

Dick Talleur on Ants

‘Ants may be found at various times throughout the season and trout seem to be constantly aware of them. I have had some amazing and exciting times with ant imitations. Sometimes I will fish them to rises when I can't get the trout to take what I see on the water, or can't determine what they are rising for. Usually this works, don't ask me why.

‘Ants come in a variety of sizes and colours. As mentioned in the chapter on artificial flies, most situations can be covered if you carry black ants from size 14 to 20 and brown ones from 16 to 20.

‘Ants that are involved in reproduction are called sexuals and grow wings at mating time. This phenomenon can precipitate fantastic dry-fly fishing, as the swarms often fly out over water, for some reason. Trout find them so desirable that I have actually seen them switch from feeding on a hatch to gulping the winged ants greedily. This has happened to me several times when float-tubing a trout lake or pond. It's a good idea to carry some winged ants; these flights are difficult to anticipate and usually not of long duration.’ Dick Talleur: [*Talleur's Dry Fly Handbook*](#), 1992.