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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](mailto: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:** black fig fly
- 2. Previously approved common name (if any):** None
- 3. Scientific name (genus, species, author):** *Silba adipata* McAlpine

Order: Diptera

Family: Lonchaeidae

### ***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:** Recent detections of this fly in California. It can be a significant pest of figs. The US Department of Agriculture and California Department of Agriculture have begun a response to the infestation which will include establishing the extent of the infestation in California and evaluating the economic importance to the California fig industry. The industry is valued at \$32 million annually. Figs are common in residential areas in southern California, so this pest could have a dramatic effect on non-commercial figs, as well.

**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 proposed name applies to the adult stage as coloration is black

**6. Distribution (include references):** Mediterranean basin, Iraq, South Africa, Mexico, California

**7. Principal hosts (include references):** Fig (*Ficus carica* L.)

**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:** The proposed name is used in English language publications on this species.

- 1) California Department of Food and Agriculture. July 14, 2021. Pest Detection Advisory No. PD08-2021, Black Fig Fly (BFF), *Silba adipata*
- 2) Abbes, K., A. Hafsi, A. Harbi, M. Mars, and B. Chermiti. 2021. The black fig fly *Silba adipata* (Diptera: Lonchaeidae) as an emerging pest in Tunisia: preliminary data on geographic distribution, bioecology and damage. *Phytoparasitica* 49:49-59.
- 3) Gonçalves, M. A. 2021. Evaluation of food attractants for the black fig fly in southern Portugal. Pages 251-253 in *Acta Horticulturae*. International Society for Horticultural Science.
- 4) Katsoyannos, B. 2004. Black fig fly (Diptera; Lonchaeidae). *Encyclopedia of Entomology*. Springer, Dordrecht, Netherlands.
- 5) Katsoyannos, B. 2008. Black fig fly (Diptera: Lonchaeidae). Pages 524-525 in J. L. Capinera, (ed.). *Encyclopedia of Entomology* (2nd). Springer Science & Business Media, Gainesville, FL

**9. Please identify any common names in use, including those used by indigenous peoples in the insect's area of origin, that have been applied to this taxon, other than the one herein proposed, with references. Please justify why each alternate name is inadequate:**

It has also been referred to as "Mediterranean black fig fly", **black fig fly** is more prevalent in the scientific literature. California Department of Food and Agriculture has expressed concern that use of the common name "Mediterranean black fig fly" might be confused with Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*).

**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 closely related taxa resemble BFF in its habits. BFF is monophagous with fig as its only host. No tephritid fruit flies closely resemble this fly. Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*) also attacks figs but has an extensive host range.

**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.**

Consultation with:

USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory (Dr. Allen Norrbom)

USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine, National Identification Services (Dr. Stephen Bullington)

California Department of Food and Agriculture (Drs. Andrew Cline and Kyle Beucke)

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**Date submitted: July 19, 2021**

This submission is as an individual and member of the Entomological Society of America, Board-Certified Entomologist in Regulatory Entomology and not as a Federal employee employed by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine.