



ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

10001 Derekwood Lane, Suite 100, Lanham, MD 20706-4876
Phone: (301) 731-4535 • Fax: (301) 731-4538

E-mail: esa@entsoc.org • <http://www.entsoc.org>

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.

3 February, 2016

Esteemed ESA Common Names Committee members,

As the co-Chairs for the Western Forest Insect Work Conference (WFIWC) Common Names Committee (CNC), we are pleased to present the following insect for your consideration. This proposal is part of a current effort to update the important publication Western Forest Insects and formalize common names used therein not yet recognized by ESA.

Our committee also works with the Entomological Society of Canada and so you will find entries in our form that are in addition to those you require (numbered entries accompanied by a letter are additional). All ESA questions are numbered and worded as found on your form.

If you have any questions or concerns about this or other submissions from our organization, we encourage you to contact us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brytten Steed

Brytten Steed
WFIWC-CNC co-Chair
bsteed@fs.fed.us

/s/ William Ciesla

William Ciesla
WFIWC-CNC co-Chair
wciesla@aol.com

WFIWC Proposal Form for New Common Name or Change of ESA or ESC-Approved Common Name

The proposer is expected to be familiar with the rules, recommendations, and procedures outlined in the introduction to the current list of names and with the discussion by A.B. Gurney, 1953, *Journal of Economic Entomology* 46:207–211.

NOTE: SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED UNLESS THIS FORM IS FILLED OUT COMPLETELY.

I ask that the WFIWC Standing Committee on Common Names of Insects facilitate the submission of the following common name or name change to ESA and ESC.

1. Proposed new common name (English): [elegant sheep moth](#)
 - 1b. Proposed new common name in French (optional): [\(none\)](#)

2. Previously approved ESA common name (if any): [\(none\)](#)
 - 2b. Previously approved English ESC common name (if any): [\(none\)](#)
 - 2c. Previously approved French ESC common name (if any)-include direct translation to English: [\(none\)](#)

3. Scientific name (genus, species, author): [Hemileuca eglanterina](#) (Boisduval)
Order: [Lepidoptera](#)
Family: [Saturniidae](#)
 - 3b. List important previous scientific names (*esp. note if this scientific name is different from that noted in Western Forest Insects or in the literature cited*). [none](#)

Supporting Information

4. Reasons supporting the need for the proposed new or changed common name: [Although there is no ESA approved common name, the common names for this insect are legion. It is variously referred to in publications and on numerous internet sites as:
sheep moth;
western sheep moth, or western sheepmoth;
common sheep moth or common sheepmoth;
elegant sheepmoth or elegant sheep moth;
elegant buck moth;
elegant day moth, and
brown day moth.](#)

[Unlike some insects which have one or two common \(although not ESA approved\) names, this particular moth has numerous common names and is cited by one or more of these names in everything from scientific manuscripts and publications, museum websites, and Wikipedia, to more general use websites](#)

for home and garden. The Integrated Taxonomic Information System uses one of these common names. An approved ESA common name would provide a source of consistency for references for this insect. There are a couple forest insect references, including a rewrite of the reference, Western Forest Insects by Furniss and Carolin (1977) and a field guide for insects and diseases of hardwoods in the Pacific Northwest, that are currently in preparation. An ESA approved common name is desirable prior to publication.

Several of the currently used common names utilize a variation of the term "sheep moth". The species have been informally called sheep moths because of their association with sagebrush and grazing lands (Tuskes et.al. 1996). The name brown day moth is not particularly accurate, as that connotes a rather plain moth when in fact it is not brown, but a colorful moth with striking contrasts of black markings on rose to orange backgrounds. Its coloration is indeed "elegant"; although the name elegant is likely an evolution of the species name "*eglanterina*" (*eglanterina* actually means rosey). Inclusion of the word "day" in the common name is accurate in that *H. eglanterina* is a day-flying moth, as are other *Hemileuca* sp. and the inclusion of that word is not necessarily descriptive. Inclusion of the word "western" would also be accurate because this is indeed a moth that inhabits the western part of the United States; however, this is a general geographic reference that is also true of other *Hemileuca* (including other subspecies of *eglanterina*), as well as other genera of the silkmoths.

The name "elegant sheep moth" is proposed for several reasons: 1) it is one of the common names that is currently in extensive use; 2) as mentioned previously the word "elegant" is already used in combination in several of the existing usages; 3) "elegant" does describe the striking and rich coloration of the moth; and 4) Tuskes et. al. 1996 divides the genus *Hemileuca* into species sub-groups. The species within the *eglanterina* group (*H. eglanterina*, *H. hera*, and *H. nuttalli*) are all referred to informally as sheep moths; as opposed to the species in the sub-group *maia*, which are all referred to both formally (ESA approved common name) and informally as "buck moths."

