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:

yaupon psyllid

2. Previously approved common name (if any):

None

3. Scientific name (genus, species, author): Gyropsylla ilecis (Ashmead, 1881)

Order: Hemiptera

Family: Aphalaridae (superfamily Psylloidea)


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:

Gyropsylla ilecis is a minor aesthetic pest in the southeastern United States. It rarely garners attention except from homeowners or plant nurseries observing the leaf galls it produces. However, the insect is expected to become more apparent with the expanding yaupon holly tea industry in Florida and the Southeast. Producers and growers have requested information about this species and we have produced a thorough new fact sheet. The common name, yaupon psyllid, has been in regular use at least since Mead’s 1983 publication. Likewise, yaupon psyllid gall has long been used to describe the galls that this species produces. No other modern common names have been found. Despite a smooth record of colloquial reference, we were surprised to learn that the species has not yet earned an official ESA common name. We believe the continued use of this common name will provide a clear, non-confusing term for the species and does well to describe the association between this native insect and its native host.

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 common names refers to the close association with its host. All stages occur on the yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*. The name is not specific to a particular stage of the insect.

6. Distribution (include references):

*Gyropsylla ilicis* can be found through much of the southeastern United States where its preferred host plant, yaupon holly, occurs (Mead 1983). This range extends from the coastal plains of North Carolina, south to Florida, and west to coastal eastern Texas (Johnson and Lyon 1991; observations from Houston, TX). In Florida it is best known from numerous records in northern and north-central counties (Susan Halbert, FDACS-DPI). Distribution within Texas is not well-documented.


7. Principal hosts (include references):

*Ilex vomitoria* Ait. (Yaupon, yaupon holly)

Mead (1983) reports *Ilex vomitoria* as the only known host plant for yaupon psyllid, which is the only psyllid known to form galls on the plant. Ashmead (1881) reported the psyllid galls on *Ilex cassine*; however, the early taxonomy of yaupon holly was highly inconsistent and inaccurate. The plant he observed was most likely *Ilex vomitoria*, known previously as *Ilex cassine* L. var. β, among many similar names (Edwards & Bennett 2005; Hudson 1979). This is supported by the absence of observations of yaupon psyllid from the plant species known today as *Ilex cassine*, the native dahoon holly.


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:


Chris Mallory is a North American Psylloidea expert and maintains “Psyllids of North America”, although the website is currently unavailable ([http://psyllids.info/](http://psyllids.info/)). However, he also maintains
many psyllid pages at Bugguide, where he lists the common as yaupon psyllid. [https://bugguide.net/node/view/1092265](https://bugguide.net/node/view/1092265).

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension lists the common name for the problem as “Yaupon psyllid gall” [https://texasinsects.tamu.edu/yaupon-psyllid-gall](https://texasinsects.tamu.edu/yaupon-psyllid-gall).


We at University of Florida (Dr. Adam Dale, Matt Borden) are producing a new factsheet on the species and will be using the (suggested) common name yaupon psyllid.


A Field Guide to Common Texas Insects by John A. Jackman, Bastiaan M. Drees uses the common name Yaupon Psyllid gall to describe the species on page 69.

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:

Ashmead (1881) referred to it simply as “THE ILEX PSYLLA”. This name is inadequate given that only one species of Ilex (a large genus) is known to be the host of *Gyropsylla ilecis*, while other known *Gyropsylla* species all develop on Ilex species as well (Buckhardt and Queiroz 2013). No other common names have been found in our literature search.


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:

None. There are no other psyllid species known to have a relationship with *Ilex vomitoria*, yaupon holly.

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.

This proposal has been reviewed and approved by Dr. Adam Dale, Assistant Professor and Ornamental Entomologist in the University of Florida Entomology and Nematology Department.
Dr. Dale specializes in the ecology and management of insects on ornamental plants, particularly Hemipteran pests.

This proposal has been reviewed and approved by Dr. Susan Halbert, taxonomic entomologist and curator of Hemiptera at the Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Dr. Halbert has many years of expertise studying Psyllidae.

Mr. Bryon White is the largest commercial grower and producer of yaupon tea in Florida. Together with other growers in the Southeast, they comprise the American Yaupon Association. I speak regularly with Mr. White about the insects and potential pests that new growers should be aware of when planting new yaupon groves. Yaupon psyllid is the primary insect being discussed and is the preferred common name among growers.

Proposed by: Matthew A. Borden, ESA member

Address: 1881 Natural Area Drive, Steinmetz Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611

E-mail: m.borden@ufl.edu

Phone: (540) 908-8722

Date submitted: April 23, 2019