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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: The common names list has Florida carpenter ant as the common name for *Camponotus atriceps*. The common name is inappropriate for this species under ESA rules. *Camponotus floridanus* is the species that should be associated with Florida carpenter ant. This proposal is to change the species name for the Florida carpenter ant to *Camponotus floridanus*.

2. Previously approved common name (if any): Florida carpenter ant

3. Scientific name (genus, species, author): *Camponotus floridanus* (Buckley)

Order: Hymenoptera

Family: Formicidae

Supporting Information

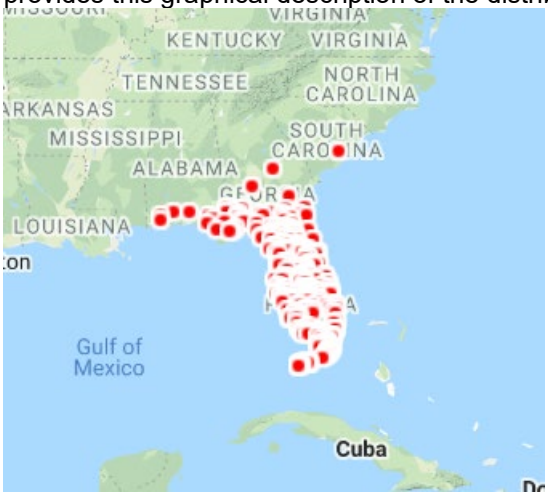
4. Please provide a clear and convincing explanation for why a common name is needed, possibly including but not limited to the taxon's economic, ecological, or medical importance, striking appearance, abundance, or conservation status:
The change is needed to avoid confusion. Currently ESA is promoting use of a common name for a species that would not be approved under the current rules because *Camponotus atriceps* is rarely associated with this common name in both scientific and popular literature and a more widely studied species (*Camponotus floridanus*) is also associated with this common name.
Camponotus atriceps and Florida carpenter ant
Web of science: 0 hits
Google Scholar: 5 hits
Chrome: 424 hits
Edge: 98 hits

Camponotus floridanus and Florida carpenter ant
Web of science: 6 hits
Google Scholar: 199 hits
Chrome: 12200 hits
Edge: 26800 hits

In overall importance to the scientific community, *Camponotus floridanus* is more commonly studied (51 hits in Agricola, 167 in Web of Science) compared to *Camponotus atriceps* (5 hits in Agricola, 21 in Web of Science).

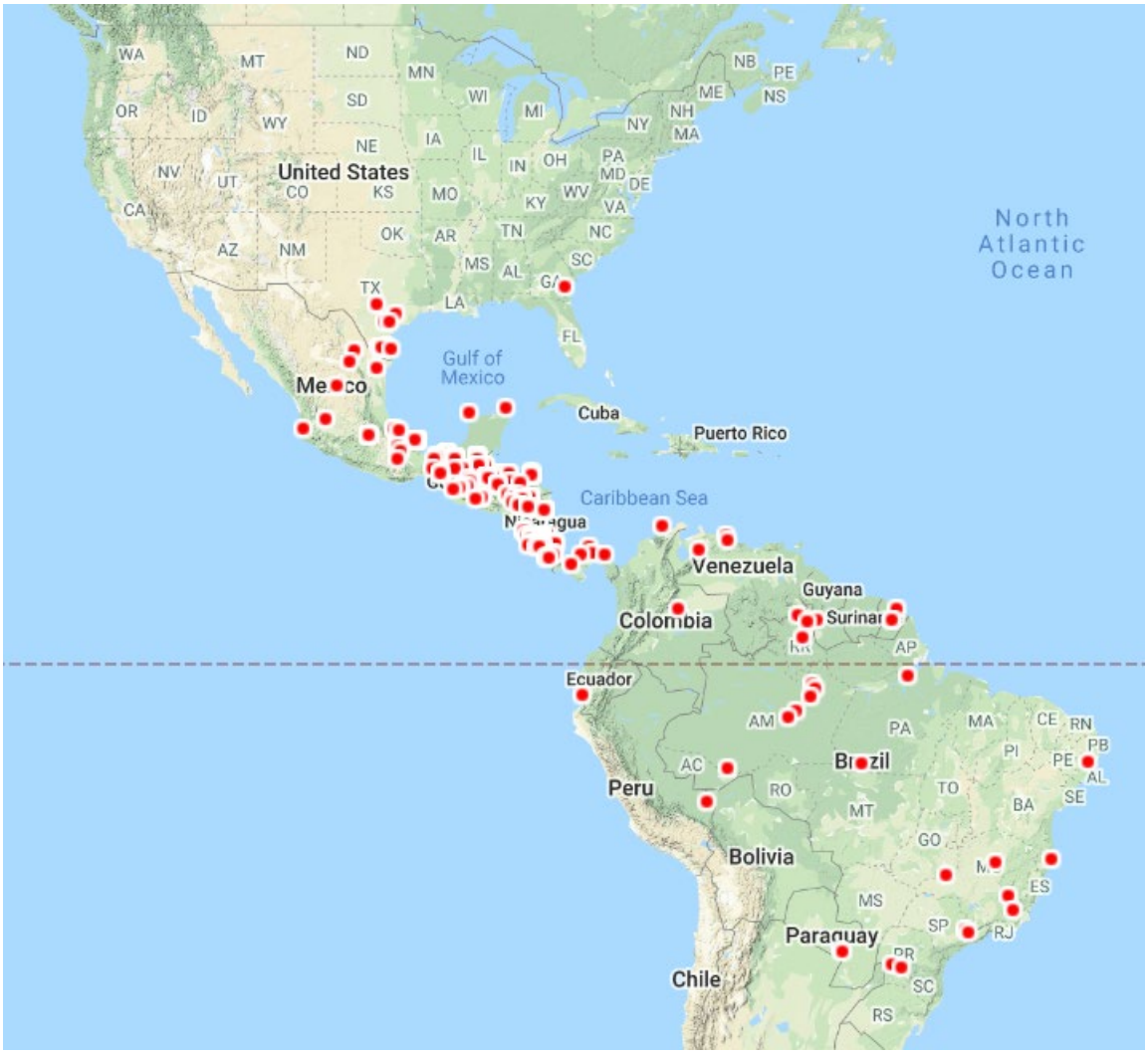
5. Stage or characteristic to which the proposed common name refers.
(If the description involves a physical feature, it is strongly encouraged that an image of the organism be provided with this submission.)
The name applies to all stages and all castes

