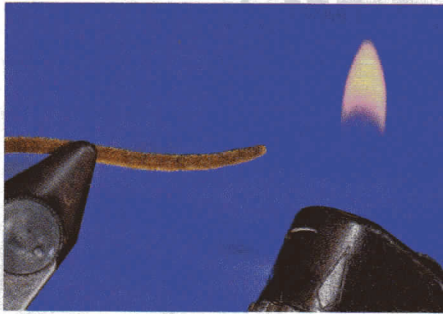
Leptophlebia marginata – the sepia dun – is a species encountered on many English and Scottish upland, acidic lakes and identified by its three tails and dark body colour.



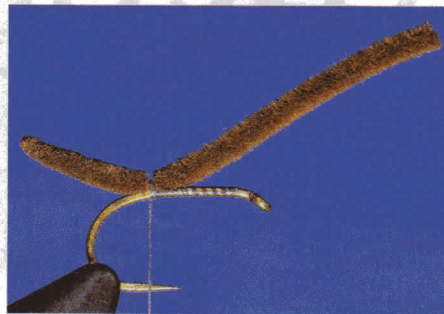
Magic hour for a dry fly on a wild lake. The Micro Dun can also be tied spent, and is an excellent choice for late-evening spinner falls.

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Tying the Micro Dun



1 BODY TAPER
First, prepare the abdomen. Cut of a piece of the micro polychenille and burn it with a lighter to make a tapered body.



2 TINY HOOK
Place a TMC 111 hook in the vice, and tie in the abdomen with some tight wraps.



3 TRIM AND SECURE
Cut off the butt end and wrap the thread further to secure the polychenille body.



4 PRO-PARACHUTE
Cut of a piece of Aero DryWing, or poly yarn, and tie it in like a sedge wing. What follows is, technically, the best way to get a pro-looking parachute hackle.



5 VERTICAL POST
Raise the wing with your fingers, and wrap some firm turns with the tying thread just behind the wing post to hold it vertical. Just a few well placed wraps.



6 THREAD FOUNDATION
Make firm turns with thread 2-3mm up the wing-post to make a foundation for the parachute hackle. Tie the hackle against the wing-post, dull side facing down.



7 THICKEN AT THORAX
Dub some Fly-Rite onto the thread and make a nicely tapered body with a thicker thorax part.



8 PARACHUTE WRAP
Wrap a parachute hackle of 3-5 turns by lying each wrap underneath the previous one. Practice, and you will be able to make hackles with fibres orientated horizontally.



9 COVER UP
Dub a tiny amount of Fly-Rite onto the thread to cover the wraps you made to secure the hackle. Finish with a whip-finish knot and trim wing to the correct length.



10 ADAPTABLE SPECIES
Use various colours of body, wing and hackle to cover the species at your local waters. Here is the author's *Ephemerefella aurivillii*.



11 SPLIT WINGS
Split the wings in two by placing a small drop of Fly-Tite at the base. This fly will land even more softly on the water surface, and it imitates the split wings of some species.



12 ADD TAILS?
When tying the larger species, the author ties in tails as well. This is the authors Spent Polychenille Mayfly danica.