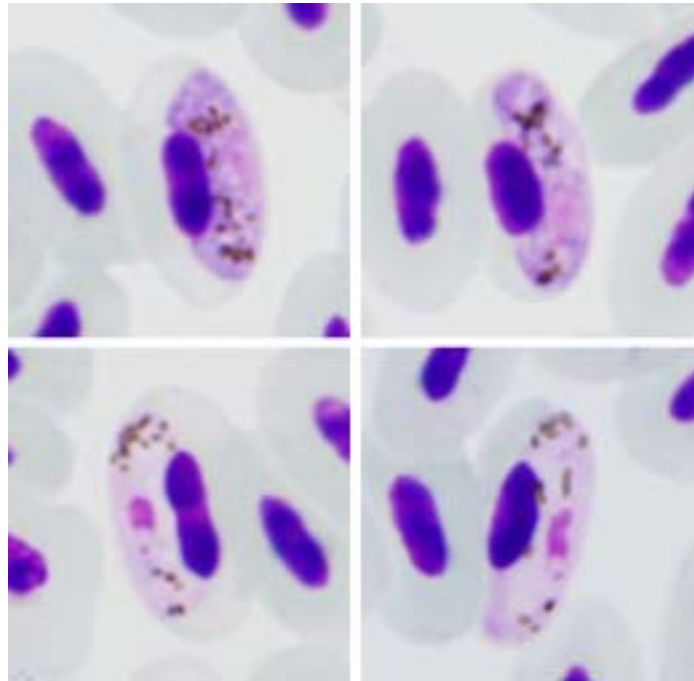


Haemoproteus (Parahaemoproteus) payevskyi Valkiūnas, Iezhova and Chernetsov, 1994

Typical blood stages:



Important diagnostic characters of blood stages:

A parasite of species of the Passeriformes whose gametocytes grow along the nuclei of infected erythrocytes; they slightly displace the nuclei laterally and do not encircle them completely. Medium and fully-grown gametocytes are closely appressed to the nuclei and envelope of erythrocytes, and they usually do not fill the erythrocytes up to their poles. Dumbbell-shaped gametocytes are absent. The nucleus in macrogametocytes is usually median in position. The size of the nucleus of microgametocytes does not exceed that of the nucleus of macrogametocytes, which is an important diagnostic character of this species. The majority of fully-grown macrogametocytes contain two loosely aggregated clumps of pigment granules, and each of the clumps is located near the end of the macrogametocytes. Pigment granules are of small (<0.5 μm) and medium (0.5 to 1.0 μm) size, about 12 per gametocyte on average.

Mitochondrial cytochrome b sequences:

RW1

Avian hosts and distribution:

Type avian host – *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

It is probable that transmission of *H. payevskyi* takes place only in Africa. In the Palearctic, this parasite is common in adult birds after their arrival from the wintering ground, but has never been recorded in juvenile birds.