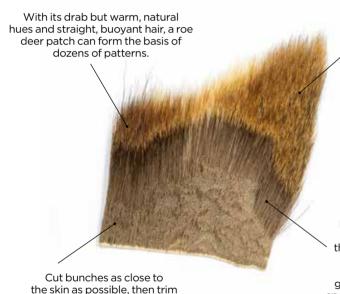
{MATERIAL OF THE MONTH}

# **INASPIN** OVER DEER HAIR?

Rob Denson explains the best ways to use this versatile material in a range of fish-attracting patterns



to the desired length from

the skin end.

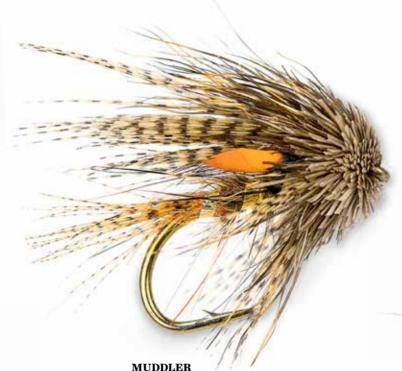
The top of the hair shaft contains a great mix of shades and has a lovely taper, which together bring life and movement to natterns

Hair properties such as length, thickness, colour, density and buoyancy vary greatly with deer species, age, time of year harvested and body parts.

EER HAIR IS A CHEAP, EASILY available material which, with a little know-how and practice, can provide you with consistently deadly patterns. The array of deer species and "cuts" from different parts of the beast available to the tyer can be confusing so I will concentrate on the most useful and easily sourced of them all — the European roe deer. The hair from most parts of the roe is eminently suitable for all the flies, ideas and techniques mentioned in this feature and it is one of the easiest to handle. Look for straight, clean-looking hair with a staple (length of hair) of between 30mm-40mm. Very old hair will look grubby, dull and lifeless, and can be dry and brittle, so avoid.



Devilishly simple and twice as deadly, the DHE is a great fly on which to practise your deer hair handling skills. A slim bunch is cut from the patch, then tightly bound to the shank. Dub hare's mask or seal's fur up the body and "cock" the wing by adding a turn or two around its base.



## **EMERGER**

Muddlers and dry-fly wings are the most common and popular uses for deer hair, but thinking outside the box can give you many more options. Chopped. crumpled and dubbed deer hair forms the body of this unusual emerger pattern. giving it an irresistible bugginess, plus built-in buoyancy.



has fly-fished for trout for 25 years. visiting all four corners of Britain and Ireland, combining his love of fly-tying, photography and a rolling wave. Web: robdenson.co.uk

## **PREPPING**

Quality, sharp, straight scissors are all you need for trimming deer hair and shaping muddler heads. **Curved scissors or razor** blades, if anything, make shaping muddler heads more difficult.

Use a pencil as a guide to bunch thickness: roughly one pencil thickness for a size 12 muddler, slightly thicker for a size 10 and so on. A DHE wing will require approximately half a pencil thickness; about a third for hog bunches.



When spinning deer hair to form muddler heads, the hair is allowed to flare around the hook shank. It is then trimmed to shape. Visit YouTube to watch this being done. Once mastered, you can add more bunches along the shank to form floating fry, carp "biscuits", large saltwater flies





## (CAT-GREEN MUDDLER)

Bold colours can often be the difference between a red-letter day and a dry net Luckily for fly-tyers, roe dyes beautifully and comes in a huge choice of colours, ranging from this spectacular fluorescent Cat-green to more subtle, natural-looking tones, such as olive and ginger. Don't forget, Muddlers fish just as well deep down on sinking lines as they do crashing through a wave. At depth, the combination of colour and the "noise" caused by the bulky head can be devastating.



### DEER HAIR SEDGE



The Muddler is the pinnacle of the wet-fly tyer's art.

This beauty from the vice of Arthur Macdonald is as

good as it gets. The first couple of hundred are the

hardest to tie; after that you'll start to improve.

Deer hair flares when thread is tightened around the bunch and hook shank. Learning to control flare is the essence of tying with deer hair. Thin hair flares less than thicker hair, so is suited to forming slim, elegant wings for both wet- and dry-flies. This simple Deer Hair Sedge dry-emerger pattern will take everything from wild trophy trout in New Zealand to hungry stocked fish in UK reservoirs.



Simultaneously a world-class wet-fly and

dry-fly, the Hedgehog will test your deer hair

handling skills as they progress. Slim bunches

are tied securely along the hook shank, with a

small amount of dubbing between each bunch.

Natural roe tones are hard to beat, but a splash

of colour can be devastating. Claret can be

**CLARET HOG**