

8/01

# Cutter's Perfect Ant

by Clarence Butzbach

BRACHYCENTRUS  
OCCIDENTALIS

Steps tied by Don Lieb, Photos by Chuck Wilcox

Terrestrial insects, those that hatch and spend their lives on land, sometimes fall into or are blown onto the water and become opportunistic food for fish. One important group of insects in this category is the ant. This insect can be found in trout stomachs during all the warm months of the year. There are several patterns that have been devised over the years employing many different materials. One common bond between all ant imitations is the distinctive narrow waist or "ant-shape." The original pattern called for the black hair of the shellback to also be the post for the hackle. In this locally popular variation, I use a white post for better visibility.

## Materials:

- Hook: Standard Dry Fly, sizes 10 to 16  
 Thread: Black, size 6/0  
 Post: White calf body hair, white polypro yarn or other material.  
 Abdomen: Black dubbing (Cutter uses black Antron)  
 Shellback: Black elk or deer Hair  
 Thorax: Black dubbing  
 Hackle: Brown OR BLACK

## Tying Sequence:

1. Tie in a bundle of white calf body hair about mid-shank for the post.
2. Tie in a small bundle of black deer hair behind the post allowing hair to extend well past the bend of hook. Wrap it down back to the bend.
3. Dub an ant-shaped abdomen over the hair with black Antron.
4. Pull black deer hair over the abdomen and tie it down behind post. Try to make a definite separation between the abdomen and the thorax-head. Make it look like an ant.
5. Tie in a brown <sup>OR BLACK</sup> hackle on far side of the post, stem end to the front, and wrap hackle counter-clockwise around the post. Tie off the hackle in front of the post.
6. Dub a small thorax/head in front of the post.
7. Whip-finish, and then cement well.
8. By tying the hackle on far side of the post, the stem is tied on the hook shank and the thorax dubbing covers it.

NOTE →

