



Grayling

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Effect of Leader Tip on Capture Rates?

Some preliminary notes on tip diameters & grayling

Vincenzo Penteriani & Roberto Pragliola
Spanish Area Secretary and colleague

The diameter of the tip leader has been frequently considered as one of the most important factors determining the success of a dry fly presentation in the flyfishing of graylings.

During our "explorations" of the reactions of graylings when faced to a dry fly (see issues SUMMER 2004 and WINTER 2005 of Grayling), we started to analyse the possible effects of the tip diameters. To do this, the same dry fly was mounted on two different tips (a 0.12 and a 0.16mm) and was consecutively presented to the same fish. The order of the presentations was random, that is we



never presented firstly the tip of a same diameter, to avoid possible effects due to fish habituation or the contribution of the first cast and presentation to the efficacy of a fly. Finally, the choice of two very different diameters (0.12 vs. 0.16mm) was due to the need to contrast two very different experimental situations. We never used 0.12mm tips because, due both the characteristics of many of the grayling Slovenian rivers (fast to very fast stream speed) in which we performed such a test and the mean size of graylings (frequently >30cm), we considered important to both avoid: (a) unnecessary tip breaking; and (b) prolonged stress of hooked individuals. For authorisations necessary to run the present study, for its support and invaluable help in all the

3. the number of grayling movement from the river bed toward the fly was not affected by the tip diameter ($t = -0.07, p = 0.95$);

4. the number of grayling caught was not affected by the type of the fly, i.e. exact imitations vs. fancy flies ($t = -0.73, p = 0.54$);

5. the number of fly refusals was not affected by the type of the fly, i.e. exact imitations vs. fancy flies ($t = 1.25, p = 0.34$).

Also if we prefer to be careful in our affirmations, especially because we need more data to achieve stronger conclusions, these first results seem to indicate that the effect of the leader diameter on the catch rates of graylings could be low or related to some specific conditions. In fact, we need to perform more tests in very difficult situations (e.g.



various stages of this work we are indebted to Dr. Jose Ocvirk (FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SLOVENIA).

Such a test was also performed taking into account the different conditions of stream speed and water turbulence, i.e. from very slow water (e.g. Unec) to extra-fast ones (e.g. Soca), as well as different conditions of water transparency. Because the information that we were able to collect until today cannot be considered as completely definitive, we are not able to separate the analyses among different and more complex sub-samples (e.g. relationship between fly patterns and tip diameter or structure, structure of the water, structure of the river bed, hatch vs. absence of insect on the surface, etc.). Anyway, some interesting consideration are possible now and we present here below our first results, supported by the use of the t-test, a statistical test used to compare means of two samples (p values of <math><0.05</math> are the minimum request to indicate a significant difference between two samples):

1. the number of hooked graylings was not affected by the tip diameter ($t = -0.70, p = 0.51$);
2. the number of fly refusals was not affected by the tip diameter ($t = -0.56, p = 0.63$);



ivers characterised by very low streams and absolute water clarity). Anyway, we have also to consider that the test we performed in the more quiet portions of the river Soca (where the transparency of the water is highest) did not indicate any correlation between tip diameter and number of hooked graylings. Another possibility could be that the importance of the tip diameter could be positively correlated with the size of the dry fly. In fact, it is not hard to suppose that when we use a very small dry fly (e.g. an imitation of *Caenis* sp.), a thick tip can give its presentation quite unnatural, strongly limiting its movements among the surface streams. Our present investigations are directed in such a direction too and, as soon as possible, the readers of Grayling will be the first to know our results.

Ed. Vincenzo is our Area Secretary in Spain and researcher in the Estación Biológica de Doñana (C.S.I.C., Spain). In collaboration with Roberto Pragliola, he is collecting materials for a book on the grayling flyfishing with dry flies under a behavioural perspective.