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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.

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.

1. Proposed new common name:

High Noon Ant

2. Previously approved common name (if any):

N/A

3. Scientific name (genus, species, author): *Forelius pruinosus* (Roger)

Order: Hymenoptera

Family: Formicidae

Subfamily: Dolichoderinae

Supporting Information

4. Reasons supporting the need for the proposed common name:

Forelius pruinosus (Roger) is among the most common ants collected at cookie baits by participants in the [School of Ants](#) citizen science project (led by [Dr. Rob Dunn at North Carolina State University](#) and [Dr. Andrea Lucky at the University of Florida](#)). Across 500 unique sampling locations, *F. pruinosus* was the 12th most commonly collected species (out of the 107 species collected during the 2011 and 2012 field seasons). If we consider only the native ant species collected during this same period, *F. pruinosus* is ranked the eighth most common species (Figure 1). These records (where participants submitted specimens identified by ant taxonomists) are consistent with reports in the entomological literature of the species' widespread distribution (Figure 2).

And yet, despite its common distribution across North America, *F. pruinosus* lacks a common name. In addition to our research goal of mapping the distribution of ant species across the US in the areas where people live, School of Ants has an explicit education and outreach goal: to engage the public, particularly young people, in understanding and appreciating the ant species they encounter in their homes, backyards, and neighborhoods. It is with this explicit public engagement goal in mind that we propose a common name for *F. pruinosus*: the High Noon Ant.

As we engage public audiences online via [our blog](#) and [social media](#), through our new eBook [Dr. Eleanor's Book of Common Ants](#), and in-person at [science festivals and outreach events](#), we have found that the use of ant common names helps to break down the barrier between scientists and the lay public and allows us to more easily communicate the natural history of ant species. Of the most common ant species collected by School of Ants participants (and covered in [Dr. Eleanor's Book of Common Ants](#)), only *F. pruinosus* lacks a common name.

Figure 1. The top 20 native species collected by School of Ants participants across 500 sampling locations in the period January 2011 – December 2012.

