Entomological Society of America  
Proposal Form for new Common Name  

Send comments to Whitney Cranshaw at Whitney.Cranshaw@ColoState.EDU by March 20, 2015.

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.

1. **Proposed new common name:** pink hibiscus mealybug

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

   *Unofficial common names*
   Pink mealybug  
   Hibiscus mealybug  
   Grape mealybug  
   Mulberry mealybug

3. **Scientific name (genus, species, author):**  
   *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* Green  
   Order: Hemiptera  
   Family: Pseudococcidae

   **Supporting Information**

4. **Reasons supporting the need for the proposed common name:**  
The common name is proposed due to its widespread existing use in the literature for about 20 years and its continued use by US regulatory agencies (USDA and Florida DPI among others) and those around the world. USDA APHIS manuals with the name can be found on the web. The installation of an official name for *M. hirsutus* should help mitigate additional confusion caused by several other names that have been previously used in other parts of the world. As noted by Dr Gillian Watson, Senior Insect Biosystematist at the California Department of Food & Agriculture, changing the common name to anything else would cause much confusion.

5. **Stage or characteristic to which the proposed common name refers.**  
(Note: If the description involves a physical feature it is strongly encouraged that an image of the organism be provided with this submission):
The proposed name reflects both its physical appearance (see attached image) and one of its major host plants.

6. Distribution (include references):
Currently, *M. hirsutus* is distributed in 93 countries and territories throughout tropical and subtropical regions, including Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, southern USA, and most recently South America.


7. Principal hosts (include references):
While hibiscus is a key host, over 330 plant species are reported as hosts for *M. hirsutus*, including 203 species with ornamental uses (after Ben-Dov 2013, Chang and Miller 1996 and Mani 1989). Despite the broad reported host range, the number of plant species suitable for *M. hirsutus* development is likely much lower. For example, of over 170 plants reported as hosts in Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago and St Kitts, many were incidental hosts on which wind-dispersed crawlers could establish and induce injury symptoms but were unable to reproduce (McComie 1997). Once mealybug biological control agents established, fewer than 20 plants were found to have persistent populations (Kairo et al. 2000). Rosas-Garcia et al. (2010) demonstrated that sufficient genotypic differentiation exist among *M. hirsutus* populations collected from three different host plant species that they could be considered specialized host races.


8. References containing previous use of the proposed common name:
Hodges, G. 2006. Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Maconellicoccus hirsutus (Green). Pest Alert, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry document DACS-P-01652.


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
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:

I have consulted with the following individuals who have worked with this species in various formats. All approve this proposal.

Dr JC Chong, Associate Professor of Entomology, Soils, & Plant Sciences, Clemson University, juanghc@clemson.edu
Dr Greg Hodges, Bureau Chief-Entomology, Nematology and Plant Pathology Division of Plant Industry Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Greg.Hodges@FreshFromFlorida.com
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Proposed by
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Date submitted:
1.27.2015