

# WESTERN MARCH BROWN *RHITHROGENA SPP.*



## Western March Brown Nymph

### Identification

- Brown, flattened body with a shovel-shaped head
- Three tails, but they are easily broken
- Gills enlarged to form a suction cup on the bottom of the abdomen
- Size: up to 0.5 in (#12)



## Western March Brown Adult

### Identification

- Body is rusty brown
- Two tails
- Hind wings 1/4-1/3 length of front wings
- Functional legs, similar in color
- Head often flattened
- Size: 0.4-0.5 in (#14-12)

### Biology

Western March Browns are widespread across the West and live in almost all river types. The nymphs are clingers, and their body shape is evolved to endure very fast and turbulent waters. The nymphs scrape algae from rocks for food.



### Angling Tip:

Western March Brown are often one of the first mayflies to hatch (late March-early May). Their emergence can overlap with Blue-Winged Olives, and trout may become selective to either. The nymphs are very active before hatching, and trout will seek them out.