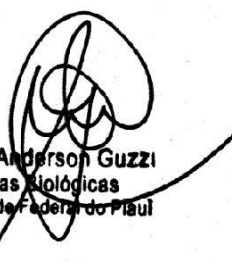




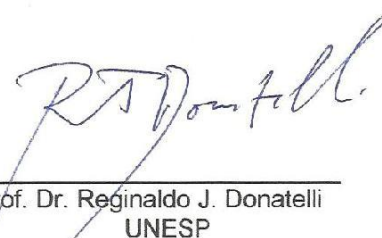
Declaration

We declare that the authors of the manuscript "Comparative cranial osteology of the genus *Sclerurus* (Aves, Scleruridae)" have not any conflict of interests regarding the manuscript; and we declare that:

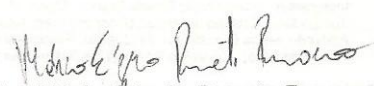
- a- the document is original and all coauthors agree with its publication;
- b- we meet our ethical requirement;
- c- the manuscript presents the description of the cranial osteology of *Sclerurus*, a leaf-tosser from Neotropical region. The cranial osteology is compared among other species of the same genus and also with other birds. The development of some cranial structures may be related to the behavior of digging nests in earthen banks; the narrowing of the caudal portion of the nostril allows for the greater mobility of the superior maxilla, which is utilized by *Sclerurus* when foraging in soft substrates on the grounds of Neotropical forests;
- d- that we agree to pay excess page fee charges if required;
- e- names and e-mail addresses of three possible reviewers: 1. Prof. Dr. Sérgio Roberto Posso (srposso@hotmail.com); 2. Profa. Dra. Márcia Cristina Pascotto (mcpascot@hotmail.com); 3. : Profa. Dra. Carolina Demétrio Ferreira (fdcarol@gmail.com).



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