

Rod Review

by John Cheyne

Esox Lucius

Last autumn I had a bit of a quandary. I had been using a Wychwood Power Plugger teamed with a big Wychwood fixed spool reel for my heavy lure work and although it had performed remarkably well, I really wanted to get myself a multiplier set up. The problem was which rod to go for. My experience of jerk bait rods was limited and the ones I had tried seemed very stiff and unresponsive. Thankfully as with most lure fishing problems, I found the answer on the LAS Forum. I read a post praising the merits of a new range of rods by a Swedish company BromanoDell. The Esox Lucius range sounded just my thing, light responsive and well made. After looking at the range online I opted for the 6'3" 2 piece

Full Rod Spec.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Length: | 6ft 3inches (2 piece) |
| Material: | Mixed modulus carbon graphite |
| Casting weight: | 40g - 140g |
| Rod weight: | 150g |
| Price: | £83.00 |

Available from a number of dealers for details contact Fishing Matters on 01963 220151 or see the advert in this issue.

40 - 140g jerk bait rod, at just over £80.00 it wasn't too pricey and looked very nice too. Within 10 minutes I had ordered the rod!

What do you get for your money?

The Rod comes in a rather trendy looking camo rod bag and certainly looks the part. With a nicely formed EVA split grip handle with a gun metal reel seat and trigger grip. It features a mixed modulus matt grey blank to avoid reflection and flash when casting that the makers claim allow you to cast prodigious distances and fight the biggest of fish.

It's fitted with super tough T-Ring dyna-flow SIC guides to handle braided lines and to give a low profile. Finished with black silk whippings and lime green highlights then triple epoxy coated for optimal strength and durability the finish on the rod is superb. I particularly like the Esox Lucius logo etched into the EVA handle. OK so it looks great, the question remained however, how would it perform?

I have tried throwing just about every lure I own (and that's a lot of lures) with this rod and it is quite comfortable within it's 40-140g bracket. Big soft baits go out nicely as do larger spinnerbaits, so it's a pretty adaptable rod. However it's when you clip on a jerk bait of around 70g that the fun really begins. Pop a Salmo Slider on the trace and let rip and you will watch your lure disappearing into the distance! It really does cast them beautifully. I've used both an ABU record RCN51 and a Shimano Calcutta 201TE DC with the rod and they both feel just great. The Shimano out casts the Abu by a good few yards, especially in windy conditions, but then it is about four times the price and has the advantage of an on-board computer!

On the retrieve the Esox Lucius feels light and responsive and you will happily cast big lures with it all day. It only weighs about 150g and yet it has a very well designed progressive action that allows a lovely balance between casting power and hook setting power which usually require a stiff fast actioned rod on one side and also a blank that is forgiving enough to fight big, powerful fish without the hooks tearing out on the other. The rods designer,



The Esox Lucius teamed with my Shimano Calcutta DC and a size 12 Salmo Slider

Swedish guide and tackle guru Johan Broman claims this balance is achieved by clever use of different graphites in it's construction. This mixed modulus approach allows them to get the best from several different materials.

So far I have taken fish to low double figures on it, the biggest of which came (just to prove how adaptable it is) as I was using it as a trolling rod on the Warks Avon. It casts well, it looks good, it's fun to use and still has a bend in it when you hook a 5lber unlike some jerk bait rods I've tried. Unfortunately I cannot tell you how it copes with a 20lb + fish yet, but one of these days I will, because I'm going to be using it for some time to come!



Even fish like this 6lber from Esthwaite Water are great fun to land on the Esox Lucius



The rod doubles up quite nicely as a heavy trolling rod as this low double proves