



## 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](mailto: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:**

Ailanthus trunk weevil

**2. Previously approved common name (if any):**

N/A

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

Order: Coleoptera

Family: Curculionidae

*Eucryptorrhynchus brandti* (Harold)

**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:**

*Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle (Simaroubacea), tree-of-heaven, is an invasive tree species native to Asia and introduced to North America in the 1700s. It has since spread throughout much of the United States and portions of Canada. Its allelopathic properties negatively impact other tree species, and its clonal habit displaces native plants. It is the preferred host of a newly invasive and economically damaging insect, *Lycorma delicatula* (White) (Hemiptera: Fulgoridae), spotted lanternfly. Biological control has been pursued as a management option and after a review of natural enemies in its native

range in China, *E. brandti* was identified as a potential agent. Following long-term research on this species, the USDA Technical Advisory Group recently recommended its field release in North America. Although there are still remaining steps in the approval process, the development of a mass-rearing program with targeted releases is likely imminent. Due to the potential for increased exposure of this insect to researchers, industry personnel, and the general public, an approved common name will be helpful for communication regarding these forthcoming biological control efforts.

**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 proposed common name indicates the preferred host plant of this phytophagous weevil, *Ailanthus altissima*, as well as its feeding location within the host.

**6. Distribution (include references):**

Northern, central, and southeastern China and North Korea (Ding et al., 2006; Ji et al., 2017; Zheng et al., 2004)

**7. Principal hosts (include references):**

Although observations of *E. brandti* have occurred on *Fraxinus rhynchophylla*, *Zelkova serrata*, and *Quercus* spp. in the native range (Hong et al., 2011), they appear to be host-specific to *A. altissima* (Ding et al., 2006). Host specificity testing in laboratory settings in the United States also indicated that this species is highly selective for *A. altissima*, however, to a lesser degree, they are capable of reproducing on *Leitneria floridana* Chapman (Simaroubaceae) (Herrick et al. 2011, McAvoy et al. 2023).

**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:**

With the forthcoming potential approval for release of *E. brandti* from quarantine, the need for a common name was a catalyst for selecting 'Ailanthus trunk weevil'. A subsequent review of *E. brandti* literature in its native range found that this species is often referred to as the 'tree-of-heaven trunk weevil' (Guo et al., 2021, Ma et al., 2022, Sun et al., 2023, Wang et al., 2021, Yang et al., 2021, Zhang et al., 2022).

**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:**

After recent personal communication with a long-time *E. brandti* research colleague in China, Dr. Du Yu-Zhou (Institute of Applied Entomology, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou, Jiangsu, P. R. China), we learned that this species is widely known as “chouchun weevil” in China. Chouchun translates to “foul smelling tree”, or *Ailanthus altissima*, in Chinese. So, essentially, this weevil is referred to as “Ailanthus weevil” in China where this species is considered a pest (Attachment 1).

Consultation with Dr. Lourdes Chamorro, USDA Research Entomologist & Curator of Curculionoidea, revealed that this species was referred to as 극동버들바구미 — geugdongbeodeulbagumi— which translates to ‘Far Eastern willow weevil’ (Hong et al., 2011). It is unclear why this species is referred to as willow weevil in this publication as there are no known associations of *E. brandti* with the genera *Salix*. It is possible that it is an artifact from when *Eucryptorrhynchus* weevils were grouped with the genus *Cryptorrhynchus* (Tseng & Cheng, 2024). A prominent forest pest, *Cryptorrhynchus lapathi* feeds on poplar and willow as well as other genera, and is known as the ‘poplar-and-willow borer’ (Smith & Stott, 1964). In our communication with Dr. Chamorro, it was suggested that the recent identification of a cryptic species within the *Eucryptorrhynchus* genera underscores that this group may be understudied (Tseng & Cheng 2024) (Attachment 2).

**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:**

*Eucryptorrhynchus scrobiculatus* (formerly *E. chinensis*) Motschulsky (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) is a closely related species that was identified as a potential biological control agent as its life history and host preference are similar to that of *E. brandti*. This species is a root feeder of *A. altissima* and is often referred to as ‘tree-of-heaven root weevil’ (Ma et al., 2022, Wang et al., 2021, Yang et al., 2021, Zhang et al., 2022). It was decided early on that collecting this weevil would be much more difficult due to their subterranean lifecycle. Also, rearing this insect would be too difficult in our quarantine facility.

**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.**

Research on *E. brandti* in North America has been conducted solely by the Forest Entomology Lab at Virginia Tech under the direction of Dr. Scott Salom. As such, there are no domestic colleagues that have indicated a need for a common name. Consultations with a Chinese colleague and a weevil systematist in addition to a review of scientific literature from the native range of *E. brandti* have been conducted to evaluate any pre-existing common names. As noted above, these inquiries have indicated that there are two primary common names being used by researchers: ‘tree-of-heaven weevil’ and ‘tree-of-heaven trunk weevil’). Due to the close association of both *E. brandti* and *E. scrobiculatus* with *Ailanthus altissima*, it was suggested by Dr. Chamorro that a third descriptor would be beneficial. ‘Ailanthus trunk weevil’ was therefore selected as the proposed common name to be able to differentiate the two.

