

Devin Banks

1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Tacana, also known as Tanaca, part of the Tacanan language family. (5)
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): tna (5)
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): 12° to 15°S, 67° to 68° 35' W, Beni and Madre de Dios rivers, jungle, foothills (2)
- 1.4 Brief history: Live in tropical forests and on foothills of Andes. During the Incan Empire the Tanaca participated in trade between the Andean cities and Amazonian villages. Contacted by the Franciscans in 1539, many spoke Quechua, which has now replaced the Tacana language in many regions. In order to control their lands during the Spanish expeditions the Tacana primarily traded wild chocolate. After Bolivia won its independence in 1825 the Tacana continued to trade with the Andean cities; however, many were wiped out during the rubber rush during the late 1800s. As foresting grew in Bolivia the Tacan formed the Council for Indigenous Tacana Villages in the 1990s in order to protect themselves in the political landscaping, gaining a large territory. (4)
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: The Joshua Project, population now 9% Christian. During the late 1800s the population was devastated by the rubber rush, wiping out a large portion of the population. As deforestation grew the Tacana formed a council in order to give themselves a voice in the politics of Bolivia. (2, 3)
- 1.6 Ecology: Basic subsistence comes from hunting and gathering. Hunting fish varied on water levels. Primarily foragers the Tacana seek Brazil nuts, honey, fruits from palm trees, and turtle eggs. Occasionally they have gardens, and by the 20th century they began raising cattle. (2)
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: The population ranges between 5,00 to 6,200. They occupy large houses, averaging 18 by 6 meters with twenty or more families, each with their own fireplace. However, they sleep in shelters to protect against mosquitoes and bats. (1, 2, 5)

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s)/2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Mostly depend on foraging (Brazil nuts, honey, turtle eggs) and fishing. They are adept fishers, using quadrangular weirs made from palm tree(2)
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Bow and Arrow, darts, axes, shields. (1)
- 2.4 Food storage: N/A
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Men hunt, cut down tree and bushes; women sow, harvest, gather fuel, cook, weave clothing. (1)
- 2.6 Land tenure: The Tanaca use gardens that average 50 by 20 meters, and are scattered, requiring much traveling between gardens. They also have plantations of bananas and plantains by the river. (2)
- 2.7 Ceramics: N/A
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: N/A
- 2.9 Food taboos: N/A
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? Small rafts, but they are relatively unskilled craftsmen. (1)

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): 163 – 165cm (1)
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): N/A

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): N/A, but can be inferred begins around the age of ten, with age of marriage (1)
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): N/A
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): N/A
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): N/A
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): 9 or 10 (1)
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: N/A, however, marriages are easily ended. (1)
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: The Tacana are polygamous, and have as many wives as they can purchase or capture. (1)

- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Brides are purchased through discussion of head of families. The price is usually a few axes, and if there is a struggle the female has no say, and is taken away. A ceremony does not exist. (1)
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: N/A
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: Between father and son, chief/head of village is passed down. (1)
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: N/A
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): N/A, but due to the nature of the marriages (from capture, or by price) exogamy does not appear to be a factor. (1)
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized?: N/A
- 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)? N/A
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: N/A, but due to the nature of the marriage arrangements it is possible that rape and coercion occurs. (1)
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin) N/A
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? N/A, but it can be inferred that there is little to no sexual freedoms as marriages are consummated after puberty. (1)
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? N/A
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: N/A
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: As women go into the forest to deliver children, the men observe from outside. (2)
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older) As brides are usually purchased, and it is not consummated until after puberty, there is little distinction for potential fathers. (1)
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? N/A
- 4.24 Joking relationships? N/A
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: For chief/head of village, it is passed down paternally. (1)
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: N/A
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? There are no ceremonies.
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name? N/A
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) N/A
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Yes, they are arranged by the head of the house holds, and the interest of the male, but this can be loosely applied as marriages are arranged through purchase of bride, or by capture.. (1)
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: The conflict that may come from a marriage tends to come from disapproval from the woman/young girl, who has no say in the matter. Because of this, the only conflict that may occur is eliminated. (1)

