

By Karel Křivanec and Friends

# Czech Nymph



and Other Related Fly Fishing Methods

Third edition



## History of the Czech Nymph

“The Czech Nymph” is a term with which most fly fishers have now become familiar. It has two elements. Firstly, the nymphs that are quite slim, weighted and tied on shrimp/scud hooks with curved shanks. Secondly, it is the actual technique, where these flies are led with very little line extended and immediately beneath the tip of the rod.

Virtually no fly line is used outside the top guide. Utilising this method enables the angler to lead a much broader range of weighted flies through the water column at different depths.

I was fortunate in being able to participate in the development of these nymphs and the techniques of fishing them. A decade ago, patterns were few and all were a closely guarded secret. But, despite this, the word started to gradually spread to a broader group of fly fishers. I must admit that none of us believed at that time how famous this Czech innovation would become. Anglers now have access to numerous original and new patterns of Czech nymphs and more are being invented all the time.

The first great success of the short line nymph technique was recorded at the World Championship in Belgium in 1986. It earned a gold medal and the World championship trophy for Slavoj Svoboda although his winning fly at that time was the Hare’s Ear Nymph size 10 to 12. Three years later, Slavoj again utilised this method to annex second place during the World Championship in Finland.

Czech Nymphs achieved global recognition at the World Championship in Wales in 1990 when the Czech team won for the first time. It helped us to get the next title in 1994 in Norway and again in 1996 in Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic. At this event the technique was explained to the English team for the first time and they arranged a detailed publishing of all the series of “Czech” secrets. More recent successes with the Czech Nymph were the World Champion’s trophy for Vladimir Sedivy in Sweden in 2001 and two European Championship trophies for Lukas Pazdernik in 2004 in Sweden and in 2005 in Poland.

Nowadays, when new books about fly-fishing are released, they often contain new “Czech Nymph” patterns. It would be useful to explain the origin of the technique and the construction of the fly because while there has been much speculation, there has been little real insight. The current captain of the Czech team, Jiri Klima, read a report about upstream nymphing at the 1st Czechoslovakian Fly fishing Seminar in Ceske Budejovice in 1986 but its real origins date from 1984.

In that year, on the Dunajec River in Poland, a fly fishing tournament was held between teams from Poland (A, B), the former East Germany and the team from Czechoslovakia. The Polish fly fishers were fishing with a short line technique, which was surprisingly easy. At that time, most of them did not have a fly fishing line. They substituted a thick nylon line of about 0.5 mm in diameter, which they bound to the tip of the rod. Mr. Jozef Jelenski showed our team members two basic patterns; they were imitations of the Hydropsyche caddis larvae with a body made from natural hare fur and Rhyacophilia that had a green body and light



## Catalogue of historical patterns



### 1: Beige Pre-hydropsyche

Tier: Slavoj Svoboda

Hook: Shakespeare; Body: camel brown foam; Rib: black thread; Head: black thread.



### 2: Green Pre-hydropsyche

Tier: Slavoj Svoboda

Hook: Shakespeare; Tail and back: peacock herl; Body: grey-olive foam; Rib: nylon; Head: black thread.



### 3: Olive Gammarus

Tier: Milan Janus

Hook: Shakespeare; Back: green micro-chenille, Body: copper wire; Hackle: light-brown cock hackle; Head: grey thread.



### 4: Cream Pre-nymph

Tier: Milan Janus

Hook: Shakespeare; Abdomen: cream-yellow hare's fur; First part of body: dirty-olive hare's fur; Rib and head: black thread.

Vladimír Šedivý constructs a medium-length leader that varies from 220–260 cm. For its construction he uses fluorocarbon 3 M of the same thickness - which varies, according to the circumstances, between 0.10–0.14 mm in diameter. The first nymph is placed 100 cm from the fly fishing line and the remaining two at a distance of 60–80 cm.

Tomáš Starýchfojtů uses a relatively long leader – 390 cms. It has a 40 cm fluorocarbon butt with a diameter of 0.25 mm and this section ends with a small loop. To this he attaches a 3.5 metre section of 0.14–0.16 mm mono and the flies are 50 cm from each other.

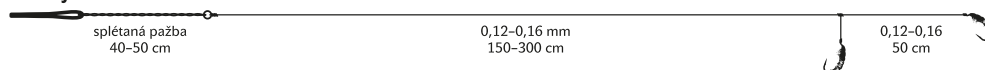
The leader formulae used by these five expert fly fishers range from Jiri Klíma's 175 cm leader to Tomáš Starýchfojtů's 390 cm version which is almost double the length. What is clear however is that, for Czech Nymphing, the traditional tapered leader consisting of multiple strands of constantly decreasing diameters of mono, is a thing of the past. It is almost always replaced by monofilaments of the same diameter. Whether one chooses to fish with short or long leaders or with two or three nymphs, the one constant in the leader formulae that have evolved in empirical experiment, is that they are constructed with a few lengths of almost constant diameter nylon mono. However, it is important to realise that for the finest tippets one needs to use appropriate rods.

Starýchfojtů has, however, been influenced in contemporary French thinking on leader construction and now cuts the tapered end from the floating line and substitutes it with a transparent, three metre, tapered, floating poly-leader (Airflo or Vision). He connects the tip of the line to the poly-leader using a transparent braided loop held in place by thin, colourless tying thread and Aquasil glue. To the end of the poly leader he attaches 15 centimetres of green fluorocarbon (diameter 0.18 mm) as a strike indicator and then attaches a 270 cm tapered nylon leader. The leader is completed with a tippet of high quality nylon or fluorocarbon (diameter 0.10–0.12 mm) that has three nymphs on droppers spaced 50 cm apart.

