The most well-known Egyptian Predynastic hairpin is characterised by a circular-section rod with a point at one end and decoration at the other. During the process of searching and studying materials that led to her doctoral thesis, the author of this paper became aware of the existence of objects in museum collections and academic publications with similar characteristics, i.e. pins with a pointed end and topped with figurative decoration, but with flat lanceolate shaped bodies; these pins were found in burials, usually very close to the body of the deceased.

Egyptological literature provides different interpretations on them. Some archaeological reports and museum catalogues classify these objects as spatulas. However, William M. F. Petrie—already in the early twentieth century—as well as Joan C. Payne and Edward Brovarski, already proposed their identification as “flat hairpins” and analyzed them together with other hairpins. In order to resolve these two different interpretations, various possibilities regarding its functionality were evaluated. For this purpose, the presence of similar instruments in ethnoar-