

## Biot Midge Pupa by Wayne Luallen

The need for a simple, reasonably durable midge pattern that could be easily modified in shape, size and color, as well as be fished at any level on New Mexico's San Juan River led to this fly's development last year. Before the adult clumping hatches occur, aquatic activity of the midge increases, first more deeply, then right under the surface. Since I'm sure there are other biot midges, I make no claim to "The Biot Midge" development, but rather only to this one that served our needs well in October, 1989.

### Materials

**Hook:** Orvis 1639-00, 2X short, also Mustad 94849, 94859, 7948A, or 3906 in sizes 14-22.

**Thread:** Flymaster 6/0 to match thorax color

**Head & Tail Gills:** 6-10 plumulaceous barbs from the base of a white hen neck

**Abdomen:** Goose biot of appropriate color

**Thorax:** 4-12 barbs from the off-side of a ringneck pheasant side tail, died to appropriate color

1. Cover the shank with smooth, flat thread wraps, to reduce slippage of the gill material. (On a hook such as Mustad 94840 it may be preferable to wrap slightly around the bend to enhance the curve of the pupa.) Strip 6-10 plumulaceous barbs from a hen hackle and tie in so that the butts are at the head and the narrower tips are secured at the tail. Finish with the thread at the tail position. With scissors, cut (don't break) the head and tail gills to the desired length. (Don't use turkey marabou because the barbules on the barbs are much too large.)

2. Tie in a goose biot by its tip so that the edge with prominent barbules trails. (This will allow the segmented effect on the next step. If the barbules are forward, each advanced wrap of the barb will overlap the barbules, thus losing the segmented look.) Slightly taper the abdomen area with flat thread wraps, concluding with the thread in position to tie off the goose biot.

3. Wrap the goose biot forward in smooth, slightly overlapping wraps. (I prefer to use hackle pliers here.) Tie off the biot. Tie in the pheasant side tail barbs, slightly trimmed tips first, with butts facing out over the head. Advance the thread, securing the pheasant to within one thread width of the head gills.

4. Twist the pheasant barbs clockwise, making two or three parallel wraps backward to the tie-off point of the abdomen, then forward one or two wraps between the prior wraps, thus forming a slightly elongated ball-like thorax. Tie off on the side or under the hook with one or two wraps, trim, then whipfinish in from of the gills and cut the thread. These wraps should capture any remaining trimmed butts from the thorax, as well as push up the head gills. Do not cement. Whipfinishing is adequate when done properly, and it avoids matting the gills.

### Fishing Suggestion

An hour or more before visible surface activity is seen is a good time to fish the pupa deep. I use lead shot or a twist-on, in preference to a piece of lead-core line in the leader or a lead-coated leader. I quarter my cast upstream, throwing a slight mend in it and fish dead-drift with an indicator through likely holding water. When fish are seen dorsaling, remove the shot and grease the leader down almost to the fly and present dead-drift, downstream to a working fish.

