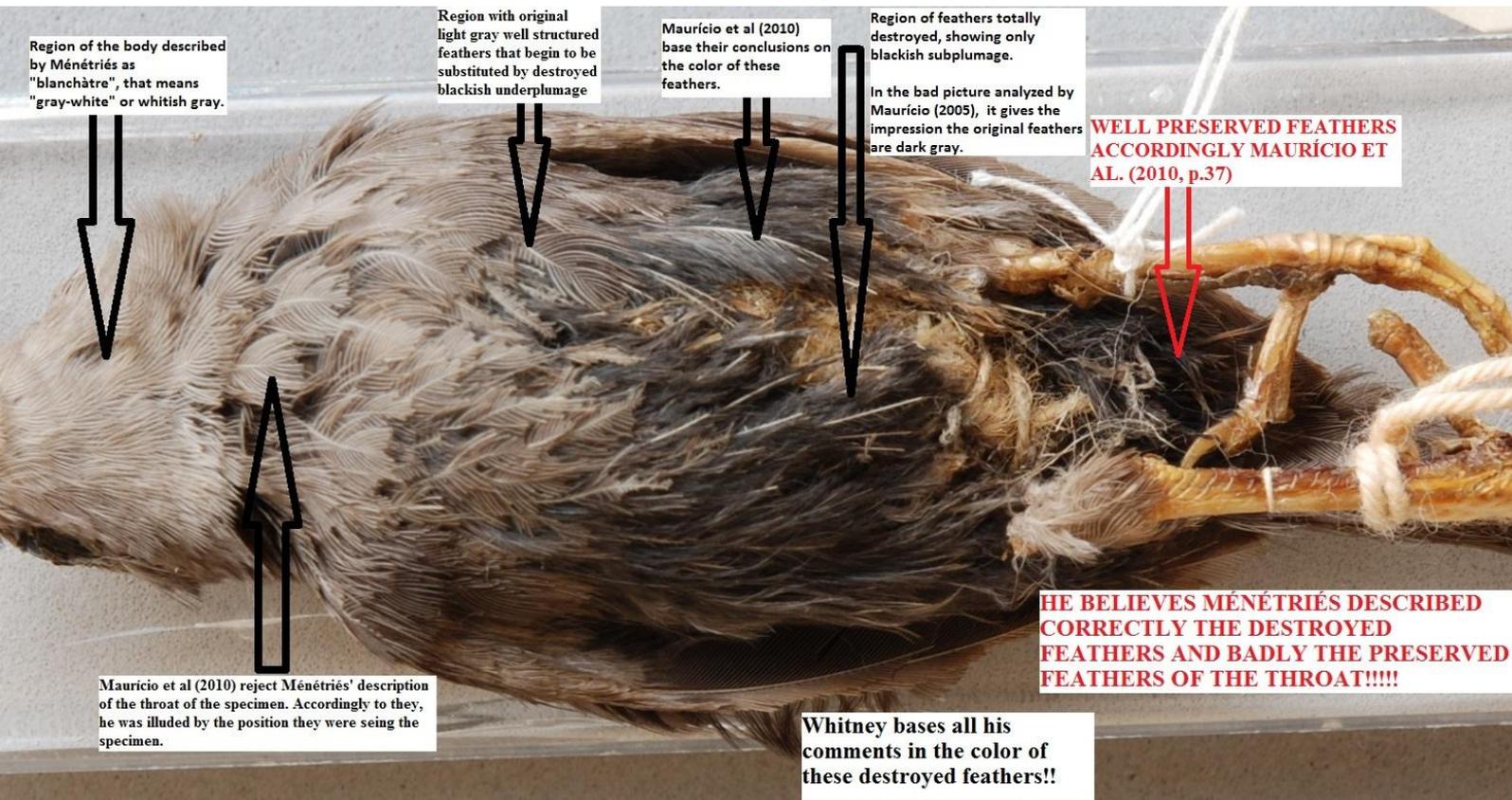


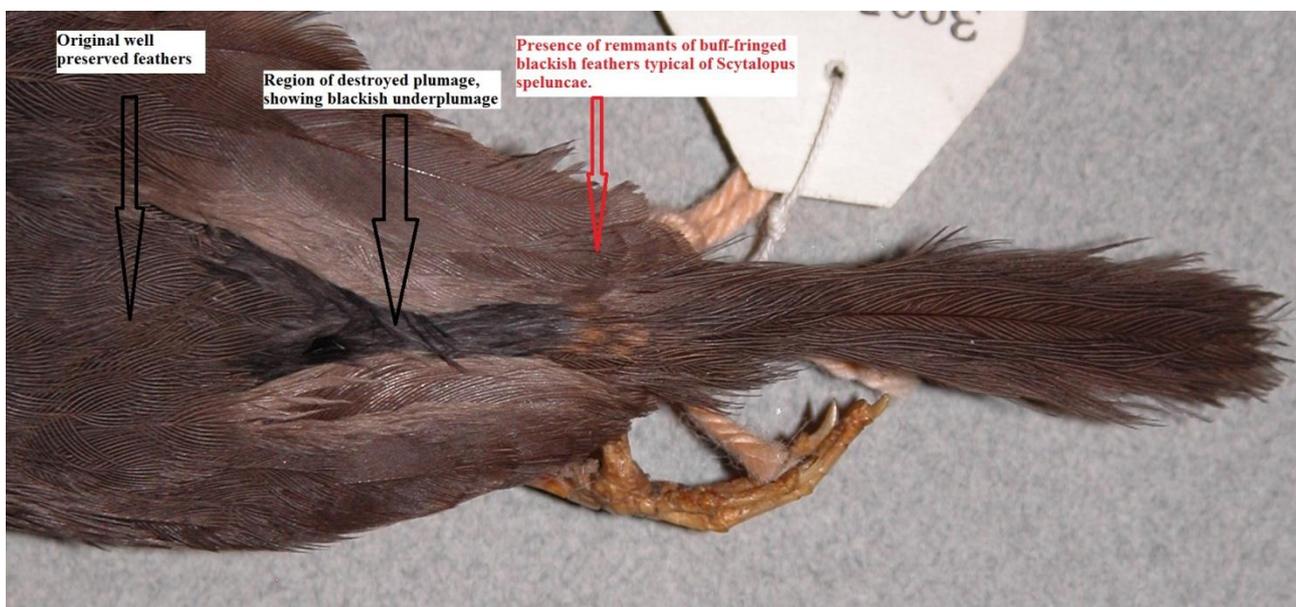
WHAT IS SCIENTIFIC HERE?

I can't be more didactic than this ok? If you are a scientist, you must understand this simple explanation. I will here respond to the central question raised by Whitney. The question he considers so difficult is: **"please explain to everyone, Guilherme and Marcos, how Menetries managed to fail to see and describe the conspicuously barred flanks and why we should all believe that he was immune to common human error, alright? Remember, we already know that made some pretty boldfaced mistakes..."** (Whitney to everybody some days ago).

The answer is: Ménériés did not described the abdominal area in his description, simply, because it was not intact enough to be described. But we all must agree that no artist would opt by describe a destroyed venter... so, the artist simply made his job and described it, parsimoniously, gray. Is it difficult to understand? I would do the same if I were a painter, wont you?



However, our careful examination of the specimen (wich is realy a little foxy, but little...) showed that it still has some buff-barred blackish feathers (Figures bellow). The funny thing is that Whitney's hypothesis is based in feathers that do not exist. At the same time, he rejects the description (of all who analyzed the holotype) of the feathers that do exist!



Without analysing the type, Mauricio, Whitney and Pacheco claim this is dark gray, contra Ménétrés (whitish gray "blancâtre"), Loskot (the curator), Raposo, Stopiglia and Guy Kirwan