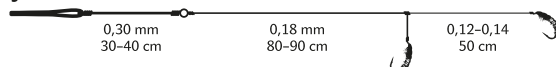
From the remaining fly fishing equipment I would like to mention polarising sunglasses, which are very important for nymphing in rivers, because they enable one to more clearly define objects beneath the water surface making it easier to detect grayling and other species. It is worth investing in high quality polaroids and one needs a protective case for them because they can easily become scratched if they are left unprotected in the pocket of a fly-fishing vest. For normal light conditions we choose a green or neutrally grey lens, but bad light conditions necessitate yellow or amber glasses that enhance contrast. A wide-brimmed hat or cap that shades the eyes is also useful.

## Various methods of leader construction for short nymphing

### Slavoj Svoboda - leader 200–350 cm



### Jiří Klíma - leader 175 cm



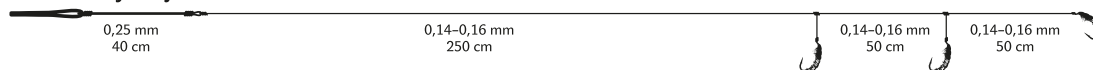
### Pavel Macháň - leader 200 cm



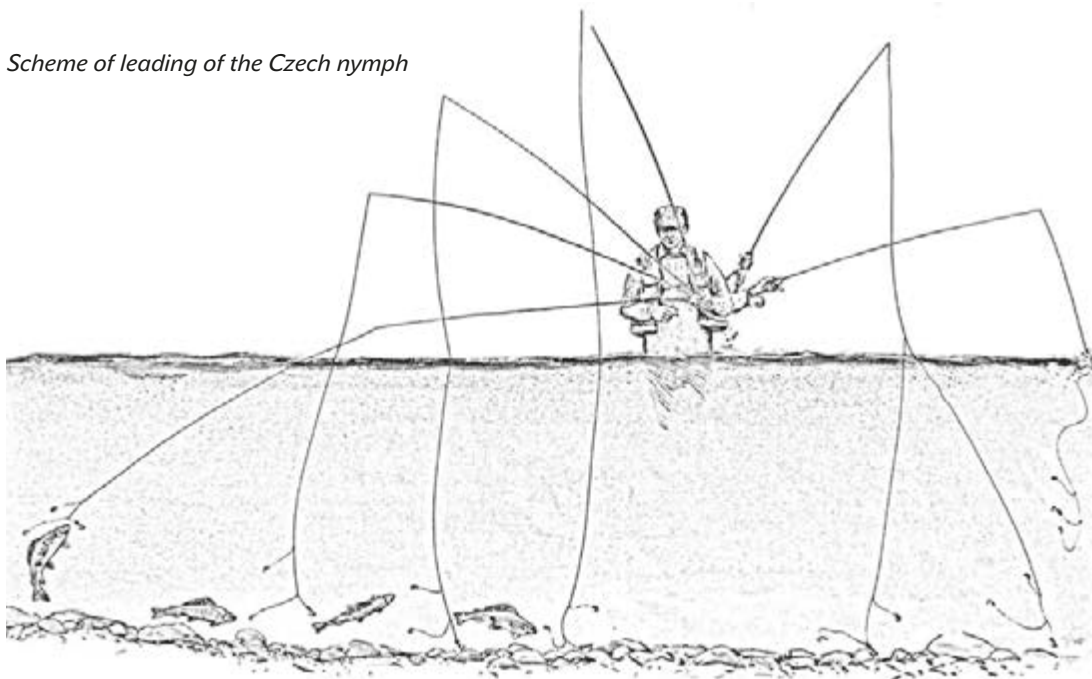
### Vladimír Šedivý - leader 220–260 cm



### Tomáš Starýchfojtů - leader 390 cm



*Scheme of leading of the Czech nymph*



Successful Czech Nymphing becomes because these conditions enable one to get closer to the fish with spooking them.

At first glance, the basic procedure in short nymphing seems very easy. Using a suitable rod, we prepare to fish our two or three nymphs with, at most, 50–150 cm of fly line and the leader outside the top guide. We will choose the most suitable place for fishing at the edge of the current, possibly on the bank of a deep stream, or pool. Then, standing sideways on – i.e. at right angles - to the current, we use a flip of the wrist, and an underhand pendulum swing to lob the nymphs a short distance upstream. Once the nymphs have reached the riverbed, we lift the rod tip with our casting arm approximately parallel to the water. This leaves a short piece of fly line and a longer section of leader descending vertically into the water immediately below the rod tip.

The extent to which we lift line from the water depends on the water depth and the length of the leader. From this moment and with our casting arm extended at full stretch, we utilise the rod tip to lead the nymphs downstream with slightly positive drag. The balance achieved with the special leader and the weighted nymphs provides a sensitive, tactile and visual link between rod hand, rod tip and flies. It is essential not to move the flies too quickly. They must be drawn gently and delicately downstream using a combination of arm movement and a lifting of the rod tip so that the speed at which the line/leader combination is moving is slightly slower than that of the surface current. Achieving optimal drift speed is the key to success with this method.

Ideally, one fly should be moving along the riverbed and the remaining two slightly higher in the water column. This enables us to productively and simultaneously fish at several water levels. Occasional snagging of the point nymph on the riverbed indicates that we are fishing at the right depth. Our nymphs should move naturally and as close to the current speed as possible, particularly when fishing for grayling. With trout it varies – sometimes they want the nymphs fished dead drift and, at others, manipulating the fly can provoke strikes. When the fish have keyed to emergers we should fish our flies closer to the surface and with a lifting movement.

