

## 1. Description

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: **Kiliwa, Yuman, Hokan**
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): **klb**
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): **Baja California, Mexico**
- 1.4 Brief history: **The Kiliwa are an aboriginal tribe located in the northern area of Baja California, Mexico. Like many indigenous populations; their population size, way of life, and subsistence capabilities suffered upon contact with outsiders.**
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: **Heavy interaction with Spanish missionaries from the mid 1500's to the 1800's.**
- 1.6 Ecology: **Type 1 Hunter-Gatherer**
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: **Exact population size is unknown. Conservative estimates put the Kiliwa at around 1300, with about 100 individuals per Rancheria. Population density was at about 1.5 persons per square mile, with a home range of about 1500 square miles.**

## 2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): **Agave plant, Paal Cactus, Biznaga Bud, Japep Seeds, Yucca fruit, occasional juniper berry**
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: **Rabbits, Deer, Quail, Antelope, Mountain Sheep, Snakes, Lizards, Birds, Fish, Mussels, Clams, occasional Mountain Lion.**
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: **Curved throwing Sticks, Bow and Arrow, Stone knives and arrow heads.**
- 2.4 Food storage: **Fish, Clams, Mussels were all dried.**
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: **Traditional hunter gatherer; men doing most hunting, women doing gathering and child rearing.**
- 2.6 Land tenure:
- 2.7 Ceramics: **Women made pots out of clay and mica.**
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: **Sharing game and materials with neighbors in need as needed.**
- 2.9 Food taboos: **Meat during pregnancy and immediate child rearing.**
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? **No watercraft; all fishing was done from the shore.**

## 3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): **Unindicated other than assumption of current day Mexicans.**
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): **Unindicated other than assumption of current day Mexicans**

## 4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): **early teens**
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): **Shortly after first menstruation**
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): **Upwards of eight**
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): **N/A**
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): **Girl becomes women at first menstruation; able to marry after that.**
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: **Divorce easy and common for both sexes.**
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: **Men allowed two wives, two was maximum, about 50/50 had one or two wives.**
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: **A new husband pays wife's parents 2-20 horses or cows/ money. If can't pay then works for parents-in-law.**
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: **When an individual died land/property went to his father, then mother, than if they were both dead than to the eldest son.**
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: **Minimal**
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: **N/A**
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): **All endogamy; exogamy ended in death of outsider**
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized? **Male involvement until several weeks to a month after birth, one father recognized.**
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows") **N/A**
- 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**
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin) **Only noted preference is for endogamy.**
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? **Women allowed to leave husband at any time during marriage.**
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? **Associated relatives.**
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females. **N/A**
- 4.22 Evidence for couvade. **Males avoid eating meat all together and eating a lot of anything else; also stay close to home after birth.**
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older) **N/A**
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? **Avoided marriage to cousins or close relatives**
- 4.24 Joking relationships? **N/A**

- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations. **Patrilineal descent, lineage names often with location in name, nicknames given to children.**
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules. **Close cousins etc.**
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? **A fiesta of sorts**
- 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?) **Always preferred inside the community**
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? **Male suitor must obtain permission from female's parents.**
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: **N/A**

### **Warfare/homicide**

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: **Unknown, although in-group killing was high.**
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: **In-group**
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: **In-group killings: Marriage, wealth-distribution**
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): **Limited to none**
- 4.18 Cannibalism? **N/A**

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

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: **< 100**
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): **Stayed in local area until dry season when most individuals travel to the coast to fish. Said to leave 3-4 individuals behind to guard camp**
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): **Chief or Headman; position usually passed through lineage although subject to change by popular decision**
- 5.4 Post marital residence: **N/A**
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): **Boundaries to the west restricted by hostel neighboring tribes; other boundaries consist of varies valleys**
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): **N/A**
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: **N/A**
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Traditional houses made of mud, stone, yucca tree, and animal skins. **Oval shape made to fit 1-8 people.**
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): **Houses used primarily in the winter for shelter, used in summer primarily for sleeping. Some kind of communal religious building.**
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? **On ground using "sleeping mats"**
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:
- 5.12 Trade: **Relations with neighbors made trade very hard; post missionary however, traded a little/ given goods by missionaries.**
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? **A good man, with many relatives to back him was often viewed as chief. His orders were most often voluntarily carried out.**

