

Terry & Roxanne Wilson's Bully's Bluegill Spider

Submitted by Jerry Snider



Materials:

Hook—Mustad 94840 or equivalent, sizes 8-12. I use Tiemco 200R, size 10 for this pattern.

Thread—Danville 6/0 Monocord. Use color to match body. I tie all of my bully spiders in yellow only, as in the original pattern.

Lead—.020" lead wire for shallow water, .025-.030" for deeper water.

Body—medium chenille, color of choice. I use only yellow.

Wings—Two pieces of 1 7/8" medium round rubber hackle, trimmed to equal lengths after the fly is completed. After trimming, each leg is ca. 7/8" in length if tied on a #10 hook.

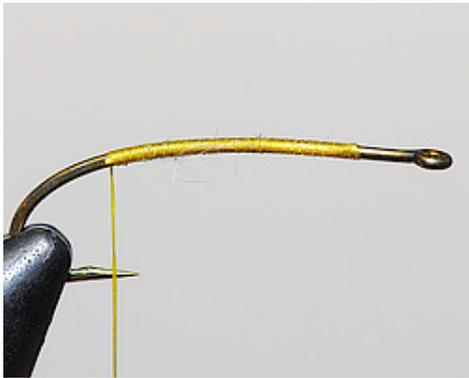
Head—Yellow thread tapered and whip finished.

This pattern first appeared in "Bluegill Fly Fishing and Flies" by Terry and Roxanne Wilson, 1999. Frank Amato Publications.

Initially I tied this pattern with great enthusiasm only to conclude, once I saw it completed, that this bug likely wouldn't catch ANYTHING. I carried a half dozen of this pattern, all yellow, for a couple of years

before forcing myself to give it an honest try. Wow! was I surprised! Several hundreds of bluegills (and a few 4 and 5 lb bass) later, it is still my GO TO fly in early spring and mid-summer pond bluegill fishing. Also works well when dropped on a bluegill nest. While I don't normally like yellow as a fly color, I now wouldn't tie this bug in any other! Indeed, if I thought any of you would tie and actually fish this pattern, I wouldn't provide tying instructions! I have seen Bully's Bluegill Spider tied with bead heads, barbell eyes, and numerous other ways. While all of these are likely decent flies and do catch fish, they do not imitate Bully's Bluegill Spider action. The rationale behind this fly is that it is designed to drop in vertical free fall, tail first, with legs wiggling on decent.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:



Debarb hook, clamp in vise, and start thread 2 hook eye lengths behind hook eye. Wrap to just above hook point.



Cut a 2" long piece of round lead .020-.025" dia., place at front edge of thread base and tie down to rear of thread base.



Take three tight turns of lead around rear of thread base, then make one long spiral lead wrap to front of thread base. Make one full wrap of lead here.



Wrap thread back and forth over lead wraps to anchor. Select a 3-4" section of yellow medium chenille, remove $\frac{1}{4}$ " of fuzz from one end, and attach the bare end to rear of hook shank at end of lead wrap.



Using tight turns, wrap chenille to front edge of lead and tie down securely. Trim off excess chenille.



Select two 1 7/8" long strands of medium yellow round rubber. I prefer to leave the rubber strands attached while tying in. Center rubber legs and tie in against the front turn of lead (shown exposed at arrow) using several thread wraps.



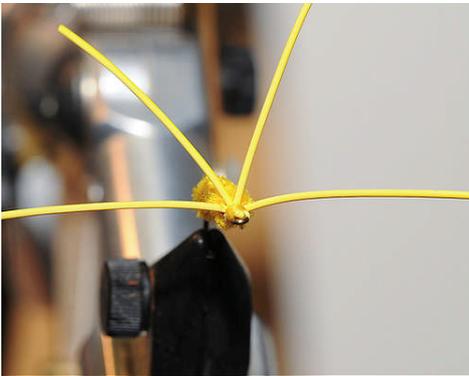
With rubber legs anchored securely, grasp the tips of both halves and pull up and back from hook eye. Make several secure thread wraps over both halves of legs to anchor them against the single lead wrap at front of hook. This will cause legs to stand almost vertical to the hook shank.



Tie off head and whip finish.



Use a dubbing needle to separate the individual legs.



Arrange legs so that the outer legs are ca. 180 deg. horizontal and all four legs are \pm vertical to hook shank.

Typically when fishing this fly, fish will take it on the way down. If not, then make 4-5 short strips. If nothing takes it, immediately make another cast farther down. When fishing from a float tube, I cast the fly towards bank, let sink, make 4-5 short strips, pick up and cast about two feet farther down the bank. Move quickly and find where the 'gills are holding, then settle down and enjoy!