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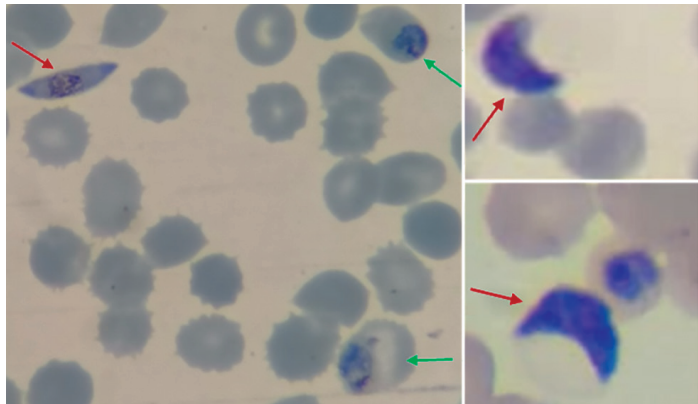
# etymologia

## *Falciparum* [fal-'sɪ-pə-rəm]

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From the Latin *falx* or *falci* (sickle or scythe-shaped) and *parum* (like or equal to another) or *parere* (to bring forth or bear). The species *falciparum* in the genus *Plasmodium* is the parasite that causes malignant tertian malaria in humans.

There were many terms suggested for this parasite, such as *Ematozoo falciforme* by Antolisei and Angelini in 1890 and *Haematozoon falciforme* by Thayer and Hewetson in 1895, because of its sickle-shaped gametocytes, the sexual stage of *falciparum* parasites. However, the term *falciparum*, suggested by William Henry Welch in 1897, was eventually accepted. In 1954, *Plasmodium falciparum* (previously *Laverania malariae*) was approved by International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.



**Figure.** Giemsa-stained thin blood smear of *Plasmodium falciparum* (original magnification  $\times 1,000$ ). Red arrows indicate gametocytes, and green arrows indicate trophozoite stages. Photograph provided by A. Tiwari.

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