

Canterbury Fly Fishing Club

Tip and Tie Sessions : Variants add the spice . . .

Notes on some members' favourite fly patterns, how to tie them and tips on how to use them.¹

Coch-y-bondhu variant

This is a traditional British pattern generally ascribed to Wales because of the 'red with a black trunk' derived from the supposed Welsh name. In the UK it is generally fished as a beetle imitation and generally also serves well as such here in New Zealand. But if truth be told no-one seems really sure what the original pattern is meant to imitate. The main consideration for practically minded fishers, however, is that it works!

The variant described here differs from the more traditional patterns in two main ways: Firstly the peacock herl body – which is often not very durable – is substituted with a peacock black 'glister sparkle' dubbing (see also the Blow Fly variant which employs a similar trick). Secondly a 'hot spot' is added in the shape of a floss tail using 'Globrite Number 5'.

Hook : size 10 – 14 dry or wet fly **Thread** : Olive **Tail** : 'Globrite No5' fluoro floss **Rib** : Fine oval gold or silver tinsel **Body** : Veniard 'glister sparkle' dubbing – peacock black **Hackle** : 'Furnace' if you have them, failing which reddish brown cock (and optional with the latter a few turns of any black herl or similar at the head).

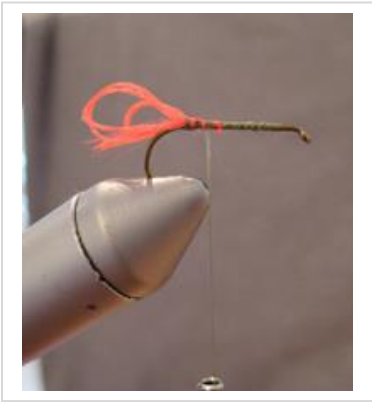
Tying Tips Instructions for dubbed bodies generally emphasise a need to keep the dubbing fairly sparse. In this case ignore convention and be fairly generous with the dubbing material. This is a beetle (possibly sedge or caddis) we are trying to simulate and so the aim is for a nicely plump body profile. Similarly with our hackle : tie in one with a slightly longer 'flue' than you would normally use for a dry fly of similar size. Lastly, after the hackle has been wound, stroke the fibres backward and tie them in as you form the head and then whip finish. This shape and size of hackle gives plenty of 'kick' when the fly is fished with movement.

Where, when and how to fish The fly is effective both as a dry and wet fly on the South Island high-country lakes particularly from November onwards when the brown and then the green (Manuka) beetles appear (December through into January for the Green Beetle). It can, however, also be a very useful pattern at other times throughout the season. It is particularly good when fished as a top dropper in a two or three fly team and retrieved through anything from a ripple to a rolling nor-wester generated wave.

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¹ *Acknowledgement: This approach to fly tying sequences with background notes and hints on usage was heavily influenced by a series of booklets entitled "Flies for All Seasons" published by "Trout and Salmon" a UK based magazine.*

Coch-y-bondhu Variant : Tying Sequence



Take about 10 cm of the 'Globrite 5' floss and fold into loops. On a foundation of tying silk tie in the loops at the hook bend as shown.



With scissors, cut through the loops.



The cut loops form the 'hot spot' tail.



Tie in oval gold/silver tinsel at the hook bend just in front of the floss tail.



Wax the tying thread using a good quality fly-tier's wax.



Dub the thread with a fairly generous amount of the 'glistersparkle' dubbing material.



Wind on the dubbed thread to form a plump, cigar-shaped body.



Rib the body with the tinsel and remove the tag end.



Tie in a reddish brown cock hackle by the base end.



Grip the hackle by the tip with hackle pliers and wind on several turns.



Stroke the hackle fibres backwards and fix the angle with turns of thread to form a neat head.



Tie off with a whip finish and varnish the head.

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