



Johann van As completed his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at the Department Zoology and Entomology on the University of the Free State's Bloemfontein Campus. Ten years ago, he started lecturing at the University of the Free State's QwaQwa campus, while he was busy with his Ph.D. research. He received his Ph.D. on blood parasites of lizards of the Eastern Free State in 2012, establishing himself in this field, with specific regards to elucidating the life cycles of these parasites. He founded the haemoparasite biology research group on the QwaQwa campus, which is mainly focused on finding and describing blood parasites in reptile and avian hosts from afro-montane habitats in Free State and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces. Work from this research group has already contributed towards the biodiversity of apicomplexan parasites with the discovery of two new afro-montane haemogregarine species that have been described in the blood of a high altitude lizard *Pseudocordylus langi* at the top of the Drakensberg (see Van As et al., 2013). The new discovery of a complete life cycle as well as the description of another new blood parasite species from the blood of *Pseudocordylus melanotus* and *Pseudocordylus subviridis* lizards from afro-montane Free State resulted from his efforts (see Van As et al., 2015). A new malaria species (*Plasmodium intabazwe*) was also discovered and described in the blood of these afro-montane cordylids (Van As et al, 2016 in press). Most recently the use of a handheld thermal imaging device have been implemented, striving for a more comprehensive collection method of cryptic and camouflaged reptile hosts. This research has established firm collaborations with other experts in his field, particularly with colleagues at the North West University.

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J. Van As, A.J. Davies and N.J. Smit. 2013. [Hepatozoon langii n. sp. and Hepatozoon vacuolatus n. sp. \(Apicomplexa: Adeleorina:Hepatozoidae\) from the crag lizard \(Sauria: Cordylidae\) Pseudocordylus langi from the North Eastern Drakensberg escarpment, Eastern Free State, South Africa](#). Zootaxa 5: 345-356