

FLY-FISHER'S ENTOMOLOGY.

ILLUSTRATED BY

COLOURED REPRESENTATIONS

OF THE

NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL INSECT.

AND ACCOMPANIED BY

A *Tris* of Observations and Instructions

RELATIVE TO

THOUGHT AND GRAYLING FISHING.

BY ALFRED RONALDS.

WITH NINETEEN COLOURED PLATES.

LONDON :

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMAN.

1856.





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TROUT FISHING FROM ALL ANGLES

A Complete guide to modern methods by Isaac Townsend
author of "Dress Ways to Tackle Trout"; a chapter
on Trout Scales by G. Herbert Hall, M.A., F.R.S.M., & The
Legal Aspect of Fishing by Albert Bacon, Barrister-at-Law

With two hundred of the
ILLUSTRATIONS



1907

Philadelphia

J. B. Lippincott Company

J. Porpoise roll.

This is the most descriptive name yet applied to a rise-form. The back of the wave is arched in a manner which recalls the graceful movements of the porpoise and is quite



THE PORPOISE ROLL.

FIG. 103.

different from the head and tail rise. The wave is probably spent by. I have seen it before but not during the main running rise and only in gently flowing water.

Here is a summary of the rise-forms known to the writer.

Subaqueous rise

Bulging to squalls.

Bulging accompanied by a scapulo-wave over a wrecked bed to squalls.

Humping of the surface in taking the scapulo squalls, or caddy jumps, or goat jumps.

Tailing.

Subsuperficial rise

The working rise to medium-sized duns and upright spinners.

The slip to a medium-sized fly in an eddy, causing a grade ring.

The kidney-shaped or double wheel to B.W.G. and the large cilly.

Variations of above according to the speed of the river.

The pyramid rise to hatching sedges and some hatching duns.

The dash as a running sedge or large insect.

The loop as sedges and black grubs.

Flash rise

Porpoise roll, probably to speed spinners.

Head and tail run to speed spinners, spent within flies and also to shrimps.

the stomach-contents of the trout I caught consisted almost exclusively of a green-bodied widge in the act of hatching; and to many individuals the pupal shuck was still adhering.

Later evidence confirmed and extended the conclusion I drew from this autopsy. The trout in its anxiety to get at the hatching widge, in this instance *Hydropsyche polaris*, and, as I discovered later, at the hatching larva of the yellow upright, rushes at its victim with violence enough to project into the air a column of water.

Identification of this rise-form allows the angler to some degree in making his diagnosis; he knows the trout are feeding on an insect in the act of hatching. It may be a nymph; more probably it is a widge discarding its pupal shuck and the right pattern can be judged accordingly (see p. 246).

§ 3. FLUSH RISE-FORMS

The head and tail is the most important and the commonest of these rise-forms. First the nose of the trout breaks the water, is exposed for an instant and then goes under as the back and the tail in succession show after it.



FIGS. 1 and 2. THE HEAD AND TAIL RISE-FORM.

Left shows the head of a fish pushed out to take the speed upland water. In the extreme left of the rising. In the right the head has broken water and the tail has been raised up and cleared the surface film, so that the upper line is clearly seen. The action of the tail in this operation is a "sustained wag."

Some years ago the Rev. E. R. J. Nicolls pointed out to me how the exposed part of the tail gives a satisfied wag, as the insect is assimilated.

A trout taking food with a head and tail rise-form is

What I saw that evening reinforced the opinion to which I had been drawn after much watching of trout feeding on the R.W.C. that a trout is taking the hatching nymph, the dun and the spent spinner of this insect ascends to or near the surface and goes back to its original position by steep paths. It presses hard against the under-surface of the water with both head and tail, so that impressions are made very close together and in spreading overlap. When the trout is feeding on the insect in the dun stage, the water is broken and a bubble is often left within the rills. On several occasions I have noticed that the bubble is within the area of the upstream ring, which is to be expected, as trout generally rise head to stream.

The kidney rise-form is, then, fairly constant in shape as



Fig. 103.

THE PYRAMID RISE-FORM.

This is caused by the trout's constant pressure feeding against a pass, and it is characterised by its considerable and almost exclusive foam. Against a steep bank or a submerged obstruction of some sort it has more often a flat than the column of water looks very white. It appears to be an extreme example of the foam. (See Fig. 104.)

gently flowing streams and applies to the R.W.C. in all its stages; the slightly faster currents allow the rise to the dun and to the spinner to retain the characteristic two rings, although they are a little altered by the pace of the river; the rise-form, when a nymph is intercepted, comes to the surface much altered, the rings are sometimes fused into an ill-shaped oval within which there is no bubble but a number of tiny spots.

§ 47

The pyramid rise-form is the projection of a column of water upwards and at an angle with the surface of the water. The tiny column is considerably broader at the base and ends in a kind of break; it is more often seen in the dusk and at night than at any other time and shows up very white against a dark background, just when the light is too poor for accurate observation.

At one time I thought pale watery duns were the flies responsible for this rise-form and one evening when three

THE FLYFISHER
&
THE TROUT'S POINT OF VIEW

NEW LIGHT ON FLYFISHING
THEORY & PRACTICE

Col. E. W. Harlig

"I am a steady reader of it, and
I think of you, and"
"Competition of a Poet"
ALLANSTON BROWN

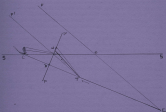
LONDON
SHEPHERD & Co. Ltd.
1st, St. Dunstons Street
1924

THE TROUT'S "LANDSCAPE"



A section of the trout's field of view, covering an arc of 50° vertically and 40° horizontally.

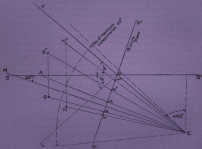
What happens is this: the trout as he moves towards the light pattern, sees the wings suddenly appear in another part of his field of view, and he makes a change of direction towards them. Now in still water, though the



TROUT CHANGING DIRECTION IN STILL WATER TO TAKE THE WING AND MISSING THE PLACE OF A FLYING FLY. FIG. 2

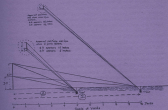
trout moves towards the fly on the surface, the fly is not necessarily also moving towards the trout, as it is in a stream. So when he changes his direction towards the wings, which the effect of refraction has shifted into an apparent position where they really are not, if that shift is large enough, the trout is bound to miss the real thing, the fly on the surface, which has remained in its old position. Fig. 2 shows roughly what happens.

In slow water similar misses may occur, but in faster water the trout is less likely to miss, since, while he is chasing the will o' the wisp of the wings, the current is hurrying the fly towards the place where the wings appear



THE TABLE'S PERSPECTIVE DRAWING. FIG. 1

fishermen must take. They emphasize the necessity for keeping low, and a very uncomfortable necessity it is for the elderly fly fisher; and they explain why wading may be so helpful, since it automatically lowers his height and usually gives him an effective background. It also happens to cut him,



APPARENT HEAD AND POSITION OF THE ANGLE IN HEAD IN THE AIR. FIG. 3

specifically, into two widely separated and apparently entirely disconnected parts.

However, in common with many fly fishers, I consider that the quality, intensity and direction of the light; the nature of the background; and movement or absence of it, are far more important factors in approaching a fish than one's apparent size, considered, as it were, as an isolated factor.

The apparent position of the angle in the head and of the head in the angle.

It will be noticed in Figure 3 that the angle is apparently high up in the air, far away from his real position. Should a hundred years ago

MAYFLY.



Subimago Female $\times 3$.

PLATE VIII.

MAYFLY.

(*Ephemera danica*.)



Subimago Female $\times 3$.



Subimago Male $\times 3$.





FLY FISHING

BLACER'S ART OF FLY-CASTING.

*As described in Catalogue
June 1854.*





Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 1. The Nymph
 Fig. 2. The Minnow
 Fig. 3. The Caddis

YODA

