Proposal Form for new Common Name or Change of ESA-Approved Common Name

Complete this form and send or e-mail to the above address. *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 and with the discussion by A.B. Gurney, 1953, *Journal of Economic Entomology* 46:207-211.

1. **Proposed new common name:** African fig fly

2. **Previously approved common name (if any):** none

3. **Scientific name (genus, species, author):** *Zaprionus indianus* Gupta  
Order: Diptera  
Family: Drosophilidae

**Supporting Information**

4. **Reasons supporting the need for the proposed common name:**

This name has been in use informally for several years. It is easy to identify as it is large, has distinctive stripes and coloration that easily separates it from other drosophilids. With the advent of the spotted wing drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii*, there is increased interest in the potential of *Zaprionus indianus* as a secondary pest that attacks fruit infested initially by *D. suzukii*. There will be a corresponding increase in interest in and reporting on *Z. indianus* and thus the need for a common name for this insect.

5. **Stage or characteristic to which the proposed common name refers.** (If possible please provide a link that can show an image of this insect; this is particularly important if the proposed common name involves a physical feature that can be illustrated by an image.)

This species is considered a primary pest of cultivar roxo-de-Valinhos figs in Brazil and is of African origin. African fig fly is a translation of ‘Mosca-africana-do-figo’ from:

Pictures of the fly can be found in:

6. Distribution (include references):


“DISTRIBUTION: The complex of species to which Z. indianus belongs is Afrotropical in origin. The genus Zaprionus includes 56 species in total, which are distributed variously in the Afrotropical, Australian, Oriental, and Palearctic regions. Zaprionus indianus is the most common member of the genus in Africa, where it has a widespread distribution. It has previously colonized India, some tropical islands of the Indian and Atlantic oceans, Saudi Arabia, widely in Brazil, and Uruguay.”

The African fig fly, Zaprionus indianus Gupta, was first found in the U.S. in Florida in 2005 (Steck 2005). This drosophilid has spread rapidly and is now widely distributed in much of North America (van der Linde et al. 2006; Biddinger & Joshi 2012; Werle et al. 2013; van der Linde 2013).


7. Principal hosts (include references):

Primary pest of of cultivar roxo-de-Valinhos figs in Brazil. “Figs produced by this cultivar have a natural opening, which allows colonization by yeast and/or bacteria and subsequent fermentation process. Therefore, it is not necessary that the fruit is previously damaged by agents biotic or abiotic, for which the fermentation processes make this an attractive substrate for frugivorous species of Drosophilidae, as is the case of Zaprionus indianus” (Vilela & Goñi 2015). It is a secondary pest of other fig cultivars.


Secondary pest of a number of fruits:

“**HOSTS:** To date, *Z. indianus* has been reared from the following hosts in Florida: *Annona glabra* (pond apple), *Psidium guajava* (guava), *Psidium cattleianum* (strawberry guava), *Arabotrys hexapetalus* (Annonaceae: climbing ilang-ilang), *Malpighia emarginata* (Barbados cherry, acerola), *Dimocarpus longan* (longan), *Anacardium occidentale* (cashew), *Punica granatum* (pomegranate), *Phoenix* sp. (a palm), *xCitrofortunella microcarpa* (calamondin) and *Citrus sinensis* (sweet orange). In most cases, fruit from which flies were reared were ripe and damaged and taken off of the ground; however, in the case of *M. emarginata* and *D. longan*, all sampled fruit were ripe and taken directly from the tree, and only a small percentage of them may have been damaged. None of these hosts are native to Florida. In its native Africa, *Z. indianus* is known to infest 73 different kinds of fruit, both native and introduced. In Brazil, the fly has been found in association with a number of commercial fruits, including *Citrus*, but apparently only with damaged fruits.” Current host list in Florida includes 40 different kinds of fruit (G. Steck, personal communication)


8. References containing previous use of the proposed common name:


9. References using common names (give names) other than that proposed:


10. Other insects or organisms to which the proposed common name might apply:

None that I know of

11. Steps you have taken to consult with other workers who are familiar with the insect or organism as to suitability of and need for the proposed common name:

This proposal has been reviewed and approved by Dr. Gary Steck, Systematic Entomologist, Division of Plant Industry/Entomology, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Gainesville, FL, (352) 395-4676, Gary.Steck@FreshFromFlorida.com, and by Dr. Carlos Ribeiro Vilela, Departamento de Genética e Biologia Evolutiva, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo SP, Brasil, crvilela@ib.usp.br. Dr. Vilela provided additional clarification on status as primary pest of fig in Brazil as presented in Vilela and Goñi (2015).

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