6. Distribution (include references):
Camponotus floridanus: Florida and southern parts of Alabama and South Carolina. Antweb provides this graphical description of the distribution:



The "Ants of Florida: identification and natural history" (at https://b-ok.org/book/2850173/bc671b) provides this range description: "North Carolina south through Florida, west into southern Mississippi (Smith 1979). It seems less common in the western part of its range. It occurs throughout the state in Florida, but there are relatively few records from the western Panhandle." Deyrup, M (2016) Ants of Florida: identification and natural history. CRC Press, New York, 423 pp.

In contrast *Camponotus atriceps* is seldom found in the United States. More commonly it is in Central and South America. Here is the graphic from Antweb:



Camponotus floridanus may be moving to California:
https://blogs.cdfa.ca.gov/Section3162/?p=3203

7. Principal hosts (include references):
The "Ants of Florida: identification and natural history" provides this description: "*Camponotus floridanus*, like most other members of its genus, is a generalist predator of arthropods and also feeds extensively on honeydew and nectar. Small rodents caught in live traps for scientific surveys are sometimes killed by this species…" It is also worth mentioning that this ant is responsible for guarding an endangered butterfly. Again, quoting the "Ants of Florida: identification and natural history": "*Camponotus floridanus* is the primary ant species guarding the endangered Miami blue butterfly, *Cyclargus thomasi bethunebakeri* (Saarinen and Daniels 2006)."

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:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camponotus_floridanus
https://bugguide.net/node/view/183926
http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/ants/fl_carpenter_ants.htm
https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/media/flrecifasufledu/pdfs/pestants/FloridaCarpenterAnt.pdf
https://www.bugs.com/blog/florida-carpenter-ants/

https://www.uniprot.org/proteomes/UP000000311
https://blogs.cdfa.ca.gov/Section3162/?p=3203
https://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/urban-pests/ants/carpenter/
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4419788/

Uses the common name but does not also use species name
https://www.trulynolen.com/pest-control/ants/florida-carpenter-ants/how-to-get-rid-of-florida-carpenter-ants
https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in1075
https://www.orkin.com/ants/carpenter-ant/red-and-black-carpenter-ants
https://naturepest.com/florida-carpenter-ants/

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:
An alternative common name for this ant is "bull ant" as shown in the second cited reference. However, the first cited reference states that "bull ant" is a general term for carpenter ants and as such it would not be a suitable choice for an ESA common name for a specific species of carpenter ant.
https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in1075
http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/ants/fl_carpenter_ants.htm

Bulldog ant has been used:
https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/media/flrecifasufledu/pdfs/pestants/FloridaCarpenterAnt.pdf, but "bulldog ant" can also apply to other species: https://www.pestwiki.com/bulldog-ants/

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:
There is another carpenter ant that is common to Florida: *Camponotus tortuganus*. However, this ant has a different common name and Florida carpenter ant is not applied to *C. tortuganus*. There are 163 hits in Edge searching for +"*Camponotus tortuganus*" +"Florida carpenter ant" however, these hits deal with both *C. floridanus* and *C. tortuganus* and do not associate *C. tortuganus* with "Florida carpenter ant". Here is an example:
http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/ants/fl_carpenter_ants.htm

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.