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

- 6 Time allocation to RCR: **Days to Months varying on ritual**
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): **Shamans**
- 6.2 Stimulants: **Datura/hallucinogenic cactus**
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): **Puberty rituals for both boys and girls; boys involving nose piercing and isolation and fasting; girls involving ash paintings and frequent washing. Death rituals consist of: a large gathering were all the dead are remember and "talked" to in order to keep them away. Individuals whose relative died put on ceremony by collecting food and clothes although a shaman conducts the ceremony.**
- 6.4 Other rituals: **Varies mourning ceremonies done throughout the year.**
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): **World created by a man, Metipa, spat out water, placed mountains, animals, the sun, moon, and stars etc.**
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): **All pottery was undecorated. Variety of games played by all ages and both sexes; games used animal skin/wood balls, wooden sticks, posts, and rings. Archery contests were often held. However, dice and other gambling games became very prevalent. Music consisted of songs accompanied primarily with rattle instruments. Flutes and whistles were sometimes used. Music was both for entertainment, storytelling, and ceremony.**
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: **N/A**
- 6.8 Missionary effect: Little other than resources. **Kiliwa have no God/Devil character(s). Hve words for them, thought to be extent of effect of Christianity.**
- 6.9 RCR revival: **N/A**
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: **Spirits represented as a paiajase. Although, believed living humans had no soul; spirits were more ghosts of the "dead people" that continued to exist.**
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? **Taboo of speaking of dead people**
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? **N/A**
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) **Make totems for dead, so gifts can be presented during ceremony. Spirits represented as a paiajase, shamans communicate with them during ceremony.**

## **7. Adornment**

7.1 Body paint: **Both sexes paint their entire bodies and faces during death ceremonies.**

7.2 Piercings: **Boys received nose piercings at 15 as part of their puberty rites**

7.3 Haircut: **N/A**

7.4 Scarification: **None**

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): **Beads, feathers, capes of human hair, other medallions hung from nose piercing.**

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: **Done for puberty and death ceremonies**

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: **Females do not receive nose piercings.**

7.8 Missionary effect: Little cultural effect. **Did not change religious practices or beliefs, were introduced to clothing, hats, cotton etc.**

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: **N/A**

## **8. Kinship systems**

8.1 Sibling classification system: **Unclear**

8.2 Sororate, levirate: **None present; both sexes able to divorce, marry, and remarry at will.**

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):**

**Like with many aboriginal cultures, colonization of the Americas had an effect on them. In the case of the Kiliwa, the effects were not a cultural assimilation however. The Kiliwa were forced into more and more remote and isolated areas of their home range of Baja-California, Mexico limiting data collection opportunities. In 1939 Peveril Meigs published the most complete ethnography on the Kiliwa people. It, as complete as it is, is still remarkably vague on many aspects of Kiliwa society. Meigs expresses frustration of having no credible female informants and only two male informants to generate his data. It seems as if, despite the Kiliwa's avoidance of outsiders, the few remaining Kiliwa women have married outside the tribe. Effectively no longer making them Kiliwa.**

## Numbered references

1. Meigs, Peveril. *The Kiliwa Indians of Lower California*. Berkeley, CA: U of California, 1939. Print.
2. Moore, Jerry D. 1999. "Archaeology in the Forgotten Peninsula: Prehistoric Settlement and Subsistence in Northern Baja California". *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 21
3. Hohenthal, William D., Jr. 2001. *Tipai Ethnographic Notes: A Baja California Indian Community at Mid Century*. Edited by Thomas Blackburn. Ballena Press, Menlo Park, California.