1. Description
1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Kariri-Xuco, Kiriri language and Language Family (although they now mostly speak Portuguese). Kipea dialect.
1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): 639-9
1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Latitude is 12 degrees S, Longitude is 42 degrees W
1.4 Brief history: The Kariri-Xuco live in the northern region of Brazil, they have a relationship with the other cultural tribes living near them. The Jesuit missionaries first made contact in the 18th century. The Kariri reclaimed land taken from them in the 20th century by the king of Portugal. They now live on a reservation in a northern part of Brazil, and have reclaimed most of their ancestral lands in the northern Brazil.
1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Jesuit missionaries came around the 18th century and set up new schools for the tribe, however the village government structure didn’t change much.
1.6 Ecology: Northern area of Brazil borderlines a forest, but they also live on flat lands.
1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: Around 1600, mean village size is around 150-200.

2. Economy
2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): potatoes, corn, cassava, rice, okra, pumpkins
2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: some hunting, fish, red meat, nuts,
2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: They use bow and arrows, knives, (not sure about blowguns)
2.4 Food storage: They use baskets for some of their food, particularly staples and vegetables, some pottery.
2.5 Sexual division of production: Men tend to work in the fields, hunt, and women prepare food, grind corn and grain, cook and clean.
2.6 Land tenure: After the 20th century, the Kariri eventually reclaimed their ancestral lands in northern Brazil and live on a reserve.
2.7 Ceramics: some (not a lot of information on this).
2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: Parents shared food with children, women shared food.
2.9 Food taboos: (none that I could find in my research.)
2.10 Canoes/watercraft?: Live near a river, but no real need for canoes.

3. Anthropometry
3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): 5’3
3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): 4’9

4. Life History, mating, marriage
4.1 Age at menarche (f): Around 10-11
4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): Age at first birth around 14 for women, around 17-18 for men.
4.3 Completed family size (m and f): Usually 2-3 children plus parents.
4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f) (not sure from research.)
4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): not entirely sure, probably around the age of 12 or 13.
4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: very few. Kariri tribe seems to be on the prudish side, frowns upon divorce.
4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:
4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Male will usually work for the bride’s father for a period of time.
4.9 Inheritance patterns:
4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: Not much conflict (that I could find) children treat parents with reverence and respect.
4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: No real information.
4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): Not specified.
4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized? Usually only one father, somewhat more nuclear family than other Je tribes.
4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”) carrier of the unborn child.
4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)? Some seem to think that it is a process that develops over a long period of type.
4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: found very little evidence to suggest that rape is a common occurrence, however this does not mean that it probably never happened.
4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin) Sometimes cousins on either side of the family, sometimes distant relations in other villages.
4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? Not many, kariri society more prudish than others.
4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: no real evidence.
4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?: The father or other close family members raise children.
4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: suggests that there are more males, but no concrete research supports this entirely.
4.22 Evidence for couvades: Couvade does not seem to happen often in this tribe. Not a common occurrence.
4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older) No distinctions.
4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? Respect for elders is common among the children.
4.25 Joking relationships? No real evidence on this.
4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations Patterns are mostly patrilineal (through the father’s line.
4.26 Incest avoidance rules: incest is taboo
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?) both inside the community, more inside than outside for both males and females.
4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Normally the parents or an aunt or grandparent.
4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: usually within the community, but normally there is not a whole lot of conflict between neighbors or families for marriage reasons.

Warfare/homicide
4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: not much in 20th century on.
4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: ingroup violent death much lower than outgroup death, Kariri fought off many invasions over the last 500 years to retain their independence.
4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: didn’t find much in my research.
4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): around 2,000 of the Kariri tribe remain and they have pacific relationships with Amerindian tribes that border their villages.
4.18 Cannibalism? No real evidence that cannibalism is practiced.

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction
5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: 150-200
5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): tend to stay within their own ancestral lands. Don’t move around a lot.
5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Have chiefs at the village level and a council of the elders within individual communities.
5.4 Post marital residence: Usually with the groom’s family
5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): Not horribly territorial, more peaceful and welcoming.
5.6 Social interaction divisions? (age and sex):
5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: found no real evidence of this.
5.8 Village and house organization: Family huts, small houses.
5.9 Specialized village structures (men’s houses): no evidence of specialized men’s houses.
5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Sleep in hammocks, but also have been known to sleep on the ground.
5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Lineage through the male line, no other form of social organization.
5.12 Trade: Not a lot of trade with other neighboring tribes.
5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? No real indication of social hierarchies.

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)
6.1 Time allocation to RCR:
6.2 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Shamanism practiced regularly, used in ceremonies for good health called the Matekrai.
6.3 Stimulants: a special drink called the Jurema, used during the religious ceremonies celebrating the Jurema tree.
6.4 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): not much mentioned about passage rituals.
6.5 Other rituals: Special ritual about Jurema tree (see below)
6.6 Myths (Creation): believed in nature spirits, created by an ancient spirit
6.7 Cultural material (art, music, games): dance ritual called the Tore
6.8 RCR revival:
6.9 Sex differences in RCR: men tend to lead the ceremonies
6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: believe that souls move on after death, no other real beliefs.
6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?: no such taboo that I found in my research.
6.12 Is there teknonymy?: no real evidence of teknonymy
6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) Animism. Believe in nature spirits of the Ouricuri forest.

7. Adornment
7.1 Body paint: They use tattoos and usually red body paint for dancing and special religious rituals.
7.2 Piercings: Some ear piercings, not many however, and usually male.
7.3 Haircut: women have longer hair than the men, (not much information on hair length.)
7.4 Scarification: No real evidence of scarification.
7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): beads
7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: body paint, dresses with beads, bright colors.
7.7 Sex differences in adornment: women and men appear to dress up in similar fashions.
7.8 Missionary effect: The missionaries effectively co-mingled the kariri tribe with colonists and other settlers. Set up schools and education, came over in the 18th century, however Kariri managed to retain their cultural identity.

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: special dance called the Tore, in which participants dress up, wear body paint and celebrate a particular tree “called Jurema.

8. Kinship systems
8.1 Sibling classification system: No real evidence for sibling classification.
8.2 Sororate, levirate: Not much evidence
8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them): They have a specialized ritual where they celebrate the Jurema tree, which symbolizes their ancestry. Have rituals in a special clearing, and a drink called the Jurema drink. Believe that roots symbolize ancestry. The number 9 has magical properties for the Kariri Culture.

Numbered references


