

# Arawak Society: Colombia

## 1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Guajiros, wayuunaiki, Arawak Wayuu
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): guc
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): 10 Degrees 23'- 12 degrees 28' N Latitude 71 degrees 06'- 73 degrees 39' O Longitude
- 1.4 Brief history: The Wayuu is an Amerindian ethnic group of the La Guajira Peninsula in Northern Colombia (wiki). This group is apart of the Arawak language family.
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:
- 1.6 Ecology: Terrestrial ecological systems of mostly desert, dry forest and wet mountain
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: 135,000 in Columbia (1995 SIL) or 846,609 (2011 Wikipedia)

## 2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Cassava, Banana, tropical fruits
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Goats, Fish, Crustaceans, Mollusks, Tilapia, Tambaqui, Navy Shrimp. Spiny lobsters, Shark
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Learned the use of firearms and horses
- 2.4 Food storage:
- 2.5 Sexual division of production:
- 2.6 Land tenure: Trade is the main generator of employment. Import Maicao free prost, Uribia Manaure, Appliance, Food, Beer, Whiskey  
Land is divided based on north, middle and south regions.
- 2.7 Ceramics:
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Food taboos:
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

## 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 (the 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence of menstruation) (f): Around 12 or 13 years of age based on info provided.
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): Based on age of marriage for females between 10 and 12 years of age or an average of 14 years of age.
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f):
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): Female 10- 12 years old

- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Yes, dowry. Paid for with cattle, money and jewelry.
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: Through bridal purchase, this extends the legal organization to the descendants of the new family net.
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): Exogamy disappeared.
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible (a system of inheritance in which a deceased person's estate is divided) (? Are these "other fathers" recognized?)
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation (producing young) 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? No, are genital mutilated for the security and husbands.
- 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: Matrilineal
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? No.
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?: Names are based on clan and matrilineal lineages or upon marriage.
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) Exogamy disappeared.
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Nearly all marriages are arranged and accompanied by a dowry
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: Females are promised to men at age 10- 12. So little to no conflict or confusion.

## **Warfare/homicide**

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: 30 member executed, 60 disappeared and 600 displaced.

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: Outgroup cause of death caused by a massacre that caused them to resettle.

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: Out group killing stemmed over land and resources.

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

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): maternal uncle within the clan plays the role of authority or chief

5.4 Post marital residence:

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): Yes,

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

5.8 Village and house organization: Settlements are made up of 5 or 6 houses that make up rancherias (small rural settlement). Each rancheria is name after a plant or geographic place and many rancherias in a territory is names after the mother's last name. The house is small called a piichi or miichi divided into 2 rooms were hammocks are hung.

5.9 Specialized village structures (men's houses): Matriarchal housing

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Sleep in hammocks.

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

5.12 Trade: Yes, wiki????

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? Economically; accumulating enormous wealth

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

6 Time allocation to RCR:

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Mareiwa (highest power)- God creator of the Wayuu and founder of society. Pulowi (female figure related to wind an dry seasons) and Juya- rain (a nomad male figure associated with hunting and seen as a powerful killer). (married) are associated with procreation and life. Wanulu represents the evil, god, illness and death. Mama (earth)- mythical for biological reproduction along with Juya.. Women are shaman and priest and leader in society. Piache is the Guajiro shaman.

6.2 Stimulants: drugs to relieve mothers of pain and poultices applied to flowers and roots and spells

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): See 6.7

6.4 Other rituals: A ritual of the "young Wayuu virgin" or Majayura is when a female dances toward a male for marriage.

6.5 Myths (Creation):

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Associates economy and life with music such (i.e. singing to their cattle). They use music for meetings, funerals and celebrations. To honor their guest they do a dance called Yonna. They created many rustic musical instruments called Kashi, a type of flute called Sawawa, ma'sai, totoy, the taliraai, a tubular flute the and the woototoyoi a type of clarinet.

6.7 Sex differences in RCR: Children have no rite of puberty (). Not important for males. Females are exposed at as early as age 12 or at the start of menstruation. At this time they are permitted to go in to a period of seclusion anywhere from 2 months to up to 2 years. Resting in a hammock. Her head is shaved and fed a vegetarian diet called Jaguapi and bathes frequently. An unsterilized ritual of genital mutilation is performed by other close females close to the girl. This is a form of security for her future husband

6.8 Missionary effect:

6.9 RCR revival:

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Life doesn't end with death, but relationships with the bone of the dead continues. Burials are of high importance

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

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

## **7. Adornment**

7.1 Body paint: Pictures of red face paint on young women and girls I believe its called the 'Susu' Mochila, the art of the sewing on form the spider.

7.2 Piercings: no depiction of piercings

7.3 Haircut: females get their haircut during a ceremonial event.

7.4 Scarification:

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

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: Females undergo genital mutilation to secure a husband.

7.8 Missionary effect: Rebelled against the Capuchin friars. Friars came back and set up orphanages for the children and the rebellion settled.

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):**

### **Numbered references**

1. Wikipedia
2. Ethnologue.com
3. Psychology from the University of Northern Caribbean; Amaris Maria Macias / Analytical Literature Review On the Cultural Elements Of The Family
4. Google images