

MODIFIED SEDGE (MICHALUK'S SEDGE Var)



By Bob Bates

Sometimes to be a successful trout angler you need to tempt the fish with a fly that is larger than life. Mitch's Sedge, Michaluk's Sedge or this Modified Sedge is what you need. Arthur "Mitch" Michaluk of Calgary, Alberta originally designed this pattern to imitate the large "traveling sedges" in British Columbia, Canada. He said the dubbed body color should be the same as a spearmint leaf.

With any great pattern there will be variations. Naomi Oamoto was taught to tie it with a yarn body. However, after a few casts it sank, and she wanted it to float better. So she modified it with dubbing and a hackle, and it floated better. She was demonstrating her modified pattern at the 2010 FFF Fly Fishing Fair and Conclave in West Yellowstone, MT

Generally, it is fished as a still water floating pattern. Sometimes, however, lakes aren't all that still. Some of the British Columbia lakes have a generous wind, and if you are in a floating device with a 10-30 mile per hour breeze you need a good floating fly. I usually cast cross wind. Watch out beyond the end of your fly line for a splash, then just tighten the line. If you are in one B.C. lake, immediately check around to make sure the line is clear of obstructions like your foot. Because the next thing you see is the backing streaking through the guides. Some fun!

Naomi's Modified Sedge is not limited to imitating big sedges. It also serves as a caddis cluster or a grasshopper. Pick your environment, lake or stream, and fish it accordingly. In streams work the banks with a dead drift. If fish are chasing traveling sedges then drag the fly over the surface.

Materials list:

Hook: Daiichi 1270 sizes 10 to 16

Thread: Color to match body

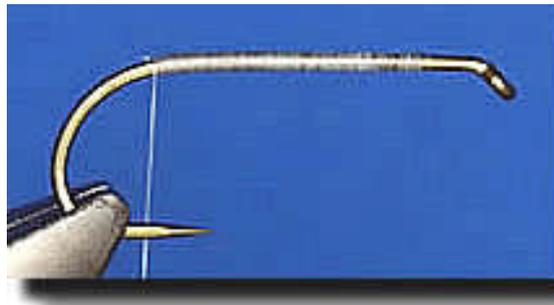
Tail: Cow Elk

Body: Super Fine dubbing Any color you want -- gray, olive, tan, orange, green, rust etc.

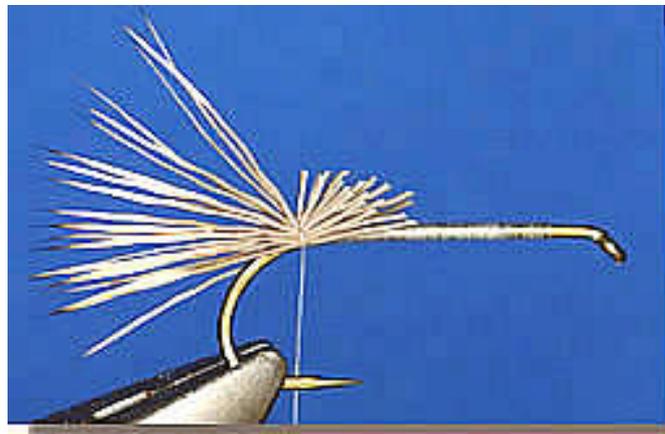
Hackle: Whiting 100, palmered, grizzly

Wings: Cow elk

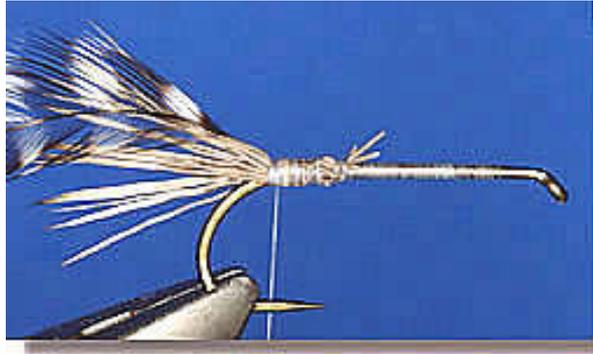
Tying steps:



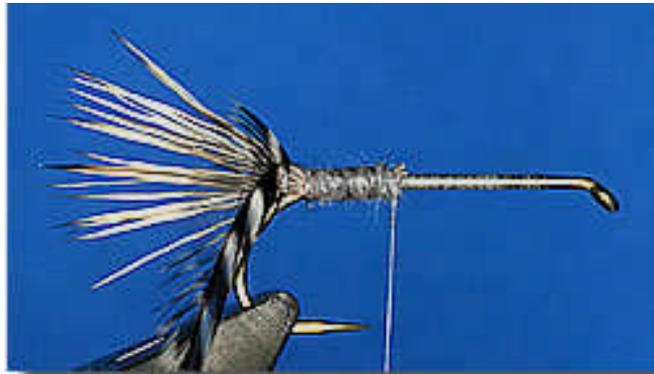
1. Use barbless hooks or smash the barb down before starting to tie fly. Start thread about two eye widths back from eye, and lay a thread base back to the bend.



