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  

1. **Proposed new common name:** This proposal is to remove the common name, Japanese grasshopper

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 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

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

   Oxya velox
   
   Order: Orthoptera
   
   Family: Acrididae
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 Japanese grasshopper from the common names list. *Oxya velox* is currently listed in the ESA Common Name Database as the Japanese grasshopper. However, ‘Japanese grasshopper’ is frequently misused. Other grasshopper species can be referred to as Japanese grasshopper (e.g., *Oxya japonica, O. yezoensis*) and/or are recognized by a different common name (i.e., Japanese rice grasshopper, rice grasshopper, paddy field grasshopper).

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 life stages

6. Distribution (include references):

First record of *Oxya velox* in the USA in iNaturalist was on October 11, 2021 on the Pennsylvania side of Philadelphia, with additional sightings the following two years on the New Jersey side of the city.

*Oxya velox* and *Oxya spp.* can be found in India, Pakistan, China, Japan and Korea:


7. Principal hosts (include references):

Rice crops

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 following information below highlights how the common name for *Oxya velox*, is not commonly used, and often a different name is used:

*Oxya velox*, Japanese grasshopper

Common name: use of nationality term, Japanese, in association with a pest insect.

Web of Science: 0 hits for common name, 7 for scientific name.

Google: 9 hits for common name.

Last use of scientific name in a scientific journal: 2017. (Common name has not been used.)

Extension: Several hits usually associated with *Popillia japonica* or grasshoppers generally, not specifically this species.

Japanese grasshopper is also applied to:

- *Oxya velox* 13 hits (Current ESA common name entry)
- *Oxya japonica* 1910 hits
  (based on BugGuide *O. japonica* is NOT a junior synonym of *O. velox*, further taxonomy [species](https://gd.eppo.int/search?k=Japanese+grasshopper)

*Diestrammena marmorata* and *Oxya yezoensis* on EPPO Global database:

https://gd.eppo.int/search?k=Japanese+grasshopper

*Oxya yezoensis* is referred as Japanese grasshopper on CABI:

https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/abs/10.1079/cabicompendium.38212
Other common names for *Oxya velox*:

- *Japanese grasshopper*: 13 hits (current ESA common names entry)
- *Rice grasshopper*: 1260 hits

Other species associated with rice grasshopper:

1) *Hieroglyphus banian* [https://doi.org/10.1079/pwkb.20157800174](https://doi.org/10.1079/pwkb.20157800174)
2) *Oxya hyla intricate*
3) *Oxya chinensis*
4) *Oxya* (the entire genus BugGuide, iNaturalist)
5) *Oxya japonica*
6) *Hieroglyphus nigrorepletus*: Rice grasshopper *Hieroglyphus nigrorepletus* Bolívar, 1912 (Acrididae) (researchgate.net)

Paddy field grasshopper: *Oxya velox* [OXYXVE][Overview] | EPPO Global Database 79 hits
Rijstsprinkhaan (Dutch): *Oxya velox* [OXYXVE][Overview] | EPPO Global Database 456 hits

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.

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. In section 8, several names are used for *Oxya velox*. A common name that 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.

Entomologists and experts of *Oxya velox* were not consulted because the goal was to remove the common name. Publications of *Oxya velox* did not use Japanese grasshopper in their publication.

**Proposed by** (your name):
Better Common Names Project

Date submitted: 07/23/2024