

FLY OF THE MONTH- June 2020 #2

Red/ Green Chironomid Pupa

By

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The Corona virus has me spending more time indoors at a time when I should be thinking about ice off on the lakes and the start of Chironomid fishing. With time on my hands I've been tying some of my favorite chironomid patterns. One of my favorites and one of the more versatile early season patterns is the Red/ Green Pupa. Early season is characterized by the emergence of the chironomid larvae more commonly known as the bloodworm. Most larvae are red, very slender and about an inch long. They emerge out of the bottom mud and migrate along the bottom from deeper water into the shallows. There are dozens of patterns that are effective imitations of the bloodworm but I like this pattern because it does double duty as both a larva and as the second stage of the chironomid, the pupa. Fishing this pattern with a floating line and a strike indicator about a foot off the bottom in 8 to 18 feet of water is deadly in the early spring.

Thread – UTC red 70

Hook- Alec Jackson Chironomid hook or TMC 2302 Size 10,12,14

Bead – White, sized to hook. (smaller beads produce better proportions)

Rib – Red UTC wire, small

Underbody – UTC red holographic tinsel, med

Tinsel rib – UTC green holographic, med

Counter wrap the red wire rib and coat the fly with UV fly finish, Sally Hansens or Super glue.

