

## Orejon Indians

### 1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Orejon, orejon, Tukano
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): ORE (1)
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Peru (1)
- 1.4 Brief history: During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Western Tucanoans occupied an area within the Amazon basin, between the Napo and Putumayo rivers in what is now Peru. In 1682, Jesuit missionaries made contact with what they referred to as the “Provincia de Payahua” apparently in the region of the lower Napo River. The Payagua (which the Orejon descend from) were geographically mobile during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Missionaries settled in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but they were not very successful because Indians mostly just came to the camp to obtain metal tools and left. The Payagua were also affected by epidemics and poor living conditions in the mission camps. After the independence of Peru in 1824, Indians were exploited more. From the middle of the 1800s the names Coto and Orejon were mentioned with increasing frequency (4)
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Roman Catholic missionaries established missions in the 1680s, but the Indians abandoned them. The rubber boom of the late nineteenth century hurt them, as well as severe epidemics. They currently support themselves by farming and hunting and perform migrant labor (5).
- 1.6 Ecology: They have a complex and detailed habitat classification system identifying more than 70 forest and non-forest habitat types in the area (4).
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: 190 (1)

### 2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): They do not consume bitter manioc. (3)
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: They hunt monkeys and birds with blowguns. They used traps to catch birds and rodents. They also catch fish, using fish poison (4).
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: They use blowguns, as well as spears and clubs. (3)
- 2.4 Food storage: N/A
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Women were prohibited from using shotguns or making traps. Hunting was reserved for men. However, they could sometimes hunt for small animals close to houses and in well-known areas (4).
- 2.6 Land tenure: N/A
- 2.7 Ceramics: Yes. (3)
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Food taboos: There are areas of the forest that are avoided due to the plants and animals present in the area. (4)
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?: Yes. It is necessary to have a canoe for people in the community. (4)

### 3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): N/A
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): N/A

### 4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): N/A
- 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): N/A
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: N/A
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: N/A
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: The husband has to do bride service to his father-in-law (3).
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: N/A
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: N/A
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: N/A
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): Exogamous marriage is a restricted exchange between two clans. In 40-50% of cases, men marry a girl from the clan of his mother. (2)
- 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: N/A
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
- 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?: N/A
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: N/A
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: N/A
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older): N/A

- 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
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: N/A
- 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?): There is an increase in intermarriage with neighboring Indians and mestizos (5).
- 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: N/A
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: N/A
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: N/A
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):
- 4.18 Cannibalism?: N/A

### **5. Socio-Political organization and interaction**

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: N/A
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Patrilineal clans (2)
- 5.4 Post marital residence: Uxorilocal (2)
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): N/A
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): N/A
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: N/A
- 5.8 Village and house organization: They live in large pluri-familial houses surrounded by small satellite houses. Normal activities take place at the communal house during the day which was used for ritual purposes at night (4)
- 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: During the 1970s, they were involved in timber exploitation. (2)
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?: ) The three highest forms of power were the civil chief, war chief and shaman. The civil chief was known by various names that can be translated to "one that lives with the people" or "the one that has two or three wives". The civil chief mediates disputes and resolves problems non-violently within the residential units. The war chief translates as "the one that teaches how to fight", and he was a brave warrior who taught the art of combat to other men and led men into battle. The shamn is the most powerful (4).

### **6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)**

- 6 Time allocation to RCR: N/A
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Shaman is the most powerful figure in the society. They have a therapeutic role, as well as a role in rituals. (4)
- 6.2 Stimulants: They will eat tobacco. Tobacco powder is simply put in the mouth and swallowed. (3)
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):
- 6.4 Other rituals:N/A
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): N/A
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): N/A
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: At a girl's first menses, she is isolated for three days in the house. (3)
- 6.8 Missionary effect: N/A
- 6.9 RCR revival: N/A
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: N/A
- 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.)

### **7. Adornment**

- 7.1 Body paint: Tattoos on the face and blackening of the lips (3)
- 7.2 Piercings: They use large wooden disks in the ears. (3)
- 7.3 Haircut: They wear their hair long and depilate their eyebrows, armpits, pubic region and chin. (4)
- 7.4 Scarification: N/A
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: Women do not wear the ear disks (4).

7.8 Missionary effect: They stopped piercing ears and painting bodies because of disdain and scorn from outsiders (4).

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.):

**9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):** The Orejon are well known for their complex understanding of their environment. Nature has a strong impact on their culture. For example, patrilineal clans are named after plants and animals. (4).

## **Numbered references**

1. [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=ore](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=ore)
2. [http://www.peruecologico.com.pe/etnias\\_orejon.htm](http://www.peruecologico.com.pe/etnias_orejon.htm)
3. Handbook of South American Indians, Julian H. Steward
4. An Ethnoecological and Ethnobotanical Study of the Maijuna Indians of the Peruvian Amazon(  
<http://drc.ohiolink.edu/handle/2374.OX/19099>)
5. Indians of Central and South America: an ethnohistorical dictionary by James Stuart Olson