



## Diagnosis >> Morphology

### MORPHOLOGY OF MALARIAL PARASITES

#### Plasmodium vivax

##### Ring form

2.0 to 3.0 micrometres in diameter; usually no more than one parasite is observed within a single enlarged red blood cell (reticulocyte).

##### Amoeboid form

The infected red cells are enlarged and show marked stippling

##### Schizont

A mature schizont about to rupture. 12 to 18 merozoites and yellow brown pigment particles gathered into the centre.

##### Macrogametocyte

About 7 micrometres in diameter. The female gametocyte maybe almost the size of enlarged red cell, its cytoplasm stains blue and the chromatin is situated near the periphery.

##### Microgametocyte

The male gametocyte has an irregular nucleus with diffuse chromatin.

#### Plasmodium falciparum

##### Ring form

The ring forms are 1.5 micrometres in diameter and multiple infection of erythrocytes is common. They often show double chromatin dots.

##### Schizont

They are not usually found in the peripheral circulation, but they are seen in the final stage of severe infection. The mature schizont forms 18 to 24 merozoites.

##### Macrogametocyte

The female gametocyte is crescentic or banana shaped and is called a 'crescent cytoplasm'. It is stained blue and nucleus red by Giemsa stain.

##### Microgametocyte

The male gametocyte is less pointed in shape and stains pink.

[TOP](#)

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