I contacted two people: Mark Deyrup and Stefan Cover.
Mark responded

Hi Tim,

Good to hear from you, and I admire your willingness to take on the topic of common names for ants. As you might know, on p. 3 of the Ants of Florida I discuss the practice of giving English names to Florida ants. I invented English names for over 200 species; nobody has complained about this, and most of the species are so little known that the names get little use. The Ants of New England also has English names. I don't know whether the ESA committee is interested in

formalizing any of these names. In the Ants of Florida there is a discussion of *atriceps* and *transvectus*, which were at one point synonymized with floridanus. *Camponotus atriceps* is probably some kind of species complex including *floridanus*, but *transvectus* is probably the same as *floridanus*, so if you are going to legitimize the Florida carpenter ant name you should know that there seems to be a population in Texas. I have looked at specimens of *atriceps* and *transvectus*. All this is discussed in the *Camponotus* section of the Ants of Florida, so maybe you could borrow a copy to look at. Andrea Lucky might have some more ideas.

Cheers, Mark
Deyrup, Mark mdeyrup@archbold-station.org
Date: 01-22-2020

Stefan Cover responded

Dear Tim,

The current valid name for the Florida Carpenter ant is Camponotus floridanus, as is confirmed on both current online ant catalogs (see above). Particularly valuable for the committee is the discussion of the floridanus/atriceps problem on p. 189 in Mark Deyrup's wonderful new book, Ants of Florida. I strongly suggest the committee follow the nomenclature endorsed by these references.

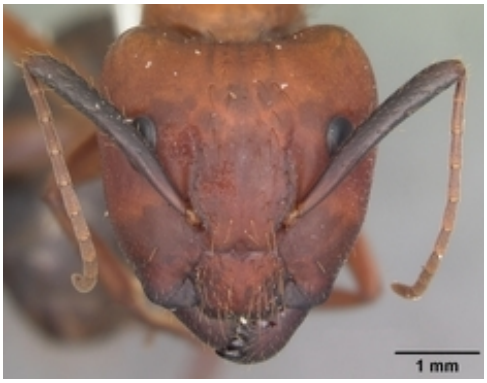
https://www.crcpress.com/Ants-of-Florida-Identification-and-Natural-History/Deyrup/p/book/9781498754675

best wishes,

Stefan Cover
MCZ ant collection

http://antcat.org/catalog/432628?qq=Camponotus+floridanus

https://www.antweb.org/description.do?genus=camponotus&species=floridanus&rank=species



Species: Camponotus floridanus - AntWeb
Distribution: Geographic regions (According to curated Geolocale/Taxon lists): Americas: United States Biogeographic regions (According to curated Bioregion/Taxon lists): Nearctic. Specimen Habitat Summary. Found most commonly in these habitats: 0 times found in scrub/dune habitat, 3 times found in foredunes, 0 times found in pine/oak dune woodland, 0 times found in dunes on north side of ...
www.antweb.org

As both Mark and Stefan suggest looking at “The Ants of Florida” here is a copy of the relevant section for *Camponotus floridanus*.

> “Taxonomy and Similar Species: This large, red and black species can be easily distinguished by its long bristling hairs, especially on the legs. This hairiness can often be seen even without a microscope, especially if the viewer is a bit myopic. The application of names to this common and ecologically important species is complicated and poorly resolved, but it may well eventually have some name other than *floridanus*. I apply the name *floridanus* to the Florida population of the widespread and variable Neotropical *C. atriceps* complex, until quite recently known as the *abdominalis* complex. In 1973, Hashmi revised the *abdominalis* complex, clearing up several annoying problems, such as species names resulting from separate descriptions of minors and majors of the same species. Hashmi then reviewed the subspecies of *abdominalis*, using the techniques of phenetics. These techniques may be useful, but not as useful as they seemed when they were first invented. They are not easily applied to some groups of *Camponotus* that show great intraspecific variation and often negligible morphological differences between species. This is true of many other groups of ants; one wonders, for example, how the *Formica fusca* group would have fared if Francoeur, who also published his revision in 1973, had used pure phenetics, rather than an intimate knowledge of not only morphology, but also field ecology and biogeography. Hashmi (1973) refused to use subspecific names and seemed to have a strong interest in minimizing geographic variation. In the long run, *atriceps* (formerly *abdominalis*) is likely to be split into two or more species or subspecies. The fact that *floridanus* and *atriceps* (the latter described from Brazil) have radically different trail pheromones (Haak et al. 1996) suggests that these forms are separated by biology as well as coloration. The situation is complicated by such forms as the southwestern *transvectus*, which strongly resembles *floridanus* in morphology and coloration. It seems most conservative to continue using the name floridanus for the southeastern population of the *atriceps* complex, pending a thoughtful review of this complex. In this way, even if the name *floridanus* is eventually replaced, all the information that has accumulated about it can be conveniently attributed to an actual population, rather than disentangled from a mass of information filed under the name *atriceps*. It is better to impress posterity with our consideration than our contemporaries with our certitude.”

Proposed by (your name)**: Timothy Ebert**

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