

## It's bug eat bug in malaria war

IT IS the competitive nature of malaria parasites that makes the disease so deadly, scientists revealed yesterday.

A study by the University of Edinburgh has uncovered a 'dog-eat-dog world', where the most ruthless parasites fight off weaker rivals. The laboratory-based

study, published in the Proceedings Of The National Academy Of Sciences, confirms that 'nicer', less virulent strains – which would be less harmful to humans – are crushed by rivals. Prof Andrew Read, of the University of Edinburgh's School of Biological Sciences, said: 'It is

like the worst outcome of an unregulated free market, with the nastiest parasites crushing the nice guys. Parasites kill us, not because it's us against them, but because it's them against them. 'We have shown that such competition favours parasites that make hosts sicker.'