Leading the nymphs, we gently lift the fly fishing line hanging over the water so that the rod tip follows the progressive bend of the leader, enabling us to maintain direct contact with the flies. The low water resistance of the small-diameter leader enables us to lead the nymphs more slowly than would be the case if we had more fly line on the water so that our drifts correspond more exactly with the speed of the surface currents.

Grayling are usually encountered in shoals and, if one takes the nymph, it usually means that there are others, often right in front of the angler. Sight of the fish is always important and when we manage this it is due to our endurance more often than it is to the change of flies and often all the fish from the shoal will be caught. If we can spot the fish then persevering with one's presentations rather than a change of flies can result in all of the fish in the shoal being caught.

The take of the grayling can be very rapid indeed and, thanks to the anatomy of its mouth, it can reject a nymph as quickly as a carp or roach. By careful observation, the moment of the take can sometimes be seen but, more often, the take and subsequent rejection are not spotted.

Choosing the correct pattern is important but being able to detect the take is an even more important skill to acquire. Grayling takes are different. Classically and usually it is when the fish rises to the fly, takes it and returns to its lie on the riverbed. The take usually manifests itself as a resistance on the line but this could also be the result of the fly hooking something on the riverbed.



*Bank nymphing–Tomáš Starýchfojtů at the Malše river*



*Indian way of fishing in the Mosella river (France)*

*Pavel Macháň knee fishing in the Malše river*



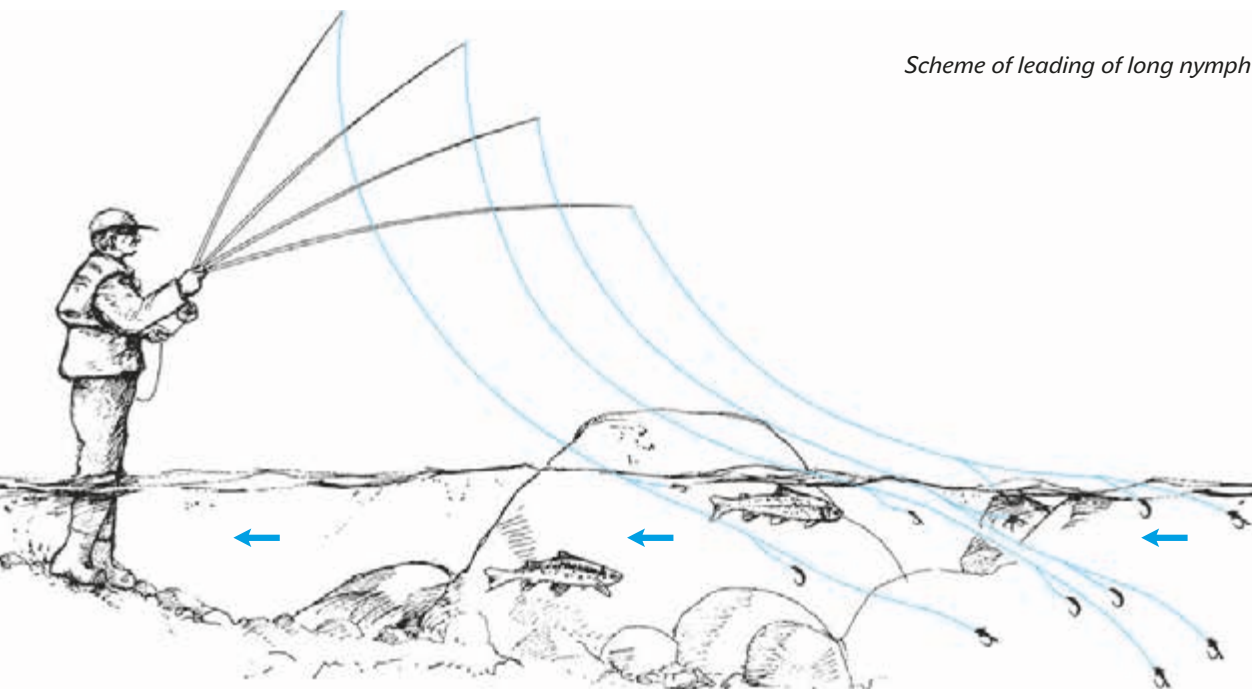
When suitable conditions prevail, particularly when the water is warm, the take can be easily seen. However, when the water gets colder, grayling are less inclined to move to either side to intercept a nymph – they normally hold close to the riverbed and only react to flies that drift close to them. Accordingly, in winter, it is imperative for the nymph to drift close to the bottom and slightly slower than the current speed.

Fishing for other species other than trout and grayling can also be very rewarding and I say this with specific reference to carp and barbel. They are susceptible to gold head nymphs and Czech Nymphs even in winter, although the number of takes declines during this time. The most successful colours have been pink, violet and scarlet particularly when used in conjunction with a pearl back strip. Olive green nymphs work well for barbell and for white fish a nymph with a small gold bead in the thorax works well.

## **b) Upstream nymphing (long nymphing)**

As has been noted before, Czech nymphing is most effective when fishing for shoaling fish such as grayling in deep, slightly turbid water with a good flow. However in shallow, clear streams when brown trout is the quarry, the angler needs to put more distance between himself and the fish by fishing upstream with 5–10 metre casts. As the fly drifts downstream towards us, we continuously shorten the line with the free hand according to the current speed so as to eliminate slack and maintain contact with the flies. Because we are less capable of controlling the line than we are when fishing a short line immediately under the rod tip, the need to have a correctly balanced outfit becomes all the more important. As we wade or walk upstream, we utilise a short roll cast to cover the likely lies, stripping in line to maintain contact with the flies and then, as the flies get close to us, we slowly lift the rod tip before casting again. Leaders of 3–4 m and casts of 7–10 m are used in long nymphing and, if the water is exceptionally clear, only a single nymph is used. The leader is closely watched and if it hesitates, slows down or stops the sensitive hand reacts immediately.

