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AN APPEAL FOR WHEREABOUTS OF THE TYPE SPECIMENS OF  
*HAEMOPROTEUS* SPP. (PROTOZOA : HAEMOSPORINA)  
FROM INDIAN BIRDS

The initiation of malaria research in India was due to Sir Ronald Ross. It is revealed in his memoirs (1923) that he examined the blood of pigeons, doves, parakeets, finches, sparrows, crows, and larks, and many of them were infected with protozoans belonging to the genus *Haemoproteus* Kruse, 1890. Since then reports on the blood parasites of birds are available in this country. Bhatia (1938) includes 33 named species of *Haemoproteus* from Indian birds. Later, Chakravarty and Kar (1945 a, b, ), Zargar (1945) and Grewal (1964) described a few more species from this sub-continent. The whereabouts of the type-slides of these species, if any, are not known.

At present we know 45 presumably valid species of *Haemoproteus* from Indian avifauna but the descriptions given, in many cases, are virtually unusable taxonomically and are not documented by type specimens. Deposition of type materials in well known repositories is essential and indispensable for research purposes. From the taxonomic point of view, a type specimen is the final court of appeal in case of dispute in specific identities, and preservation of original specimens, holotype/paratype etc., is a must in taxonomy. Accord-

ing to international code of nomenclature it is necessary to select neotypes when the types are lost.

For a proper understanding of the taxonomy of *Haemoproteus* spp. from India the author appeals to all concerned scientists, institutions and museums for an announcement through publication or otherwise of the whereabouts of the type-slides of *Haemoproteus* species of I. Froilano de Mello and his associates (1916-1937 ; *vide* Bhatia, 1938) from Goa, in particular and of other workers.

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