
A small bat, Vesperugo pipistrellus, was discovered flitting about on the lawn behind my house in a dull and seemingly non-purposive fashion. It was mid-day of July 7th of the present year, and the sun was bright and hot. The bat finally alighted upon a high wall, and was secured. It was found to be injured. There was a wound through the skin of the abdominal wall, which was bleeding. Smears were made, and dried rapidly in the air; later fixed by methylic alcohol and stained by Giemsa's solution.

Examination of the films revealed the presence of a small trypanosome. The parasites were not numerous. The trypanosome is smaller than the T. lewisi, and the majority of the organisms were much curved, and had evidently been fixed suddenly during their rapid movements. I estimate the entire length of the parasite to be less than 20 μ (18–19 μ). The flagellum is not longer than the body of the parasite, and can be readily traced, as in other trypanosomes, as commencing in the centrosome at the posterior end of the parasite.
Presence of a Trypanosome in an Irish Bat.

centrosome, about 0.8 μ in diameter, appears to vary in shape. Sometimes it is a small circular body, or an irregular triangle with rounded angles, or a plano-convex lens, the plane surface being towards the nucleus. The nucleus is oval, and measures 3.5 μ along its greater diameter; the chromatin is granular and stains purple, the granules being somewhat elongated and numerous. The undulating membrane is distinct. The posterior extremity of the parasite is pointed; the body stains bluish, with lighter irregular-sized roundish areas quite light or unstained. The red blood corpuscles of the pipistrelle have a transverse measurement of from 6 to 7 μ.

Examined in fresh condition, the parasite moves rapidly in the usual manner, coiling and uncoiling and lashing the flagellum wildly too and fro. It does not appear to be so active as the trypanosome of N’gana nor that of the rat, and there was little difficulty in observing the different parts of the parasite in the living state with a 2 mm. apochromatic oil immersion lens. I am not able to say if the parasite is pathogenic, nor am I able to say if it resembles one or other of the trypanosomes described by the Messrs. Sergent in the Vespertilio kuhli captured in Tunis. I did not observe any spirochaetes, such as those described by Nicolle and Compte as present in the same species—young animals also captured in Tunis. Dionisi found trypanosomes in a bat in Italy—Minocopterus schreibersii, and the trypanosomes are present in animals also harbouring parasites in the red blood corpuscles. Testi and Sambon have also seen them in Italian bats. Durham records their presence in small bats of the genus Phyllostoma of Brazil; and Donovan has seen them in the large fruit-eating bat of the country around Madras—the Pteropus medius. Battaglis observed trypanosomes in the Vespertilio noctula in Italy, two out of six examined; Petrie, at Elstree in Herts, found them in the Pipistrellus pipistrellus, three out of eight; Kisskalt, at Giessen in Germany, out of forty specimens of Vesperugo pipistrellus, found trypanosomes in five. Bettencourt and França, examining the bats in Portugal, found the parasites in Vesperugo pipistrellus, two