



Tinus, a flyfisher from the Eastern Cape, on an upper Zambezi float trip. He had great success on Scoobie-doo style Clousers.

rent to feeding fish. Tied in size 4 and fished relatively slowly, it is also a good fly when the fish hold deep during low-pressure situations.



HITLER'S MOUSTACHE

Palmered zonker with sequin head (black, brown or olive)

Hook: #2 Gamakatsu B10S

Thread: 3/0 in colour to match zonker

Tail: Section of zonker strip length of hook shank

Body: Palmered cross-cut rabbit zonker in colour of choice

Collar: Red hackle

Head: Two sequins, concave surface facing forward

Flash: One strand of crystal flash per side of tail

Weight: ±10 wraps of round lead wire

I prefer to tie this fly in black, followed by brown and olive. Due to lack of black zonker at the time of writing, I only have an olive version to show.

The combination of rabbit zonker and sequin eyes give this fly an incredible amount of inherent movement. With the slightest current or movement, this fly comes alive. Although it looks bulky when dry, it slims down sig-

nificantly when wet and is easy to cast. The weight is crucial to give added movement to the fly between strips.

This fly produces throughout the upper Zambezi and Okavango tiger season. It can be fished at any time, any place, but I prefer to fish it early morning and late evening, and in discoloured water. We let this fly sit stationary for a minute or two after the line has swung downstream and sunk. We are often treated to massive hits when fishing this fly "static" (static in quotations as this fly is never static — just holding in a minor current it ripples and pulsates with life).



FIRE TIGER CLOUSER

Hook: #2 - 1/0 Gamakatsu B10S

Thread: 3/0 chartreuse

Eyes: 4mm dumbbell eyes

Body: Fluorescent orange dubbing or chenille

Under wing: Chartreuse bucktail

Mid-wing 1: Green bucktail

Mid-wing 2: Red bucktail

Top wing: Black bucktail topped with peacock herl (layers in a ratio of 2:2:1:1 - chartreuse: green: red: black)

Flash: One strand of crystal flash per side

Extra Weight: Round lead wire (optional)

This fly is an all-round attractor pattern and can be used in most scenarios on the upper Zambezi and Okavango rivers. I prefer to fish this fly as a last resort and only in bright/clear water conditions. This is a productive nemb-w fly.



BEADHEAD RABBIT ZONKER

Hook: #4 or #2 Gamakatsu B10S

Thread: 3/0 in colour to match zonker

Tail: Section of zonker strip length of hook shank

Wing: Tail extended over the body to the head

Body: Tinsel or fine cactus chenille in gold, copper or yellow chenille

Collar (optional): Red chenille

Head: Gold bead or cone

Weight: Lead wire (optional)

Tag: Red holographic tinsel

Tied in brown with a yellow or gold body, this is our number-one fly on the Okavango River. It has a profile and colour very similar to baitfish on which the catfish and tigers feed during the runs. Due to the movement this fly displays as a result of the rabbit zonker, it can be fished relatively slowly.

It does not last long, but is an easy tie, which can be made even easier by leaving out the tag.

A NOTE ON TYING

Use super glue or varnish after laying the body and eyes on Clousers. This will give them some extra life. Also, rather tie your flies too sparse than too full. Sparsely-tied flies will always out-fish bulkier flies.

Less flash is better. If you are getting follows but no takes, pull out the flash from your flies.

That in a nutshell is a brief overview of our favourite flies for the upper Zambezi and Okavango rivers. The list is by no means complete, but merely an indication of what has been working for us over the past handful of seasons. Different guides and fishermen will have their own favourites. After all, confidence in one's fly is half the job done.

• Should you have any questions about fishing the Zambezi or Okavango rivers, feel free to contact the author on 084 622 2272 or via email at <keith@tourettefishing.com>.