In clear, shallow water, fish will rise to take the fly just subsurface and it is not always necessary to weight it heavily. Careful stalking and maintaining a low profile are imperative if success is to be achieved under such conditions. This was well proven at the World Championship in New Zealand (2008), where the Czechs won both in the team and individual competitions. The main reason for this was a „hybridization“ of Czech and French nymphing techniques. Our competitors used very long leaders (7–9 m) in combination with three weighted nymphs and ten-foot size 5–6 rods.



*Scheme of leading of long nymph*

## Choosing the fishing spot, reading water and other advice

Beginners to Czech nympling, even if they are experienced dry or wet fly fishers, may have some difficulties with this technique, because it comes from the principle of these methods. One of the most important factors is that success with the short nymph is predicated on fishing in the right place. When fishing with a wet fly it is sufficient to wade slowly and carefully, casting towards the bank or fishing across and down covering the best lies centimetre by centimetre. Fishing with the dry fly is facilitated when we can cast to the ring of the rise. With the short nymph, however, knowing where to fish and what type of water to fish is imperative and success is predicated on developing and honing this skill.



The Czech style of nympling works on most types of rivers, but for this method the best place is where a stream flows into a pool and fast water starts to flow into water of increasing depth but a slower current. Nymph anglers will be searching for such a place that is ideal. The most effective place will be at the flowing part of a pool, where the other fishing techniques will not be able to provide better results.

The basis of the method is to cast the nymphs upstream and then gently across the stream, not more than a few metres, and leave them to drift under the rod tip downstream of the angler. You also have to watch carefully for any movement of the fly line, which shows a take. Almost always we need to wade when we fish in this way, sometimes in depths above the waist to get to a better position. The longer the cast or the greater the distance between the rod tip and the positions of the nymphs are, the more it reduces the efficiency of fishing.

Reading the water is the basis of an angler's success and only a few people are able to read the river as if it were an open book. If this causes surprise, believe me, these people really exist. Just as a great musician is able to write down the notes of a newly heard melody, some anglers can read the river as well as the musician can read his notes.

The acquisition of such knowledge comes from many hours spent on stream with a fly rod and even this will not guarantee that you will be able to acquire such exceptional ability. Unfortunately, these people are not able to explain the gift given to them by Nature. Therefore, in the beginning, you will have to get by with a few words of advice on where and how to look for fish.

It is necessary to realise that in various seasons fish will appear in different places. They will be in a different place in spring, during a hot summer, in autumn and winter. The important aspect is their number in a given river, because as early as possible, the best places will be occupied. If the fish population is very numerous then some individuals will occur in places, where one would never think of looking for them and



## More experience with the Czech nymph

### a) Differences in Europe

Most of our experiences with the Czech nymph, which are described in the previous chapter, were gained on Central European rivers which have similar river bed morphology and are supplied with rain water. On our travels abroad we also tried these nymphing techniques in other parts of the European continent and we will now briefly mention some of the differing situations that we encountered..

The rivers in Scandinavia differ from those of Central Europe having a gentler gradient and the presence of long natural lakes which emerge after rocky thresholds in river bed. This does not present significant problems when using the Czech nymph because there are always sections with sufficient current flow to justify utilizing this technique. The trout and grayling in these rivers are not particularly selective and a variety of patterns will suffice.

Local fishing regulations permit the use of three flies simultaneously so the Czech nymph techniques we apply on our home rivers are equally applicable here. The best grayling fishing is often encountered in the



*Slow stripping of nymphs upstream - Oldřich Dvořák on the Vindelalven River (Lapland)*

Jeff Courier, who gained the bronze with this method in the World Championship in Spain in 2003. However, the considerable influence of their Polish coach was evident with both of them.

The Czech nymph and short-nymphing proved good even in New Zealand in 1991 when we caught the rainbow trout on the Raingitaiki and Okere rivers, and also in 1999 in Australia in the Snowy Mountains on the Snowy, Eucumbene and Murrumbidgee rivers. However one must take cognizance of the fact that the Czech method excels in faster currents in which it will be very effective no matter if we are in the northern or southern hemisphere.

Last year we were invited to South Africa for a three-week presentation of the Czech nymph. Again, the method worked well mainly in catching the yellow fish for which the short nymph is the method of choice. We had a chance to try the Czech nymph on the Vaal river near Johannesburg and had a lot of great experiences during battles with these big and wild barbels which took our nymphs with the same eagerness as other barbels in Canada where we caught in the vicinity of Kamloops in 1993. Of course, Short nymphing worked very well in such fishing paradise such as rivers in Mongolia, Alaska and Kamchatka.

Because I have seen both in competition and recreational fly fishing the success of the Czech nymph when catching the Salmonides, the chub and the dace, and also the perch, the pike, the pike-perch, the carp, the bream, the roach, the barbel, the nase, the zarte, and also even species like the asp, the burbot and even the eel, I can assume that these nymphs will be attractive for other kinds of fish all over the world in conditions to which this method is best suited.



