Dear Editor,

We read with interest the paper by TABORDA et al. “Constitutive melanin in the cell wall of the etiologic agent of Lobo’s disease”, recently published in the Revista do Instituto de Medicina Tropical de São Paulo.

The authors investigated the presence of melanin in *P. loboi* and *P. brasiliensis*, using the Fontana-Masson stain, and reported that *P. loboi* contains constitutive melanine as opposed to *P. brasiliensis*.

However some authors have looked at melaninogenesis in *Cryptococcus neoformans* and have concluded that silver-reducing compounds in the fungal cell wall, as demonstrated by the Fontana-Masson technique, are unlikely to be melanin. They may be catecholamine oxidation products, which do not undergo postenzymatic polymerization to form typical eumelanin.

Therefore we wonder whether the data on the *in vivo* production of melanin by *P. loboi* should not be reviewed.

REFERENCES


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