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: N/A
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: During the Incan Empire, there may have been interaction between the Tanaca and Incas that included violence and attacks of some sort, however, during the Spanish expedition, they resorted with non-violence means of cooperation. Other than this, information on outgroup/ingroup violence and death. (1, 4)
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: N/A
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):vN/A
- 4.18 Cannibalism? N/A, but it can be inferred that cannibalism is no a practice associated with the Tacana due to foraging and hunting. (1, 2)

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: N/A
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): N/A, but can possibly be inferred that the Tacana are sedentary due to their gardens and varied fishing methods based on water levels (1)

- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): N/A besides there being a head chief of the village, who's duties are passed down by son. (1)
- 5.4 Post marital residence: N/A but it can be inferred that considering living arrangement (large housing holding 20 or so families) that residence does not drastically change. (1)
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): Information is not available on boundaries and defense, until the 1990s when the Tacana created a council in order to have a say in the politics of Bolivia, to defend themselves against the incursion of deforestation. After this, Bolivia designated a specific territory for the Tacana. (4)
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): N/A
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: N/A
- 5.8 Village and house organization: N/A, besides the differentiation between the large family housing and the sleeping huts used to protect against bats and mosquitoes. (1)
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): N/A, aside from the religious temples. (1)
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Some groups have no furniture at all, but it is common practice to sleep on the ground. Some using pieces as bark as bed. (1)
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: N/A
- 5.12 Trade: During the Incan Empire trade between the Andean cities and the Tanaca was common, usually consisting of fur. During the Spanish expedition, the Tanaca used their access of wild chocolate to trade with the Spanish, and avoid violence. (4)
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? Besides chieftaincy, other social hierarchies are not available. The position of chieftan is passed down to the favorite son, and are all polygamous. (1)

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6 Time allocation to RCR: N/A
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): The Tacana participate in a religion that relies on multiple "gods" with different representations. (1)
- 6.2 Stimulants: N/A
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): When one dies, there is a direct burial with no indirect actions. The dead are buried in the family hut or in bushes with their possessions. To prevent the deceased ghost from returning the former owner's door is moved. (1)
- 6.4 Other rituals: N/A
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): Baba-bu-ada is considered the creator of heaven, sun, the moon, and stars. Feasts at the beginnings of season for planting and harvesting are dedicated to him. (1)
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): They often play a game that includes bouncing a ball from their stomachs, using bark wrapped around their torso. (1)
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: Women are seen as impure and do not participate. (1)
- 6.8 Missionary effect: 9% of the population now Christian (3)
- 6.9 RCR revival: N/A
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: There is a lack of ceremonies after deaths, but they are directly buried, and to protect against their ghosts their former hut door is moved. (1)
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? N/A
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? N/A
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) The Tacana religion consists of four gods. Baba-Bu-Ada, who is regarded as the ruler of the universe, Vutana the wind, and Buada who controls their harvest and success. They have idols of the gods kept in a temple, which includes their religious attire for feasts and activities. (1)

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: N/A
- 7.2 Piercings: N/A
- 7.3 Haircut: Some bald, some with beards. (1)
- 7.4 Scarification: N/A
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): At times beads and feathers, usually during rituals (1)
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: Body paint and special attire for religious events and feasts. (1)
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: Women do not participate. (1)
- 7.8 Missionary effect: Slight impact on the religious, as 9% of the population is now Christian. (3)

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: N/A

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system: N/A

8.2 Sororate, levirate: N/A

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

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them): Feasts and planting seasons are celebrated with dance, musical instruments include flute usually made of wood, use fermented drinks to keep coca, absolute power of the chief including tribesman in slave conditions, after the dead have been buried and a period has passed the bones are exhumed and reburied in large urns. (1)

Numbered references

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