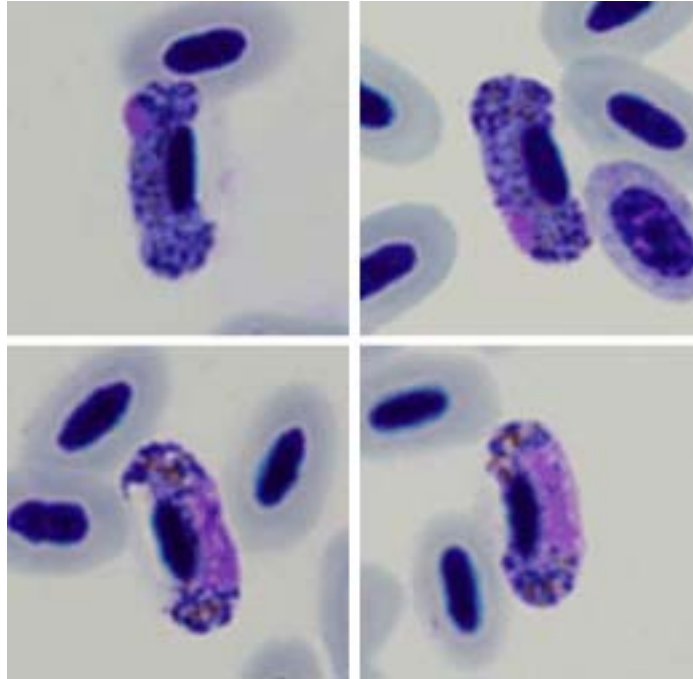


Haemoproteus (Parahaemoproteus) balmorali Peirce, 1984

Typical blood stages:



Important diagnostic characters of blood stages:

A parasite of species of the Passeriformes whose gametocytes grow around the nucleus of infected erythrocytes; they fill the erythrocytes up to their poles but do not encircle the nucleus of erythrocytes completely. Young gametocytes are usually clearly elongated rod-like. The cytoplasm of gametocytes contains numerous valutin granules. Gametocytes adhere to the nucleus and envelope of erythrocytes. Dumbbell-shaped forms predominate among the growing gametocytes. Fully grown gametocytes displace the nucleus of erythrocytes laterally. Pigment granules are of small (<0.5 μm) and medium (0.5 to 1.0 μm) size, about 15 per gametocyte on average. The average NDR is 0.5 or less.

Mitochondrial cytochrome b sequences:

hSFC1, hLULU1

Avian hosts and distribution:

Type avian host – *Muscicapa striata*.

Haemoproteus balmorali develops in some birds of the families Turdidae and Muscicapidae.

Distribution: the Palearctic and the Ethiopian and Oriental zoogeographical regions.