

# in praise of TERRY'S TERROR

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My attention was drawn to the Terry's Terror by an article in the Autumn issue of the Fishing Gazette - now sadly defunct. It was written by Dr. Cecil Terry who contributed a series of articles under the title 'Minor notes of a Flyfisher'.

In conjunction with Ernest Lock, a noted professional flydresser of Andover, Terry devised a modification of the Orange Tag. It proved such a good fly that it even surpassed the Treacle Parkin, a previous favourite on Northern Rivers.

It appears that the late Peter Deane tied some TT's for Dr. Terry and substituted a copper tinsel for the original gold rib. I have not noticed any advantage in this change so I stick to the original recipe. Donald Overfield in his 'Fifty Favourite Dry Flies' dresses the fly with a full hackle, he does not think trimming the hackle below the shank adds anything to the attractiveness of the pattern.

He uses orange and yellow dyed goat hair for the tag.

I believe flies that sit in the surface film are taken more readily by the fish; this accounts for the success of the parachute hackle style flies so prevalent in the modern flyfishers' fly box, so I always trim the hackle below the shank of the Terry's Terror.

It is a wonderful fly, I have used it in the original dressing for over fifty years and it has served me well on the Southern chalkstreams, the Derbyshire streams and the rainfed rivers up North. Tied on a down eyed hook, sizes #18 - #16 it is always reliable. Tied on a #14 it is a fly with which to begin the season when Large Dark Olives are on the water, and on a #12 it serves as a passable sedge imitation.



The dressing as given by Dr. Terry in the article in the Fishing Gazette is :

'Hackle: Deep red cock, gamecock if available. After winding, the fibres below the body are cut short spinner fashion.

Body : Two or three strands of peacock herl.

Ribbing : Flat gold tinsel, rather broad.

Tag : A bunch of cock hackle fibres dyed hot orange and a smaller one of the same, dyed yellow. These are tied in with their points towards the eye with the butt ends cut short. The tag should project beyond the

bend of the hook.'

The Terry's Terror has saved me from many blank days; it will bring the trout and grayling up when there are no rises to be seen. It is also useful as a 'search' pattern, but beware, some anglers end up with the TT and mayflies as the only dry flies in their flybox!