

1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Yabarana (aka Yauarana, Yawarana) [1] today they mainly speak Spanish and Piaroa; Carib [3]
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): yar [1]
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Amazonas, Manapiare River basin, above San Juan de Manapiare [1] (north central Venezuela) [2]
- 1.4 Brief history: “although linguistic, cultural, and historical specifics place the group within the broader Carib-speaking family, contemporary Yabarana are the product of ethnogenesis that led to the merging of neighbors and refugees. Depopulation as a result of foreign diseases (measles), slave raiding by ancient Caribs, and changes in native leadership structure as a response to the colonial situation, transformed indigenous villages and work patterns as forest crop extractors, missionaries, and government officials penetrated the region. Also many were relocated during the rubber boom. Consequently, most Yabarana only have a fragmentary knowledge of their former ritual practices and elaborate oral tradition.” [7]
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: “Government- condoned ranching in Yabarana territory turned many of the fields of corn and yucca that members use for subsistence into grazing ground for cattle. The Yabarana petitioned the courts and government agencies but were not successful in having the cattle removed.” [2]
- “The Yabarana suffered demographic and economic shocks during the rubber boom period: some subgroups were coerced into debt-peonage extractive labor while others fled the collection zones and hid from the rubber bosses and their gangs. Other indigenous and nonindigenous groups have moved into this region, especially during the past 50 years, and the Yabarana have experienced a high degree of interethnic marriage and diffusion of foreign cultural elements.” [3]
- “A businessman from Caracas, Herman Zing (who was involved in a previous land dispute with the Piaroa) has also built a luxury tourist camp, ranch and airstrip near the Yabarana village of Corobita. Tourists are flown in directly from Caracas. The Yabarana have been barred from the land he has claimed, which they have always used for hunting, in order for the tourists to enjoy nature walks and hunt jaguar.” [6]
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: 35 (1977) [1] “According to written as well as oral history, the land area currently occupied by the Yabarana is considered to be their ancestral territory but both the population as well as their geographical range has been reduced during the last three centuries of colonization and state expansion.” [3]

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): agriculture [5] “The main economic activities include shifting cultivation, fishing, hunting, collection of nontimber forest products, cattle ranching, and occasional placer gold mining.” [3] “Slash and burn horticulture is practiced, bitter manioc is the staple crop. Some gathering of wild foods (like palm fruits) is practiced.” [7]
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: hunting [5] fishing and hunting [7]
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Hunting was done traditionally with blowguns, spears, and traps for big and small game. Hunting has decreased as population of animals decreases.” [7]
- 2.4 Food storage:
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: men normally hunt, women help with smaller species. Both men and women use fishhooks and participate in “barbasco” (fish poison) hunting trips. Males typically use bows and arrows and harpoons to fish. Men collect wild honey by smoking the bees out of their hives. [7]
- 2.6 Land tenure:
- 2.7 Ceramics:
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Food taboos:
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):
- 4. Life History, mating, marriage**
- 4.1 Age at menarche (f):
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f):
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Bride service was traditional and today sons-in-laws may perform a modified version, where they work during the week at a job but on weekends perform tasks (usually household repairs/labor) for their wife's family. [7]

4.9 Inheritance patterns:

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: ? "Yabarana parents are adamant about the need for couples to support their offspring. Recalcitrant sons-in-laws and daughters-in-law are relentlessly chastised, particularly by mothers-in-law. [7]

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape

4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): "Cross-cousin marriage was customary and remains an accepted practice, although it is difficult with the small population to find a spouse." [7]

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females

4.22 Evidence for couvades

4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect

4.24 Joking relationships?

4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations

4.26 Incest avoidance rules

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?

4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?

4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) Preferred to be inside the community with another native speaker, but low population sometimes prohibits. Piaroa-Yabarana marriages are most common. [7]

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):

4.18 Cannibalism?

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): "Most live along the banks of the Parucito River in villages with a male leader or in the town of San Juan de Manapiare." [4]

5.4 Post marital residence: "Family structure is fluid and most nuclear family units include one or more near relatives, at least on a temporary basis. Extended families were custom in the past." [7]

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

5.8 Village and house organization:

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:

5.12 Trade:

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6 Time allocation to RCR:

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): "The Yabarana no longer have shamans, although some have knowledge about medicinal plants and a handful know how to perform love magic and other rituals. When shamans are needed, (for example, a person gets sick because the master of an animal species took revenge for some breach) they seek out shamans from other tribes. If it is an affliction deemed curable by Western medicine, they are not opposed to treating that way." [7]

6.2 Stimulants:

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Burial: "Secondary burials, or the transfer of the bones of a dead person after an interval of time to a second place of interment was widespread east of the Andes. The bones were (typically in Venezuelan Caribs) destroyed by fire or thrown into a river. [8]

6.4 Other rituals:

6.5 Myths (Creation): “Their oral tradition attribute the makeup of the world as we know it to the actions of various characters, in particular the brothers Mayowasa and Ochi, and their adventures. [7]

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

6.8 Missionary effect: “Most believe in a universe populated by a variety of spirit beings even when they profess some knowledge of Christianity. Most Yabarana do not attend Catholic mass, though there is a mission and school in their town. Most complete only basic schooling.” [7]

6.9 RCR revival:

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint:

7.2 Piercings:

7.3 Haircut:

7.4 Scarification:

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

7.8 Missionary effect:

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system:

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

9.1 The Yabarana’s political participation has increased not only because of land tenancy disputes, but because Venezuela’s 1999 Constitution grants them unprecedented rights. One of San Juan de Manapiere’s recent mayors, Benjamín Pérez, is partly Yabarana and identifies strongly with the group. [7]

Numbered references

1. Ethnologue - http://www.ethnologue.org/show_language.asp?code=yar
2. <http://news.rootsweb.com/th/read/MEXICAN-INDIAN/2006-03/1142136983>
3. Vitality Index of Traditional Environmental Knowledge:
<http://www.terralingua.org/projects/vitek/pilot.htm>
4. H. James Birx. Encyclopedia of Anthropology. <http://www.sage-reference.com/abstract/anthropology/n941.xml>
5. Native Planet:
http://www.nativeplanet.org/indigenous/ethnicdiversity/latinamerica/venezuela/indigenous_data_venezuela_yabarana.shtml
6. Planeta: <http://www.planeta.com/planeta/95/1195ven.html>
7. Giordani, Lourdes. Birx, H. James. *Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Sage Publishing, Thousand Oaks, CA, 2006.
8. Leach, Maria, and Jerome Fried. *Standard Dictionary of Folklore: Mythology and Legend*. New York, NY: Funk and Wagnalls, 1972.