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 and with the discussion by A.B. Gurney, 1953, Journal of Economic Entomology 46:207-211.

1. Proposed new common name: Tropical soda apple leaf beetle

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

3. Scientific name (genus, species, author): Gratiana boliviana Spaeth

Order: Coleoptera

Family: Chrysomelidae

Supporting Information

4. Reasons supporting the need for the proposed common name: Gratiana boliviana has been released in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Texas as a biological control agent of the invasive pasture weed, tropical soda apple (Solanum viarum Dunal) and is now widely established in central and south Florida. Use of a standardized common name in research and extension publications will reduce possible confusion about the identity of this biological control agent.

5. Stage or characteristic to which the proposed common name refers: Adult

6. Distribution (include references): The native distribution of the beetle includes southern Brazil, northern Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay (Medal et al. 2011). The distribution in the USA is limited to Florida (Overholt et al. 2009).


7. Principal hosts (include references): Monophagous on tropical soda apple


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


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

Tropical soda apple tortoise beetle


Tropical soda apple leaf feeding beetle


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

Gratiana graminea Klug: This leaf beetle also feeds on tropical soda apple in South America, but it is unlikely that it will ever be released in the USA due to the success of G. boliviana in suppressing tropical soda apple.

Metriona elatior Klug (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae): This beetle has also been found feeding on tropical soda apple in South America, but it is unlikely that it will ever be released in the USA due to the success of G. boliviana.

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:

Scientists and extension agents who have been involved with the tropical soda apple biological control program have been consulted, including Julio Medal, James P. Cuda, Rodrigo Diaz and Ken Gioeli (University of Florida), Ken Hibbard (Florida Department of Agriculture), Amy Roda (USDA/APHIS) and Stephen Hight (USDA/ARS). The group agreed that a common name for G. boliviana would be useful, and based on past usage, agreed that tropical soda apple leaf beetle would be an appropriate name.

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