

Mutant Shrimp... Jerry Aldridge



A few years back several vendors started carrying a synthetic hackle variously called tri-lobal hackle, krystal hackle, polar chenille and other names. The material was designed to wrap around the hook shank the same way as natural hackle with a braided core like chenille plus fibers on just one side of the core. Naturally I had to try it out. The first one that I tried for speckled trout had a marabou tail with copper flash in the tail and a hackled body/collar wrapped with UV polar chenille made by Wapsi. Speckled trout liked it just fine especially in winter in deeper, murkier water. Later I used various tail materials like zonker strips, rubber hackle and even curly plastic tails.

Then one day I was browsing through the fly bins at the Bass Pro Shop in Spanish Fort when I came across a very similar fly with a couple of clever variations, a tail with four squirrel zonker strips and several striped rubber strips tied in behind the eyes. I borrowed those ideas, added a bit of orange and silver holographic flashabou to come up with the current version. I would give credit to the Bass Pro fly tyer and use his name for the fly but can remember neither. Everything has to have a catchy name so "Mutant Shrimp" it is. Speckled trout and large-mouth bass take it with zest.

MATERIALS

HOOK	Mustad 34007, sizes 2-6
THREAD	3/0 black or orange
EYES	3/16 Real Eyes Plus, black/red
TAIL	Four 1.5" pine squirrel zonker strips, crawdad orange, 4-6 doubled strands holographic flashabou, orange/silver
BODY	UV Polar Chenille, rusty copper, 6"
LEGS	Sili Legs, barred orange/black, two 4" strips



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Bend barb down and place hook in vise. Jam knot thread on behind hook eye and lay thread base to bend. Select one of the zonker strips. Tie in at bend with leather facing up and about 1/4" of the strip forward of bend. Cover that 1/4" with thread wraps and return thread to bend.



2. Tie in second strip on top first with leather facing down. Tie in third strip in like manner with leather facing either side of shank. Tie in last strip on opposite side of shank with leather facing shank. Trim excess hair.



3. Select 4-6 strands of flashabou, double around tying thread and tie in back to zonker strips with flash extending to rear. Trim flash at least 1/2" longer than squirrel strips.



4. Tie in 6" strip of polar chenille at bend with hackle extending to the rear. Wrap thread forward in loose wraps to point about 1/4" behind hook eye. Tie in Real Eyes there and secure firmly with series of figure eight wraps. Leave thread behind eyes.

Mutant Shrimp.... Jerry Aldridge (continued)



5. Wrap polar chenille forward with firm, adjacent turns. With your "off" hand keep stroking the fibers to the rear making sure none get trapped under tying thread. Also make sure bare side of chenille always faces hook shank. Continue wrapping until you reach eyes. Secure chenille there with a half hitch but do not cut off excess. Select one of the sili legs, double around thread and tie in at side of shank with both halves extending to the rear. Tie in second sili leg the same way on other side of shank. Take 2-4 additional wraps of polar chenille to cover previous thread wraps behind eyes. Move tying thread under the hook to just in front of eyes. Build neat thread and cover with head cement or epoxy. Trim sili legs to same length as flashabou.

Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina

At the October 8 Bull Session Jerry Aldridge will lead us in tying a new fly partly of his design and partly borrowed from Bass Pro Shop. For lack of a catchy name, Jerry dubbed the fly the "Mutant Shrimp". It uses several materials and tying techniques which may be new to some of us. Fly tying starts at 6:30 PM. bring your fly tying tools and tie along with other club members and guests.

The October Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday October 17 from 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM Jerry will again lead the tying session. This time Jerry will teach us how to tie the "Stealth Bomber" a top water fly.

The materials list and tying instructions for the Mutant Shrimp and Stealth Bomber are included in this newsletter. Your club and Jerry will provide all materials needed to tie both flies. If you have them, bring your fly tying tools. If you need, your club has tools for both you and your guest. Both flies have caught speckled trout and bass.

John Brand will conduct the casting clinic on Saturday October 17. John can teach you basic fly-casting or help you improve your us for lunch.

As always, you are encouraged to bring guests to all club functions. If you or your guest need fly rods or fly tying tools your club is ready to provide them for use during the clinics and guests are more than welcome to partake in our free food and drink.

Fishing Report....Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers



After eight months of mostly high and nonfishable water, we are now seeing some good flow rates on the Cumberland river. USACE has been keeping the level of Lake Cumberland constant for the dam repair work that is going on. So when we get a year like this where there is abundant rain, they will be releasing much more water and we will see more high flows in the tailwater. Now that we are entering Fall, we are seeing much better low flows. Fall is typically our dry season here so we expect mostly low water for the next few months.

Anytime you reduce lake levels and then generate at high levels, you have to be concerned about tailwater temperatures in our southeastern rivers. USACE operates real time temperature monitoring stations just below the dam and at Burkesville, KY which is about 30 miles below the dam. The temperature at the dam is currently 59°F and it is 62°F at Burkesville. These are actually better temperatures than we have seen in Burkesville since the cicada spectacle early in 2008.

Rocky had an opportunity to get on the river last week with a few adventurous clients. Photos included here are from those trips. Eric's big brown is 21.5", Glen's brown is 19", and Jim's rainbow is 18". I might add that some guides may have tried to stretch the fish in their high teens to 20 inchers, but not Rocky. The preferred rig was a hopper/dropper which has worked well for us the last few late summer/early fall seasons.

I am delighted to be able to put out a good fishing report from the Cumberland River. We especially love Fall here, and it looks like 2009 is going to be another good one. We are currently booking dates for September through December on the Cumberland River in south central Kentucky....Dane Law, 770-655-9210

