



**Entomological Society of America
Proposal Form for New Common Name or
Change of ESA-Approved Common Name**

Complete this form and e-mail to pubs@entsoc.org.

Submissions will not be considered unless this form is filled out completely.

The proposer is expected to be familiar with the rules, recommendations, and procedures outlined in the “Use and Submission of Common Names” on the ESA website at <https://www.entsoc.org/pubs/use-and-submission-common-names>.

1. Proposed new common name:

This proposal is to remove the common name, Caledonia seed bug

2. Previously approved common name (if any):

The Better Common Names Project Task Force has been tasked by the Entomological Society of America with reviewing the ESA Common Names of Insects and Related Organisms List for names that no longer meet ESA’s policies for acceptable insect common names, which bar names referencing ethnic or racial groups and names that might stoke xenophobia. The policies also discourage geographic references, particularly for harmful species.

In determining how to address existing common names that fail to meet these guidelines, the task force has recommended that such common names with minimal documented usage be removed from the ESA Common Names List without replacement.

Removal of common names from the list is not without precedent. Historically, names have been removed on occasion from the ESA Common Names List for a variety of reasons, including confusion or overlap with other similar species, taxonomic updates, consolidation, and more.

3. Scientific name (genus, species, author):

Nysius caledoniae

Order: Hemiptera

Family: Lygaeidae

Supporting Information

4. Please provide a clear and convincing explanation for why a common name is needed, possibly including but not limited to the taxon's economic, ecological, or medical importance, striking appearance, abundance, or conservation status:

This request is to remove the common name Caledonia seed bug from the common names list. The common name for *Nysius caledoniae*, likely comes from the scientific name rather than referencing New Caledonia; however, the scientific name references where the holotype was collected ([Annals and Magazine of Natural History, pg. 151](#), [Atlas of Living Australia](#)). Geographic descriptors in an ESA common name are generally discouraged and require justification. *Nysius caledoniae*'s current common name is not widely used (see section 8). Also "Caledonia" does not describe the insect's characteristics (e.g., color, host association, life stage, etc.). Using "Caledonia" to characterize *Nysius caledoniae* host range is not useful, as *N. caledoniae* is distributed beyond New Caledonia (see section 6) and is a *Nysius* sp. of concern to the U.S. ([Brambila 2017](#)). If *N. caledoniae* does arrive and establishes as a pest status, a different common name should be proposed.

5. Stage or characteristic to which the proposed common name refers.

(If the description involves a physical feature, it is strongly encouraged that an image of the organism be provided with this submission.)

This refers to all stages.

6. Distribution (include references):

- 1) Caledonia seed bug likely comes from the scientific name rather than a direct reference to New Caledonia. However, the scientific name clearly references where the holotype was collected.
- 2) There are at least five synonymies.
<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/taxa/281d82ac-be90-42c7-924c-fa9f6154302e#names>
 - a. *N. villicus* (1940, Solomon Isl)
 - b. *N. turneri* (1936, Tasmania)
 - c. *N. dissimilis* (1936, Christmas Isl.)
 - d. *N. pacificus* (1930, Efat Isl., Vanuatu)
 - e. *N. clevelandensis* (1929, QLD, Australia)

"As of 2010 it is reported from Tasmania, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Hawaii, Lord Howe, Norfolk, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Vanuatu, Solomons, Caroline, Marianas, Bonin, Fiji, Samoa, Niue, Christmas Island, and Cocos Islands." (Julieta Brambila personal communication)



Map image from: [Atlas of Living Australia](#)

7. Principal hosts (include references):

Its preferred host plants appear to be Asteraceae. It occasionally explodes in high numbers. It is often found on flower heads. It is reported from *Emilia*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Sonchus asper*, *Erigeron linifolius*, *Gnaphalium purpureum*, *Cotula coronopifolia*, *Cassinia tenuifolia*, *Senecio*, and *Cakile edentulata*. In Hawaii, it breeds abundantly on a variety of weeds: *Emilia sonchifolia*, *Erigeron canadensis*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Pluchea indica*, and *P. odorata*. It has damaged orchids in Hawaii in commercial plantings. It can damage some crops including lettuce, sunflowers and safflower. It may be a threat to flower growers. (Julieta Brambila personal communication).

8. Please provide multiple references indicating clearly that the proposed name is already established and ideally widespread in use. If the name has been newly coined for purposes of this application, please state so:

Common name: use of a geographic term, Caledonia, in association with a pest insect.

Web of Science: 0 hits for common name, 1 for scientific name.

Google: 39 hits.

Last use of scientific name in a scientific journal: 2010. (Common name has not been used in a scientific journal.)

Extension: multiple hits due to the word 'seed bug', but no university fact sheets identified for this species.

9. Please identify any common names in use, including those used by indigenous peoples in the insect's area of origin, that have been applied to this taxon, other than the one herein proposed, with references. Please briefly describe the methods used to find alternative names and, if necessary, justify why each alternate name is inadequate:

N/A. This proposal is to remove the common name. However, alternative common names have been used for *Nysius caldoniae*:

Grey cluster bug is used in Australia

(<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/taxa/281d82ac-be90-42c7-924c-fa9f6154302e>).

However grey cluster bug is also associated with *Nysius clevelandensis*

(<https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/10.1079/cabicompendium.36782>).

10. Please identify any other organisms to which your proposed common name could apply, giving careful consideration to closely related taxa. Please justify why the proposed common name is (i) unsuitable for each of those taxa and/or (ii) better suited for the proposed taxon:

This proposal is to remove the common name. A common name that better describes this species based on its behavior, physical characteristics, host association, life cycle etc., should be proposed in the future.

11. Please document your efforts to consult with entomologists (including taxonomic specialists), colleagues, or other professionals who work with the taxon as to the suitability and need for the proposed common name. Please note that this is an important element of your proposal; proposals that do not document these steps are less likely to be successful.

We contacted Julieta Brambila with USDA-APHIS-PPQ in Gainesville, FL, who provided information on *Nysius caldoniae* common name and distribution. In addition, we have contacted Janis Matsunaga, Entomologists at Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

Proposed by: Better Common Names Project Task Force

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