

**THE NATURAL
TROUT FLY AND ITS
IMITATION**

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The natural trout fly and its imitation by Leonard West

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LEONARD WEST

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AND
ITS IMITATION.

By
LEONARD WEST.

Being an Angler's Record of Insects seen at the Waterside
and the Method of making their Imitations.

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v v T

FOREWORD.

It is with considerable diffidence on the part of the Author that this Book is laid before the general public. The notes and observations contained in it were made for private use only, but owing to the persuasion of a friend, the Author has decided to give them a wider circulation.

If the reader obtains useful information from these pages, or finds matter of interest therein, he has to thank J. Unsworth, Esq. (M.B. London), of St. Helens, entirely, for without his persuasion and kind assistance, the Sketches would have remained as entries only, in a private note book.

To other friends who have given assistance, I will take this opportunity of tendering hearty thanks; whatever has been required, either in the way of materials, information, or advice, has been freely and ungrudgingly given.

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NOTE—Chapters 18 and 19 are re-printed from the Fly Fishers' Club Journal.

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Introduction.

TO almost every fly fisher sooner or later there comes a desire for more knowledge of the various insects seen at the waterside and used in his craft, and also a wish for some definite idea as to their classification and life history.

Should the reader not be possessed by this desire, we strongly recommend him to miss this chapter, which is an attempt to convey a broad idea of the general classification of insects with as few technicalities, and in as simple language as possible; but withal in such a form as to be acceptable to fellow anglers, and so that even the least initiated will be enabled to distinguish an Ephemeron from a Stone-fly or a Caddis-fly, and so on. The expert entomologist may scorn the feeble attempt; this, however, is not written for his edification, but for the humble followers of the immortal Walton who prefer wading in a pellucid stream to the intricacies of an entomology.

It is not necessary that the angler should know every species by name, to do so would entail the work of a lifetime, as the species are numbered by thousands, and many of the differences which determine the species are so small as to be negligible from the angler's point of view. It is, however, both useful and interesting to have a broad idea of the general classification of the insect world, and such knowledge will give added enjoyment to many an hour when angling interest flags.

From the purely sporting point of view, the angler with a knowledge of entomology, possesses a great advantage, and is able readily to select a suitable fly; whereas, one without this knowledge is liable to fall into mistakes which appear grotesque to the initiated.