**Proposed by (your name): Dr. Scott Salom**

**Date submitted: 01/28/2025**

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## References:

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Attachment 1:

1/27/25, 3:01 PM

Mail - Jubb, Carrie - Outlook



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**Re: E brandti field release**

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**From** Tom McAvoy <tmcavoy@vt.edu>  
**Date** Thu 12/5/2024 2:12 PM  
**To** <yzdu@yzu.edu.cn>; Salom, Scott <salom@vt.edu>; Jubb, Carrie <cjubb@vt.edu>; Endriss, Stacy <endriss@vt.edu>

Dear Du,  
Good to hear from you. Thanks for the information on the Chinese name for *E. brandti*. We'll keep you informed about collecting.  
Regards,  
Tom

On Wed, Dec 4, 2024 at 9:19 PM <yzdu@yzu.edu.cn> wrote:

Dear Tom,  
I'm sorry for redondging to you late. I'm not at my university a while ago. When I came back, I am busy with teaching again. There is a common name to *E. brandti* in China. The common name of *E. brandti* is 臭椿沟眶象=Chouchun Goukuangxiang (Chinese spell). 臭椿 is *Ailanthus altissima*, and 沟眶象 is the weevils of the genus *Eucryptorrhynchus*. So I suggest *E. brandti* call "Chouchun weevils". I will let my students for collecting the weevils. I believe it can be sent to the United States by post.  
Best wishes

Du

Prof. Dr. DU Yu-Zhou  
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College of Plant Protection,  
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**From:** Tom McAvoy  
**Date:** 2024-12-04 23:57  
**To:** 杜予州  
**Subject:** E brandti field release

Dear Du,  
I hope you and your family are doing well.  
We are making progress on getting *E. brandti* approved for field release! We haven't gotten a definite answer yet but the USDA APHIS is moving ahead with this. So a few questions:

Attachment 2:

1/27/25, 3:44 PM

Mail - Jubb, Carrie - Outlook

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From: "Chamorro, Lourdes - REE-ARS" <lourdes.chamorro@usda.gov>  
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 2:56 PM  
To: Scott Salom <salom@vt.edu>  
Subject: Re: [External Email]Feedback on common name for a potential biocontrol agent for tree of heaven

Dear Dr. Salom,

Thank you for your request and for following up.

In my weevil literature I see that in the publication by Hong et al 2011: Insect Fauna of Korea: Weevils I (page 163), they refer to *Eucryptorrhynchus brandti* (Harold) as 远东西部柳甲 – geugdongbeodeubagumi, which translates to Far Eastern willow weevil. Perhaps this needs to be considered and included in your application. It seems both species of *Eucryptorrhynchus* mentioned in your application are associated with *Ailanthus* and if you do wish to use the common name *Ailanthus* weevil for *E. brandti*, you may want to add a third descriptor. I attach the Hong et al publication and the recently published Tseng and Cheng 2024 regarding cryptic species, which also suggests the understudied nature of this group.

Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Lourdes

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From: Salom, Scott <salom@vt.edu>  
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 1:30 PM  
To: Chamorro, Lourdes - REE-ARS <lourdes.chamorro@usda.gov>  
Subject: FW: [External Email]Feedback on common name for a potential biocontrol agent for tree of heaven

Dear Dr. Chamorro,

Hello to you. I'm following up on Dr. Konstantinov ccing you on our correspondences regarding our effort to give a common name to a BC agent (*Eucryptorrhynchus brandti* (Harold) (Col: Curculionidae) of *Ailanthus* (tree-of-heaven). It is currently going through the approval process, that looks likely to make it through before too long. I know that systematists always have much more work to do than the amt of time in the day allows. I just didn't want to let this drop through the cracks without making a direct request from you for some assistance on this common name proposal form. There is just one item that requests input from a taxonomic expert on the necessity to create a common name for the insect species.

If you are willing to assist us, please let me know if I can provide you with an information beyond the attached common name proposal.

Thank you for your time.

Scott

Scott M. Salom, Ph.D.  
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VT Invasive Species Collaborative <https://invasivespeciesvt.org/>

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From: "Konstantinov, Alex - REE-ARS" <alex.konstantinov@usda.gov>  
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 10:03 AM  
To: Scott Salom <salom@vt.edu>  
Cc: "Chamorro, Lourdes - REE-ARS" <lourdes.chamorro@usda.gov>  
Subject: Fw: [External Email]Feedback on common name for a potential biocontrol agent for tree of heaven

Dear Scott,

I am forwarding your message to Dr. Chamorro who is responsible for weevils in SEL.

Best regards,  
Alex

Alexander Konstantinov, PhD  
Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA, ARS  
c/o Smithsonian Institution P. O. Box 37012  
National Museum of Natural History  
MHC-186 Washington, DC 20013-7012 USA  
Phone: 202 633 4557

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From: Salom, Scott <salom@vt.edu>  
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2025 9:23 AM  
To: Konstantinov, Alex - REE-ARS <alex.konstantinov@usda.gov>  
Cc: Jubb, Carrie <cjubb@vt.edu>; Tom McAvoy <tomcavoy@vt.edu>; Day, Eric <idab@vt.edu>  
Subject: [External Email]Feedback on common name for a potential biocontrol agent for tree of heaven