

## QUIGLEY CRIPPLE



By Bob Bates

Bob Quigley developed this pattern some time in the 1970s according to my references. Since then the number of Quigley Cripple patterns has proliferated tremendously. Depending on what mayfly is imitated, sizes range from 8 to 22. The 8 is for a Green Drake and the 22 that a friend ties imitates a Blue-winged Olive (*Baetis*). Tying technique is the same for all sizes and colors.

Mayflies hatch in our streams and lakes from spring to fall. Some of the insects don't escape from their shucks or the water surface film. Such trapped insects are easy targets for hungry trout and other fish. When fly anglers understood this, they began developing emerger patterns. This is one of the better emerger patterns, and that is why it is copied so much. You notice that I didn't say "best" because I know somebody would argue with me.

Many of us will put on a greased high floating dry fly when we see fish splashing. However, the fish might be taking emergers trapped in the surface film, or more insidiously, nymphs. Look carefully before you cast. An emerger pattern is usually fished like a floating pattern, that is dead drift. For small sizes use light leaders, and if you use a floatant put it only on the hackle and wing.

### Material List:

**Hook:** Any dry fly style, Tiemco TMC 100, Mustad 94840 or AC80000BR as above, etc. size to match natural.

**Thread:** Tan or color to match natural, 8/0 – 14/0

**Tail:** Olive or tan or color to match natural

**Body:** Stripped hackle quill or dubbing with or without a rib. Tan or olive or color to match natural

**Thorax:** Tan dubbing or color to match natural

**Wing:** Deer or elk hair, light color or color to match natural

**Hackle:** Tan, brown, light ginger or color to match natural

## Tying Steps:



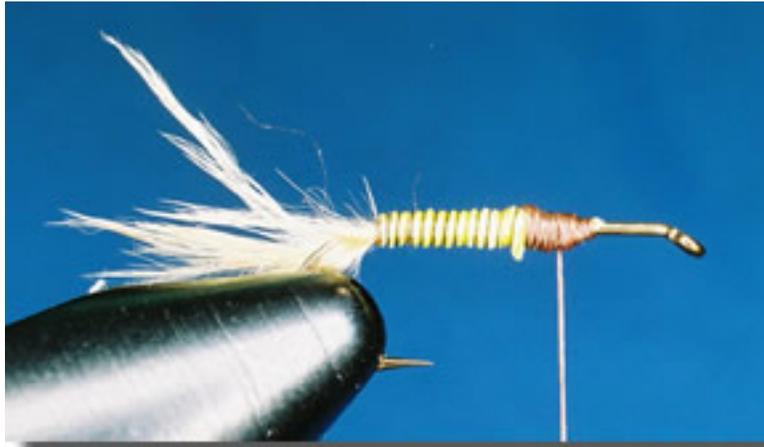
1. Put thread at about mid shank.



2. Select a number of marabou fibers suitable for the hook size. Secure marabou at mid shank and wind thread rearward while holding the marabou on top of the hook. Wind smoothly because this is the underbody for the quill. Tail is usually medium length.. Leave thread at bend.



3. Secure quill by winding thread forward. Keep quill on top of hook while winding. It isn't too difficult because of the quills stiffness. Wrap thread smoothly.



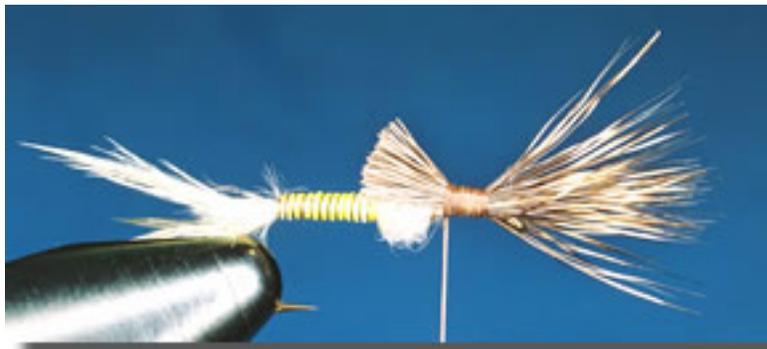
4. Wrap quill forward to thread, secure and trim excess. Easy if the quill is flexible, but if it isn't flexible it will split. Soaking the quill in water for a little while to over night will help solve the splitting problem. One important caution: **STAY CLEAR OF THE POINT OF THE HOOK.** The slightest touch will mean a split quill in two or three wraps. Starting with the finer part of the quill will be easier to wrap and require lots of wraps. Also mayfly bodies don't have that many segments. Starting with a thicker segment of the quill will give a better looking body, but it is more likely to split if it is not properly soaked. A little experimenting might be needed.



5. Put dubbing on the thread, and wrap forward one eye widths or a little more. When putting dubbing on thread, use a tiny amount and twist it only one direction between thumb and first finger. Some tiers use dubbing wax, etc. to help keep the dubbing on the thread, but other tiers argue against using wax. Some people lick their fingers, but sanitation comes into play there.



6. Select a small bunch of deer or elk hair. Clean out under fur and shorts. Stack and tie onto hook at front of thorax. Place clump on top of hook, tips forward and positioned to make about a body length wing. Hold the hair tightly so it won't spin or slip down sides of hook. Make first turns very tight so hair will stay on top of hook, then wind thread forward about one eye width. Return thread to front of thorax, Take care to prevent the hair covering the eye.



7. Clip rear of hair at rear of thorax.



8. Select a feather with little web and barbs about one and one-half times the gap. (The easiest way is use saddle hackles and read the package label.) Prepare hackle by pulling or cutting off a few barbs. Secure hackle at front of thorax with the dull side toward hook. I always leave a little bare shaft between the barbs and first turn of thread.



9. Pull the hackle forward to put a little kink in the shaft and wrap feather around hook two to five times. Put one or two thread winds over hackle at back of wing to hold it in place. Bring the thread in front of wing and secure hackle as close to the front of the hackle as possible. Trim excess. (One set of tying instructions said to make one wrap of hackle in front of wings before tying off feather. It wont bother the fish, but I think that it spoils the look of the fly.) Finish the head and trim thread. The last step is to put a little Super Glue, Zap-a-Gap or Crazy Glue on the quill and a little head cement on the threads. (I like the bottles of Crazy Glue, etc. with a brush.)

**Closing comments:** All of us should have a few Quigley Cripples in our box for those special occasions. However, it pays to know what mayflies will be hatching and when. Above all have fun tying the flies and then catching fish with them.

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