

MATERIALS LIST

DOUG'S *CALLIBAETIS*

Hook:	#14 or #16 Tiemco 2487BL or equivalent
Thread:	140 denier (6/0) blue dun UTC thread
Tail:	Two moose body hairs
Rib:	None
Abdomen (extended):	Gray or dun deer hair (to match naturals) over moose body hair (for reinforcement)
Abdomen (main)	Blue dun or gray thread, Superfine dubbing, or natural muskrat (to match naturals)
Thorax:	Same as main abdomen
Legs:	None
Wing:	Coastal deer hair sometimes called Comparadun Hair



The imitation described in these instructions is shown in the left photo and a natural is shown to the right. Notice that the shape of the abdomen and thorax is tied to imitate the shape and curvature of the natural. The naturals range in color from pastel dun to charcoal.

The *Callibaetis* is a mayfly that lives in still waters and is resident in many of the shallow, weedy lakes in our Eastern Sierra. The nymphs grow all winter long so the duns of the first emergence are quite large. Many exceed 1 ½ inches in length, including tails. The hatches usually start a couple of weeks after the thaw. Most hatches start at mid or late morning so late risers can really enjoy this fishing. The spinner fall can happen at the same time the duns are emerging. This can really be confusing. The fly described in these instructions does a pretty good job of imitating both the duns and spinners. As the summer progresses the nymphs don't have the time to grow so the hatching duns get smaller and smaller. In the spring a fly tied on a size 12 hook works well and 14's work well during most of the summer. During mid to late summer size 16's and 18's do a good job of imitating naturals but the fish tend to ignore the smaller sized copies. Size 14 is a good general size to fish during the hatches and spinner falls that have the fish actively feeding.

To tie this pattern a vise that can be adjusted so the barrel is almost vertical makes tying the extended abdomen much easier. The horizontal barrel of a true rotary vise makes "throwing the bobbin" a tricky task.

Place the hook in the vise and jam the thread behind the hook eye. Wind on a thread base back along the top of the curve of the hook. A hook without a shank was selected for this fly since it contains less steel and aids in floatation. Wind the thread back to a point between $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way back from the hook eye to tie in the wing.

Cut a small bunch of coastal deer hair from the hide. The bunch should be about half the thickness of a wooden pencil. Keep the wing sparse. Light shines through a mayfly's wings. A hair stacker can be used to even the tips but this step is not necessary. Tie a hook length of the hair (measured from eye to bend) in with the tips pointed forward over the eye of the hook. Trim the deer hair butts with a taper and wind the thread over the butts.

Wind the thread back along the bend to a point that is above the hook point. Cut a bunch of moose body hair (6 to 8 strands) and tie the hair in at the point just behind the hook point with 2 hook lengths of hair extending back. The moose hair strands should be pretty even in length and of contrasting color to the deer hair to be used over it. After securing the moose hair clip off the butts and cut a slightly thicker bunch of deer hair off the hide. Tie the deer hair in at the same point that the moose hair was tied in. The deer hair should extend back beyond the ends of the moose hair. After securing the deer hair clip off the butts and wind the thread over the excess then wind it back to the tie in point.

Now comes the cool part of this tie. Grasp the deer and moose hair with the left hand (for right-handed tying) so that the deer hair surrounds or is over the moose hair. While holding the hair "throw" the bobbin over the hair bunch three times to form an open helix of thread. At the point where the last "throw" went over the bunch wind the thread over this last wind two more times. Now "throw" the bobbin over the hair bunch in the opposite direction two times with open winds so that the thread forms X's on top of the hair bunch. Carefully lay the bobbin over the tie in point and make two loose wraps of thread at the tie in point. If tight wraps were made the hair bunch would torque over and you would end up with a twisted abdomen. You can now see that the X's at the top of the hair bunch has caused the abdomen to curve upward much like that of the natural insects on the water.

Now form the main abdomen and thorax with thread or with dubbing spun onto the thread. A thread body may be agonizingly slow to tie but it is very durable on the water. Dubbing is much quicker and gives you the flexibility of varying colors to match the naturals. Wind the thread in front of the wing and build a slight ball tapered to the hook eye. The ball serves two purposes. It helps hold the wing erect and simulates the very large eyes of the *Callibaetis*. Whip finish the head and spread the hair of the wing so it spreads 180° over the hook.

Now comes the tedious part. Cut off all the excess deer hair as close to the tie off point as possible. You will now see why it is recommended that the deer hair be tied in long and that its color contrasts that of the moose hair. You will see that the deer hair bulges on either side of the thread wraps and that cement is not needed. Now select the two strands of moose hair that you wish to retain for the tails and clip off the others. These last two steps may best be done with the fly out of the vise and by holding the fly by the hook point in the left hand.