

# PIRATAPUYO

## 1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Piratapuyo, Pira-Tapuya, Uaiana, Uaicana, Uaikena, Uainana, Urubu-Tapuya, Waikhara, Waikino, Waina; Tukano language family; The Piratapuyo language is 99% similar to the Guanano language (which is also spoken in both Brazil and Colombia), but the two groups are ethnically distinct and do not intermarry (1). Brazilian and Colombian Piratapuyo also speak Tucano (1). Colombian Piratapuyo additionally speak Spanish and Desano (1).
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): pir
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Piratapuyo is spoken along the Papurí River and its tributaries extending into Brazil (2). Piratapuyo territory is now considered part of the Resguardo Parte Oriental del Vaupés in Colombia (4). Longitude/Latitude: 0° 20' N, 69° 30' W (5).
- 1.4 Brief history: The Piratapuyo were victims of slave raiders beginning near the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (8). Slave raiders were replaced with missionaries about 200 years later, towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (8). The Salesian missionaries in Brazil were particularly bad; missionaries burned malocas, publically shamed tribal leaders, destroyed native decorations, forced the Indians to live in single-family houses, and separated children from their families in boarding schools to prevent the passing down of cultural traits and traditions (8). The last maloca in the Brazilian territory in which the Piratapuyo live was destroyed by the Salesians in the 1960s (8). The Colombian Piratapuyo were more isolated, and the Javerian missionaries in this region were much more liberal (8). The Javerian missionaries believed in tolerance and acceptance of Indian beliefs and customs (8). The Colombian Piratapuyo were able to retain more of their traditional culture and religion (8).
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: The Piratapuyo are self-sufficient and use goods brought from the outside world only when it is more convenient to do so (3). The groups living around the town of Teresita in Colombia are more acculturated than those living in other areas (3). In Teresita, the Piratapuyo now live in nuclear-family, Colombian-style houses; however, people still remember when there was a large maloca in the area that is now a soccer field (3). Many Piratapuyo are now Catholic (4).
- 1.6 Ecology: The area in which the Piratapuyo live contains dense tropical forests. The climate is warm and wet (3).
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: Group is split between Brazil and Colombia—as of 1986, there were 620 Piratapuyo in Brazil and 450 in Colombia (1). Total population size including both countries is 1,070 (1).

## 2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Bitter manioc (4). Also gather fruits (4). Also grow pineapple, tobacco, coca, and sugarcane (6).
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Fish (3). (Children use worms and shrimp as bait (3). Men also use nets and traps (3).) Also hunt wild animals and raise domesticated pigs, dogs, and chickens (4).
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:
- 2.4 Food storage:
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Men hunt, fish, and build houses, canoes, etc. (4). Women tend the plots, tend the children, and do household chores (4). Both sexes make crafts (4).
- 2.6 Land tenure:
- 2.7 Ceramics: Ceramics are symbolically linked to women and pregnancy (12). Pregnant women are compared with clay vessels (12). Pottery is a woman's activity (12).
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Food taboos: There is no formal prohibition against hunting tapir, but Piratapuyo hunters are reluctant to kill and eat tapir (10). There are many references to tapir in mythology, and hunters usually say either they will get sick from the spirit of the tapir or that the meat is simply not good to eat (10).
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? Traditional canoes are still used, though some men now use outboard motors (3).

## 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: Piratapuyo marriages are monogamous (4).
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:
- 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): It is customary for men to marry women from other tribes, so many Piratapuyo men are familiar with Desano and other Tukano languages (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") The woman is a container (12).
- 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?
- 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)
- 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: Fathers teach their sons about fishing and about more than 100 types of fish (life cycles, eating habits, etc.) (3). Patrilineal (4).
- 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?) It is customary for men to marry women from other tribes, so many Piratapuyo men are familiar with Desano and other Tukano languages (2).
- 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): Marriage alliances are formed as men are required to marry women from other tribes (2).
- 4.18 Cannibalism?

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

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Patrilineal clans (4)
- 5.4 Post marital residence:
- 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: Traditionally lived in malocas; now many live in Western, nuclear-family houses (3).
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Hammocks (3)
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Patrilineal clans (4)
- 5.12 Trade: Food is exchanged during ritual meetings of different Tukano exogamous groups (10).
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

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

- 6 Time allocation to RCR:
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Shamans use medicinal plants to cure the sick (7). Disease is thought to be caused by sorcery (7).
- 6.2 Stimulants: Most Tukano groups use ayahuasca (11)
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Rituals for all of life's transitions, including male initiation rites and female puberty rituals (7).
- 6.4 Other rituals: At ritual exchanges among different Tukano groups, each exogamous group brings a different food of which the specific group is the ritual owner (10). For example, the Piratapuyo exchange *umarí* and *meré* fruits for *patabá* fruit from the Desano (10). Though all groups may harvest all foods during daily life, the ritual owners bring only their ritually-owned foods to ritual exchanges (10).
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): The spirits of all human ancestors were carried within the body of an anaconda as it travelled upriver (7). Each mythic ancestor was deposited at a different place along the river. Its descendants all identify the spot at which their ancestor was deposited as the place of origin for their particular subset of Piratapuyo (7).
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Use flutes made of hollow reeds, large flutes made of hollow palm trunks, and turtle shells to make music for dances (3).
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:
- 6.8 Missionary effect: Many Piratapuyo have converted to Catholicism (7). The New Testament of the Bible was translated to Piratapuyo in 1991 (9).
- 6.9 RCR revival:
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Tukano burials typically involve placing the dead person in a grave in the maloca floor (11). Tukanoans are buried in canoes and, upon burial, drop to the river of the underworld (11). Tukano groups believe in reincarnation—the souls of ancestors are transmitted to a baby when the baby is given the name of the dead ancestor (11).
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? No, the Piratapuyo actually name their children after a recently-dead ancestor on the father's side, including after the father's own mother and father (11).
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.): All humans and animals are thought to be on the same level (7).

#### **7. Adornment**

- 7.1 Body paint:
- 7.2 Piercings:
- 7.3 Haircut:
- 7.4 Scarification:
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): Traditionally had feather ornaments (8).
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: feather headdresses (11)
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

7.8 Missionary effect: Salesian missionaries in Brazil destroyed the ornaments of the Piratapuyo upon contact (8).

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):

- The name the Piratapuyo use to describe themselves means “fish men” (3).
- The Piratapuyo are known among the neighboring tribes for being very good fishermen (3).
- Use slash-and-burn horticulture (4)

## Numbered references

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