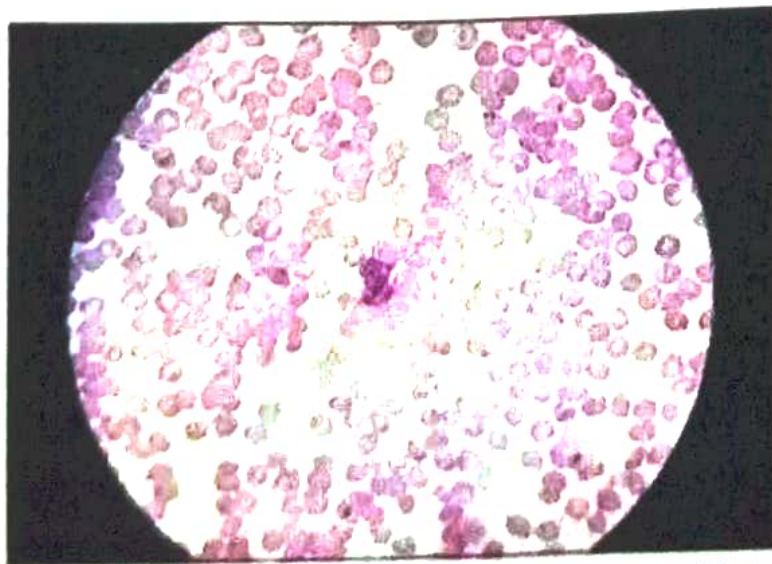


Malaria clue

■ Scientists have uncovered a crucial weakness in the malaria parasite that could open the door to new treatments. Researchers at the University of Nottingham, UK, identified a protein called Aurora-related kinase 1 (ARK1). It acts like a traffic controller during the parasite's cell division process, ensuring its genetic material separates properly as it multiplies. When scientists switched off ARK1 in experiments, the parasite could no longer replicate correctly and failed to complete its life cycle in both humans and mosquitoes — effectively halting its ability to spread.

AGENCIES



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