

Fly of The Month

Pink PMD Cripple

Recipe

By
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Hook: Size 16 or 18 TMC 100 or
Equivalent

Thread: Pink

Shuck: Medium brown antron tied
Short

Abdomen: Dark brown dubbing tied
3/4 up hook shank

Rib: Fine gold wire

Wing: Medium to dark grey poly yarn

Thorax: Pale pink dubbing to match naturals, tied in front of wing



This fly has worked well for me on the San Juan River in New Mexico--where I first fished it--and on the Bighorn, Wind, Arkansas and other rivers throughout the west. One of the most notorious features of PMD's in general is their variability of body color. For example on the South Platte in Colorado they are distinctly pale olive. I find that one of the most useful variations has a pale pink thorax. However my box always has a few with tan and pale olive thoraxes. In addition to fishing this fly as a cripple in the surface film, I have had success with it fishing it as an as a wet fly dropper behind a larger dry fly. A mercury bead (small glass bead silvered on the inside) added at the head enhances its usefulness as a wet fly.