Introduction

Alfred Nalepa (19 December 1856–11 December 1929) published descriptions of 331 species, 42 varieties, and 28 subspecies of eriophyid mites between 1887 and 1930. The higher taxa he described include one family, two subfamilies, and 12 genera. Three species were described jointly with other authors. His 1930 work was published posthumously.

Not only was Nalepa the foremost authority on this taxon, but he was also known as the "Founder of Acarology in Austria" (Schuster 1979). The obituary written by K. Rechinger (1909) summarized Nalepa's monumental contributions to science, including his early writings on molluscs and tyroglyphids. V. G. Shevtshenko (1967) expanded upon Rechinger's remarks and wrote a charming account touching upon the personality of Nalepa. Shevtshenko succinctly stated: "Nalepa's excellent ideas are alive now, they agitate the imagination of scientists and call to new investigations."

In his enthusiasm to share his discoveries, Nalepa presented the results of collecting expeditions by naming his material "n. sp." In later publications he often referred to these names as "descr. nulla." I have taken these early presentations to be collection site notes and recorded the names as without descriptions. In the text that follows, these are noted as "checklist of undescribed mites."

Other publication events that cause concern to modern writers include the use of the phrase "N. Gen., n. sp." for the same genus more than once and the appearance of the same article in separate publications or distributed as separata under different dates. The absence of a clear indication of the date of publication of works by many writers during this period of time made assembling these records in chronological order a challenging task, second only to collecting the publications.

In his 1924 work, Polymorphe Eriophyiden, Nalepa recognized polymorphism but did not pursue study of this condition. He was a careful researcher and examined numerous mites living within a gall formation. He designated a primary form and "parallel forms," i.e., first and second inhabitants of some galls. The parallel forms and the primary form have specific characteristics in common but belong to separate genera. George C. Steyskal (personal communication 1982), after reviewing