

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450227903321
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Titolo	The aborigines of Taiwan : the Puyuma : from headhunting to the modern world / / Josiane Cauquelin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : RoutledgeCurzon, , 2004
ISBN	1-134-49424-6 0-203-34727-7 1-280-03613-3 0-203-49859-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (304 p.)
Disciplina	951.2490049925
Soggetti	Puyuma (Taiwan people) - History Puyuma (Taiwan people) - Rites and ceremonies Puyuma (Taiwan people) - Social life and customs Electronic books. Taiwan Social life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Contents; List of maps; List of figures; List of plates; List of tables; Foreword; Acknowledgements; Introduction; The Puyuma; The village; Gods and men; Birth and death; Family horizons; Dual organisation and age-system; Shamans; Material civilisation; The aborigines in Taiwan today; Myth of the origin of the people of Katipul; Legend of the division of the land; Legends told by the Amis: Kiwit's war against the Puyuma; Story told by Valikai, a Katipul; Legend narrated by Taylor; Patintin song; Chronology of the investitures; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Based on extensive field research over a period of twenty years, this is the first comprehensive study of the Puyuma people of Taiwan. The Puyuma belong to the Austronesian peoples, which today number less than 370,000. In Taiwan, they are the least known of the aboriginal groups, numbering only 6000, and inhabiting the Southeastern province of Taitung. The study looks at the historical changes in the status and definition of these people in relation to the central state, the

criteria by which people determine their own ethnic identity, and the evolution of that identity through history. The i
