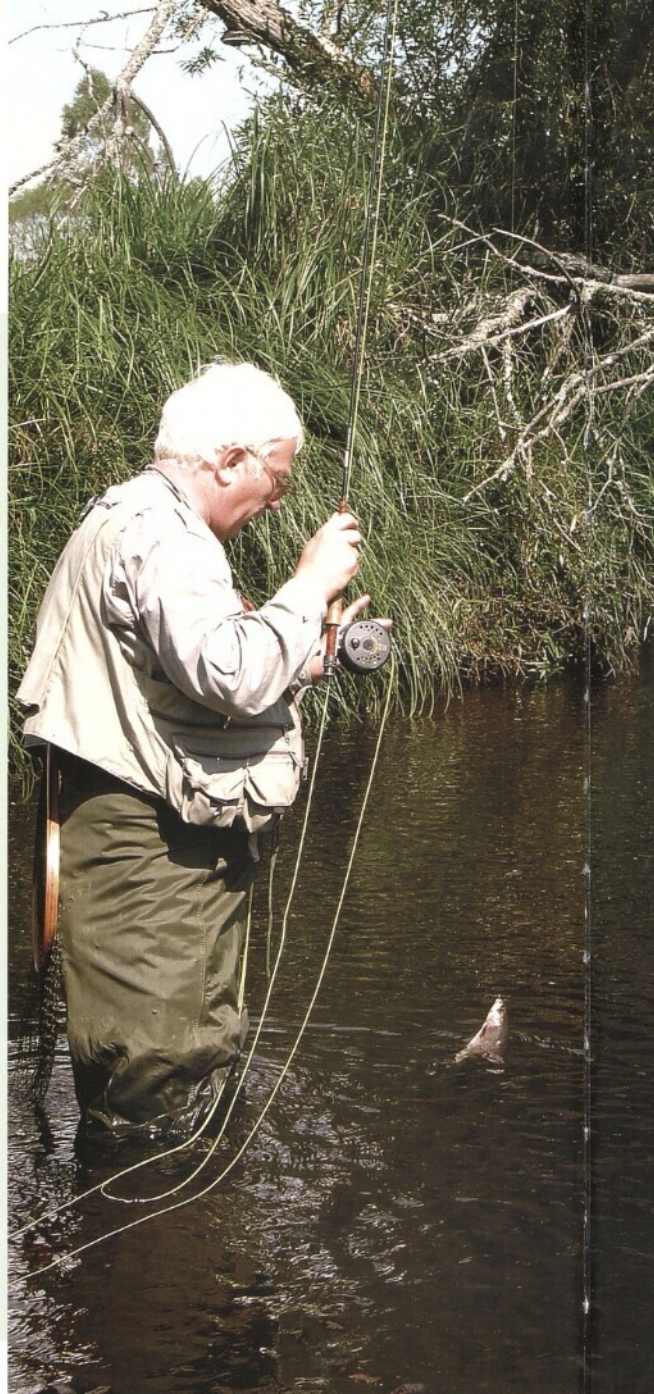


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## Foreword to third edition

The Czech nymph is a concept and a technique that has been utilised by fly fishers for many years and, of late, it has been described in many magazines devoted to fly fishing. The different patterns of the Czech nymphs, however, were long kept secret, even at home in the Czech Republic. The first detailed information was provided in "Lexikon mušek" (Thesaurus of Flies), edited by Miloš Zeman, which was published in 2000. In that volume, fifty Czech nymphs patterns were revealed and it contained a great deal of valuable information about them.

Another breakthrough was in the narrative book by Jaromír Karafiát and Miroslav Macháček "Muškaření a vázání mušek" – (Flyfishing and Fly Tying) (2002), which revealed more than forty nymph patterns, including the tying procedures. In the chapter devoted to grayling fishing, there is also a mention of the "short nymph", which is a more accurate definition of the Czech nymphing method. This book provided the inspiration to write my own book about the Czech nymph, after spending many years of thinking about how to do it.

For about five years I had toyed with the idea of writing a book on the Czech nymph and I was certainly not the only one who had this idea. I knew that it would not be at all easy because this is a very specialised niche in the field of fly fishing. In about 2003 I started to collect data on particular topics and in the beginning of 2005 I put the first draft on paper, I continued working on the text and, at the end of 2006, I finalised the Czech manuscript and the first edition saw the light of day on 21st March 2007.

Owing to the fact that the first edition of this book about the Czech nymph had sold out in a few months, I decided to publish a second, corrected edition in the summer of 2007 and prepared a German version as well. I also tried, with the help of friends, to remove all the spelling and grammatical mistakes in the original English translation and, at the same time, made a few minor changes to my first manuscript.

The second edition was published on 21 November 2007 and, within four months, it too had sold out. At that time I was already working on the third English edition which contains a number of additions. This new English translation has been significantly enhanced by the contribution of my good friend, Ed Herbst from Cape Town, South Africa, editor of Piscator, his country's oldest flyfishing magazine, ([www.piscator.co.za](http://www.piscator.co.za)). I hope that this third edition will prove as popular as its predecessors.

I felt reticent about tackling this topic on my own and thus approached a few friends who provided me with extremely good advice and many useful observations. Most of them are top competition fly fishers who have played a singular role in developing this technique. In researching this project I have, for several years now, been collecting Czech nymph patterns and my collection now numbers in excess of two hundred flies and continues to grow.

I am indebted to my good friend, Milan Hladik, who took the photographs of selected nymphs and the majority of the other photographs in this book. They have certainly contributed to the overall image of the new book, which has helped me a lot. I would also like to express my appreciation to all the other co-contributors; Vladimír Šedivý, Jiří Klíma, Milan Janus, Pavel Macháň, Jaroslav Karafiát, Slavoj Svoboda and Vit Misar, because, without their help, it would not have been possible to complete this book.

This English version has been published together with the first Czech issue to express my respect for British fly fishers and to acknowledge their help and contribution. In particular, their generous assistance in the past few decades has helped Czech competitors gain an understanding of what, to us, was a completely new dimension in fly fishing - loch style fishing on still waters from drifting boats. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge my indebtedness to our friends in Belgium who provided us with invaluable insights on the best techniques for fly fishing from the bank.

9th April 2008

*The author fishing on the Teplá Vltava (Warm Vltava)*