

DECEMBER 2018 FLY OF THE MONTH The Humongous

by
DENNIS WESTOVER

“A Wolly Bugger by any other name would smell as sweet.....” Billy Shakespeare, renowned Bitterroot River fishing guide.



Wait a minute, you say, we all know how to tie and fish an ordinary, run of the mill Wolly Bugger. Let's see something new and interesting – an easy to tie pattern that catches fish in both rivers and still waters. Well, the Humongous may look like a Wolly Bugger but it is, in fact a Wolly Bugger ON STEROIDS. There are some important differences between the Humongous and its predecessor. The Humongous sports a sparser tail that is two and a half to three times longer than the Wolly Bugger while the body is typically half as long. Even with the long tail short strikes don't seem to be a problem and the short shank heavy wire hook reduces the fishes leverage and means more fish landed and released. Fish in both rivers and especially still waters prefer a slow to medium retrieve but when trout are active in warmer water they will chase and eat a quickly retrieved Humongous. My preferred color combination is shown above – Black tail, five or six strands of UV crystal flash, silver flash tinsel, grizzly hackle (two times the hook gape) and either bead chain eyes or bead head. Rib the body with silver wire for increased durability. Other than the bead head or bead chain I don't add any weight and always tie a few without any weight for prospecting still water shallows. I tie this on a #10 Hanak 900 streamer hook but any heavy wire, wide gape, #8 or #10 hook will do the job.

Other color combinations I've tied and fished are gold tinsel body, brown hackle and brown over yellow miabeau tail / Silver body, olive hackle and black over olive mirabeau tail.

The Humongous is one of my “go to” still water patterns – tie a few and try one this spring at Brown's lake.