

## **1. Description**

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Cavineña (Cavineño or Kavineño) of the Tacanan language family.<sup>1</sup> Cavineño children also speak Spanish.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): cav<sup>1</sup>
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): 13° 20' S, 66° 30' W<sup>2</sup>, North Bolivia, between the towns of Reyes and Riberalta.<sup>7</sup>
- 1.4 Brief history: Since their initial European contact in the eighteenth century, the Cavineño have become increasingly acculturated into Bolivian society. Franciscan missionaries and the rubber tappers have had a great influence on their way of life.<sup>4</sup> Many Cavineño now practice either Catholicism or Protestantism.<sup>8,5</sup> With other indigenous peoples in the region, the Cavineño have gained land rights from the Bolivian government.<sup>4</sup>
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:  
The Cavineño were first contacted by Franciscan missionaries during the eighteenth century. The Spanish Franciscans set up missions on their land in order to convert the Indians.<sup>4</sup> Rubber tappers arrived in the region during the beginning of the twentieth century and Cavineño families were sold by the priests to work in rubber barracks.<sup>8,6</sup> Many of the Cavineño were killed off by a measles epidemic and poor working conditions in the rubber barracks.<sup>5,3:40</sup> The Franciscan missionaries were replaced by the American Maryknoll order in 1942. These missionaries helped improve education and living standards for the Cavineños. Missionaries from the Summer Institute of Linguistics arrived in the Cavineño territory during the 1970s and began training the Cavineños in the fields of health, mechanics, and carpentry.<sup>8,6</sup>
- 1.6 Ecology: The Cavineño are settled on lands around the Beni, Geneshuaya, and Biata rivers. The land is covered by rainforest as well as pampas, or savannah,<sup>3</sup> with a rainy and a dry season.<sup>4</sup>
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: 1,680, ethnic population = 2,950<sup>1</sup>. The mean village size is approximately 105.5.<sup>8,2</sup> Out of the thirty Cavineño communities three are in Panda while the rest are in the city of Beni.<sup>3</sup> Their communities contain several extended families and are spread over a large area.<sup>4</sup>

## **2. Economy**

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Their main source of carbohydrates is from rice, corn, manioc, and banana.<sup>8,4</sup>
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: The Cavineño get their protein from fishing, small-scale livestock production, and hunting.<sup>4</sup> They raise chickens, ducks, and some cattle.<sup>8,4</sup>
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: The Cavineño use guns to hunt the limited bush game in the region.<sup>5,8:21</sup>
- 2.4 Food storage: No information found.
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: No information found.
- 2.6 Land tenure: No information found.
- 2.7 Ceramics: No information found.
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: Food is shared among members in the Cavineño community. "The extended family shares all the work done and the results distributed among group members."<sup>3</sup>
- 2.9 Food taboos: Traditionally, young Cavineño were not allowed to eat fatty meats such as turtle liver or tapir. They believed eating fatty meat caused cowardice and loss of agility. The fatty parts were only a privilege of the elderly.<sup>3</sup>
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? No information found.

## **3. Anthropometry**

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): No information found.
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): No information found.

## **4. Life History, mating, marriage**

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): No information found.
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): No information found.
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): No information found.
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): No information found.
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): No information found.
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: No information found.
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: No information found.
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: No information found.
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: No information found.
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: No information found.
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: No information found.
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): No information found.
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized? No information found.
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows") No information found.
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)? No information found.
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape? No information found.

- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin) No information found.
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? No information found.
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring? No information found.
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? No information found.
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females No information found.
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades? No information found.
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older) No information found.
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? No information found.
- 4.24 Joking relationships? The Cavineña have a great sense of humor. “They seem to joke about everything, all day long, with extremely sonorous laughter.”<sup>8,4</sup>
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations?  
Every Cavineña has an official name and surname. The surname begins with the father’s surname and is followed by the mother’s surname.<sup>8,4</sup>
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules? No information found.
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? No information found.
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?  
A typical Cavineña surname will be one of the following ten: *Achipa, Ayala, Camaconi, Cartagena, Mayo, Rutani, Sepa, Siripi, Tavo, or Yubanera*. Nicknames are more commonly used than their official names. “the Cavineñas coin many sorts of nicknames. Nicknames are given according to something special that characterizes a person or that has happened to a person...Nicknames are often given (or changed) when someone loses their temper, a terribly bad quality in Cavineña society.”<sup>8,4-5</sup> There are certain individuals in a Cavineña community who are consulted when someone needs a nickname.<sup>8,5</sup>
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)  
With Cavineño communities scattered across a wide area there is some cases of inbreeding. In larger, multi-ethnic communities the population is more complex.<sup>4</sup>
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? No information found.
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: No information found.

### Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: No information found.
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: Cavineña stories about life before European contact describe constant warfare between the Cavineña and their enemies, “identified as the ancestors of the present-day Ese Ejjas.”<sup>8,6</sup>
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: No information found.
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): The Cavineños live in close proximity to the Ejjas and other Tacanas.<sup>4</sup>
- 4.18 Cannibalism? No information found.

### 5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: Data taken from Table 1.1 of the main Cavineña communities in Antoine Guillaume’s research shows that the average village size for the Cavineña is 105.5.<sup>8,2</sup>
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): No information found.
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): No information found.
- 5.4 Post marital residence: No information found.
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): No information found.
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): No information found.
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: The Cavineño enjoying joking with each other.<sup>8,4</sup>
- 5.8 Village and house organization: The Cavineño have two types of village organization: communities and isolated homes. “Each family has a space on which their home is built...This property is socially recognized. Similarly, each family has several clearings. Apart from that, each community makes use of a specific territory where different available resources and is jointly owned.”<sup>4</sup>
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens’ houses): No information found.
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? No information found.
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: No information found.
- 5.12 Trade: The Cavineño sell chestnuts, brazil nuts, citrus fruits, cassava, and rice in Riberalta. Timber and palm heart extraction are also a source of income for the Indians.<sup>4</sup>
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? No information found.

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

- 6 Time allocation to RCR: No information found.
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): The *yanakona*, a Cavineño shaman, are knowledgeable about the medician plants in the region and can cure diseases caused by evil spirits.<sup>3</sup>
- 6.2 Stimulants: There has been use of Ayahuasca to heal and receive divinations by the Cavineño since the 1950s.<sup>3</sup>
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): No information found.
- 6.4 Other rituals: They have a number of dances such as the *tiri tiri, Machichi, rairai, puri puri, carahuaya, tsamico*, and *zampoña* that would be performed during special occasions like the feast of the Assumption.<sup>4</sup>

- 6.5 Myths (Creation): No information found.
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Flutes and drums are played during certain festivals in the Cavineño communities.<sup>6, 4:54-5:22</sup>
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: No information found.
- 6.8 Missionary effect: Before the arrival of the missionaries, the Cavineños worshipped the spirits of the forest and waters.<sup>9</sup> Hardly any of their ancestral beliefs survived through the missionary contact. “The traditional and remote communities of the south practice Catholicism, which was introduced to them by Spanish Franciscan missionaries at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The more modern communities of the north practice Protestantism, which was introduced by SIL missionaries in the late 1960s.”<sup>8, 5</sup>
- 6.9 RCR revival: No information found.
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: No information found.
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? No information found.
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? No information found.
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) Before missionary contact, the Cavineño were animists, worshipping spirits of the forest. “Each species was represented by a special spirit that played a protective role.”<sup>9</sup>

## 7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: No information found.
- 7.2 Piercings: No information found.
- 7.3 Haircut: No information found.
- 7.4 Scarification: No information found.
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): No information found.
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: No information found.
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: No information found.
- 7.8 Missionary effect: The Cavineño dress in Western style clothing after European contact.<sup>5</sup>
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: No information found.

## 8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system: No information found.
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate: No information found.
- 8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): No information found.

## 9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

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