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, Japanese pine blast scale.

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 invasive 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 very 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.

2. Previously approved common name (if any): There is an existing alternative ESA common name, red pine scale (Fig. 1). This proposal removes the alternative name, Japanese pine blast scale, but keeps red pine scale.
Fig 1: Screen shot from the Entsoc common name database showing that Matsucoccus matsumurae currently have two approve common names. Proposal is to remove the less used common name, Japanese pine blast scale.

3. Scientific name (genus, species, author): *Matsucoccus matsumurae* (Kuwana)

Order: Hemiptera

Family: Matsucoccidae

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: Japanese pine blast scale should be removed because there exists an alternative name that is in wider use. Promoting a minor use common name (i.e., Japanese pine blast scale) by including them in the common names list can make communication more difficult.

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.): The proposal applies to all stages of the insect.

Maine (2014):

Between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude where suitable hosts occur

7. Principal hosts (include references): Pine trees

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: The name is seldom used.

In Edge

Search term  +"Matsucoccus matsumurae" +"japanese pine blast scale" 13 hits.

Search term +"Matsucoccus matsumurae" +"red pine scale" 413 hits

Search term +"Matsucoccus matsumurae" hits 12600

Some articles refer to this species as pine blast scale (formerly known as red pine scale) Matsucoccus matsumurae - Bugwoodwiki. However, there were only 30 hits with that name.

In Web of Science

Search term  +"Matsucoccus matsumurae" +"japanese pine blast scale" 0 hits.

Search term +"Matsucoccus matsumurae" +"red pine scale" 1 hits

Search term +"Matsucoccus matsumurae" 19 hits

Search term +"Matsucoccus matsumurae" +"red pine scale" 0 hit.

A search for extension fact sheets resulted in no hits.

Both red pine scale and Japanese pine blast scale common names are used by several state agencies.

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:
Red pine scale: This is the approved ESA common name and will remain in the common names list.

Japanese pine blast scale: The use of a culturally well-defined reference in a common name in a pest species is discouraged. Furthermore, there is an existing name that is more popular and lacks this issue.

Other names include:

Pine blast scale: more generally used for any member in the family Matsucoccidae Pathogenicity of Three Entomopathogenic Fungi to Matsucoccus matsumurae - PMC (nih.gov).

Cochinilla del pino de Japón (scalenet.info/catalogue/Matsucoccus matsumurae/)

matsu-moguri-kaigaramushi (scalenet.info/catalogue/Matsucoccus matsumurae/)

Pine bark scale (Table - PMC (nih.gov))

There is some genetic evidence suggesting that M. massonianae is a synonym of M. matsumurae. With this Massonian pine blast scale, and Chinese pine blast scale are additional common names (Table - PMC (nih.gov)).

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:

Red pine scale is a more suitable name than Japanese pine blast scale because red pine scale conforms to the current guidelines for common names.

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.

Kevin Chase, Bartlett Tree Expert:

In the forestry world (when I was in it), we used red pine scale. I don’t that I have heard the name Japanese pine blast scale (but I also didn’t directly study or encounter this insect). I think the common name of red pine scale is an excellent one.

Within Bartlett, red pine scale is also the common name we use. This is a snapshot from our Media Library (where we house all our digital photo records and associate them with management tactics.
Proposed by: Better Common Names Project

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