

The basis of Acarology in the World

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Objectives:

The word “acarology” was first introduced in the 19th century, around 1830–1840, during the development of modern zoological classification. It is generally attributed to scientists working in France and Germany. While there is not a single universally recognized *inventor* of the term, its first recorded scientific use is often credited to Pierre André Latreille (1762–1833), a renowned French entomologist. Latreille used and popularized systematic terminology for groups of arthropods, including mites (*Acari*).

Materials and Methods:

His classification work laid the linguistic and conceptual foundation for “acarology” as a distinct field of zoology. For a long time, following Blaise Pascal and up to the seventeenth century, the *ciron*—the name given to the cheese mite (*Acarus siro*)—was regarded as the smallest living creature on Earth, yet even then it was recognized as possessing a remarkable degree of complexity. In fiction and cultural writing, mites occasionally appear in surreal or philosophical ways. For example, some authors use mites or microscopic organisms to illustrate the hidden complexity of nature or the fragility of human perception. They can serve as metaphors for the unseen systems that sustain or threaten life.

Results and Conclusions:

Overall, the presence of mites in literature reflects the tension between visibility and invisibility — a reminder that even the smallest organisms can have significant ecological and symbolic importance. Acarology, as a discipline, has inspired both scientific curiosity and literary imagination, linking microscopic life to broader reflections on nature and existence.

Keywords: Biodiversity - Taxonomy - Ecology - Ecosystem services - Behavior.