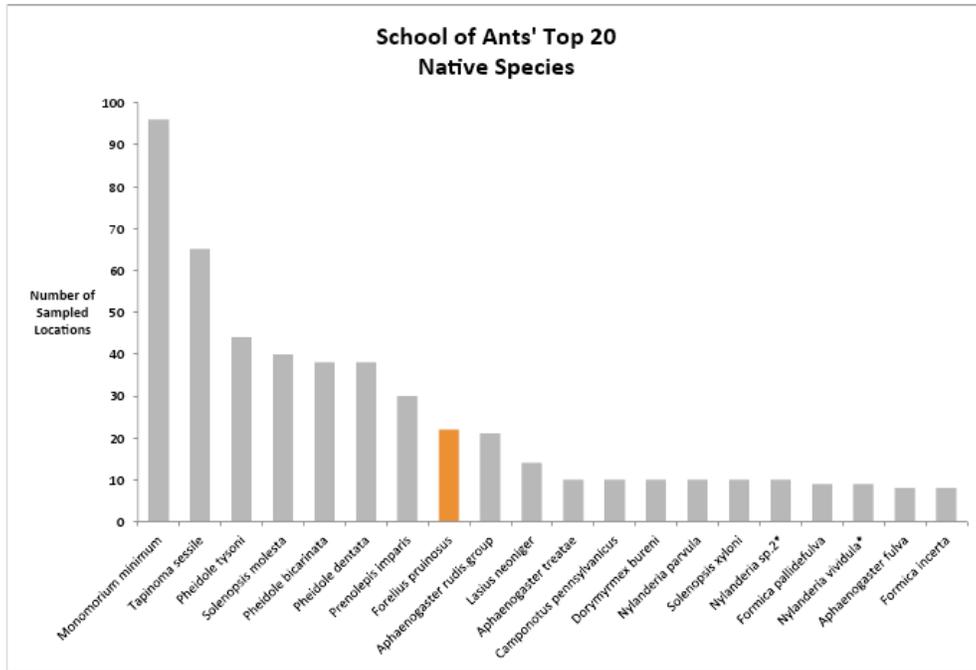
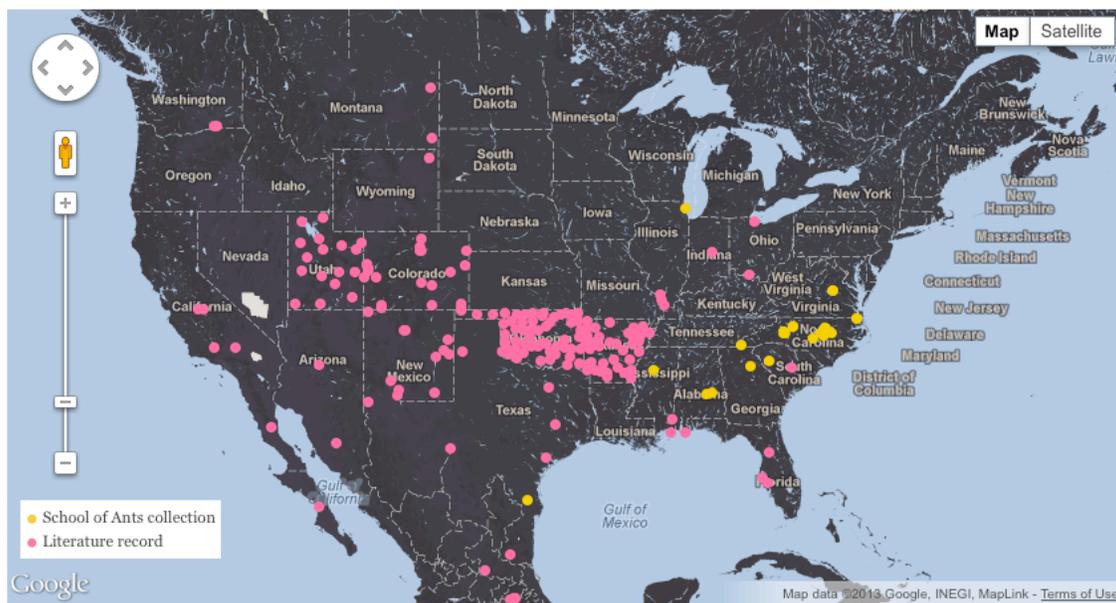


Figure 2. Distribution of *Forelius pruinosus*. (Source: <http://schoolofants.org/species/1184>)



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

We examined many different aspects of *F. pruinosus* life history and ecology (see *References Consulted* below), and solicited input from myrmecologists and even [the public themselves](#). We propose the common name 'High Noon Ant' for *F. pruinosus* given its noted proclivity to forage during the hottest part of the day, when the sun is at its highest. Work by Holway et al. (2002) suggests that the genus *Forelius* is highly thermophilic and heat-tolerant. Furthermore, the name "high noon" connotes the old western film genre, giving what we think is an appropriate head-nod to the significant body of research conducted on this species in the southwestern US (see *References Consulted* below). Also in keeping with this "wild west" theme, Rudgers and Strauss (2004) reported that *F. pruinosus* is an aggressive and effective defender of wild cotton in the Sonoran Desert.

References Consulted:

