

Table A4.2. Quantity and percentage of figurine/whistles in each broad category*.

Category	Ejutla	Mitla Fortress	El Palmillo low status	El Palmillo high status	El Palmillo ballcourt	Lambityeco
modeled animal	91	34	69	39	2	125
miniature anthropomorphic	110	58	112	90	5	135
female #1 (braided headdress)	217	26	17	23	1	213
female #2 (intricate headdress)	4	6	6	7	–	405
female #3 (small crossed arms)	2	13	3	2	–	127
male/warrior	417	138	62	110	16	370
whistle (small)	50	74	12	29	1	209
whistle (large globular)	52	32	62	45	1	2018
total	943	381	343	345	26	3602
modeled animal	9.7%	8.9%	20.2%	11.3%	7.7%	3.5%
miniature anthropomorphic	11.7%	15.2%	32.7%	26.1%	19.2%	3.7%
female #1 (braided headdress)	23.0%	6.8%	5.0%	6.7%	3.8%	5.9%
female #2 (intricate headdress)	0.4%	1.6%	1.8%	2.0%	–	11.2%
female #3 (small crossed arms)	0.2%	3.4%	0.9%	0.6%	–	3.5%
male/warrior	44.2%	36.2%	18.1%	31.9%	61.5%	10.3%
whistle (small)	5.3%	19.4%	3.5%	8.4%	3.8%	5.8%
whistle (large globular)	5.5%	8.4%	18.1%	13.0%	3.8%	56.0%

*percentages are based only on the number of figurines that could be classed to one of the eight categories.

is grooved, with a perforation on the edge that passes through the groove. There is often a second perforation near one of the ends, likely for stringing. Most of these whistles are made of ceramics, although a few in our collections were made of stone, including one from Ejutla. Although not a common artifact, these small whistles have been recovered from all four sites.

A4.3.8. Large Globular Whistles

These whistles have a large, globular, hollow body with a narrow neck into which a molded head has been inserted (Figure A4.10a; Martínez López and Winter 1994, figure 49; Sánchez Santiago 2005). Two fin-like vertical appliques are appended to the torso, one on each side in place of arms. The large whistles stand on two spike-like appliques at the base of the front of the body and a large slab-like tail on the back below the blow hole.

All of the headdresses have some kind of large feather representation, but several variants have additional imagery of bats/owls, snakes/jaws of snake, and jaguars. Within each of these principal variants is a wide range of portrayals of the animals. Whistles categorized as having a feathered headdress either have no animal representation beyond feathers or simply were too fragmentary to know (Figure A4.10b).

The bat or owl face is stylized in different manners but is usually placed above the figure's forehead in the center of the headdress (Figure A4.10c). There is typically a tuft of

feathers above the bird's face and feathers that fan out on either side.

Fauces de serpiente (jaws of snakes) representations are very common and variable, but they typically occur in a central cartouche in the headdress above the forehead of the figure (Figure A4.10d). In many of these whistles, there is some representation of a jaguar, often just the nose, above the cartouche. The cartouche is usually ensconced in or situated above sets of curving lappets that drape down the sides of the forehead, with large feathers above the lappets and surrounding the cartouche.

Jaguars are prominently displayed in another whistle headdress variant (Figure A4.10e–f). Typically, a complete jaguar face, snarling with teeth visible, sits in the center of the headdress above the forehead of the figure. There are large feathers to the sides and the top of the jaguar. The stylization of the jaguar face is variable, but one specific whistle headdress stands out for its large size and specific imagery. In this variant, the jaguar face is centered between a lappet that contains the symbol for 1 Jaguar on the left and a stylized snake face and reptilian eye on the right (Figure A4.10f). This is the largest headdress in our collections, with a width of 16 cm.

A4.4. Interpretation and Discussion

A central goal in broadly classifying the figurines in our collections and looking at contextual differences in their distribution is to elucidate behavioral patterns.