*Jiří Klíma with Yellowfish, Vaal River (SA)*

## Indicators

Strike indicators made of polyethylene foam - known as “bungs” in Britain - have been used for many years outside Europe and are particularly popular in the USA. They are rarely used in the Czech Republic because to do so would be to invite ridicule and derision from those who watch the bend in the leader for takes and accordingly consider themselves to be fishing the Czech nymph correctly. There are, however, other solutions, which make it possible to fish the nymph without violating some of the unwritten rules of our sport. These are the use of a visible and floating fly as a strike indicator or to incorporate sections of brightly coloured and thus highly visible nylon monofilament into the leader.

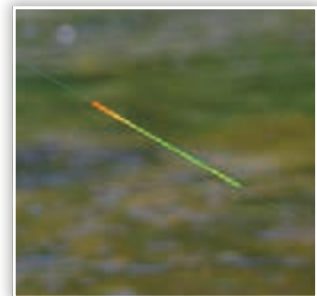


### a) Coloured mono leader sections

Incorporating sections of brightly coloured nylon monofilament in the Czech nymph leader provides a simple and effective means of detecting strikes. They are very visible, easy to use and, when they are well greased, they float perfectly. They are most effective in rivers with fast currents and regular depth. A section of fluorescent mono, when incorporated in the leader, is a perfect indicator of take when fishing at any depth or in fast currents. For this reason it is often considered to be the optimum form of strike indicator when nymph fishing for grayling. There are, however, a variety of strike indicators available, each with its specific advantages and the hallmark of the modern fly fisher is the ability to quickly adapt to different situations and circumstances. Sometimes it is necessary to change the diameter of the mono incorporated in the leader and the easiest way is to incorporate the bright section in the lower section of the leader with a barrel knot.

Imagine for example that you are fishing with a nymph when a hatch starts and the river is suddenly alive with rising fish, necessitating a quick to the dry fly. This would normally entail removing the fluorescent section and replacing it with a longer section of conventional mono. After two or three such changes the indicator section will be several centimetres shorter and soon it will be useless. For this reason we attach a mini-ring to each end of the fluorescent mono giving it an extended life span.

Braided leader sections are the easiest form of strike indicator to incorporate in a Czech nymph leader. The brightly coloured, braided section of approximately 5 cms is inserted between two leader sections. We use it mainly when the utmost delicacy is required because the water is exceptionally low and clear and the fish are extremely spooky. The colour of the braid may vary to suit the light conditions – bright orange is routinely used but red, or lime green are also useful. In certain situations, for example where dense riverside foliage negates any form of backlighting, white may prove the optimum choice.



*Strike indicator*



At present there are many hooks from many foreign manufacturers available, often in similar shapes in fine, medium and heavy wire. We can mention the Japanese hooks Kamasan B 100, made of thin wire in bronze and gold and sizes 10, 12, 14, or the strengthened version Kamasan B 110. Other shrimp/scud hooks are produced by the Japanese company, Snake, in co-operation with Jiri Klíma's company. SNK 100 hooks are made from stronger wire, in bronze colour and in sizes 6–18. The fine wire SNK 200 model is available in sizes 8–14.

Another Japanese hook manufacturer is Maruto. It's 7245, ITS heavy wire, straight shank model is available in bronze and in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 or the medium wire 7248 model in sizes 10, 12, 14. Hayabusha is another well-known Japanese hook manufacturer. They list shrimp/scud hooks in bronze, black nickel, gold and red, sizes 8–18 with the light wire model being designated 384 and, in a heavier gauge wire, the model 387.

The Japanese hooks from Tiemco Company (TMC) are very popular, but the price is at least double compared to the others. The most famous is the shape of the TMC 2487 G in a gold colour and sizes 10 – 20. There is also its barbless version – TMC 2487 BL in bronze and same sizes or heavier version – TMC 2457. The TMC 2488 comes with a straight eye in sizes 10–20 and the heavy gauge TMC/TRP-SP 2499 BL is a bronze barbless hook with a spear point.

Of the other European manufacturers of hooks, we can mention the Austrian company, Rossler and the classical Admiral 4007/2 hook that is available in a bronze version and in sizes 8–18 or the gold version 4007/3 G which is available in sizes 10, 12, 14 and 16. The Norwegian Company, Mustad, has a long tradition in hook production as well, though their products are not the best option for our purpose. C068s are heavy and extra short shank hooks in sizes 6–22 and the shorter hook C495 is made from standard wire, straight eyed and with a small barb (6–18). The French company VMC produces two types of suitable hooks with barbs. VMC 7075 is available in sizes 12–18, in bronze, gold and red and VMC 9202 in sizes 8–14 in bronze or gold.

England always exerts a significant influence in fly fishing and Partridge has developed two barbless, black nickel hooks for Czech nymphs. The heavy wire model is designated CZ and the lighter version is coded CZF. Both versions are produced in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12. Hooks with a barb by the same producer can be used – YK4A (8–18) and the extra heavy - K5A (6–22). Another British company, Fulling Mill, produces suitable Czech nymph hooks in its Scorpion series - the Super Grub 31160 with a small barb (10–16) and the heavy wire 31165, that are barbed and available in sizes 8–16.



with water resistant markers from the eye to the bend of the hook to emphasise the ribbing material.

At present there are many natural and synthetic dubbing materials on the market, which we can combine to create many new options but keep in mind that Angel's Hair and other coloured tinsels often lose their original colour during this process. To blend mixtures of natural furs various kitchen mixers or coffee grinding machines can be utilised or we can buy commercially manufactured dubbing mixers.