- Blum, M. & Warter, S. 1966. Chemical Releasers of Social Behavior. 7. Isolation of 2-Heptanone from *Conomyrma phramica* (Hymenoptera - Formicidae - Dolichoderinae) and its Modus Operandi as a Releaser of Alarm and Digging Behavior. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*, 59, 774-&.
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- Forelius pruinosus*. AntWeb v4.144. Accessed 8 May 2013:
<http://www.antweb.org/description.do?name=pruinosis&genus=forelius&rank=species&project=ohioants>
- Hölldobler, B. 1982. Interference Strategy of *Iridomyrmex pruinosus* (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) during Foraging. *Oecologia*, 52, 208-213. doi: 10.1007/BF00363838.
- Holway, D.A., Suarez, A.V. & Case, T.J. 2002. Role of abiotic factors in governing susceptibility to invasion: A test with Argentine ants. *Ecology* 83:1610–1619.
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- Rojas, P. & Fragoso, C. 2000. Composition, diversity, and distribution of a Chihuahuan Desert ant community (Mapimi, Mexico). *Journal of Arid Environments*, 44, 213-227. doi: 10.1006/jare.1999.0583.
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- Rudgers, J. & Strauss, S.Y. 2004. A selection mosaic in the facultative mutualism between ants and wild cotton. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 271, 2481-2488. doi:10.1098/rspb.2004.2900
- Saarinen, E. & Daniels, J. 2006. Miami blue butterfly larvae (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) and ants (Hymenoptera : Formicidae): New information on the symbionts of an endangered taxon. *Florida Entomologist*, 89, 69-74. doi: 10.1653/0015-4040(2006)89[69:MBLLLL]2.0.CO;2.
- Scheffrahn, R., Gaston, L., Sims, J. & Rust, M. 1984. Defensive Ecology of *Forelius-Foetidus* and its Chemosystematic Relationship to *F. (=Iridomyrmex) Pruinosus* (Hymenoptera-Formicidae-Dolichoderinae). *Environmental Entomology*, 13, 1502-1506.
- Valone, T. & Kaspari, M. 2005. Interactions between granivorous and omnivorous ants in a desert grassland: results from a long-term experiment. *Ecological Entomology*, 30, 116-121. doi: 10.1111/j.0307-6946.2005.00670.x.
- Whitford, W. 1999. Seasonal and diurnal activity patterns in ant communities in a vegetation transition region of southeastern New Mexico (Hymenoptera : Formicidae). *Sociobiology*, 34, 477-491.

6. Distribution (include references): Nearctic: Cuba, USA, Central America

Distribution References

Forelius pruinosus. AntWeb v4.144. Accessed 8 May 2013:

<http://www.antweb.org/description.do?name=pruinosis&genus=forelius&rank=species&project=ohioants>

Forelius pruinosus. School of Ants. Accessed 8 May 2013: <http://schoolofants.org/species/1184>

Ward, P.S. 2005. A synoptic review of the ants of California (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *Zootaxa*. 936:1-68

7. Principal hosts (include references): N/A

8. References containing previous use of the proposed common name: N/A

9. References using common names (give names) other than that proposed: N/A

10. Other insects or organisms to which the proposed common name might apply: N/A

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:

We've engaged a number of ant experts throughout our process of proposing a common name for *Forelius pruinosus* and all have been very supportive, many in a public way via blog posts and online commentary:

Alexander Wild, Ant biologist and photographer. *Myrmecos* blog.

"[A common name for a common ant?](#)" 15 February 2013.

"[Your vote will help determine *Forelius pruinosus*'s new common name.](#)" 11 April 2013.

James C. Trager, Entomologist and natural historian, Missouri Botanical Garden.

Comment posted to [Myrmecos blog \(11 April 2013\)](#):

I like High-Noon ant, because it elicits an image of these ants running out along their orderly trails (highways, if you will) from their nest in a dusty path at the edge of an old western or Mexican town, a way in which I've encountered them on many occasions in my life of ant watching.

Roberto Keller, Postdoctoral researcher, Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciencia, Portugal:

Comment posted to [Myrmecos blog \(11 April 2013\)](#):

I like High Noon ants too, because the way they confront a superior enemy evokes the movie of the same name starring Gary Cooper.

Joshua Ness, Associate professor, Dept of Biology, Skidmore College:

Email correspondence 8 May 2013:

I love it. "High noon" perfectly describes the Sonoran Desert incarnation of pruinosus. I'll do my part to spread this meme.

Proposed by (your name): Holly Menninger, PhD and Eleanor Spicer Rice, PhD

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