# FLY OF THE MONTH

## Cutter's E/C (Emerger/Cripple) Caddis

**Hook:** Orvis 4864, Big Eye Hook, down eye, size 14 to 20
**Thread:** Olive 8/0
**Shuck:** Fine, crinkly Z-Lon, ginger or amber
**Abdomen:** Dark olive or brown dry fly or caddis dubbing
**Thorax:** Light olive, bright green or tan dry fly or caddis dubbing.
**Wing:** Elk or deer body hair
**Hackle:** Grizzly or dun saddle hackle.

I am always looking for new caddis patterns. This two tone emerger pattern by Ralph Cutter looks like a winner. Ralph observes his fly patterns underwater and notes that the green thorax emerging from the brown abdomen and trailing shuck is a trigger for our eastern Sierra trout. He believes it works better than the all brown or all green body. You can use regular TMC 100 dry fly hooks, but Ralph is using this Orvis big eye, wide gap hook for better hooking ability. Try it. - Lucky Ketcahm

De-barb and mount the hook in your vise. Attach the thread at the 7/8 position to mark the future wing location. Wrap a thread base to the bend and back up to mid shank. Split a strand of amber Z-Lon yarn into thirds and attach a small bunch as a trailing shuck. (Caddis flies do not have tails.) Trim the butts at mid shank and bring the thread back to the bend in preparation for the dubbing. Tease out a fine noodle of superfine dark brown dry fly dubbing and attach to waxed thread. Keep the dubbing sparse and just make a "bumpy thread." Twist the dubbing tight and wrap the dark abdomen up to mid shank. Change colors and wrap the thorax with a light green up to the 7/8 wing position. Advanced tiers try adding both colors to the thread and wrap it all at once.

Select and size a grizzly saddle hackle with barbs to be 1.5 to 2 hook gaps. Remember parachute flies can have one size larger hackle. Trim the barbs off 1/4 inch of the butt end and attach the quill, dull side down, to the bare hook in front of the dubbing. Fold the quill back and make a few wraps to lock in the hackle. Cover the thread and quill with another small amount of green dubbing in front of the hackle stem up to the eye and then back to the wing position. (Tip – always tie your hackle quills down on the bare hook or hard thread base, and not on top of dubbing or soft material, and use some type of thread lock to solve the problem of the hackle pulling loose.) Attach your hackle pliers to the tip and let it hang while you add the wing.

This "emerger" has a shorter and sparser elk hair wing than the normal Elk Hair Caddis. Select a small bundle of well marked deer hair about half the amount used for an EHC. Clean and stack it. Hold the bundle over the body and size it to have the tips go just to the end of the abdomen or shorter. Hold on to the butt ends and make three or four moderately tight turns of thread at the normal parachute position, 7/8 hook shank. Pull up on the front bundle and make two wraps of thread clock wise just over the body and under the wing making it a parachute –like post. Let the thread hang to the far side. Now take the grizzly hackle and wrap three wraps of hackle, clockwise around and under the wing. Each wrap should be below the last, ending close to the body. Pull down on the hackle tip and wrap two tight turns of thread around and under the hackle. Keep the thread as close to the body as you can. Bring the thread to the hook eye, and half hitch. I like to use a half hitch tool to make a three wrap whip finish. It

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## Fly of the Month

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slides under the parachute hackle easier than trying to pull the fibers back and use a whip finisher. (Tip: Three inside wraps on a half hitch tool produces the same results as three wraps on the whip fisher, and the tube tip will push back straggler fibers.)

Tie this fly without the trailing shuck and with a dark olive or dark grey body and you will have Eric Otzinger's Hot Creek Caddis. Eric uses only one color and ties the fly down to size 24. Use fine coast deer hair for the smaller patterns.

## From the Conservation Chair

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traps or other means, but due to the shape and size of the waterfall and lower pools, they believe complete removal of undesired exotics is not likely. If they do try the traps, they may need volunteers to help maintain them. So if anyone is interested in a steep hike (climb) to an unbelievably beautiful trout stream, right here in our North County mountains, contact me and I will add you to our SDFF conservation emails.

SDFF Conservation Crew.

## Day with the Dogs

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least four double hook ups and were often landing two fish at the same time. Sometimes we were also racing the dogs.

Bonito are very fast and strong. Four to five pound bonitos are a very exciting fish to catch on a fly line. In just a few seconds you are into your backing and counting the yards spinning off. Then you remember to set your drag a little tighter. You have to be careful not have your fingers too close to the reel handles. The direct drive reel is like the old fashioned knuckle busters of conventional fishing. I kept loosening my drag to make stripping the line easier and then I had to remember to reset the drag if I really thought I was going to get bit. If the fish really began swimming off and it felt like there was a 400 pound fish on the line, a dog had grabbed the fish. We each lost 3 to 5 fish to the sea lions.

Louie is pretty smart about fishing with the sea lions. He will let a near by party boat catch their attention and minimize the chumming of anchovies to one or two at a time. The party boats will draw the dogs. If we have one or two following us, he will slowly drive by another boat that has a fish hooked up. The sea lions will swim off the new boat and forget about us for a while. In general when the dogs arrive and start stealing our fish, he takes off to a new spot. If you stay and just let them eat some of your fish, it just encourages that behavior and further trains them to steal fish.

Louie with a calico bass.

All in all it was another good day on the water. We caught mackerel, and two size classes of bonito. Louie was surprised to catch a nice two or three pound calico bass that took his fly just after he lost a nice bonito. We guess the bass was trying to steal the bait from the little tuna. Louie was glad to see the smaller two pound bonito in the area and hopes they will move into the bays for the winter. The larger 4 pound pelagic bonito are more likely to keep moving along the coast. The smaller fish do not mind living in the tighter confinements of the bay. Louie and I always discuss things like the swim speed to body length ratio of the fish, preferences for temperature breaks, plankton movement, food in the surface film, fish location and willingness to bite on various changes in the current direction, exotic sea bird, presences of dolphin species … He is a great person to fish with! If you like or can tolerate the dogs – get out and go.