

# THE HORNS AND THE SPIRAL

Distribution, structure, functions and origin of a Eurasian children's rhyme about snails  
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## 2.1 – A GUIDE TO READ CORRECTLY THE DISTRIBUTION MAPS

THE MAPS ARE ONLINE HERE: [www.GKweb.it/spiral](http://www.GKweb.it/spiral)

We have prepared the distribution maps of the areas in which the snail rhyme, studied in our research, is present.

The first number, in orange, indicates the number of versions of the rhyme found in the related area.

The second number, in violet, is a density index. Its use has been found interesting in order to compensate for the fact that, after all, it is normal to find more versions on a larger territory than on a smaller one.

This density index is calculated after the simple formula:

$$\text{Index} = (N \times 10) / (\text{kmq}/100000)$$

where N is the number of versions found in the related area and kmq is its approximative extension in square kilometers.

The green background color of each area in which the snail rhyme is present becomes darker when the number of versions found and the density index are higher: we tried to make the color reflect the variations of both the quantities, thus indicating the overall situation. Besides, the color of each area has been furtherly modified in order to indicate also the differences with the neighbouring areas.

Summarizing the situation, the colors have been used in this way:

- Green, in various shades, for the territories in which the rhyme is present (the darker the color, the higher the presence of the rhyme).
- White or grey for the territories for which we have no data, or in which, perhaps, the rhyme could even be absent.

The grey lines indicate the modern political borders. The red lines indicate some ethnical-linguistic meaningful borders, when they do not coincide with the political ones. France has been divided into departments, according to the most traditional subdivision (the recent changes have not been included). It is also divided into linguistic areas (Oïl languages, Occitan, Franco-Provençal) according only to the geographical area where a version has been collected (and not to the actual real language used in each version). Italy is divided into regions.

The data on the map must be considered temporary and approximative. They depend also on many unwanted factors, for example:

- a partially subjective choice regarding the areas to be considered;
- the fact that, for the smallest areas, the density index becomes immediately very high, sometimes improperly (this should be corrected with statistical methods or different procedures);
- the best contacts with scholars from some areas and not from other ones;
- the study of former researches made only for some areas (France, Spain, The Netherlands, the Ladin area in the Dolomites) and not for other ones, resulting in an increased number of versions from those areas if compared to other territories.

Anyway, one could argue that these data are reliable enough to have some interest.

We highly suggest to go on reading the important [Remarks on the geographical distribution](#).

*This research comes legitimately only from the websites [www.GKweb.it](http://www.GKweb.it) and [www.naturamediterraneo.com](http://www.naturamediterraneo.com).*

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