

1. Description

1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family:

- Eton, Iton.
- Language family: Niger-Congo

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

- eto

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude):

- 4.00 latitude, 11.20 longitude

1.4 Brief history:

- French Cameroon became independent in 1960. 1961 British Cameroon voted to join the newly independent Republic of Cameroon. Wrote new constitution in 1972

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

- Ruled by French and British until 1960s, became independent.

1.6 Ecology (natural environment):

- Climate: “varies with terrain, from tropical along coast to semiarid and hot in north” (1)
- Terrain: mixture of coastal plain, plateau, mountains, plains
- Thermal springs, active volcanoes
- Natural resources: petroleum, bauxite, iron ore, timber, hydropower

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density

- Population 52,000

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):

- Maize, *patates*, yams (3 kinds: *le'ssol*, *guingwla*, *guignarn*), bananas, plantains, cassava, macabon

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:

- Groundnuts

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

2.4 Food storage:

2.5 Sexual division of production:

- Males involved in metalwork
- Women involved in farming

2.6 Land tenure:

2.7 Ceramics:

- Women make pottery (6)

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

2.9 Food taboos:

2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

- No watercraft; live in central Cameroon

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):

- 4.09 children/woman

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:

- Polygyny very common

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:

- “Brideswealth” observed; iron goods traded for wives

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):

- The Eton observe “clan” exogamy, though in earlier times they were required to marry outside their “tribu.”

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

- Patrilineal descent is observed
- 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?
- Females do not have multiple sex partners; however, females have ritual "mevunga:" celebration of feminine power and the clitoris
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
- Children live with mother's family until age 10, then live with father's family
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females
- 1.01/1
- 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?)
- 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?
- None

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):
- Do not move seasonally; stay in same place year-long
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):
- "East Eton" and "West Eton" have 3 "tribus," or clans, each.
 - Each tribu has a few "clans," or lineages, though they consist of a number of extended families and households.
- 5.4 Post-marital residence:
- First few years of marriage is in a matrilineal residence (living with the wife'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:
- Extended families live in the same village though in different houses. They also live among other families.
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (men's houses):
- Every village consists of households that contain a father, mother(s) and children.
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:
- 3 tribus; in each tribu there are 4 clans; in each clan there are a number of extended families and households
- 5.12 Trade:
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?
- Eton-Beti: chiefs and close cognates; Eton-Beloua: commoners; Beloua-Eton: slaves
 - Status is determined by the clan one is in and his or her position in the rank hierarchy

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):
- 6.4 Other rituals:

- Mevungu: strictly female celebration of feminine power and the clitoris

6.5 Myths (Creation):

- How the Eton came to live where they are: a slave of the Beti went to the Sanaga river for salt when he ran into a slave of the Basa, who was looking for meat. The two slaves exchanged meat for salt and salt for meat. The Beti wanted to move to the area where the salt could be found and ran into the Basa and stayed there. (3)

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

6.8 Missionary effect:

- 74% practice Christianity, 4% Evangelical (4)

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.)

- Indigenous beliefs 40%, Christianity 40%, Muslim 20%

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:

- European clothing is typically worn.

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

- Traditional African costume worn rarely, usually by very old men

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):

Numbered references

1. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cm.html>

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