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

REVISED VERSION: *Ips typographus*

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:** Eurasian spruce ips
2. **Previously approved common name (if any):** currently none
3. **Scientific name (genus, species, author):** *Ips typographus* (L.)

Order: Coleoptera

Family: Curculionidae (subfamily Scolytinae)

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 application is submitted in conjunction with a proposal for a new common name for *Dendroctonus micans*. The hope is that these two simultaneous applications will clarify the current confusion between their common names.

The request for a new name for *Ips typographus* (this application) is submitted for two reasons. One: *I. typographus* is an important species, an “ecosystem engineer” in Eurasian forests, which has become the most important pest in forestry across the continent as a result of intensive silviculture and the changing climate. As such, the species is also potentially a threat to the forests in North America, should it become invasive.

The second reason is that, currently, the ESA-registered name “European spruce beetle” refers to a different species, *Dendroctonus micans*. That species is much less prominent in literature, and is more commonly called “Greater European spruce beetle” in European and Asian publications.

The name currently suggested, ending with “... ips”, was inspired by the ESA Common Names committee’s recommendation (email on April 8, 2026), which noted that the common name for most *Ips* spp. indeed includes the terms “ips”. Our community of bark beetle systematists welcomes the application of established scientific names in common names, which adds clarity and stability.

We decided to not propose the alternative common name also suggested to us by the Committee, often used for the genus *Ips* in the U.S.: engraver. The reason is the lukewarm reception of this name by the European community of colleagues.

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 (Hlásny et al., 2019). While geographic names are not preferred according to the common names guidelines, the term Eurasian conforms to the recommendation that “*Geographic descriptors that describe the broadest area of origin of the species are highly preferred.*” Eurasian is broad and does not refer to an ethnic/racial group. Instead, it separates this species (so prominent in Eurasia) from the analogous species in North America.

Hlásny, T., Krokene, P., Liebhold, A., Montagné-Huck, C., Müller, J., Qui, H., Raffa, K., Schelhaas, M.J., Seidl, R., Svoboda, M. and Viiri, H., 2019. Living with bark beetles: impacts, outlook and management options (Vol. 8). Joensuu: EFI.

6. Distribution (include references): From Western Europe in the west to Japan in the East, and from Central Asia in the South to the northern edge of the taiga. 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. (GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/5018723>; the absence of spots in Russia refers to lack of reporting, not absence of the species)

7. Principal hosts (include references): The genus spruce, *Picea* (hundreds of records; Wood & Bright, 1992)

Wood, Stephen L., 1924- Bright, Donald E. (1992) A Catalog of Scolytidae and Platypodidae (Coleoptera), Part 2: Taxonomic Index. Great Basin naturalist memoirs, Volume 11: p. 1-685.

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 proposal seeks to distinguish *Ips typographus*, which is called European spruce beetle in most publications, from *Dendroctonus micans*, which is much less studied but is registered as “European

spruce beetle” in the ESA Common Names database. 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:

- European spruce bark beetle (disregards distribution across Asia)
- Eight-toothed bark beetle (proposed by CABI, but virtually never used in literature)

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, but this one is by far the most studied and most ecologically and economically significant.

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 (*Eurasian spruce ips*) 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.

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Date submitted: September 29, 2025

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