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:
crypt gall wasp

2. Previously approved common name (if any):
NA

3. Scientific name (genus, species, author):
Bassettia pallida (Ashmead 1896)

Order: Hymenoptera
Family: Cynipidae

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:

Bassettia pallida is host to a parasitoid that manipulates its behavior. The parasitoid (Euderus set) has received quite a bit of media attention, and having a common name for the host will facilitate discussion of this system with the general public.

Here are links to some of the press this system has received:
Science
https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/01/crypt-keeper-wasp-parasite-parasite

New Scientist
https://www.newscientist.com/article/2119136-parasite-turns-wasp-into-zombie-then-drills-through-its-head/

The Atlantic
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 “crypt” refers to the cryptic (and crypt-like) gall made by the asexual generation of *Bassettia pallida*. These galls lie horizontal to the bark in *Quercus geminata* and *Quercus virginiana* live oaks. The photo below shows two crypts, which contain subadults that have been made visible by using a razor blade to remove a layer of bark and woody tissue above the galls.

The sexual generation of *Bassettia pallida* likely exists, but has yet to be identified definitively. Thus, the asexual generation is the better-known stage, suggesting a common name associated with this stage is appropriate.

6. Distribution (include references):

Southeastern United States

References:


7. **Principal hosts (include references):**

The live oaks *Quercus virginiana* and *Quercus geminata*.

References:


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:**

Above we have included links to popular press references to this system, which frequently include use of the name “crypt gall wasp” for *Bassettia pallida*.

Additionally, here are scientific articles that establish the use of the proposed name:


Additionally, here is a paper that references *B. pallida* as the crypt gall wasp, and does not include the proposer (K.L. Weinersmith) as a co-author:


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:**

We are unaware of other common names for *Bassettia pallida*.

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:**

4/17/18
A search for the word “crypt” on March 20, 2020 in the “Common Name” filter in the ESA Common Names Database returned no results.

The term “crypt gall wasp” was also briefly used (mainly in news articles) to describe *Zapatella davisae*. This name is no longer applied to the species, which is now often referred to as the “black oak gall wasp”.

Monica Davis, a co-author on the description of *Zapatella davisae*, said this of the name “crypt gall wasp” in an interview in the Patriot Ledger (https://www.patriotledger.com/article/20140314/news/140317459):

> “They changed the name a month and a half ago,” noted University of Massachusetts graduate student Monica Davis who will speak on her research into the life of the newly minted insect at the Cape Cod Natural History Conference Saturday. “They only called it crypt gall because they didn’t know what it was.”

Here are two recent papers on this species, which include Monica Davis as a co-author and do not refer to *Z. davisae* as the “crypt gall wasp”:


More recent papers, including those on which Monica Davis is not a co-author, are using “black oak gall wasp” rather than “crypt gall wasp” as well. For example:


**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.**

My co-authors (including Scott Egan, Andrew Forbes, and Miles Zhang) are the main people who have published papers about *Bassettia pallida* in the past half decade. They have been consulted about the appropriateness of the common name “crypt gall wasp” for *Bassettia pallida*, and support this proposal.

**Proposed by** (your name): **Kelly Lynne Weinersmith**

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