Combinations of muskrat and rabbit fur and fine CDC feathers provide very good dubbing mixes for the bodies of nymphs. Another option is the combination of seal fur, hare's mask and CDC. For the bodies of the shrimp/scud, fine fur from muskrat, nutria (coypou) or other rare water animals is good. It is recommended that a rougher material such as hare, grey squirrel or opossum is added to the blend and seal's fur in small quantities can enhance the thorax of the nymph body.



*František Hanák with huge grayling from Salzach (Austria)*

#### **d) Materials for hackles, tails and wing case**

Even if these elements are missing in the classic Czech nymph, they have slowly become part of the later evolution of the pattern and its tying techniques and you start to encounter the inclusion of hackles, tails and wing case. This is the main reason, why we do not mention these tying materials in detail. At the hook eye, partridge breast feathers or wild duck feathers are used, often in a combination with CDC. Sometimes you can see nymphs with hackles alongside the belly part, which are made by cutting out a palmer hackle from a rooster feather. For the wing case it is possible to use pheasant tail or peacock feathers and for tails you can use a variety of many natural furs and synthetic materials.

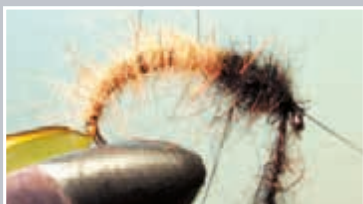
#### **e) Threads, tinsels, ribbing materials, paints and waxes**

For the tying of Czech nymphs 6/0 monofilament thread is most commonly used but threads of finer denier, right down to micro-threads are also sometimes used. It is essential however, to use threads that can be applied with pressure and pulled really tight because, once exposed to water, fly tying materials are apt to work loose and this can result in the fly eventually unravelling. Although Kevlar thread is by far the strongest, its use in tying Czech nymphs is not essential. While the most versatile thread colour is black, some Czech nymph patterns might require brown or dark grey threads, or be inspired by the colour of the body. If we want to achieve colourful highlighting of nymph heads, then we may consider fluorescent colours such as orange, red or chartreuse.

While nylon or polyamide threads are used the most often for the ribbing of nymphs, copper or other metallic wires (gold, olive, orange etc.) are used to highlight the rib. If we want to place the ribbing of a nymph beneath the shellback, then flat gold tinsel is the best. This is available in conventional or holographic forms and we use them in fine or medium width. For strengthening of a fly we can also use a very thin tungsten wire which has exceptional strength even though its diameter is several tenths of a micron.

## Two ways of fly-tying the CZN

Traditional way  
of fly-tying the CZN



Reverse way  
of fly-tying the CZN



## Czech nymphs classification

Fly fishing magazines have, in the past, carried numerous articles on the correct classification of Czech nymphs and details of the nomenclature of recent additions to their ranks. Nobody has tried to specify them yet. In the previous chapter I presented my own view of grouping Czech nymphs, but this makes sense when we try to name individual nymphs for fishing only. Setting the classification and also naming the nymphs' specification is difficult to do.







As there are more and more new patterns of nymphs, their inventors do not know what to call them and their names are often chosen randomly. I have tried to propose a new classification of these flies. This classification will make it easier and clearer to create a name for a new pattern and also to make the documentation of already known types possible. First of all, I was trying to use already existing names, but I had to reject this procedure because it was practically useless in creating a more comprehensive system.

My proposed classification is primarily based on the group of invertebrates, which these nymphs imitate. The selected procedure of dividing the flies, however, has to be differentiated from the zoological system. Our flies were not created naturally, but by the vagaries of the human imagination and the skilled hands of a tier. Each nymph is an original of its kind and every other small modification could be recognised as a new pattern, which would not help to solve the entire problem. I am also aware of various shortcomings in the proposal which I am presenting here. My classification system for Czech nymphs is:



*Martin Drož on the Whanganui River (New Zealand) - casting with very long „French“ leader*



Group 1:	<b>Authentic imitation of sedges</b>
	<p>As it comes from the name of this group, these are more or less the true imitations of the sedge larvae of the Hydropsyche family. Their bodies are green or chartreuse, while the thorax varies from dark green to black. It is interesting that among these caddis larva imitations, there were no imitations of Rhyacophilia larvae. If such an imitation had been present, it would have been included in this family</p>
Group 2:	<b>Bobeshes</b>
	<p>By creating the name of this group we come out from generally recognised marking, which I dared to include five independent strains of these nymphs into. The flies shown imitate the larval stages of sedges and a range of other groups of water insects with a thicker profile of body and relatively numerous legs. We divide this group as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Bobesh – plain nymphs with legs and a naturally coloured body without a dark (black, dark brown) thorax</li> <li>b) Hermit – plain nymphs with legs and bright black or dark brown thorax</li> <li>c) Handsome Bobesh – plain nymphs with legs and with a flashy multicoloured body</li> <li>d) Carrot – plain nymphs in natural colours with legs and bright red or orange ribs</li> <li>e) Faggot – plain nymphs with legs and pink body</li> </ul>
Group 3:	<b>Wilds</b>
	<p>This group of Czech nymphs is not too numerous for the time being. These are plain nymphs without legs and in colours that are not common among the organisms that trout, grayling and other freshwater fish feed upon. As this is a relatively small group, I use their indigenous names, which seem to be quite fitting. Their bodies manifest the shape and profile of recognised fish prey organisms and their extreme colours raise the interest of apathetic fish (see 9th group of previous chapter).</p>
Group 4:	<b>Bugs</b>
	<p>Many insect larvae with thick and fat bodies and differing body mass are imitated by flies in this group. A large number of these nymphs can be found in recent English fly-fishing literature under the name Bug. I include them only because in Czech conditions such patterns are not common.</p>
Group 5:	<b>Larvae</b>
	<p>These are many slim Czech nymphs, which, in the main, lack numerous legs and have a monotone body. These can be slim and mainly legless options of various bobesh-type nymphs and they are then classified as larvae of these original and plain patterns.</p>
Group 6:	<b>Scuds and Shrimps (Gammaruses)</b>
	<p>These are many patterns of Czech nymphs, which imitate various scuds and shrimps. The naturals have small bodies that usually do not exceed a centimetre in length and they also have numerous legs along the length of the body. These nymphs are usually monochrome, but they can also have a coloured head and body.</p>