REGION WHERE WELL PRESERVED FEATHERS ARE SUBSTITUTED BY DESTROYED FEATHERS

THE FEW ABDOMINAL FEATHERS WITH MINIMALLY PRESERVED STRUCTURE STILL PRESENTS THE BUFF-FRINGED BLACKISH PATTERN

Maurício et al. (2010, p. 37, first paragraph) claim these feathers (right flank) are well preserved. From this conviction they speculatively estimate the specimen is an adult male which retained young features in adult plumage.

Our own analysis of the destroyed abdominal feathers revealed the presence of the diagnostic buff-fringed blackish feathers (visible above) in a distribution perfectly compatible with those of the topotypes. The holotype's tone of gray is something between the specimen 1 and 2 (both from SãoJoão del Rei vicinities) bellow. Compare with a typical *S. notorius* (3). Ok, I agree that the picture of *S. notorius* is a little darker than it is in reality. That's why we should not trust that much in pictures when analyzing tapaculos...



Holotype of *Scytalopus notorius* from the "Nova Friburgo, Rio de Janeiro"

Maurício et al. (2010) searched in the distribution of this species, light specimens which had buff-fringed rump. They found some light gray (9% alleged) specimens and some buff-fringed specimens (27% alleged) but found no specimens with both character states.



In Mauricio (2005), the author states that all few buff-fringed blackish adult male of *Scytalopus notorius* (he called it *S. speluncae*) were typically dark gray.