

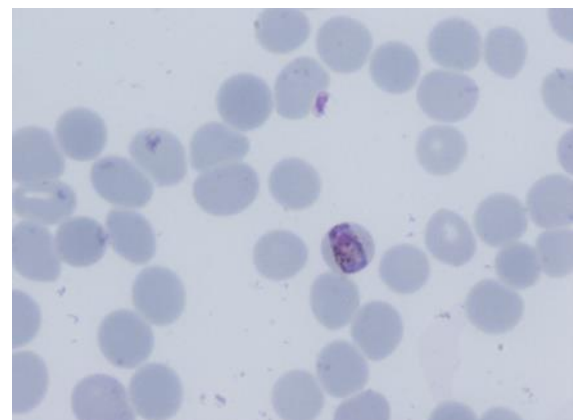
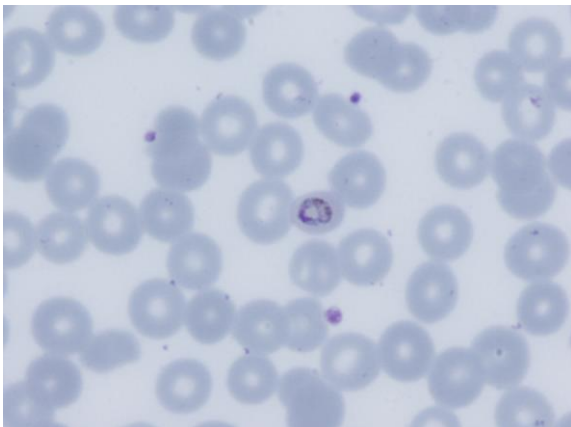
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Plasmodium malariae

Parasites of *Plasmodium malariae* are typically compact heavily pigmented parasites which are usually smaller and more deeply stained than normal. They tend to parasitise small red cells, do not contain any inclusion dots and the parasitaemia is usually low.

Trophozoites

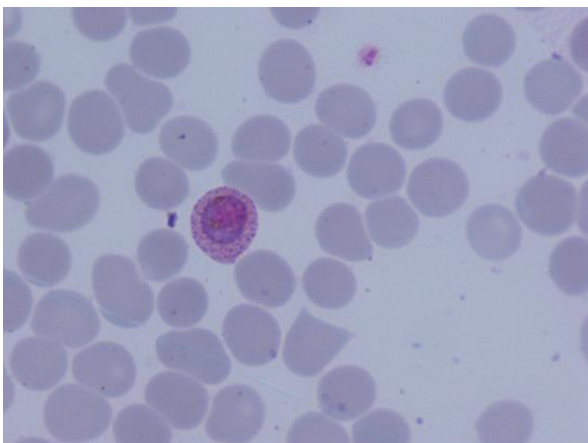
Trophozoites are found as fairly large fleshy rings with a single chromatin dot. These can be very distorted and can often take the form of bands across the cell. All trophozoites have a single chromatin dot and contain pigment.



Banded trophozoite

Gametocytes

Gametocytes contain large amounts of black pigment, with chromatin present as a compact mass in females and diffuse in males. They occupy less than two thirds of the red cell.



Schizonts

Schizonts are usually few in number with 6 - 12 large merozoites in a single ring. Pigment is usually present as a central black mass. The parasites present are generally only found at one stage of schizogony development.