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

Adult moth which has an elegant appearance

6. Distribution (*include author-year citations; full citation in #10b*):

Throughout the western United States and Canada from British Columbia in the north, down through Washington, Oregon and California, and east to Alberta, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and possibly northern Utah. Furniss and Carolin, 1977, Tuskes, et. al. 1996

7. Principal hosts (*include author-year citations; full citation in #10b*): Numerous hardwoods and shrubs in the western states, such as *Salix*, *Populus*, *Betula*, *Acer*, *Arctostaphylos*, *Ceanothus*, *Purshia*, *Rosaceae*, *Rhamnaceae*, and other shrubs. Furniss and Carolin, 1977; Tuskes et.al, 1996.

8. Cite references containing previous use of the proposed common name (*use author-year citations; full citation in #10b*):

Elegant sheep moth - Carbo, et.al. (Pacific northwest moths), NatureServe Explorer, Moth Photographers Group, BugGuide, DiscoverLife

9. Cite references using English common names (provide names) other than that proposed (*use author-year citations; full citation in #10b*):

There are some publications and many, many websites that use various variations of the common names:

Elegant Buck Moth – Northwest Butterflies website

Common sheep moth or sheepmoth – Wikipedia, iNaturalist, NatureServe Explorer, Encyclopedia of Life, McElfresh & Millar, 2001.

Western sheep moth or sheepmoth – Butterflies and Moths of North America, iNaturalist, Santa Clara and northern Los Angeles County Area Butterfly and Moth, NatureServe Explorer, Integrated Taxonomic Information System, natural history society, University of Alberta museum

Brown day moth – Furniss and Carolin, 1977; Miller and Hammond, 1995; Miller and Hammond, 2003; Forestryimages.org; natural history society

The name western sheep moth is also used for a subspecies, *Hemileuca eglanterina annulata* – wild Utah website

9b. References using common names in a non-English language (give the common name in the non-English language and give the direct translation to English, if possible) (*use author-year citations; full citation in #10b*):
none

10. Other insects or organisms to which the proposed common name might apply (give scientific name and include citations, if applicable):
none

10 b. List references cited in questions 6-10:

Crabo, L., P. Hammond, M. Peterson, J. Shepard, and R. Zack. 2012. Pacific Northwest Moths (<http://pnwmoths.biol.wvu.edu/>) (accessed 12/10/2014).

Furniss, R. L. and V.M. Carolin. 1977. Western Forest Insects. US Dept. of Agric., Forest Serv., Misc. Pub. 1339. 654p.

MCElfresh, J.S. and J.G. Millar. 2001. Ecology 82 9120 p. 3505-3518

Miller, J. C. 1995. Caterpillars of Pacific Northwest Forest and Woodlands. USDA, Fore. Serv. FHM-NC-06-95. 80p.

Miller, J. C. and P.C. Hammond. 2003. Caterpillars and Adult Lepidoptera of Northwest Forests and Woodlands. USDA, FS. FHTET 2003-03. 324 p.

Tuskes, P.M., J.P. Tuttle and M.M. Collins. 1996. The Wild Silk Moths of North America; A Natural History of the Saturniidae of the United States and Canada. Comstock Publishing Associates. Cornell University Press.

Additional websites in citations – many of the websites derive their information from other sources and even perhaps from common usage that is not traceable to any particular published source.

BugGuide – bugguide.net

DiscoverLife – discoverlife.org

Encyclopedia of Life – eol.org

iNaturalist – www.inaturalist.org

Integrated Taxonomic Information System – www.itis.gov

Natural history society – nathistoc.bio.uci.edu

NatureServe Explorer – explorer.natureserve.org

North American Moth Photographers Group – mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu

Santa Clara and northern Los Angeles County Area Butterfly and Moth website – lepidoptera.jcmdi.com

University of Alberta museum – entomology.museums.ualberta.ca

Wikipedia – en.wikipedia.org

Wild Utah – wildutah.us

11. Steps you have taken to consult with other workers who are familiar with the insect or organism as to suitability of and need for the proposed common name:

A number of entomologists in the U.S. were contacted and asked to provide review comments to this proposal. The following individuals were contacted:

- Dr. Christopher Marshall, Curator and Collections Manager, Oregon State Arthropod Collection, Oregon State University
- WFIWC membership

11b. What type of literature searches/checks did you conduct (e.g. CABI, ESA and ESC web pages, USDA FS library, formal library search engine-list, etc.)

- Search on ESA Common Names site (http://www.entsoc.org/Pubs/Common_Names/index.htm) to determine if this species had a common name, if the common name belonged to another species – negative in both accounts
- Review of the ESC Common Names publication (pdf at http://www.esc-sec.org/common_names_2006.pdf) to determine if this species had a common name in either English or French, or if the English common name proposed belonged to another species – negative in all account.
- Search of www using the Google search engine
- Search of personal literature files
- See list of citations in #10

12. Proposed by: Western Forest Insect Work Conference group (WFIWC), Common Names Committee co-Chairs – Brytten Steed and William Ciesla

Proposal prepared and submitted to the WFIWC CNC by Iral Ragenovich

E-mail: bsteed@fs.fed.us

Telephone: 406-329-3142

Fax: 406-329-3557

Address: Brytten Steed / USDA FS – Forest Health Protection / P.O. Box 7669 / 200 East Broadway / Missoula MT, 59807

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