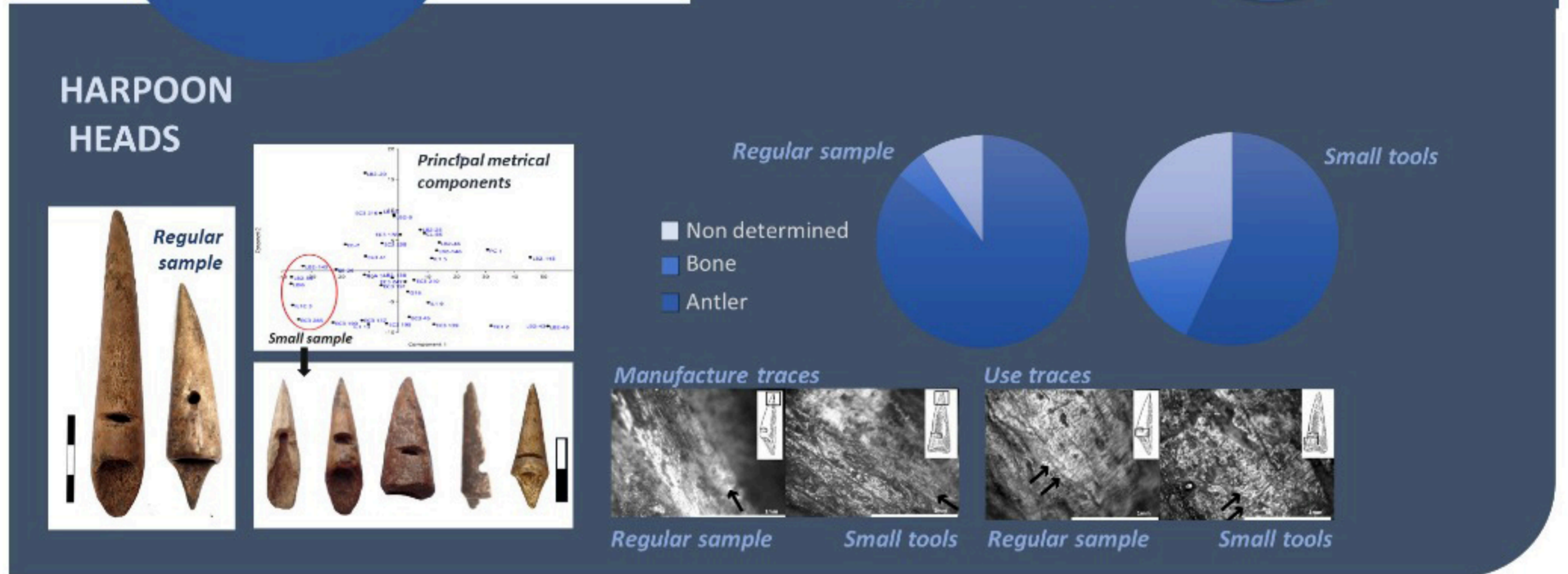
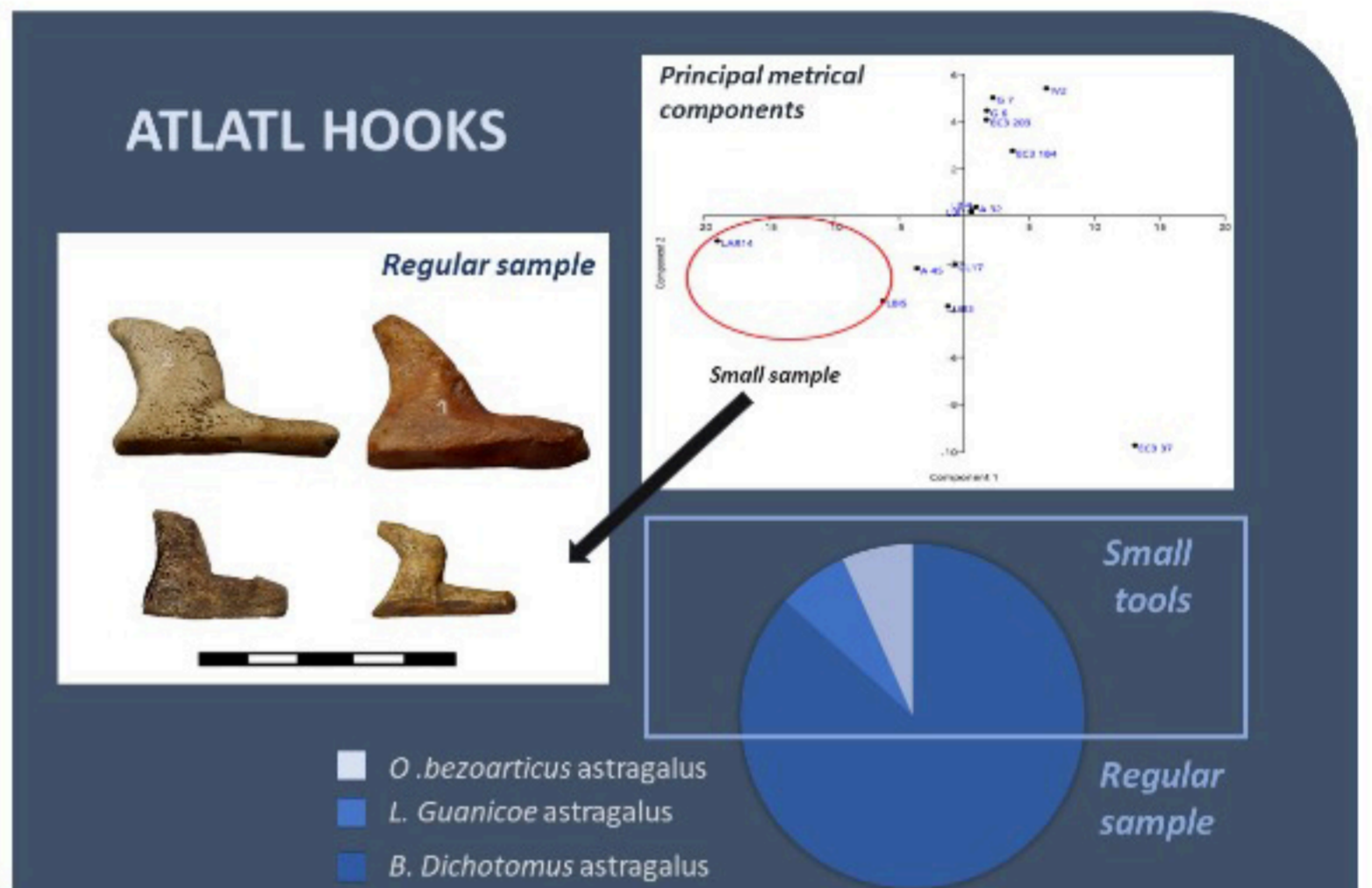


