

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): [western pine tussock 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): [Dasychira grisefacta \(Dyar\)](#)
Order: [Lepidoptera](#)
Family: [Noctuidae: Lymantriinae \(based on LaFontaine and Fibiger \[2006\]\)](#)
- 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).

[This insect was originally described as *Olene grisefacta* and is cited as *Paraorgyia grisefacta* in “Western Forest Insects” \(Furniss and Carolin \(1977\)\)](#)

Supporting Information

4. Reasons supporting the need for the proposed new or changed common name:

[Dasychira grisefacta](#) periodically reaches epidemic levels in ponderosa pine forests in eastern Montana, eastern Wyoming, western South Dakota and western Nebraska. This species is somewhat similar to, [D. pinicola](#), indigenous to the north central and northeastern United States (Drooz 1985), which has the official ESA and ESC common name “pine tussock moth.” [D. grisefacta](#) has also been referred to as “pine tussock moth” in at least one web based publication (Anon 2006). The use of the same common name for two closely related species is confusing in the scientific literature.

The genus *Dasychira* contains at least 16 North American species (funet.fi) and additional species are found on the Indian subcontinent, Australia, southeast Asia and Africa (Browne 1968). Most North American species feed on a variety of broadleaf plants and only 5 species are known to feed on conifers (Table 1). One of these conifer feeding species, *D. pinicola*, is the only species of *Dasychira* with an ESA approved common name (pine tussock moth). Several species of *Dasychira* have ESC approved common names:

- D. dorsipennata* – Hardwood tussock moth
- D. pinicola* - Pine tussock moth
- D. plagiata* – Northern pine tussock moth

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

The proposed common name refers to its natural range (western NA), the host it has been most frequently reported on as damaging (pine) and the occurrence of clusters of hair pencils or tussocks on the dorsal surface of the larvae.

6. Distribution (include citations):

Dasychira grisefacta is widely distributed in western Canada and the Western US. In Canada it is found in British Columbia and southern Alberta (Anon 2006). In the U.S. there are records of its occurrence in Colorado, Oregon, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming (Fauske 2002, Furniss and Carolin 1977, Schaupp 2005, personal communication).

Dasychira grisefacta is normally a relatively uncommon solitary defoliator (Anon. 2006). This species however occasionally goes into outbreak status on individual open grown trees in urban settings in British Columbia. One outbreak covering 42,000 acres of young ponderosa pine was recorded in Montana in 1965 (Furniss and Carolin 1977, Tunnock 1966). More recently, outbreaks in ponderosa pine have occurred in eastern Wyoming, western South Dakota and western Nebraska (Schaupp 2005, personal communication; author's observations)

7. Principal hosts (include citations):

The principal hosts of *Dasychira grisefacta* are Douglas-fir, western hemlock, Engelmann spruce, white spruce and ponderosa pine. Other hosts include subalpine fir, grand fir, western larch, western white pine and lodgepole pine (Anon 2006, Furniss and Carolin 1977).

8. Cite references containing previous use of the proposed common name:

North American Moth Photographers Group, 2005. 8306 – Western pine tussock moth, *Dasychira grisefacta*. Mississippi State Entomology Museum at Mississippi State University.
(<http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/Files/Live/Species/8000/8306.shtml>)

9. Cite references using English common names (provide names) other than that proposed:

“A pine tussock moth” (Furniss and Carolin 1977)

“Pine tussock moth” (Duncan 2006). This is the official ESA and ESC name for the closely related *D. pinicola*.

Fauske (2002) refers to *D. grisefacta* as the “grizzled tussock moth.” This name was proposed earlier as an official common name for this species but was rejected by ESA on the grounds that many species of *Dasychira* have gray colored or grizzled adult and/or larval stages.

Colorado Forestry Association uses ‘pine tussock moth’ in lowercase. Initial upper case letter are used on this site to denote recognized common names

http://www.coloradoforestry.org/our_forest/insects_in_forest.html.

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)

None

10. Other insects or organisms to which the proposed common name might apply (give scientific name and include citations, if possible):

None

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

Browne, F.G., 1968. Pests and diseases of forest plantation trees. An annotated list of the principal species occurring in the British Commonwealth. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1330 pp.

Drooz, A.T. (editor), 1985. Insects of eastern forests. USDA Forest Service, Miscellaneous Publication 1426, 608 pp.