## Catalogue of the essential Czech nymphs patterns

### II. Bobeshes; a) Bobesh



#### 35: Classic Bobesh

Tier: Milan Janus

Hook: Hayabusha; Back: salami skin; Body: cream hare's underfur; Under rib: gold tinsel; Upper rib: nylon; Head: grey thread.



#### 36: Wholeseason Bobesh

Tier: Vladimír Pavlovský

Hook: Admiral; Back: strip of vinyl glove; Abdomen: mixture of orange and yellow SLF; Thorax: dark brown synthetic dubbing; Upper rib: nylon; Head: dark olive thread. The creator of this pattern is Milan Janus.



#### 37: Beige Bobesh

Tier: Vladimír Šedivý

Hook: Skalka; Back: strip of brown Bicolour Back (AF); Abdomen: mixture of dirty cream synthetic dubbing (AF) with cream rabbit fur; Thorax: brown fur from a grey squirrel, back underlay with a few strings of orange antron; Under rib: opal tinsel; Upper rib: nylon; Head: black thread. The creator of this pattern is Milan Janus.



#### 38: Beige Bobesh

Tier: Oldřich Dvořák

Hook: Skalka; Back: Bicolour Back No.37 (AF); Abdomen: beige synthetic dubbing No.327 (AF); Thorax: orange hare's fur; Under rib: pearl white tinsel; Upper rib: nylon; Head: black micro-thread (0,06 mm); Recommend size: 8-14.

# Catalogue of the essential Czech nymphs patterns

## II. Bobeshes; b) Hermit



### 67: Green Carrot Hermit

Tier: Vladimír Šedivý

Hook: Skalka; Back: dark green Bicolour Back (AF); Abdomen: green muskrat fur; Thorax: dark green opossum fur and green Flashabou under back strip; Under rib: orange Glo-Brite; Upper rib: nylon; Head: dark-brown thread upwards marked with a black marker.

## II. Bobeshes; c) Handsome Bobesh



### 68: Inconspicuous Handsome Bobesh

Tier: Vladimír Šedivý

Hook: Tiemco; Back: brown vinyl strip (Rachač 09); Abdomen: light brown rabbit fur, light olive rabbit fur; Heart: olive-green Flashabou Micro Dubbing; Thorax: grey-brown hare's underfur; Upper rib: nylon; Head: brown thread upwards marked with a black marker.



### 69: Tricolour Handsome Bobesh

Tier: Jaroslav Mašek

Hook: Kamasan Grubber B 110; Back: transparent vinyl strip; Tag: green synthetic dubbing (AF); Middle part of body: mixture of violet Synthetic Dubbing (AF) with violet Flashabou Dubbing; Thorax: grey rabbit fur; Under rib: pearl tinsel; Upper rib: nylon; Head: grey thread.



### 70: Five-colour Handsome Bobesh

Tier: Tomáš Starýchfojtů

Hook: Knápek 12; Back: olive vinyl strip; Tag: brick red rabbit fur; Abdomen: dark olive-grey squirrel, light pink rabbit fur; Heart: pink Spectra Flash; Thorax: dark-brown grey squirrel fur; Upper dubbing: nylon 0,12 mm; Head: bright olive tinsel.

## Catalogue of the essential Czech nymphs patterns

### V. Larvae



**91: Threaded Carrot Larva**

Tier: Tomáš Starýchfojtů

Hook: Knápek 12; Back: brown-green vinyl strip from above overlap gleam Spectra Flash No. 4 strip; Body: creamy-olive rabbit's fur; Under rib: pink UTC thread; Upper rib: nylon 0,12 mm; Head: brown thread.



**92: Violet Spot Cream Larva**

Tier: Vladimír Šedivý

Hook: Skalka; Back: salami skin; Abdomen: cream rabbit fur; heart: violet Flash Bright (Lureflash); Thorax: brown grey squirrel fur; Upper rib: nylon; Head: brown thread.



**93: Violet Wire -Worm**

Tier: Vladimír Šedivý

Hook: Tiemco 206 BL; Back: brown vinyl strip (R 09) underlay form olive foil No. 4 (TRP); Body: violet CDC dabbling; Under rib: violet Glo-Brite thread; Upper rib: nylon; Head: brown thread.



**94: Light Violet Larva**

Tier: Vladimír Šedivý

Hook: Hanák Competition Gammarus Gold; Back: violet Bicolour Back (AF); Body: light violet synthetic dubbing No. 14 (AF), under shellback is given violet Flash Bright; Under rib: rose wire; Upper rib: nylon; Head: light brown thread.

## VI. Scuds and Shrimps (Gammaruses)



**119: Orange Capped Sandy Gammarus**

Tier: Jaromír Málek

Hook Admiral; Back: transparent PVC strip; Abdomen: light sandy opossum fur; Thorax: sandy-yellow muskrat fur; Casing: orange antron; Upper rib: nylon; Head: dirty white thread



**120: Violet Gammarus**

Tier: Jaromír Karafiát (Hends)

Hook: Hayabusha; Back: strip of transparent Body Stretch (BS 41); Tag: yellow-green synthetic dubbing (CND 99); Abdomen: rose synthetic dubbing (CND 41); Thorax: strip of deep violet Blend dubbing (BD 1107); Under rib: violet wire (CVF 18); Head: violet elastic thread (VNE).



