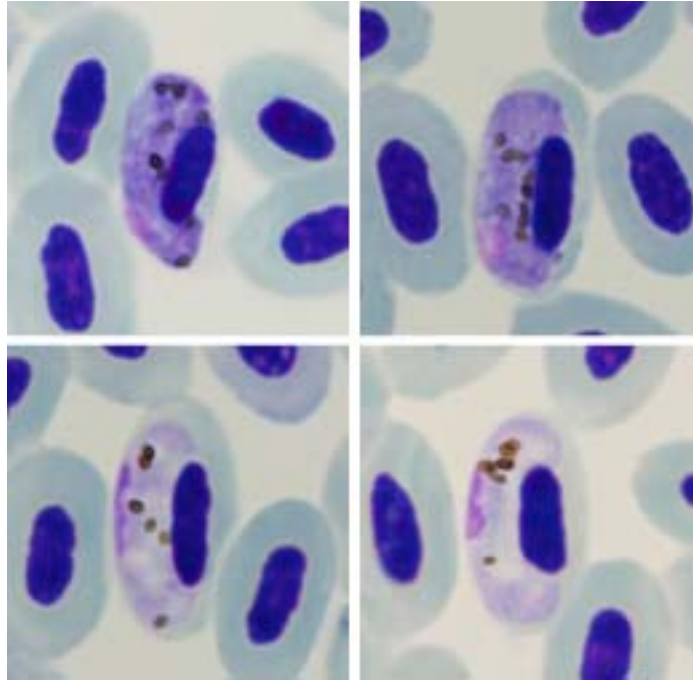


Haemoproteus (Parahaemoproteus) nucleofascialis Iezhova, Dodge, Sehgal,

Smith, Valkiūnas, 2010

Typical blood stages:



Important diagnostic characters of blood stages:

A parasite of species of the Passeriformes whose growing gametocytes closely associate with nuclei of infected erythrocytes. They do not touch envelope of erythrocytes along entire margin, a characteristic feature of this species' development. Fully- grown gametocytes halteridial, and only slightly enclose erythrocyte nuclei with their ends, but they markedly displace them laterally. Pigment granules markedly variable in size (nonsister- size). Microgametocytes nucleus diffuse in growing gametocytes. Nuclei begin to compress as parasite matures. In fully-grown gametocytes, nuclei markedly compressed, and usually assume band-like shape, closely associated with parasite pellicle located close to erythrocyte envelope; these 2 attributes of gametocyte nuclei distinctive morphological characters of this species. Area of microgametocyte nuclei significantly less than that of macrogametocytes, a rare character for bird hemosporidian parasites.

Mitochondrial cytochrome b sequences:

MALRUB02, PLOMEL03

Avian hosts and distribution:

Type avian host – *Malimbus rubricollis*.

Haemoproteus nucleofascialis was recorded in Uganda. It is probable that *H. nucleofascialis* is widespread in sub-Saharan Africa. Transmission of the parasite certainly occurs among birds belonging to species of *Ploceus* and *Malimbus*.