

1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Maquiritari, Southern Carib {1}
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): mch
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): +7° 36' 34.54", -64° 54' 52.18" {2}
- 1.4 Brief history: May have been contacted as early as 1750. Most contact was actually very peaceful, until rubber tappers came to the area and they had to move. Then they moved into Yanomamo territory and conflict ensued. Then they migrated again to where we find them today. They have resisted many of the urban advances basically because they believe that their way is best. {6}
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:
- 1.6 Ecology:
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: 5,520 in Venezuela (2001 census). Population total all countries: 5,950. {5} Ethnic population: 6,523 {1} Mean village size in 1971: 100. The villages are spread out by and around rivers and there are about 30 {7}

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): bitter manioc is the main staple, but they also cultivate sweet manioc bananas, pineapple, sugar cane, chili peppers, squash, sweet potatoes, tobacco {6}
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: agouti, wild boar, deer, capybara, paca, armadillo, caiman, tortoise, and birds {6}
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Blowguns, bows and arrows, spears, curare poison, dogs, machetes {6}
- 2.4 Food storage:
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Women do all of the gardening and house maintenance, while men are solely responsible for hunting. The only thing they are allowed to do together is fish, but men must use bows and arrows/ spears, and women must use nets {6}
- 2.6 Land tenure: they are hunter gatherers and horticulturists, with gardens {6}
- 2.7 Ceramics:
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Food taboos:
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? Yes {3}

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: 10 – 20 Percent of marriages are polygynous
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns:
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): marrying-in to the community regularly enforced {6}
- 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 is greatly preferred {6}
- 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: .75:1 {7}
- 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? There are unrestrained, no physical avoidance, informal behavior with affections, and restrained authority relationships some degree of physical avoidance, formal behavior, presence of managerial authority, and a ban on joking
 - Unrestrained Male: father/son; elder brother/ younger brother; grandfather/ grandson
 - Unrestrained Female: mother/daughter; elder sister/younger sister; grandmother/ granddaughter
 - Restrained Male: mother/ son; elder sister/younger brother; grandmother/grandson; mother-in-law/son-in-law; father-in-law/ daughter-in-law
 - Restrained Female: father/ daughter; elder brother/ younger sister; grandfather/ granddaughter; father-in-law/daughter-in-law; mother-in-law/ son-in-law {7}

4.24 Joking relationships? There are unrestrained joking relationships and restrained joking relationships. Each have a very strict rules that govern who is included in those relationships.

Unrestrained Male: males cross-cousins, grandfather or classified grandson, classificatory brothers, wife, and wife's sister

Unrestrained Female: female cross-cousins, grandmother/ granddaughter, classificatory sisters, husband, and husband's brothers

Restrained Male: female cross-cousins, grandmother/granddaughter, or same generation

Restrained Female: male cross-cousins, grandfather/grandson, same generation {7}

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? Marriage usually goes unnoticed except for those that are intimately associated with the event {6}

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?)

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Siblings and cross-cousins of the same generation begin to devise marriages for their newborn children {7}

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: 100 {7}

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): No

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Headmen, deputy headman, Sr. and Jr. circles

5.4 Post marital residence:

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: they use the same word for village and house, which consists of a giant circular hut with an inner circle and sectioned off parts for individual families. Each one can hold between 40 – 100 people {6}

5.9 Specialized village structures (men's 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: Rituals are a part of everyday life, with some ceremonies being more important than others {7}

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): There are ritual specialists who are said to be ritual wealthy and have extensive knowledge about the different rituals, their uses, and when to do them {7}

6.2 Stimulants:

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):

6.4 Other rituals: There are beneficial and malevolent rituals, communal, private, or individual rituals. {7} Festival to commemorate a new garden {6}

6.5 Myths (Creation): The man and woman dreamed that God was dreaming about them. God was dreaming about them while singing and playing maracas, hidden behind the smoke snuff and feeling happy, but at the same time feeling some doubts. The Maquiritare knew that when God dreams about food, produce and provides food. If God dreams about life, produce fertility. The man and woman dreamed that God's dream big shiny egg appeared. Inside the egg danced, sang and celebrated because they wanted to be born soon. They dreamed that God's dream of happiness was stronger than the doubts that God could feel and while dreaming, creating and singing the read: "By breaking this egg will be born a man and a woman. And live and die together. But again and again born be born again and again they will. And I never cease to be born, because there is no death."

"And together we will live and die. But again and again born be born again and again they will." {4}

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): they are particularly known for their woven baskets, which they use for ceremonial as well as daily use. In fact a man cannot marry until he has learned to weave at least one basket for his bride to be, and after the initial marriage ceremony, they are not considered truly married until after he has woven a set of baskets for the wife to use. They also sing a lot, for ceremonial/ purifying purposes as well as individual/ daily use {6}

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

6.8 Missionary effect:

6.9 RCR revival:

- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? Yes, used by husband and wife after they have kids {7}
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: Yes. It was first introduced as a cure for menstruation. For the first one, the girl must go through 3 months fasting and isolation. Which marks the transition to womanhood. There is also painting done for the ceremony of a newborn {6}
- 7.2 Piercings:
- 7.3 Haircut: Bowl cut {6}
- 7.4 Scarification:
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): arm/wrist bands, beaded necklaces {6}
- 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.): Shares characteristics with both the Hawaiian and Iroquois system {7}

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

1. **Alternate names:** Cunuana, De'cuana, Maiongong, Maquiritai, Maquiritare, Pawana, Soto, Ye'cuana, Yekuana {1}
2. **Each person is said to have 6 souls: (internal) eye & heart, (external) moon, sun, water, and earth {6}**
3. **Knowledge of herbs is separated by the sex. Also there are some differences based on what the person does and may need a particular herb for {6}**
4. **A big part of their belief system is the idea of duality {6}**
5. **There are 7 major moral rules. Their violation brings upon the transgressor a reputation for being soto jono or "not a real person", which are people with bad tempers or uncontrolled jealousy, people who kill, people who are uncooperative, people who are stingy, people who engage in slander or unreasonable gossip, people who consciously provoke problems or disputes, and people (in the case of headmen or fathers-in-law) who make unreasonable demands on their subjects. {7}**

Numbered references

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6. To Weave and Sing: Art, Symbol, and Narrative in the South American Rain Forest by David Guss
7. Political Relations in a Tribal Society: A Study of the Ye'Cuana Indians of Venezuela by Arvelo-Jimenez