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### *Information on demography and acculturation among the Arabela*

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## INFORMACION DE CAMPO Nº 38-d

Tipo de información: "Information on demography and acculturation among the Arabela" (Información demográfica y sobre aculturación entre los arabela)  
Grupo étnico: Arabela

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Institución: Instituto Lingüístico de Verano

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Primer borrador.

1. Demography

ARABELA

Name of tribe: Arabela

Linguistic affiliation: Zaparoan

Name of linguist filling questionnaire: Rolland G. Rich

Date: May 17, 1964

Name the approximate geographical limits circumscribing the tribe. 30 air miles up the Arabela river.

What is the approximate total population of the tribe? 60

The Degree of bilingualism (Own language and Spanish) Check appropriate ones.

- Completely monolingual
- ☒ Very few men speak broken Spanish sufficient for trade
  - ☐ The majority of the men speak sufficient for trade
  - ☐ All the men speak sufficient for trade
  - ☐ The men and children speak Spanish
  - ☒ The women do not speak any Spanish
  - ☒ Only the tribal language is spoken in the home
  - ☐ Only the old people speak the tribal language
  - ☐ Both languages are used in the home.

2. Geographic environment (Check appropriate ones)

- Fairly
- ☒ Heavy jungle
  - ☐ A few natural clearings
  - ☐ Flat terrain
  - ☒ Rolling terrain
  - ☐ Mountainous terrain

- ☐ Average temp. above 85° F.
- ☒ Average temp. below 85° F.
- ☒ ~~Large~~ slow rivers small
- ☐ Rapid flow rivers
- ☐ Dangerous rapids in the rivers
- ☒ Not navigable main rivers in low water

3. Natural resources: (Check appropriate ones)

- ☒ Lumber (Name which kinds) Cedar, etc?
- ☐ Rubber
- ☒ Oil rose wood
- ☐ Metals
- ☒ Fish (not large kinds)
- ☐ Quarrying
- ☒ Skins (Which kinds) deer, tiger, ocelot, huangana, jaguar.

Farm land is:

- ☐ poor
- ☒ fair to
- ☒ good

## 4. Socio-economic structure: (Check Appropriate ones)

- Communities comprised of single families
- ☒ Communities of 50 or less
- ☐ Communities of not over 100
- ☐ Communities of 100 or more
- ☒ Family head leadership
- ☐ Chosen leadership
- ☐ War hero leadership
- ☐ Clan kin system
- ☐ Moity kin system ?
- ☐ Blood relation kin system
- ☒ Primitive agriculturists
- Community is aggressive in seeking economic development
- Some* ☒ Enthusiastic toward economic development
- ☒ Would like economic development, but ~~don't know how~~ *don't know how* to put much effort into it.
- ☐ Apathetic toward economic development
- ☐ Strong adherence to periodic migrations
- ☐ Beginning to look for means of settling on one plot of land
- ☒ Have been working one land for more than 5 years (*some*)
- ☐ Community is aggressive in seeking improvement in social matters
- ☐ Enthusiastic toward social development
- ☒ Would like social development but ~~don't know how~~ *know how* to put much effort into it.
- ☐ Apathetic toward social development
- ☐ Have the local patron system
- ☒ Use the open barter *some of each*
- ☒ Use coins as exchange medium *each*
- ☐ Patron has complete control of the barter
- ☐ Patron uses the peonage or serf system
- (Keeps the people continually in debt to him)
- ☒ The indians trade independent of a patron
- ☒ The indians produce above their family needs *a little*
- ☐ The indians exploit the natural resources
- if so: which? (Name)
- ☐ The indians produce cash crops
- if so: which? (Name)
- ☒ The indians raise domesticated animals for sale
- if so: what? (Name) *chickens*
- ☒ There is a national civil authority within 10, 20, 30, 50, 80 miles of *Teniente gobernador.*
- most communities. (Circle one)
- If there are local civil authorities please name titles.

## 5. Education

How many schools? *one*How many teachers? *one*How many students? *30*

How many schools above transición including 2° año? —

How many schools above 2° año de primaria?

How many schools are needed? *one more may be needed.*What is the percentage of literates from 8-15 years? *90%*What percentage of adult men are literates? *5%*What percentage of adult women are literates? *1/2%*

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## 6. Linguistic studies (Status)

- a. Phonemics *done (unpublished)*
- b. Grammar *nearly done*
- c. Primers *6 done*
- c. Other School Books *writing book & cakula 4*

## 7. Publications (list)

- a. Phonemic *on high level phonology*
- b. Grammar
- c. Anthropological
- d. Dictionaries
- e. Folklore

## 8. Communications (Transportation and mail)

To the tribal locations *Taats & infrequent river traders*  
 Within the tribe *by canoe - 2 hrs upstream to the other village*

## 9. Communal development projects desired: - by whom?

- a. Agriculture: **X**
- b. Health: **X**
- c. Civic:
- d. Coops: **X**
- e. Communal lay-out:
- f. Number of individuals getting or have gotten training in the above: **1**

10. Present most urgent problems: *To develop economic independence.*

## 11. Please make a rough map of the area occupied by the tribe. The scale should be at least twice the size of the air charts used by our pilots. These charts would also be excellent guides for your map. Indicate on map:

- 1. The approximate borders of the tribe.
- 2. The location of the bilingual schools.
- 3. All the communities that you know of.
- 4. Name of rivers and quebradas.

*Arabela river.*

*Just 2 dots on the map 20 minutes by  
 canoe - 180 from the Arabela mouth.  
 Buena Vista is <sup>main</sup> community  
 Tarapoto is the up river " - 2 hours  
 by paddle*

Tribe Arabela Estimated Population 65

Location (by rivers or specific areas) 40 air miles up Arabela river (from Curaray river) (2 locations, 3 hrs. apart by trail)

Change: Are people amenable to change? Individually \_\_\_\_\_  
Collectively Yes

Linguistic Acculturation:

What is the percentage of the tribe who are: Most of the people are also fair  
Quechua  
Speakers.

(1) monolingual, i.e. their understanding of the trade language is negligible 87%

(2) semi-bilingual, i.e. speak mainly the idiom, but understand and speak a little Spanish 10%

(3) effective bilingual, i.e. normally can carry on business in either idiom or in Spanish 3%

(4) complete bilingual, i.e. completely at home in either idiom or in Spanish none ?

What is the distribution of (2), (3), and (4) throughout the tribe? Are they generally clustered in one area or scattered equally throughout the tribe? Fairly scattered. There are also several

Spanish speakers married into the tribe. At least 2 of these are Trilingual

What is the tribe's attitude toward their language?

(1) In their villages: do they speak the language freely before outsiders, or are they embarrassed to speak their own language? Fairly free except possibly for some of the young fellows

(2) In Peruvian villages, or before whites outside of their villages? More reticent - varies with individuals

Are they proud or ashamed of their Indian heritage? Some are proud of it, others are too eager to please the outsiders

Educational development:

No. of persons with education beyond 5 año de primaria X

No. of persons with primaria completa X

No. of persons now in classes above 1 año de primaria X

No. of bilingual teachers one

No. of readers over 30 years of age —

No. of readers from 20-30 years of age —

No. of readers 15-20 years of age 2

No. of children in school under 15 years of age 16

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educational development moved slowly or rapidly? 1st year - moving well.

1. To what extent and in what areas of life do they practice their indigenous culture? Wooden rocker in trough for grinding. Strainer for their drinks.  
Same diet - most food taboos still observed. Birth customs followed by most. Burial under house.

2. What items of Peruvian culture have they adopted? e.g. clothing, housing types, cooking utensils, hair styles, etc. //

" , " , slightly fermented masato now used, shotguns, canoes,

3. What is their attitude toward:

- (1) less acculturated members of their own tribe? fine

- (2) less acculturated neighboring tribes? aren't any

- (3) more acculturated members of their own tribe? Respect

- (4) more acculturated neighboring tribes? Try to emulate

- (5) nationals living near them? Show too much deference to them.

- (6) nationals living in towns which they might visit occasionally? Same as 4 & 5

- (7) patrons? Getting wise to them finally a bit.

### Acculturation in General:

1. What has been the effect of the bilingual schools on the tribe?  
State what changes they have produced, if any. Trend to centralize the tribe.

2. What has been the effect of the medical program on the tribe?  
State specifically. *Most have great faith in medicine now.*

3. What has been the effect of the agricultural program on the tribe?  
State specifically. Eager to have an " " . Developing pasture right

4. With reference to each of these three programs:

- (1) Describe the particular successes and state why you think they were successful.  
*Time to see the results or be propagandized for long enough is the main key.*
- (2) Describe the particular failures and state why you think (over) they were failures.

5. For those tribes which are not involved in these three programs:

(1) Describe the reaction of the tribe to your personal attempts at ~~literacy, medicine, and gardening~~. *Mild amusement at eating vegetables - some interest.*  
*see previous question.*

(2) What did you consider to be the major hinderances and/or motivations for these reactions?

*Their own eating habits & tastes plus difficulty with chickens in a garden.*

6. How are decisions reached in the tribe?

*No real unity. Anyone with initiative can rally helping hands.*

7. How are decisions reached in the family?

*Father - all by himself - in his realm of activity. Some wives exert power.*

8. Which has greater authority, the tribe or family?

*Probably the family.*

9. What, in your view, is a practical project that could be implemented in your tribe now?

*Develop pasture lands & plant tree crops*

10. What in the tribe's view, is a project that could be initiated in the tribe now?

*The chief wants cattle. Others have suggested various crops*

14. What is the nearest town which could serve as a market for produce?

*Probably the Army Post at Mouth of Curaray*

15. Distance of this town from tribe: \_\_\_\_\_ miles, 30 hours <sup>downstream</sup> by outboard canoe, 55 min. by plane. 45+ hours back up stream

16. What is the nature of this town? <sup>Military</sup> Size, economy, access to supply routes from major sources of supply and demand? e.g. Does a road come to this town from the coast, boat from Iquitos, etc.

