

## Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

### CrawBugger

With summer in full swing, fishing opportunities abound – as do fishermen on the waters. The trout parks, rivers, and even smaller streams are crowded and fish are getting more pressured than usual. Summer is the time to start looking to warm water fishing for relief. I still love fishing moving water, and small rivers and lower sections of traditional trout streams hold smallmouth bass and largemouth bass, bluegill, and goggle-eye. These fish are accessible and willing to bite. One of their favorite foods is crawfish, but there's really no reason to get too complicated with your pattern.



The CrawBugger is an easy to tie suggestive pattern that you won't be afraid to throw where the fish are, and not be afraid to lose it. The weight can be varied for different situations, and the materials come in a rainbow of natural colors to match your river conditions.

#### Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu B10-S size 1-6  
Beads: 4 Medium or Large Black Bead Chain Eyes (can also use lead eyes)  
Weight: .015" lead wire  
Thread: 8/0 Brown  
Legs/Antennae: Barred SiliLegs  
Body: Cohen's Carp Dub, Senyo's Laser Dub, or other coarse dubbing

#### Tying Steps

1. Secure hook in vise and start thread at mid-point of hook and wrap to hook eye and back to two-eye-lengths from the eye. Hit it with a little superglue since you will need a solid anchor point for your eyes.
2. Clip a set of 4 bead chain eyes and tie in at the middle on top of the hook using crossing thread wraps then go around those wraps horizontally to tighten the wraps. Add a drop of superglue again.
3. Add several lead wire wraps just behind bead eyes and secure with thread wraps. Advance thread to hook bend.
4. Tie in 8 sections of SiliLegs about 1 ½ the length of the hook shank. I like to mix two colors.
5. From a dubbing loop, and add the dubbing material at its center. As you twist it, brush it out so that you have a thick brush. Again, I will mix a couple of colors for a mottled look. Advance thread to the hook eye.
6. Wrap the dubbing forward to the eyes including one wrap in front of the eyes. Tie off the dubbing loop, whip-finish the thread, and trim excess.
7. Using a dubbing brush, dog brush, or old pocket comb, brush out the dubbing to make it shaggy and full.

I tie these in olive, golden olive, brown olive, and brown orange. I like to fish these in smaller sizes, but sometimes in mid-summer the larger ones actually produce better. You can fish deeper in you use lead eyes, but I think the bead eyes act as rattles too. Fish this through deep holes starting from the head of the pool all the way to the tailout. Look for structure and root wads and focus on shade during full sun days.