Entomological Society of America
Proposal Form for New Common Name or Change of ESA-Approved Common Name

1. Proposed new common name: None. This is a proposal to delist an existing common name.

2. Previously approved common name: columbine leafminer complex

   This common name is presently applied to three Phytomyza species in this “complex”:
   Order: Diptera
   Family: Agromyzidae
   Phytomyza. aquilegiana Frost, P. aquilegivora Spenser, and P. columbinae Sehgal

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 name is neither needed nor is its present use consistent with guidelines used to establish common names by the Entomological Society of America.

Although this common name appears to have been established prior to 1960, a search of literature for the term “columbine leafminer complex” has so far not found it to be used in any publication outside that of the ESA Common Names list. Leafminers associated with columbine are fairly often cited as a common kind of garden pest, but are typically described as a single species pest, “columbine leafminer”.

In addition, a fourth species of Phytomyza has become established in North America in recent years, which would have to be considered another member of the “columbine leafminer complex”. Phytomyza krygeri, a native to Europe, was reported to be established in the Ottawa area in 2017.

The identical name, Phytomyza spp., is also presently listed for another species complex with a formalized common name through the Entomological Society of America – “larkspur leafminer complex”. This includes three species, P. aconti, P. delphiniae, and P. delphinivora.

The use of an identical common name applied to two different “complexes” of insects introduces confusion in from its use. This directly contradicts the original intent in the establishment of common names of insects in the United States.

There presently exist close to 400 North American species of Phytomyza. Presently the ESA Common Names list three species with an established common name: P. gymnostoma (Loew) (allium leafminer), P. ilicicola Loew (native holly leafminer), and P. ilicis Curtis (holly leafminer).

Because of the large number of Phytomyza species present in North America it is inappropriate to have any subgroup (e.g., a complex associated with a specific host plant) to have a formalized
common name associated with *Phytomyza* spp. That there are two concurrent host-association complexes with common names assuming *Phytomyza* spp. as the scientific name make this more untenable.

The appropriate course of action proposed with this proposal is to delete the existing common name “columbine leafminer complex”. Future proposals for individual species within the “columbine leafminer complex” could be developed and submitted for consideration, similar to those that exist for each of the present three species (above) in the genus that have specific common names. Such names could also be constructed in a manner that would better describe the different species. For example, *P. aquiligieana* produces a large blotchmine and *P. aquilegivora* creates mines of serpentine form.

5. Stage or characteristic to which the proposed common name refers. N/A
6. Distribution (include references): N/A
7. Principal hosts (include references): N/A
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:

A search of the literature has been unable to find any use of this common name in any publication outside of the lists of ESA Approved Common Names that have appeared since 1960. There are numerous references to columbine leafminer, but not to their being a complex of species.

9. Please identify any common names in use (include references) that have been applied to this taxon other than the one herein proposed. Please justify why each alternate name is inadequate:

This is a very species rich taxon in North America (ca 400 *Phytomyza* species) and there are some for which formalized and non-formalized common names have been used. The use of *Phytomyza* spp. as the appropriate scientific name to support the 3 species in the “columbine leafminer complex” cannot be supported.

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:

*Phytomyza* spp. is presently applied to two different host associated complexes.

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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