

1. Description

1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Guató, they speak Guato, of the Guato language family which is a part of the macro-je language group.

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): gta

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Historically, the Guato were found throughout the Pantanal Region of South America, which encompasses mostly parts of Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia. During the 19th century the Guato were the only group to be found living in the area of latitudes 16° 30' to 19° 00' south, longitudes 56° 30' to 58° 00' west.

1.4 Brief history: For the most part, the Guato were relatively unphased by outsiders and held their land until the 1940s and 1950s. Encroaching cattle ranchers and skin traders forced the greater Guato population out of their land and into more distant reaches of the Pantanal Region or the outskirts of towns in Mato Grosso.

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:

1.6 Ecology:

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: Currently (2008), the population of Guato is around 175 in Mato Grosso do sul and 195 in Mato Grosso. However, this table gives insight on how their population density has changed over the last couple centuries:

Year	Region	Population	Source
1809	Lake to west of the Paraguai river at 19° 12' south	30	Azara
1825 / 1829	Upper Paraguai	300	Florece
1847	Paraguai river from mouth of the Uberaba and along the São Lourenço from the mouth of the Cuiabá	400	Leverger
1848	Upper Paraguai, Ínsua, Paraguai-Mirim and São Lourenço	500	Ferreira
1894	Upper Paraguai	29	Koslowsky
1901	Ínsua Island	46	Schmidt
1978	Corumbá, Ínsua Island	220	Cruvinel
1984	Corumbá, Ínsua Island, Bolivia, São Lourenço, Pirigara, Vermelho, Miranda and Campo Grande rivers	383	Cardoso
1995	Ínsua Island, Corumbá, Cáceres, farms and villages from the Pantanal region	700	FUNAI/PCB AP
2000	São Lourenço/Perigara and Cuiabá rivers*	72	José da Silva
2008	Mato Grosso do Sul	175	Fusana
2008	Mato Grosso	195	Funasa

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): It's fairly unclear as to what the staple carbohydrate of the Guato is because although they practice agriculture, it is not very well documented. They supposedly grow maize, manioc, pumpkin, yam and banana. They also gather wild rice and fruits such as acuri, waterlily and sitoba.

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: The main source of protein for the Guato is fish, preferably pacu. The favorite source of protein for the Guato is the cayman. However, they do also hunt capybara and small birds called qua.

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Fishing was practiced with the use of bows and arrows, this was done from canoes.

Hunting was practiced with bow and arrows, slingshots, traps, and spears.

2.4 Food storage: While there is little about actual food storage, they do catch and store bait for fishing. They keep the bait in self dug ditches.

2.5 Sexual division of production: Men were responsible for making hunting and fishing tools/weapons, hunting, fishing and gathering, and preparing food. Women were responsible for making pots and other ceramic tools, paddles, canoes and weaving items.

2.6 Land tenure:

2.7 Ceramics: Women made clay pots and utensils. Clay was used mostly for domestic items, but also for pipes.

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

2.9 Food taboos:

2.10 Canoes/watercraft? Guato were very water-oriented, definitely used canoes. Known as canoieros.

Canoes are made of light, buoyant wood usually cambara. Impermeabilization was achieved by smoking the canoes, simultaneously lubricating them with animal fat generally taken from the capybara or cayman. Paddles and poles for navigating and propulsion are made from caneleira.

3. Anthropometry

Males are somewhat underdeveloped and have squatty bow-shaped legs because of their extensive and intensive use of the canoe. The men usually handle paddling and have very muscular upper-bodies.

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): Historically, males could take a wife upon the killing of their first spotted jaguar (or mepago), whatever age that may be. Killing a jaguar is the process of a boy becoming a man.

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?:

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):

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)

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?) Contact between the three different local groups usually involved matrimonial alliances.

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

During the Paraguayan War of 1864-1870, Brazilian troops made their way into Guato territory and their was intense contact between the Guato and the troops. In some cases, Guato were used as military scouts and were also forced to fight along with the Brazilians.

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: Guato families were autonomous and isolated from one another.
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): Guato families were known to utilize two seasonal living locations, one on the shore of the rivers during the dry season, and one in other areas protected by the floods during the rainy season.
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): There were three separate groups of Guato residing in upper Paragui, Sao Lourenco and Insua Island. These separate groups were said to have their own individual chiefdoms comprising lines of brothers, the eldest being the leader.
- 5.4 Post marital residence: The Guato practiced patrilocality, so newly-weds were to live with the husband's family.
- 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): During the rainy season, the Guato construct "landfills" in specific areas where flooding would normally occur. These landfills, however, are raised above the flood plain and Guato are able to reside on them. Landfills are made out of sand, shells, and other solid organic matter.
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Sleeping mats are woven by both men and women.
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: In order to resist outside influence the Guato kept tight social organization, based on nuclear, polygamous families that maintain relations of kinship, alliance and reciprocity.
- 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):
- 6.2 Stimulants: Tobacco is grown and smoked through the use of clay pipes.
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Upon killing their first jaguar (or mepago), young men were seen as transitioning from boy to man, they gained prestige, were allowed to marry, and often kept the skulls of the jaguars as decorations in front of their houses.

Each time a young Guato man married and lacked a landfill site, it was up to the chief to organize a group and oversee construction of a landfill for the new groom.

Dead were buried in trenches covered by a woven mat. After the death, there was simply a burial and grieving for the loss of the loved one, however grieving was allowed only by women. Upon grievance for the death of her husband, a widow would cut off all of her hair. In the instance of a child's death, the mother would cut off half of her hair.

During festivals, the Guato would consume acuri palm wine (or chicha) and they would gather in large circles and dance for hours to music played by their own inventive instruments.

- 6.4 Other rituals:
- 6.5 Myths (Creation):
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): The Guato had a couple instruments, the viola de cocho and the ganza (gourd rattle). The viola de cocho originally used strings made out of the intestines of a howler monkey.
- 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?
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint:

7.2 Piercings:

7.3 Haircut: Women cut off all hair during grievance for death of husband or half of hair for death of child.

7.4 Scarification:

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): Traditionally, feather waistbands were worn, with around sixty-eight feathers to a waistband, each around seven inches in length.

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):

To improve prevention of flooding, the Guato planted Acuri palms outside of the landfills. They used these areas as waste dumps during the rainy season. They disposed of broken pottery, bones of animals they consumed, and quite possibly buried the dead in these areas.

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