SMALL TOOLS ON BONE RAW MATERIAL. HUNTER-GATHERER ASSEMBLAGE FROM THE LOW PARANÁ WETLAND

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Within the artifactual assemblage of late Holocene (~1100 years BP) hunter-gatherers in the Paraná wetland, small lithic spheroids, shell labrets, atlatl hooks, and harpoon heads were discovered. The aim of this paper is to evaluate the role of the small bone tools in relation with standard sample through the comparison of their metrical, physical and microscopical structures.



Small harpoons and atlatls **maintain properties similar** to regular tools in terms of manufacturing guidelines and use traces. As a result, we dismiss the small tools as products made by novice technicians. However, **differences are noted in the raw materials used**, which follows a common pattern observed among ethnographic toys where less expensive or readily available raw materials are preferred (Kamp, Whittaker 2020; Politis 1998). Gameplay plays a fundamental role in child development, serving as an adaptive characteristic that promotes exploration and enables young individuals to experiment and emulate adult activities (Riede et al. 2023 and examples cited therein). The use of certain toys, such as small weapons, promotes learning and the acquisition of knowledge and skills necessary for subsistence (see Lew-Levy 2017; Riede et al. 2023). It is likely that most of the small-scale weapons analyzed here were made by adults (or reclaimed from larger assemblage) for use by young individuals. Our interpretations represent an initial approach to discussing the presence of children in Late Holocene hunter-gatherer societies of the Low Paraná wetland.

Kids?



References: KAMP, WHITTAKER 2020 Weaponry and Children: Technological and Social Trajectories. In: Rebay-Salisbury, Pany-Kucera, *Ages and Abilities...* Archaeopress/LEW-LEVY ET AL 2017 How Do Hunter-Gatherer Children Learn Subsistence Skills?. *Hum Nat* 28:367–394/ POLITIS 1998 Arqueología de la Infancia. *Trabajos de Prehistoria* 55(2):5-19/ RIEDE ET AL 2023 Toys as Teachers. *J Archaeol Method Theory*.