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| **RING** |  |  |
| **Plasmodium species** | **Appearance of Erythrocyte (RBC)** | **Appearance of Parasite** |
| P. falciparum | normal; multiple infection of RBC more common than in other species; Maurer’s clefts (under certain staining conditions) | delicate cytoplasm; 1 to 2 small chromatin dots; occasional appliqué (accolé) forms |
| P. vivax | normal to 1.25x, round; occasionally fine Schüffner’s dots; multiple infection of RBC not uncommon | large cytoplasm with occasional pseudopods; large chromatin dot |
| P. ovale | normal to 1.25x, round to oval; occasionally Schüffner’s dots; occasionally fimbriated; multiple infection of RBC not uncommon | sturdy cytoplasm; large chromatin |
| P. malariea | normal to 0.75x | sturdy cytoplasm; large chromatin |
| P. knowlesi | normal to 0.75x; multiple infection not uncommon. | delicate cytoplasm; 1 to 2 prominent chromatin dots; occasional appliqué (accolé) forms |
| **TROPHOZOITE** |  |  |
| P. falciparum | normal; rarely, Maurer’s clefts (under certain staining conditions) | seldom seen in peripheral blood; compact cytoplasm; dark pigment |
| P. vivax | enlarged 1.5 to 2x; may be distorted; fine Schüffner’s dots | large amoeboid cytoplasm; large chromatin; fine, yellowish-brown pigment |
| P. ovale | normal to 1.25x; round to oval; some fimbriated; Schüffner’s dots | compact with large chromatin; dark-brown pigment |
| P. malariea | normal to 0.75x; rarely, Ziemann’s stippling (under certain staining conditions) | compact cytoplasm; large chromatin; occasional band forms; coarse, dark-brown pigment |
| P. knowlesi | normal to 0.75x; rarely, Sinton and Mulligan’s stippling (under certain staining conditions) | compact cytoplasm; large chromatin; occasional band forms; coarse, dark-brown pigment |