



Population in China:

10,000 (1996)
11,900 (2000)
14,640 (2010)

Location: Yunnan

Religion: Animism

Christians: 300

Overview of the Duota

Countries: China

Pronunciation: “Doo-oh-ta”

Other Names:

Dota, Dota Yi, Duoni

Population Source:

10,000 (1996 AMO);
Out of a total Hani population of 1,253,952 (1990 census)

Location: S Yunnan: Yuanjiang County in Yuxi Prefecture and Mojiang County in Honghe Prefecture

Status:

Officially included under Hani

Language: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmese-Lolo, Lolo, Southern Lolo, Akha

Dialects: 0

Religion: Animism, Polytheism, No Religion, Christianity

Christians: 300

Scripture: None

Jesus film: None

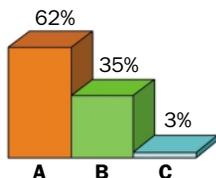
Gospel Recordings:

Hani: Duguduta #04942

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: None

Status of Evangelization



A = Have never heard the gospel
B = Were evangelized but did not become Christians
C = Are adherents to any form of Christianity

Location: More than 11,000 members of the Duota tribe live in Mojiang County in the Honghe Prefecture and in Yuanjiang County in Yuxi Prefecture. Honghe lies in the southern part of Yunnan Province. The Ailao Mountains, which have an average elevation of 1,600 meters (5,250 ft.) above sea level, run through the region and are home to numerous ethnic groups and subgroups.

Identity: The Duota were listed in CIM missionary John Kuhn’s 1945 tribal survey of Yunnan Province, entitled *We Found a Hundred Tribes*. Kuhn called them *Dota*. In the 1950s the Chinese authorities included the Duota as part of the Hani nationality. They have always viewed themselves as a distinct tribe and do not believe they are closely related to the 18 groups combined to form the Hani. As one writer explains, “There are many subdivisions of Hanis — Buda, Bukong, Biyo and Duota, among others — and they all have their own traditions and ways of dressing.”¹

Language: The Duota language is part of the Southern Yi language family. Some groups in Honghe Prefecture were classified under the Yi nationality by the Chinese, while others found themselves placed under the Hani nationality. It seems that the criteria used was according to each tribe’s linguistic affiliation. Speakers of Northern Lolo languages were included in the Yi minority, while Southern Lolo were placed in the Hani minority. The Duota do not have their own written script. Most

members of this tribe, except some of the elderly, are adequately bilingual in Chinese.

History: Records indicate a tribal people known as the Heyis lived south of the Dadu River in the third century bc. Between the fourth and eighth centuries some of them migrated to the Lancang area in western Yunnan before moving east to their present location in Honghe. After living in their own communities for several generations, they developed their own ethnic identities. The Duota are believed to be one of these tribes.

Customs: The main festivals of the Duota fall in June and October. The *Kuzhazha* (Sixth Moon Festival) lasts from three to six days. Duota men and women dress in their finest traditional clothing. Duota men are “bold and unconstrained by nature. Their deep love for life, their

hopes for their people, and their wishes for the year ahead are all reflected in their wild dances and the way they dress during the *Kuzhazha*.”²

Religion: The Duota say they were once in communication with heaven, but after an argument with the gods they were separated from heaven and no longer have access. Today some Duota are animists, but most youth consider themselves nonreligious.

Christianity: There are few churches or Christian communities among the Duota, even though they live near the heavily evangelized Kado and Biyo people groups. Many Duota have some surface knowledge of the gospel, but it has never moved their hearts, probably because the message has always come to them in a language other than their own.



Paul Hattaway