Duncan, R.W. 2006. Conifer defoliating insects of British Columbia, Lymantriidae, *Dasychira grisefacta*, Pine tussock moth
http://www.pfc.forestry.ca/entomology/defoliators/tussock_moths/pine_tussock_e.html

Fauske, G.M., 2002. *Dasychira grisefacta* (Dyar 1911). Moths of North Dakota.
<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndsu/ndmoths/names/8306.htm>

Furniss, R.L. and V.M. Carolin, 1977. Western forest insects. USDA Forest Service, Miscellaneous Publication 1339, 654 pp.

J.D. Lafontaine, M. Fibiger. 2006. Revised higher classification of the Noctuoidea (Lepidoptera). *Canadian Entomologist* 138 (5):610-635.

North American Moth Photographers Group, 2005. 8306 – Western pine tussock moth, *Dasychira grisefacta*. Mississippi State Entomology Museum at Mississippi State University .
(<http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/Files/Live/Species/8000/8306.shtml>)

Tunnock, S. 1966. Northern Rocky Mountains. *In* Forest Insect Conditions in the United States –1965, pp 19-25. USDA Forest Service, Washington D.C.

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:

The following individuals provided input supporting the selection of the proposed common name:

Gerald M. Fauske, Research Specialist, NDSU, Fargo, ND

Western Forest Insect Work Conference – Common Names Committee

Dave Leatherman, Entomologist, CO State Forest Service, Fort Collins, CO (retired)

Bill Schaupp, Entomologist, USDA Forest Service, Rapid City, SD

Richard Worth, Entomologist, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salem OR

Comments received are included at the end of this proposal.

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

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

Search of British Museum of Natural History website (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/biodiversity/nature-navigator/>)

Search in CABI (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International) data base (includes CAB abstracts, Tree CD, and Forest Science Abstracts)

Search of www using the Google search engine

EPP0 (European Plant Protection Organization) database

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 William M. Ciesla,
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Date: 15 August 2008

Comments received on the previous and current common name proposal

COMMENT (LH):

The inclusion of the lymantriids in a subfamily of the Noctuidae is based on the following paper:

J.D. Lafontaine, M. Fibiger. 2006. Revised higher classification of the Noctuoidea (Lepidoptera). Can Entomol 138 (5):610-635.

Abstract: The higher classification of the families of the Noctuoidea with a quadrid forewing (Noliidae, Strepsimanidae, Arctiidae, Lymantriidae, Erebididae, and Noctuidae) is reviewed from the perspective of recent classifications and the distribution of derived character states. On the basis of recent morphological and molecular studies, we propose a more inclusive definition of the family Noctuidae that adds the subfamilies Nolinae, Strepsimaninae, Arctiinae, Lymantriinae, and Erebininae to the subfamilies more traditionally included in the Noctuidae. Consequently, the superfamily Noctuoidea comprises the families Oenosandridae, Doidae, Notodontidae, Micronoctuidae, and Noctuidae. The tribe Cosmiini, currently in the subfamily Xyleninae, is downgraded to the status of subtribe Cosmiina and placed in the tribe Xylenini. The tribe Balsini, currently in the subfamily Xyleninae, is elevated to the status of subfamily Balsinae. The tribe Phosphilini is transferred from the subfamily Psaphidinae to the Xyleninae.

COMMENTS (RW):

For the record and possibly the future, the root of "vagans" means wandering or wanderer. So the common name 'Wandering tussock moth' seems appropriate. It is actually the most widespread species of *Dasychira* with distinct eastern and western forms. With that said, I don't see a need to do a proposal for *vagans* since it never seems to be a pest. I merely brought it up for completeness of the discussion so people were aware of non-conifer feeding species (actually most of the N.Am. species of *Dasychira* are broadleaf feeders). Those handful of conifer-feeding species, east or west, could be denoted as '(name) pine tussock moth' as *plagiata* already is rather than worry about how the name is related to the genus. As you know, the host associations are often very important and useful in naming, and in leps, they often form

natural phylogenetic groups anyway. I think 'grizzled pine tussock moth' is probably the best name for *grisefacta*.

COMMENT (GF) (in response to inclusion of 'pine' in the name):

I agree that the name Grizzled Pine Tussock Moth has merits (and demerits) ... However, which part of this name will probably get dropped in semi-professional communications among non-entomologists and then passed on in semi-professional meetings and in general public forums? And then we are back to the confusion of 'pine' in yet another tussock moth name. This was precisely why, when I coined the name 'Grizzled Tussock Moth' on my web site, I eschewed using pine in that name. I have no real opinion as to which moniker this beast should bear, I would like to avoid the formulation 'Pine Tussock Moth' or any derivative that can easily cause confusion. I picked 'grizzled' as it is the best colloquial translation of the scientific name.

