

1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Berom or also known as Birom
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): BOM
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Location in the country is in the Plateau State, Berakin Ladi and Jos LGAs; Kaduna state, Jema's LGA, and Bauchi State.
- 1.4 Brief history: Berom people are Christian in the central and western regions of Africa. Much fighting between conflicting religions has caused a lot of riots between Berom people and their neighboring tribes. They are the major ethnic group on the Jos Plateau.
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: One article, reports that state government neglects many villages in the lowlands of Plateau State because these places are so hard to get to, and without basic amenities and services. Although they are neglected, politicians will still visit these places near election times; this influence and the current political unrest causes fighting among these differing groups. Missionaries in the 1920s had influence on 4 Berom boys who decided to go to missionary compounds and became the first Berom evangelists.
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): There is very fertile land, and Berom people are usually farmers. The terrain is very rough with many hills.
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: The population size is 464,000 people, in 8 villages just north of Fadam Karshe in Kaduna state.

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Grains, notably 'acha'.
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Veggies, nuts, berries, insects, eggs, and sometimes meat brought in by hunters
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns? In the 1800s European travelers noted how primitive the "Hill Refugees" were, and explained their retreat to the mountains was probably due to slave trading. The word 'chomo' in Birom language means fighting with spears.
- 2.4 Food storage: Women take crops to storage bins
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Men and women both work on the land, but women are the only ones to do the weeding, and the men "thresh and grain in the fields"
- 2.6 Land tenure: The very fertile land is fought over constantly, and the economy is dependent on the agriculture, but also pastoralism. Although it once was good land, mining companies in the 1920s depleted the resources and caused farmers to lose what they had, but on the other hand these mining companies actually provided more resources to the Birom people from the outside world.
- 2.7 Ceramics:
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Food taboos: They describe themselves as being hungry, and some reports say that water shortages during dry seasons happens frequently in that part of Nigeria.
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? None is needed because villages are only accessible by dirt roads and rough terrain.

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?: Some Birom people will exchange a very young girl for foodstuffs, but they regard these kinds of marriages as Pyomo marriages, which is a Birom, non-Birom kinship tie.
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns:
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: Fathers expect their sons to carry out a legacy that will make him (the father) look good but also his son so his son can then have a good descent line as well. A father would want his son to enhance the reputation and well as advance his status in a village.
- 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): There is an understanding that to be part of a new kin, there is a high interest in his agnatic descents.
- 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): A man with a good reputation, so if a husband is being chosen for a wife, the father of the bride would expect that his new son would bring a good status and reputation to not only her, but him as well.
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? There are different types of kinships, lo, yere, and chang, each representing a different kind of kinships and association with people in that group.
- 4.24 Joking relationships?
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: There's more of a focus on the patrilineal kinships and not the descents of the female.
- 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?) Birom men of higher power will often marry women from outside villages; otherwise I believe marriage stays within the village.
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Some have been arranged more for the fact of the family of the young girl getting foodstuff as a trade off, this is known as Pyomo marriages for Birom people.
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: A man of higher power will often choose a wife from outside of the village.

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: There have been many riots and massacres in the last decade, each one causing about 50-300 deaths, sometimes even as high as 1,000 casualties. Some reports mentioned that the amount of casualties isn't known exactly due to lack of documentation.
- 4.15 Out-group vs. in-group cause of violent death: Berom people are Christian and they, along with other Christian people of Nigeria, have been fighting with the Hausa Muslims from the north of Nigeria. Also one source states that there is evidence that "the Birom have incorporated and assimilated various groups on their boundary.
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: Conflicting ideals from the 2 main political parties have caused a lot of riots and killings between the Hausa Muslims and other Christian ethnic groups, such as the people of Berom. The land of Jos is very fertile and causes trouble between these groups as well as to ownership.
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): A predominately Muslim north, and a conflicting Christian south mainly separates Jos, a city part of Nigeria's "middle belt".
- 4.18 Cannibalism? Recently after a Hausa massacre, Berom people were reported to of "roasting and eating the flesh" of the dead Muslims, ironically enough while doing so they were speaking in Hausa and not Birom.

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): During some seasons, men will leave the home to work, but only for short periods at a time.
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Villages or clans
- 5.4 Post marital residence:
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): It seems as though there is always an active defense because they are in conflict about political reasons, but also over land use. Birom people don't have boundaries in terms of spatial constraint, but more in terms of human occupancy.
- 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: Mining companies have required markets that sell products to the Birom women when and if they go into these markets, that they wouldn't be able to get otherwise, for example meat, although only small amounts are able to be bought at a time.
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? There is no Birom word for chief, but all elders are allowed to sit in during court to contribute during judicial decision-making.

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR:
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):
- 6.2 Stimulants:
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Protestant and Catholic beliefs.
- 6.4 Other rituals: Ceremonies were created due to hunger pains. They pray to their higher powers in hopes of more food for their family.
Also
- 6.5 Myths (Creation):
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

6.8 Missionary effect: It was noted in another text that in the 19th century European travelers would explain in their writings of cannibalism, sacrifices, and other gruesome traditions from the people of Nigeria, true or not, to convince people that Christianity should be spread to these people. As stated above, the Berom people avoided missionaries because of trade practices, until 4 boys decided to go to missionary compounds. This then led to more and more people converting, primarily younger people in order to get jobs with the missionaries.

6.9 RCR revival:

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Christian- Protestant, and Catholic 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.)- Christian

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint:

7.2 Piercings:

7.3 Haircut:

7.4 Scarification: Early Europeans wrote about primitive acts such as scarification as a justification to spread Christianity, but it is unknown if these accusations are true or not.

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):

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