

Body Quill Baetis Nymph

This one comes from Hans at Dakota Angler in the Black Hills of South Dakota – Tying with Hans on YouTube. It uses another new material from the EuroNymph market – synthetic body quills. He features the Veevus brand but I use the Hends brand because that’s what I have. These body quills are very easy to work with, durable, and make a translucent body similar to a Jujubee midge using SuperHair. This little fly is a great imitation for our BWO’s that come off year round, but particularly in winter during the catch and release season.

Materials

- Hook: Heavy Wire Scud Type Hook #16 - 20
- Thread: 14/0 Veevus White and Olive
- Tail: Three Moose Body Hairs
- Body: Olive Veevus or Hends Body Quills
- Ribbing: Black Crystal Flash
- Wing Case and Legs: Black or Dark Gray Antron Yarn (could also use Fluorofiber)
- Thorax: Gray Squirrel Dubbing

Tying Steps

1. Secure hook in vise and start the white thread at the 1/3 point from the eye. Tie in the moose body hair tail and wrap back to a point adjacent to the hook barb. The tail should be about the length of the body.
2. Tie in the body quills and ribbing material using one single layer of white thread up to the thorax forming a uniform white underbody.
3. Wrap the body quills forward using touching turns so there are no gaps but avoiding overlap. Tie off at thorax and trim excess. Rib the body with 4 or 5 turns of crystal flash to the thorax. Tie off and trim excess.
4. Tie in a section of Antron about the diameter of the hook wire for the wing case. Dub a rather tight full thorax over the antron butts leaving room for the head. Whip finish the white thread and trim off.
5. Start the olive thread at the head. Pull the Antron forward over the thorax and tie off on top of the hook shank. Divide the antron down both sides of the fly and tie back to form the legs. Form a neat head with thread wraps and whip finish.
6. Trim the legs to just past the thorax.

Hans likes to coat the body, head, and wing case with thin UV resin. I usually don’t but it does look nice and add some durability. I have done it both ways. You can also add a few turns of lead wire under the thorax if you like. I have not tied it with a bead yet, but you probably could add a small silver or black nickel bead if you like. The white thread underbody really makes the body color pop. Feel free to experiment with different colors as well. I put the body quills spool into a bobbin to make them easier to work with – just remember to keep untwisting them so they lay flat.

I fish this under a dry as an emerger, or as a dropper under a heavier nymph as a nymph. It is a buggy looking little mayfly nymph and the fish will often move a long way to take it when the bugs are emerging.

