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:

Rice Billbug

2. Previously approved common name (if any):

None

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

Order: Coleoptera

Family: Curculionidae

Genus: *Sphenophorus*

Species: *pertinax*

Author: Olivier

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:

Sphenophorus pertinax is an economically significant pest of furrow-irrigated rice in the US midsouth. It infests nearly 100% of these acres and causes significant economic losses. This insect has been studied for several years by entomologists in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri. Consensus amongst researchers suggests that *S. pertinax* has achieved major pest status and the proposed common name is in widespread use by farmers, university scientists, extension personnel, and industry professionals.

Significant extension education infrastructure using “rice billbug” is already in place and clientele across the US rice industry currently associates “rice billbug” with *S. pertinax* due to these extension 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.)

In rice billbug, “rice” refers to the primary host-plant of economically significant importance, and “billbug” refers to the common name of the genus to which the insect belongs (*Sphenophorus*).

6. Distribution (include references):

The current understanding of *S. pertinax*’s distribution is based on the distribution of furrow-irrigated rice acres across the US and represents the most substantial distribution information to date (Sarah Cato 2018, Brown and Wilson 2020, Chase Floyd 2022).

7. Principal hosts (include references):

Only rice has been confirmed. Other weedy bunchgrasses or sod grasses occurring in agricultural fields were inferred as overwintering or maintenance hosts in commercial surveys (Chase Floyd 2022).

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:

Provided in references list

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:

None. A review of the primary literature for *S. pertinax* did not reveal any common names other than what we propose herein.

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:

Only two other *Sphenophorus* species occur in furrow-irrigated rice fields and both either have an official common name [hunting billbug (*S. venatus*)] or is morphologically distinguishable from *S. pertinax* (*S. rectus*) (Chase Floyd 2022). Moreover, both species did not feed on rice in greenhouse studies and accounted for <3% of furrow-irrigated rice field collections compared to *S. pertinax* in a recent survey (Chase Floyd 2022).

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.

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