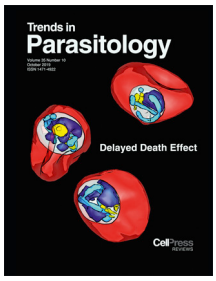
Trends in Parasitology

October 2019, Volume 35, Number 10, pp. 741–850

Parasite of the Month



On The Cover: Since its discovery 25 years ago, the apicoplast has served as a safe and productive drug target in apicomplexan parasites due to its prokaryotic origin. However, the chemical inhibitors of apicoplast housekeeping functions often kill parasites in a slow "delayed" manner, which limits their drug application potential. In this issue of *Trends in Parasitology*, Kennedy *et al*. review the current understanding of the possible mechanisms behind this delayed death effect. The cover image, provided by Kit Kennedy and based on slice-and-view reconstruction by Kit Kennedy and Eric Hanssen, is a rendering of *Plasmodium* parasites in red blood cells experiencing delayed death with colored nuclei (blue), cytostomal invaginations (light blue) and defective digestive vacuoles (yellow). The loss of a functional apicoplast in these parasites disrupts their capacity to feed on their host red blood cells, starving the parasites within.

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