
Vegetal and zoomorphic decorations on hard animal materials in the Iberian Iron age

false* , Marta Blasco-Martín*^{†1}, Consuelo Mata-Parreño¹, Lucía Soria-Combadiera², Mercedes Fuentes-Albero¹, and Eva Collado-Mataix¹

¹Departament de Prehistòria, Arqueologia i Història Antiga, Universitat de València (Depaha UV) – Espagne

²Departamento de Historia, Universidad de Castilla la Mancha – Espagne

Résumé

Research of vegetal and zoomorphic decorative motifs documented on artefacts made on hard animal materials in the Iberian Culture (s. VI – s. I BC).

Within the industry on hard animal materials stand out the objects without decoration over the decorated ones and, in this second group, we can highlight the geometrical motifs. However, there are a series of artefacts that present figurative motifs, overall, hairpins with bird-shape or canine-shape head and combs and plates of bone and ivory with different vegetal and zoomorphic decorations.

On the other side, the Iberian anthropomorphic decorations are almost non-existent, contrary to what it has been documented in other periods and cultures (for example: hard animal materials industry in Roman times). In some way, the most *human* representations that we find on this kind of objects are epigraphic inscriptions and nevertheless we only know three of these artefacts: two bone hairpins, one from la Peña de las Majadas (El Toro, Castellón) and other from Alto Chacón (Teruel), and one box or small container made of antler from El Puntal dels Llops (Olocau, Valencia).

Consequently, in this investigation we want to think about the presence and absence of figurative motifs represented on these objects made on hard animal materials in the Iberian culture, pretending to answer several questions: Can it be documented a chronological evolution? Do the same motifs appear represented on bone, antler and ivory artefacts as they do in the objects made in other raw materials like clay, metal or stone? Are they singular pieces with other meanings the ones that are decorated with these motifs? Are they objects and decorations typical Iberian or are we talking about artefacts with influences from other Mediterranean cultures, or brought to Iberian Peninsula through trading exchanges?

Mots-Clés: Bone industry, Ivory, Decorative motifs, epigraphy, Iron Age, Iberian culture

*Intervenant

[†]Auteur correspondant: marta.blasco@uv.es