



Entomological Society of America
Proposal Form for New Common Name or
Change of ESA-Approved Common Name
REVISED VERSION: *Dendroctonus micans*

2026-04-07

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:** Greater Eurasian spruce beetle
2. **Previously approved common name (if any):** European spruce beetle
3. **Scientific name (genus, species, author):** *Dendroctonus micans* (Kug.)

Order: Coleoptera

Family: Curculionidae (subfamily Scolytinae)

Note: We agreed with the Common Names Committee and removed the term “bark” from the proposed name. This shortens the name, while retaining the three key characteristics which distinguish this species from similar bark beetles. This way the name also aligns with other *Dendroctonus* species with common names that end on “host tree” and “beetle”.

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:** The request for a new name for this species is submitted because the current name is misleading on two accounts: 1) “European spruce beetle” is incorrect (this beetle is more widely distributed in Asia); 2) the term European spruce beetle is routinely used for another, much more important species, *Ips typographus*. This application is submitted in conjunction with a proposal for a new name for *Ips typographus*. The hope is that these two simultaneous applications will clarify the confusion.

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

It refers to the provenance (Eurasia), and to the preferred host tree genus - spruce - which is economically and ecologically very important (Jeger et al., 2017).

Jeger, M., Bragard, C., Caffier, D., Candresse, T., Chatzivassiliou, E., Dehnen-Schmutz, K., Gilioli, G., Jaques Miret, J.A. and MacLeod, A., 2017. Pest categorisation of *Dendroctonus micans*. EFSA Journal, 15(7): e04880

6. Distribution (include references): From Central Europe in the west to Japan in the East, and from Turkey and Central Asia in the South to Scandinavia in the North. Invasive in the British Isles. (EPPO 2025, Bevan, D. and King, C., 1983). One of the reasons to change the name from European to Eurasian is to reflect the actual distribution of the species and to move away from the Euro-centric legacy.

Bevan, D. and King, C., 1983. *Dendroctonus micans* Kug,—a new pest of spruce in UK. The Commonwealth Forestry Review: 41–51

EPPO (2025) *Dendroctonus micans*. EPPO datasheets on pests recommended for regulation. <https://gd.eppo.int>

7. Principal hosts (include references): The genus spruce, *Picea*. Natively it is the Eurasian spruce *P. abies*, but the beetle also readily attacks spruce species from outside of its native range, including the American *P. pungens* and *P. sitchensis*. (EPPO 2025)

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:

This is a request to CHANGE the currently registered name to a name that is more accurate, and which does not create confusion with species that is more often referred to in literature (*Ips typographus*). There are thousands of publications illustrating this conflict. A search for “*Ips typographus* european spruce beetle” on Google scholar returns 9,770 references. A search for “*Dendroctonus micans* european spruce beetle” returns only 1,100 references, and that is only because the results also include references to “Great European spruce beetle”, which is a common name more commonly used in European literature.

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:

- Great spruce bark beetle (this would create confusion with the many large American *Dendroctonus*)

- Great European spruce bark beetle (disregards distribution across Asia)
- Greater Eurasian spruce beetle (adequate but “bark beetle” is more specific than just “beetle”)

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:

There are many bark beetles that colonize spruce in Eurasia, thus we are also proposing to include the term Greater to denote that this is the largest of the spruce bark beetles in Eurasia.

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.

Our team is preparing the New Pest Response Guideline for the USDA-APHIS. During this process, it became apparent that the term European spruce beetle, currently registered with the ESA, is referring to two distinct species, and the USDA entomologists and risk analysts recommend using non-conflicting common names. The proposed name is a result of a discussion within the University of Florida Forest Entomology laboratory which includes the PI Hulcr (submitting) as well as two other authorities on bark beetle systematics, Dr. Andrew J. Johnson (the author of the Catalog of Bark Beetle Valid Names, currently in review), and Dr. Thomas Atkinson, the author of BarkBeetles.info.

Comment on the updated version: the new version (Greater Eurasian spruce beetle) was discussed with members of the bark beetle taxonomy community at University of Florida and Michigan State University, as well as with the facebook community of bark beetle researchers, students and fans “Frass and Noodles”. The revised name did not meet any resistance.

Proposed by (your name): Jiri Hulcr

Address: School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatic Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32605

E-mail: hulcr@ufl.edu

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170 Jennifer Road, Suite 230, Annapolis, MD 21401 USA
 Phone: 1-301-731-4535 Fax: 1-301-731-4538
esa@entsoc.org www.entsoc.org