

ON A NEW HÆMOPROTOZOAN.

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(Contribution from the Government Bureau of Microbiology, Sydney, New South Wales.)

(Pl. lxxii.)

The blood parasites of Australian animals have received very little attention as yet. Our only snake hæmoprotezoan known is *Hæmogregarina shattocki*,¹ described by Messrs. L. W. Sambon and C. G. Seligmann. The host is the Diamond Snake, *Python spilotes*, Lacép. Blood films taken from a close ally, *Python amethystinus*, Schneider, captured during a trip to Port Curtis, Queensland, revealed the presence of numerous parasites inhabiting the erythrocytes only. The percentage of infected cells was 1·8. A few corpuscles were infected by two sporozoans (Pl. lxxii., fig. 25.) By using Giemsa's stain the organism becomes differentiated from the host and appears bluish whilst the latter stains pinkish. The nuclei of both become deeply stained. I have followed Sambon and Seligmann's terminology and their extended definition of the genus *Hæmogregarina*.

The red corpuscles vary in size from twenty μ long by 9·6 μ broad to nineteen μ by seven μ , the variation being mainly due to alteration as a result of making the film. A typical specimen is shown in Pl. lxxii., fig. 1.

No merozoites were present either in the plasma or in the cells. There were plenty of young forms, long, thin, and more or less crescentic in shape, lying within the host. The concavity more usually faced the nucleus of the latter (Pl. lxxii., fig. 2, 3). The opposite condition is seen in Pl. lxxii., fig. 4, 7.

The ends of the parasite are nearly alike, though, generally, one is slightly wider and more rounded than the other. The former is regarded as the anterior end, and the nucleus is often

¹ Sambon & Seligmann—Proc. Zool. Soc., 1907, p. 284.