

# Verlorenkloof Estate

## Fly Fishing Report by Robert Young

During our visit (21 – 25 May) all dams were well stocked with lots of fish visible and also ample evidence of sub-surface swirls and rises, also some spectacular fish-aerobatics displayed at times. In spite of that, the fishing was quite tough, in my opinion for a number of key reasons:

- Water was very clear during our visit, and as a result fish spooked easily when careless casting disturbed them. In such a case the whole school would move off, often to a nearby spot or sometimes even to the opposite bank of the dam.
- More fish caught during early morning or dusk periods when flies were not so carefully scrutinised by the fish.
- About 50% of the hook-ups achieved during day-time were foul-hooks (bottom of lower jaw or side of jaw), indicating attempting to veer away after striking the fly
- Fish acted as one would experience during pre-spawn periods, with a few larger hens cruising around the dam followed by younger hens and a few cocks chasing, sometimes moving around in circular fashion in one area. In South Dam I counted 29 fish in a school cruising in the inflow area of the dam (closest to Croft 18). Under such conditions it is tough to induce a take, fish seem to “ignore” the anglers best efforts!!
- During this trip, fish were caught in two distinctively different manners: sight-fished, taken on cast or within one strip; alternatively, slow retrieve (figure 8 or similar) with dark fly like woolly buggler or similar, retrieved slowly and close to bottom.
- Afternoon hatches of small white mayfly-like insects (size 16 or smaller). Fish were gobbling these up, also pre-emergers and spinners from the top.
- Fish were reacting to green/olive/brown nymphs or similar. No strikes on attractor flies (reds, oranges) could be achieved. One of the fellow-anglers (Alwyn Coetzee) was successful with an orange egg booby in Vinkel. Alwyn’s fishing log should also make for some good reading, most success with small green nymphs, caddis etc.!

I ran out of time and did not do a full survey of the river, but was able to land one in beat 5-6 area. Again, Alwyn also reported some success in the river as well.

We wish you a happy fishing season with many tight lines.