**121: Pink Gammarus**

Tier: ?

Hook: Tiemco gold; Back: reflexive rose PVC strip; Body: light violet-rose rabbit fur; Upper rib: nylon; Head: orange-red thread.



**122: Hot Gammarus**

Tier: Jiří Klíma

Hook: Hayabusha; Back: violet-copper irritant foil strip; Body: bloody-red nutria fur; Upper rib: copper wire; Head: black thread.

## Catalogue of other nymph patterns



### 127: Beige Chartreuse Tag Jig

Tier: Jaromír Málek

Hook: Mustad jig; Tag: yellow-green Synthetic Dubbing (AF); Body: mixture of natural hare's fur with gold Spectra Flash; Collar: black muskrat fur with synthetic peacock - Spectra Dubbing No. 45 (Hends); Head: fixed lead globule.



### 128: Handsome Jig

Tier: Jaromír Málek

Hayabusha jig with fixed bead; Tag: bright green antron; Body: brown-green muskrat fur; Collar: red SLF; Rib: copper wire; Hackle: grey cock, Head: gold-coated lead bead.



### 129: Tanned Pink Tail Goldhead

Tier: Vladimír Šedivý

Hook: Hanák Competition jig size 14; Tag: pink Synthetic Dubbing No. 14 (AF); Body: synthetic peacock - Spectra Dubbing No. 45 (Hends); Hackle: dark brown hen (Metz); Head: gold tungsten bead.



### 130: Iron Blue Micro-jig

Tier: Jaromír Málek

Hook: Hayabusha jig size 18 with fixed gold-coated lead bead; Tail: grizzly cock hackle; Tag: red thread; Body: grey heron fibre; Collar: synthetic peacock - Spectra Dubbing Hends No. 42.

At the time of writing, early 2008, the longest light-line rod that is commercially available in Europe, a 10 foot, two weight, is made by the Italian company, Modern Flies. Nine foot two weights are produced by the Italian company, Gatti, and the New Zealand company, CTS and the Scandinavian company, StreamStix. A very soft rod of 9 feet 6 inches, being made in the Czech Republic by Milan Pipal under the business name Green Stream, has proved well for the French way of fishing with an extremely long leader. We have also very good experience with Greys Streamflex 10 foot size 3 rod. Another useful piece of equipment commonly utilised by the French competitors is an extremely large but light Marryat 15 011E landing net.

The distinguishing characteristic of their method is a very unusual leader and the use of only one fly that typically utilises a colourful tungsten bead. Because the end of the fly line is in the reel or in the rod guides and only the leader extends beyond the top guide, there is nothing to inhibit to sinking rate of the nymph. The distinguishing feature of the French leader is a very long, knotted upper section followed by a tippet of equivalent diameter. A short section of bright, fluorescent mono - that functions as a strike indicator - links the end of the leader and the tippet.

#### Leader formulae from the best French fly fishers.

<b>Pascal Cognard (triple World Champion)</b>		
Nymphing leader - total length 5.75 m		
Filament diameter - mm	Length in cm	
	digressive	progressive
0,45	75	45
0,40	65	50
0,35	55	55
0,30	45	60
0,25	35	65
0,20	50	50
0,15	50	20
0,08-0,12	200	200

<b>Jerome Brossutti (World Champion, 2002)</b>	
Nymphing leader - total length 4.85 m	
Filament diameter - mm	Length in cm
0,45	40
0,40	45
0,35	50
0,30	55
0,25	60
0,20	65
0,15	70
0,08-0,12	100

Cognard's leader in the first column is called a "digressive taper" and is meant for windy conditions. In windless conditions he uses a leader called a "progressive taper" and its formula is in the second column. These formulas are certainly unusual for us, not so for the French. Another three examples follow:

<b>Jean-Marc Somaré</b>	
Total length 5.60 m	
Diameter - mm	Length in cm
0,45	45
0,40	50
0,35	55
0,30	60
0,20	50
0,16	35
0,08	200

<b>Jean-Marc Chignard</b>	
Total length 4.80 m	
Diameter - mm	Length in cm
0,50	70
0,40	60
0,32	50
0,25	40
0,20	30
0,15	30
0,12	200

<b>Philippe Boisson</b>	
Total length 6.55 m	
Diameter - mm	Length in cm
0,45	50
0,40	55
0,35	60
0,30	65
0,25	75
0,20	75
0,16	75
0,08-0,14	200

## Catalogue of more nymph patterns

### I. Polish woven nymphs



#### 147: Green Caterpillar Woven Nymph

Hook: Hayabusha; Body: woven from two polypropylene multi-strand flosses, yellow belly and caterpillar green back; Hackle: cinnamon brown fur; Rib: black thread; Head: black thread.



#### 148: Wasp Woven Nymph

Hook: Hayabusha; Body: woven from two polypropylene multi-strand flosses, white belly and wasp-yellow back; Hackle: cinnamon brown fur; Rib: black thread; Head: painted black thread.



#### 149: Light Green Woven Nymph

Hook: Mustad; Body: woven from two polypropylene multi-strand flosses, pearl white belly and light green back; Rib: red wire; Head: peacock herl.



#### 150: Dark Olive Woven Nymph

Hook: Mustad; Body: woven from two polypropylene multi-strand flosses, white belly and dark olive back; Rib: beige thread; Head: peacock herl.



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