Message from Forrest (ESA) from early 2007 related to our first proposal:

Grizzled Tussock Moth – Recommendation No

Vote: Six yes, three no, student vote yes

Comment 1: This CN appears appropriate given that many insects in the genus *Dasychira* are referred to as tussock moths, and the gray color (grizzled) of the wings.

Comment 2: I also have some problems with the Grizzled Tussock Moth – not a great descriptor for the adult since most of the 16 N. American species look a bit 'grizzled'. It fits the larvae well from the attached photo in the proposal until you look at the very similar larvae from several other species from the same genus. This might be a good name for the genus, but is rather vague for the species. <snip> I would propose that the Western Forest Insect Work Conference submit and formalize the name for *D. plagiata* as the Northern Conifer Tussock Moth (it has the northern most range of any species in the genus) and then re-submit *D. grisefacta* as the Grizzled Conifer Tussock Moth to avoid confusion with similar looking larvae of Eastern species that do not feed on conifers.

Comment 3: I concur with <the> comment that there are a lot of grizzly tussock moths, and individual species require distinctive common names.

COMMENT (BF)

I liked the grizzled tussock moth name better. I hope they like this one <western pine tussock moth>; if anything it is less descriptive.

COMMENT (LH)

The suggested common name is a good compromise given the ESA and ESC common names for other members of the genus.

COMMENT (IR)

...looks good to me (like <RW>, grizzled seems like a pretty cool name but since they didn't like it - what can you do?)

COMMENT (DL)

I defer to your judgment. WPTM sound fine to me.

COMMENTS (WS)

I have given the proposal a good read or three. I approve, with two minor suggestions for change noted below. Two minor matters on page 2 need some attention first, as follows:

1. Under Item 6, 4th line, my last name is spelled incorrectly.

western pine tussock moth
1018-01-08

Dasychira grisefacta

8/15/2008

2. Under Item 6, last sentence of paragraph 2

I suggest adding "western South Dakota" to the list as an additional location of documented outbreaks of the western pine tussock moth. The early 1990s epidemic in the southern Black Hills was dramatic and resulted in some patches of ponderosa pine mortality.

The proposal is well done and hopefully will be accepted this time.

I assume you do not need to cite unpublished site visit reports, biological evaluations or regional conditions reports for this effort. I have several of same, as you may know. It is a long-standing incomplete task that I pull together what I and others have on this insect species into something more long-lived than the above mentioned reports, which I keep sending around as this defoliator erupts.

Table 1 - North American Species of *Dasychira* (Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae), their Hosts and Natural Ranges

Species	Common Name	Natural Range	Hosts
<i>D. tephra</i>		Central and southern US	<i>Quercus</i>
<i>D. doripennata</i>	hardwood tussock moth (ESC)	E. Canada, E. US	<i>Quercus, Corylus, Amelanchier, Salix</i>
<i>D. vegans</i>		E. Canada, NE US	<i>Malus, Betula, Salix, Populus</i>
<i>D. mescalera</i>		CO, NM, TX	None given
<i>D. basiflava</i>		S. Ontario, AR, IA, MA, MO, NC,	<i>Carya, Quercus</i>
<i>D. matheri</i>		MS	None given
<i>D. meridionalis</i>		AR, FL, NC, TX	<i>Quercus</i>
<i>D. atrivenosa</i>		FL, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
<i>D. cinnamomea</i>		ME, MI, MN, NJ, WI	<i>Quercus, Malus</i>
<i>D. leucophaea</i>		FL, GA, NC, NJ, SC	<i>Quercus</i>
<i>D. obiquata</i>		S. Quebec, S. Ontario, AR, IA, MN, MO, NC, NE	<i>Quercus, Carya, Fagus, Ulmus, Betula</i>
<i>D. dominickaria</i>		FL, LA, SC, TX	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
<i>D. plagiata</i>	northern pine tussock moth (ESC)	Newfoundland, Laborador, Alberta, MA, NC, NY	<i>Abies, Larix, Picea, Pinus, Tsuga</i>
<i>D. pincola</i>	pine tussock moth (ESA, ESC)	MA, MN, NJ, WI	<i>Pinus</i>
<i>D. grisefacta</i>	western pine tussock moth (proposed)	Alberta, BC, AZ, MT, NM, ND, NE, SD	<i>Pseudotsuga, Picea, Pinus, Tsuga, others</i>
<i>D. manto</i>		FL, MD, TX	<i>Pinus banksiana, Pinus virginiana</i>

Source: <ftp://ftp.funet.fi/pub/sci/bio/life/insecta/lepidoptera/>



Figure 1 – Fourth instar larva of *Dasychira grisefacta*, western Nebraska