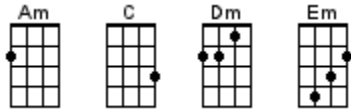


# The Blackfly Song

Wade Hemsworth 1949



**INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 /**

[C]↓ 'Twas early in the spring, when I decide to go  
For to [Am]↓ work up in the woods in north On-[Em]↓tar-i-o  
And the [C]↓ unemployment office said they'd send me through  
To the [Am] Little Abitibi with the [Em] survey crew

And the [Am] black flies, the little black flies  
[C] Always the black fly, no matter where you go  
I'll [Dm] die with the black fly a-pickin' my bones  
In [Dm] north On-tar-i-[C]o-i-o  
In [C]↓ north On-[Em]↓tar-i-[Am]o [Am] / [C] / [C]

Now the [C] man Black Toby was the captain of the crew  
And he [Am] said, "I'm gonna tell you boys [Em] what we're gonna do  
They [C] want to build a power dam, we must find a way  
For to [Am]↓ make the Little Ab flow a-[Em]↓round the other way"

With the [Am] black flies, the little black flies  
[C] Always the black fly, no matter where you go  
I'll [Dm] die with the black fly a-pickin' my bones  
In [Dm] north On-tar-i-[C]o-i-o  
In [C]↓ north On-[Em]↓tar-i-[Am]o [Am] / [C] / [C]

So we [C] survey to the east, survey to the west  
And we [Am] couldn't make our minds up [Em] how to do it best  
Little [C] Ab, Little Ab, what shall I do  
For I 'm [Am]↓ all but goin' crazy with the [Em]↓ survey crew

And the [Am] black flies, the little black flies  
[C] Always the black fly, no matter where you go  
I'll [Dm] die with the black fly a-pickin' my bones  
In [Dm] north On-tar-i-[C]o-i-o  
In [C]↓ north On-[Em]↓tar-i-[Am]o [Am] / [C] / [C]

It was [C] black fly, black fly everywhere  
A-[Am]crawlin' in your whiskers, a-[Em]crawlin' in your hair  
[C] Swimmin' in the soup, swimmin' in the tea  
The [Am]↓ devil take the black fly and [Em]↓ let me be

**[Am]** Black fly, the little black fly  
**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go  
 I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly pickin' my bones  
 In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o  
 In **[C]**↓ north On-**[Em]**↓tar-i-**[Am]**o **[Am]** / **[C]** / **[C]**

Black **[C]** Toby fell to swearin', the work went slow  
 And the **[Am]** state of our morale was a-**[Em]**gettin' pretty low  
 And the **[C]** flies swarmed heavy, it was hard to catch a breath  
 As you **[Am]**↓ staggered up and down the trail **[Em]**↓ talkin' to yourself

With the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies  
**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go  
 I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-pickin' my bones  
 In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o  
 In **[C]**↓ north On-**[Em]**↓tar-i-**[Am]**o **[Am]** / **[C]** / **[C]**

Well now the **[C]** bull cook's name was Blind River Joe  
 If it **[Am]** hadn't been for him we'd have **[Em]** never pulled through  
 Cuz he **[C]** bound up our bruises, and he kidded us for fun  
 And he **[Am]**↓ lathered us with bacon grease and **[Em]**↓ balsam gum

For the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies  
**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go  
 I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-pickin' my bones  
 In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o  
 In **[C]**↓ north On-**[Em]**↓tar-i-**[Am]**o **[Am]** / **[C]** / **[C]**↓

And at **[C]**↓ last the job was over, Black **[C]**↓ Toby said we're through  
 With the **[Am]**↓ Little Abitibi and the **[Em]**↓ survey crew  
 'Twas a **[C]**↓ wonderful experience and **[C]**↓ this I know  
 I'll **[Am]**↓ never go again to north On-**[Em]**↓tar-i-o

With the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies  
**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go  
 I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-pickin' my bones  
 In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o  
 In **[C]**↓ north On-**[Em]**tar-i-**[Am]**o

With the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies  
**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go  
 I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-**[Dm]**↓pickin' my bones  
 In **[Dm]**↓ north On-tar-i-**[C]**↓o-i-o  
 In **[C]**↓ north On-**[Em]**↓tar-i-**[Am]**↓o

