

## RIVER REPORTS

The combination of snowmelt and a week worth of rain have saturated the state with water. Rivers are running out of their banks and resemble chocolate milk in color. This makes lakes and tail-waters a great choice to help satisfy that itch in your casting arm. If you do feel the need to hit rivers right now focus your efforts towards the bank where water clarity is the best. Please be careful on the water as current conditions are dangerous.

### Big Thompson - 100 cfs below Estes

The Big T is flowing consistently and fishing well below the dam. Fishing pressure is high given the conditions of most other rivers on the front range. Fish are taking bigger and flashier patterns such as purple psycho princes (14-16) and pink sparkle worms. When fish are rising throwing a small midge patterns usually works well.

### Cheeseman Canyon -401 cfs

The flows in Cheeseman canyon are perfect right now. Fish are taking everything from San Juan worms and stoneflies to Baetis and midge patterns. Also, think about throwing an egg pattern on as fish will continue to key in on them during the spawn.

### Delaney Buttes

The Buttes are a great option for trophy trout on the fly when rivers are high. You should use two methods this time of year. First and most obvious is throwing big streamers. These fish have a reputation for hammering big articulated patterns which is all the more reason to throw them. Second, drifting some combination of San Juan worms, egg, crayfish, leech, and midge patterns a few feet below an indicator near inlets, seams, and mud lines can produce fish this time of year.

## MAY 2015 FLY OF THE MONTH

Beadhead Sharks  
Caddis Larva Size 16



Tied as an ultra-realistic caddis larva imitation, both the angler and the fish might have a hard time telling the natural insect apart from the artificial. Almost identical in profile and color to the larva of a host of caddis species, this pattern even imitates the hair-like gills along the abdomen of the natural. This pattern looks so good that the trout won't know what hit them until they feel the sting when you set the hook!

By Peter Stitcher

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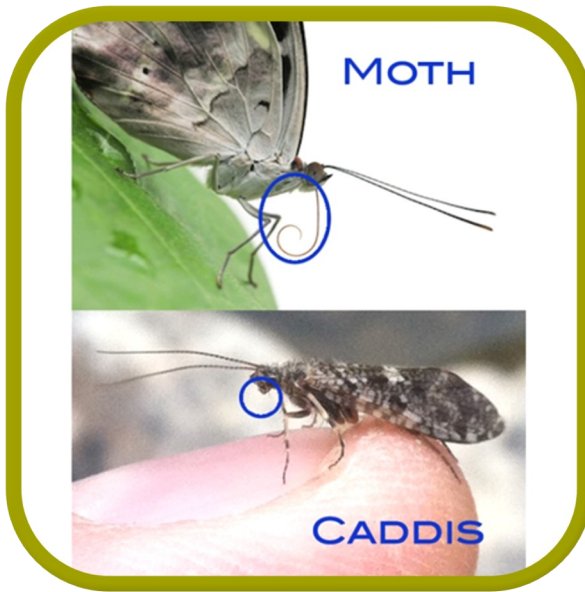
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## BUG BITES

BY PETER STITCHER

While adult caddisflies and terrestrial moths can share many physical characteristics such as color, wing shape, and their prominent antennae, it is important to be able to discern the difference between the two families so that we don't miss out on the great fishing to be expected with a caddis emergence.

One easy feature that will help you to differentiate the two families is their mouths. Terrestrial moths will usually have an elongated proboscis curled beneath their heads, while caddis will lack this feature and have only a reduced mouth. When you ID caddis on the water, try fishing an *Emerger* pattern under your dry, and hold on!



# THE CASE FOR CADDIS - PART 1

By: Peter Stitcher

One of the four main aquatic invertebrate food groups, caddisflies are both a river and lake trout staple, whose appeal to the feeding trout stretches spring through the fall. With 18 families and 1,261 species of caddis crowding our North American waters, it is essential for the fly angler to be able to identify this family on the water and be able to match it in their fly box in order to maximize their success during the almost continuous progression of caddis hatches throughout much of the year. As you are on the water, turn over rocks to determine "what is on the menu". Here are the key characteristics that you will help you identify caddisflies in all of their life stages.

While there are a couple species of caddis that will spend their juvenile life stage without a case, almost all will create a "mobile home" constructed from sand, pine needles, or pieces of leaves. Caddis larva are the first family of aquatic invertebrates to the salad bar, and they specialize in chewing up grass, leaves, and wood - for which they are equipped with large, chewing mandibles. If caddis larva were to be confused with any other aquatic insect, it would be the larger midge and chironomid larva that share their worm-like profile. What is going to clearly define the caddis larva, however, is that they have legs, while midge larva do not.



## The Caddis Pupa



the larva and adult, the pupa's mature wings are trapped beneath its pupal shuck (or skin) while its adult antenna and fully developed legs are free. Most caddis pupa will swim towards the surface, where upon breaking through the surface of the water, they will break free from their pupal shuck and fly to the streamside vegetation.

It is from the characteristics of the adult caddisfly that this family derived its name of *tricoptera*, which in the Greek means "Hair Wings". The wings of the adult caddisfly, in contrast with those of their terrestrial brethren, are covered with fine hairs. The key characteristic, however, that is going to separate caddisflies from the other aquatic invertebrate families is the position and shape of their wings. At rest, the wings of the adult caddisfly create an "A-Frame tent" sitting across the back of the insect.

Armed with this information, you should be able to identify caddis in all life stages while on the water. As you seek to match the hatch, focus on imitating the size, profile, and color of the naturals being sampled, and join us for *A Case for Caddis: Part II* when we take this information into your fly box with 12 go-to caddis patterns.

After closing itself in its case, similar to its terrestrial cousins the moth and butterfly in their cocoons, the caddis will pupate before breaking through the case and beginning its emergence. Sharing the characteristics of both

## The Adult Caddisfly



# LIP SNAGGING

The title "Lip Snagging" doesn't actually refer to hooking fish against their will. I created it to describe a very unique style of tail waters sight fishing that will put fish in the net. This method focuses on visually watching the fish's takes instead of blindly relying on the twitch of your indicator. Granted you do still need your indicator as it helps to suspend and position your flies.

To practice your lip snagging skills, go to your favorite tail-water. Set up a 2 or 3 fly nymph rig with your first fly being large and brightly colored. This lead fly helps you track your flies as they descend down the water column, hopefully towards a fish. Then adjust your indicator depth and rig weight so that your flies are getting all the way to the bottom as fast as they can. Now your rig is set up for lip snagging.

Use elevated landscape features like hills, rocks, and bridges to visually locate a fish or pod of fish. Slowly approach the target, ensuring you have good visual of the fish before you cast. Cast 5-8 feet above the fish, mend immediately to orient your rig so the fish sees the flies first. Keep an eye on your lead fly as you drift towards the fish. When your rig reaches the fish, be ready to set. Don't wait for your indicator to move, instead look for any movement of the fish's head, mouth, or body. Set as soon as you see the fish respond to the presence of your flies. If you miss them on your first set, try again as long as you don't spook the fish. By Weston Niep

Do you have someone that you'd like to include in the Fly of the Month Club? Please sign up on our website [www.wamboltwealth.com](http://www.wamboltwealth.com) or email [Brittanie.Chambers@wamboltandassoc.com](mailto:Brittanie.Chambers@wamboltandassoc.com)