

FLY OF THE MONTH September 2019

By Greg Chester

Lime RAM Caddis Pupa



Many years ago while learning to fish the waters of the Eastern Sierra in California an effective and popular pattern was the RAM Caddis. It was invented by Ross A. Marigold, an avid fly fisher in both California and Montana. A large rock on the Madison River near Raynolds Pass Bridge has a plaque signifying this to be his favorite spot. He passed away several years ago.

His RAM Caddis pattern, tied in several colors accounted for many nice days on Hot Creek, Rush Creek, the East Walker and Carson Rivers. The popular colors were Tan, Lime/Burgundy and Lime as show here. We tied them in sizes 12 – 20 with varying hackle color and style. Overall I recall a size 16 with white hen hackle and wine dubbing for the head to be our go-to pattern.

By the way I mentioned in a recent trip report of my success with this bug on the Madison below the Hebgen Dam and at \$3 Bridge. I shared this with the staff at Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone and it came as no surprise to them. Seems they've been fishing the bug consistently for the past year in all Yellowstone Country waters with good success.

The lesson here is to try some of your old forgotten patterns. They worked then and should work now. All of my original RAMs were tied on Mustad nymph hooks which were not known for durability or consistency. They still work but I now tie them on current models offering much more quality and superior sharpness.

If you care to give this bug a try here's the menu.

Hook	#16 Tiemco 2487 Scud Hook
Thread	White 6/0 Unithread
Abdomen	Lime colored floss
Ribbing	Small red wire
Hackle	White hen
Head	Wine colored dubbing

Tying is pretty much straight forward. After mounting the hook in your vise wrap the shank with tying thread and tie in a length of floss and wire. Note that the floss extends around the bend of the hook.

Next wrap the floss toward the eye forming a neat, tapered abdomen. Make sure to leave a little room for the hackle and head.

Wrap the ribbing forward in even, open wraps and tie off near the head area.

Now tie in a soft hen hackle of appropriate size. The fibers should be approximately equal to the length of the abdomen. Wrap about 3 turns of hackle tying off just behind the head area.

Then dub a somewhat shaggy head forcing the hackle fibers back as shown in the photo.

Finally whip finish and apply a small amount of head cement.

Good luck! Any questions? Feel free to give me a call. 406-363-0033