



C68*: Pathology of Haematozoan Parasites in Birds from Southeast Queensland

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A survey conducted in Southeast Queensland, Australia revealed that 22% of the 499 birds collected were positive for some sort of blood parasite; 13.6% harboured *Leucocytozoon*, most often in very low numbers, and *Haemoproteus* and *Plasmodium* were detected in 5.4 and 4.4%, respectively. Correlations were found between poor body condition and the intensity of haematozoa as well as between parasitaemia and anaemia. Schizonts were found in tissues of a third (n = 34) of all gametocyte positive birds. *Leucocytozoon* schizonts in cardiac muscle and kidney were found to be associated with significant pathology in two corvids and severe pathology was caused by unidentified schizonts in cardiac and skeletal muscle of two more Pied Currawongs. *Leucocytozoon* schizonts were suspected to have had pathologic effects on two Southern Figbirds (*Sphecotheres viridis*) and one Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*), as were *Haemoproteus* schizonts in lung tissue of one Domestic Pigeon (*Columba livia*).