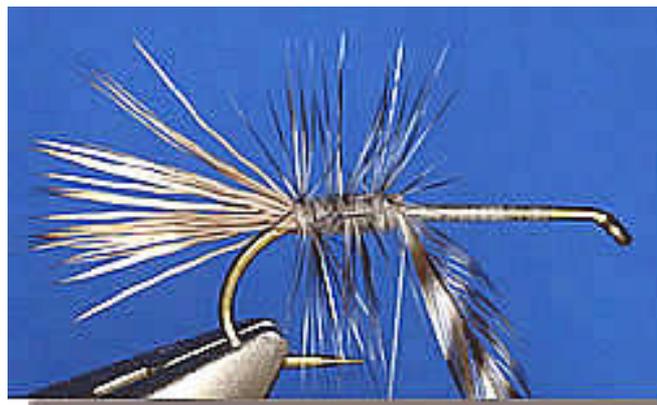
2. Select a small bunch of cow elk hair, clean out the under fur and stack. Tie it on at bend to make a shank length tail. Keep the bundle on top of hook, don't let it spin. Cut excess butts.



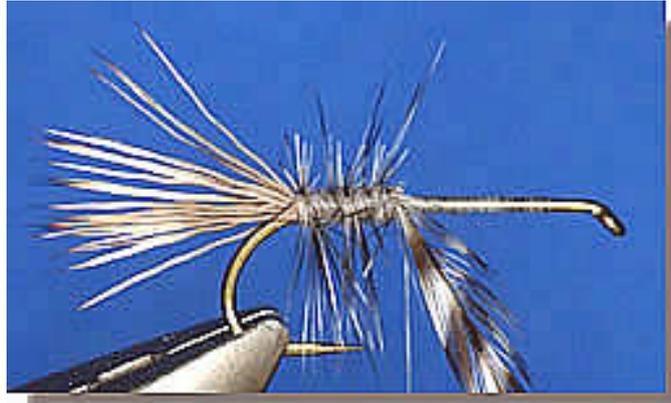
3. Wrap down butts, and move thread back to tie in point. Select a hackle with barbs that are about a gap width (point of hook to shank) long. Prepare the hackle by trimming off a few barbs at the butt. This leaves a little stubble to help secure the hackle. Pulling off the barbs damages the shaft, and it might break as you start winding.



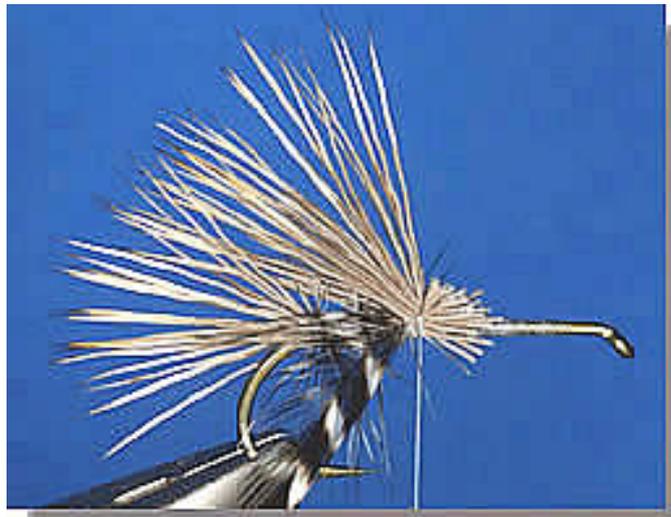
4. Put a little dubbing on the thread, and wind a thin body forward about 1/3 rd shank length toward the eye.



5. Palmer the hackle forward to front of body, and secure the hackle. Do not cut the hackle.



6. Trim top of hackle a little.



7. Cut a small bunch of elk hair, clean out under fur, stack, and attach it on top of hook at front of body and hackle segment. Position the tips so they are a little shorter than the tail.



8. Wrap down butts, repeat steps 4 to 6. Attach a second bundle of elk hair on top of hook at a point about 1/3 rd shank length back from the eye. Position the tips of the elk hair so they are a little forward of the tips of the last bundle. Tie down butts of elk hair, and dub a short body to a point about two eye widths back from eye.



9. Wrap hackle forward to front of body, and secure. Trim barbs on top.



10. Put on the third bundle of elk hair. Position the elk hair tips a little forward of the last bundle. Trim butts as close as possible without cutting the tying thread, wind thread over stubble, bring hackle forward in a couple of wraps, secure and trim. Finish the head with a regular whip finish or a couple of half hitches round a half hitch tool. No head cement.

Closing comments: If the elk hair is positioned as Naomi did it there will be a nice caddis shape to the wing. The bottom side shows some segmentation which is more realistic. A lot of anglers in Canada and the U.S. have used the original pattern or this pattern successfully. “Successfully” means catching fish not just having casting practice. I have a lot of faith in this pattern since it has fooled a lot of fish for me. Tie a few, and use them when the caddis are hatching and laying eggs.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemoth@fedflyfishers.org