*4 days by launch from Iquitos*

17. What is the manner in which goods are exchanged within the tribe?

*Begged or given - no real trading.*

18. What is the manner in which trade is handled with those from outside the tribe?

*Patrón took goods from Indians, later brought back items they want. Traders give them what they want then push them to work to pay it off.*

19. If a surplus of any commodity exists, how is it distributed?

*Never see such a problem.*

20. What is the nature of ownership of property? Group owned? Individually owned? Owned by family? etc.

*The fields are said to belong to the wife of the man who clears it.*

21. Is the tribe accustomed to using money as a means of exchange? Do <sup>Yes -</sup> they understand the value of money and the relative value of goods? <sup>with us</sup>

*Fairly well.*

22. Work: (group characteristics--not individual)

*Make & plant fields, canoes, implements, houses,*

Main types of work for men *fish & hunt,*

Main types of work for women *Clear around house, make hammocks, cook, raise children, chop fire wood, carry water, harvest & carry food from fields.*

Any periods of rest (no work) *Yes - unpredictable.*



23. Do people know anything of the following industries:  
(signify sex by M or F)

Leather	Weaving Cloth	Mats <i>M (bark cloth)</i>	Hats	Shoes
Basketry <i>M</i>	Brushes	Embroidery	Pottery <i>F+M</i>	Others <i>Hammocks (state)</i>
Tile and Brick	Carpentry <i>M very little</i>	Ploughing	Bread	

Agriculture and Diet:

- What are the staples of the diet? Give in order of importance.  
*Yuca, corn, bananas, pijuayo (in season), sweet potatoe*
- What foods are produced by agriculture?  
*All the above.*
- What percentage of the tribe would be affected by food taboos? What food taboos, and when? *100% on certain animals. Sick people who have been treated with Belladonna (only fish & fowl allowed for several months)*
- Are there periods when food is scarce? What produces the scarcity? What is used to supplement the diet?  
*Yes, when trader has the men off working for long periods - chachas run out.*
- What are the causes of periods of hunger--floods, drought, inability to work due to sickness, too few men to clear fields, other?  
*See 4.*
- Where does the tribe normally plant its gardens? e.g. ridges of the hills, by the river banks, ~~sand bars~~ *note.*  
*Yes or Yes They look for a certain plant which indicates fertile ground.*
- Does the tribe practice any type of agriculture other than slash and burn? i.e. do they intensively cultivate any particular plot of land year after year? If so, what methods are used for keeping fertility up?  
*No*
- Are ~~the~~ people generally interested in agricultural development? *Yes.* What in particular? *Cash crops probably*
- Other crafts and industries that may be included--rubber gathering, *Probably not* logging, hand sawing lumber, farina making, sugar making, artifacts.  
*some Possibly yes yes Yes*
- For what items or produce is there a known market?  
*logs, farina & artifacts*
- Would information bulletins in Spanish be of any use?  
*In a year or two.*
- What are Peruvian farmers in the area producing for sale?  
*There aren't any up the Arabela. On the Curaray anything edible is sold.*
- How many years does a banana plantation produce fruit?  
*I've not seen one over five years old - they moved.*
- Can corn be grown successfully in the same location a second or third time consecutively? *I'm not sure if they ever do it. I've seen it work though by clearing & re-burning a year later.*

Terrain

- Describe the overall impression of the area.
- Is the prevailing topography mountainous \_\_\_\_\_, rolling X, flat no, swampy some?
- Is the soil predominately red ~~some~~ *some (especially the subsoil)*, yellow \_\_\_\_\_, gray small areas brown ~~see X~~, black \_\_\_\_\_?
- Is the soil clay X, loam thin topsoil, sand \_\_\_\_\_?

# ARABELA

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5. What percentage of the land is flooded during rainy season?

Maybe 2%

6. What sources of water are available?

Climate: Arabela river, many smaller streams & springs.

Is the climate the same or different than that here at Yarinacocha?  
State specific differences.

The seasons are quite reversed. Dry season is principally Dec. - Feb.

By March the river can be up, & we've seen  
high water as late as Nov.

A short dry spell is said to come in Mid July to  
Early August.

Rainy season invariably hits around 70° Fahrenheit at night  
& up to a maximum of around 85° by day.

More thunder storms near by, it seems than at the base.

More cloudy weather, frequenter lighter rains than at the base.

Possibly more inches per year rain in tribe (never measured).