

NOTE ON HAEMATOZOA OBSERVED IN A BAT AND THE
OCCURRENCE OF ACANTHIA PIPISTRELLI JENYNS IN
SOUTH AFRICA.

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SOME months ago a bat flew into my house at Grahamstown and was captured. Unfortunately the animal was fatally injured. It was placed in a tobacco-box and on opening the box next day a lively insect like a common bed-bug (*Acanthia lectularia*) and emitting a similar odour was found in the fur behind the bat's neck. The bug was sent to Mr C. W. Mally, M. Sc., Entomologist to the Eastern Province, for identification and he kindly determined the species as being *Acanthia pipistrelli* Jenyns, adding that the specimen agreed very well with the description given by Jenyns¹. Mr Mally wrote, "In the absence of the Northern specimens of this species I cannot express an opinion as to varietal characters. This specimen is of especial importance because there is apparently no record of its occurrence in these parts, nor has the species of bat in connection with which it was first discovered been found at the Cape." Through the kind intermediation of Mr Mally the bat was forwarded to Professor Duerdin of the Rhodes University, who determined the species to be *Vespertilio capensis*, "The Cape Serotine Bat." Prof. Duerdin states it is "apparently one of the commonest of South African bats, but we do not seem to have many."

Prior to replacing the bat in the box, as stated above, two blood films were prepared on the only two slides I had at my disposal. I did not have an opportunity of staining them until several days later, when,

¹ See description in Jenyns (1839), *Ann. Nat. Hist.*, III. 241—244; republished by Osborn, H. (1896), "Insects affecting Domestic Animals." Bulletin No. 5, n.s., U.S. Dept. Agricult., Division of Entomol., Washington, D. C.

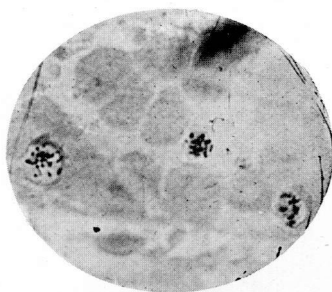


Fig. 1.

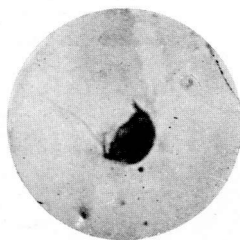


Fig. 2.

Thos. Bowhill phot.

using a modification of the Romanowsky method, I detected haematozoa in the blood films, the parasites lying both inside and outside of the red blood corpuscles. The intracorpuseular parasites (Plate III. Fig. 1) were coarsely pigmented and appeared to resemble those described by Dionisi as occurring in Italian bats. The extracorpuseular parasites were trypanosoma-like in structure (Fig. 2), the protoplasm stained purple and showed darker staining ridge-like markings, a reddish staining portion, lying posteriorly, apparently represented the nucleus. In one parasite there appeared to be a long and a short flagellum present. The parasites unfortunately could not be studied further from lack of material, nevertheless it appears of interest to place the observation on record. (Photo-micrographs $\times 1000$.)