

1. Description

1.1 Name of society, language, and language family:

Cochimi, (other names: Cadegomeño, Cadegomo, Cochetimi, Cochima, Cochimtee, Didiu, Joaquín, Laimon, Laymon-Cochimi, Laymonem, San, San Francisco Saverio Mission, San Francisco Xavier de, San Javier, San Xavier, Viggé-Biaundo Mission) (2)

Language: Cochimi-Yuman (2)

Language Family: Yuman (2)

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

COJ (2)

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude):

Baja California Norte, north of Loreto to the northern part of the peninsula (2)

25°-30'N-30°-25'N from the Pacific to the Gulf (9)

1.4 Brief history

Extinct group of type 2 hunter-gatherers that lived in the southern California peninsula and were killed off completely from disease brought by the Spanish.

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

Neighbors: Guaicura and Pericú (powerful in warfare) (6)

Missionaries: Society of Jesus converted the tribe to Christianity and schooled the children in reading and writing in Spanish. (7)

1.6 Ecology:

Plenty of fish in the ocean, not many sources of meat until further inland, and in the mountains. Fresh water supplies are limited and the hot, humid weather isn't prime for plant growth. Temperature in the colder months only gets down to about 55°F.

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

Population size: Old Cochimi is extinct, 150 Kumiai in La Huerta call themselves Cochimi (1). They were organized in small bands of 20-30 and engaged in ceremonial exchanges and trade with other bands (10).

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):

Pitahaya, including second harvest (retrieving seeds out of feces), seeds, and flower petals (11).

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:

Mostly fish from the ocean (6)

An occasional wale carcass would wash up on the beach (6)

Meat was scarce for those living inland, they ate lizards, toads, tortoises, rodents and pests (tarantulas, scorpions, spiders, beetles and grubs.) Large game (antelope and mountain sheep) was difficult to track through the mountains (and were shared with badgers, skunk, coyote and mountain lions-cougar/pumas.) (6)

For those in the North Central desert, meat was so scarce that they practiced "The Trick". (eating meat tied to a string and pulling it out of the stomach before digestion started, then passing it around.)

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

Throwing sticks to kill rabbits, nets and forks of wood for fishing, short lances of sharp sticks hardened in fire (6)

2.4 Food storage:

Dried meat if ever there was enough, saved seeds and berries. (11)

2.5 Sexual division of production:

Men: responsible for hunting, fighting and basket making (11)

Women: responsible for majority of food production and child rearing (10), since Cochimi were nomadic, the women and children were responsible for carrying the furnishings. In some bands, women even carried the bows and arrows. (7)

2.6 Land tenure:

2.7 Ceramics:

pottery (6)

famous for pictography (9)

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

Coastal bands shared fish with inland bands in exchange for seeds and decorations. (10)

2.9 Food taboos:

None found

2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

Didn't have any, men would swim out to see as far as they could to spear fish. (6)

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):

Found information suggesting they were taller than average hunter-gatherers, but no actual numbers.

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

Found information suggesting they were very thin, but no actual numbers.

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f):

9-13

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):

Male-in the 20s (6)

Women-early to mid teens (6)

4.3 Completed family size (m and f):

Male: some men had up to 20 children with different wives

Female: not found

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):

Not found

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):

Male: Late teens (3)

Female: Early teens (3)

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:

Divorce is uncommon and only used when the wife shames the husband (12)

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:

No number data, but there is evidence of some polygamy (11)

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

Yes there was a bride price, families hoped for female children so they would receive the bride dowry. (6)

4.9 Inheritance patterns:

Immediate family received everything, if there was anything to get.(3)

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:

Conflict when child doesn't agree with parent's choice of spouse (12)

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:

Not found

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):

Not found

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

One father. Did not practice partible paternity (12)

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")

In charge of child bearing and rearing

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?

Not found

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape:

Not found

4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)

-Cross cousin (12)

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?

Not found

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring:

Not found

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?

If no one willingly takes them in they are forced to live on their own. Since bands were mostly family, they were cared for by close relatives. (12)

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females

No data

4.22 Evidence for couvades

None

4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)

Older, stronger men preferred verses young men (12)

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?

Respect given throughout the tribe, especially to older members. (3)

4.24 Joking relationships?

Not found

4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations:

Generally patrilineal and patrilocal (11)

Men traits aren't shared between bands, whereas women are expected to leave and share culture(11)

4.26 Incest avoidance rules

Relationships with immediate family were uncommon but very dishonorable (12)

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?

No (14)

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?)

