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

**1. Proposed new common name:** northern walkingstick

**2. Previously approved common name (if any):** walkingstick

**3. Scientific name (genus, species, author):** *Diaperomera femorata* (Say)

Order: Phasmatodea

Family: Diaperomeridae

### ***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 name "walkingstick" for the species *Diaperomera femorata* has a very long history as an accepted common name, appearing in the first listing of common names (as "walking-stick") produced by the Association of Economic Entomologists (Burgess 1903). And it is the only North American member of this order that has significant economic impact, occasionally producing outbreaks in hardwood forest in the eastern half of the United States. (Note: At the time this species was given a formalized common name the classification of walkingsticks normally had them placed within Orthoptera).

Presently, the walkingsticks - along with the leaf insects - are recognized as a separate order, Phasmatodea (or Phasmida). Although found primarily in tropical areas, at least 29 species of walkingsticks are present in North America (Arnett 2000). Based on this widespread use of the term "walkingstick" to describe individuals of an entire order, which includes over two dozen species in the United States, it is inappropriate to give this name to this single species, particularly when a more descriptive name has long been in use (northern walkingstick).

Burgess, A.F. 1901. Uniform common names for insects. *Journal of Economic Entomology*. 1: 209-213

Arnett, R.H. 2000. *American Insects: A Handbook of the Insects of America North of Mexico*. CRC Press

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

*Diaperomera femorata* is the only phasmid species that occurs abundantly in the northern areas of the continent, including southern Canada west to Alberta, the upper Midwest, MidAtlantic and New England states. It is the only North America phasmid that occurs in Canada.

Although *Diaperomera femorata* has broad distribution across most of eastern North America, but historically outbreaks have occurred disproportionately in the northern areas of its range (Hodson 1971).

**6. Distribution (include references):**

BugGuide lists the range as “Atlantic coast to northern Florida, west to New Mexico, north to Alberta” <https://bugguide.net/node/view/34736> The map of records received of this species can be seen at: <https://bugguide.net/node/view/34736/data> This map does not include all states/provinces with records for this species – for example it does not show Colorado where it is known for the extreme northeastern county of Yuma – but does give a good view of its broad range.

**7. Principal hosts (include references):** Foliage of hardwood trees, particularly oaks and hazelnut.

**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:**

At about the time “walkingstick” was ascribed to *Diaperomera femorata*, a review of the Phasmidae of the United States called the species the “common northern walkingstick” Citation: Caudell, A.N. 1903. The Phasmidae, or Walkingsticks, of the United States. Proc. USNM. XXVI: 863-885

BugGuide <https://bugguide.net/node/view/34736>

Hodson, A. C. 1972. Distribution and abundance of the northern walkingstick, *Diaperomera femorata*. Sci. Jour. Series, Minn. Agri. Exp. Station, St. Paul. No. 7832.

Gregory, T.R. 2002. Genome size of the northern walkingstick, *Diaperomera femorata* (Phasmida: Heteronemiidae). *Canadian Journal of Zoology*. 80(7): 1303-1305. <https://doi.org/10.1139/z02-106>

Wikipedia uses the names “common walkingstick” and “northern walkingstick” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common\\_walkingstick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_walkingstick)

[Encyclopedia Britannica](#) calls the species the “North American walkingstick” and the “northern walkingstick”

Northern walkingstick is used in *Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America*. Eric R. Eaton and Kenn Kaufman. 2006

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee blog (BugLady) October 19, 2016 <https://uwm.edu/field-station/northern-walkingstick/>

University of Maryland “Bug-of-the-Week” (Michael Raupp) November 9, 2015 <http://bugoftheweek.com/blog/2015/11/9/twiggy-the-northern-walkingstick-idiaperomera-femoratai>

Northern walking stick care sheet <http://www.petbugs.com/caresheets/D-femorata.html>

**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 proposal seeks change an existing common name (walkingstick). Alternate names in used for this species, included in Section 8, include northern walkingstick (proposed herein), “common walkingstick”, or “common northern walkingstick”.

As the only North American walkingstick of northern distribution the name “northern walkingstick” is proposed.

**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:**

No other North American phasmids are present in the northern tier states and southern Canada or, if present, are very rare. This species is the only species common in the northern areas of the continent.

**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.**

It is difficult to find North American researchers with this group who have taxonomic interests/expertise.

The primary international group working with this order, apparently headquartered in Germany\*, maintains a [Phasmid Species File](http://phasmida.speciesfile.org/Common/basic/Taxa.aspx?TaxonNameID=1202539), a database of all species. The species profile for *Diaperomera femorata* the names “northern walkingstick” and “common American walkingstick”.

<http://phasmida.speciesfile.org/Common/basic/Taxa.aspx?TaxonNameID=1202539>

\* The North American experts associated with the group are German.

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