Males marry from inside the community, females from outside (12)

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?

-Yes, parents arrange for daughters. Younger men are arranged by parents (12)

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

No evidence

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:

No data

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:

Outgroup- bow and arrow (9)

Ingroup- shame stonings (9)

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:

Outgroup: access to foodstuffs and water, women, the haranguing of shamans, and retribution for theft of objects of spiritual value
Ingroup: Stealing and cheating, and only in very rare circumstances. (12)

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):

Temporary alliance with Didiú, Edú, and Monquí shortly after the arrival of the Spanish. (9)
Various attempts at horse, property and livestock theft from their neighbors the Guaycura.

4.18 Cannibalism?

No evidence for cannibalism

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

20-30 (1)

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

Travelled all year round in search of good weather, water and food. (6)

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):

Tribe contains a chief and a group of decision making men. (12)
Bands have little to no political system among the small group

5.4 Post marital residence:

Boy's parents house until couple has their own house (14)

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

Defined boundaries with the Kiliwa, less defined boundaries with the Guaycura (12)

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): not found

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

Sibling and cousin friendships (12)

5.8 Village and house organization:

Since they travelled in such small bands and were so nomadic, they lived in caves. (4)

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):

Didn't have specialized structures (6)

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?

Slept on the ground in caves (6)

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:

No distinct organization, elders generally had more influence. (12)

5.12 Trade:

Traded with neighboring bands of Cochimi for provisions. Didn't have contact with farmers (6)

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

Chief is the only indication of hierarchies. (1)

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6 Time allocation to RCR:

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):

Power items: hair-cape, feather wands, pictography covered tablets. (honor with more hair-capes, many fights between bands over hair-capes. (6)

6.2 Stimulants: not found

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

Birth: Capes, wands and tablets

Death: Capes, wands and tablets.(6) Cremation was common (9)

Puberty: Capes, wands and tablets. 3 days of fasting, on the 4th day they all gather for the ceremony. During the most solemn days of the rites of passage celebration, they pierce the ears and noses of the children. (6)

-when boys reach puberty they were taken away for 3 days of solitude to communicate with the spirits of their ancestors. They came back down and told of their experiences. (8)

Seasonal: Capes, wands and tablets (6)

6.4 Other rituals:

Worshiped the sunset from the highest peak every night (8)

6.5 Myths (Creation):

They believed the "Man from the skies" is a dying god. (13)

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

Cave paintings(6)

Pictography(6)

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

No differences found

6.8 Missionary effect:

The Society of Jesus came into brief contact with the nomadic tribes of lower California, and made the Cochimi learn Spanish. The Cochimi turned to Christianity and to prove their faith, gave the missionaries their hair-capes, wands, tablets and any other magic or cult worship tools they had. Cochimi people even had a few men become preachers, although they were required to preach in Spanish.(6)

6.9 RCR revival:

Gave up magic/cult worship tools to prove their conversion

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:

before missionaries: They considered the eagle to be the messenger of heaven, and they believed that when they died, their souls would be carried by an eagle toward the Great Spirit to unite with the spirits of their ancestors. (8)

after missionaries: believed in Heaven and Hell (6)

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?

Name isn't mentioned often. Mourning is short for the community, but related females may grieve for as much as a year. They don't rename dead people. (14)

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

No

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)

Before missionaries: worshiped their ancestors and the land, sun, etc.

After missionaries: Christianity, worshiped God only

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint:

White and black body paint during war and ceremonies (9)

7.2 Piercings:

Rings in ears and nose (4)

7.3 Haircut:

Thick straight black hair (4)

No facial hair (4)

7.4 Scarification:

No proof of scarification

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):

Women- Beads on skirts (11)

Men-Beads and feathers in headpieces (11)

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

Face paint and headpieces for men. Beads for women(11)

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

Men: headpieces , women: beaded skirts(11)

7.8 Missionary effect:

not much effect on adornment

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: None found

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system:

Siblings treated as equals (12)

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

Not found

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

Cross cousins were important to the family marriage system (12)

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

1. The year was divided into six seasons: Meh he voh'(June, July and part of August), A ma de a pee'(part of August, September and part of October), A ma da'a pig a la'(Part of October, November and part of December), Ma he val'(Part of December, January and part of February), Ma he ven'(Part of February, March and part of April), Ma He ven(part of April, May and up to June). (4)
2. Cochimi means "inhabitants of the north". (7)
3. They were mostly peaceful, and didn't fight hard enough to keep any land. (8)
4. They died off from diseases brought to them by the Spanish.

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