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GEOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE DESIGNATIONS OF SOME LEGUMINOUS PLANTS IN THE WESTERN IBERIAN PENINSULA

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Abstract

The present study pertains to the area of geolinguistics, and is concerned with the designations associated to four leguminous plants (the pea, the haricot bean, the pinto bean and the green bean). The data were collected for the *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica* (ALPI). The spanned geographical area includes Portugal, Galicia, Asturias, León and the some points of Extremadura and Andalusia near the Portuguese border.

Keywords

Dialectology, geolinguistics, linguistic atlases, linguistic variation, lexicon

ANÁLISE GEOLINGÜÍSTICA DAS DESIGNAÇÕES DE ALGUMAS LEGUMINOSAS NO OCIDENTE DA PENÍNSULA IBÉRICA

Resumen

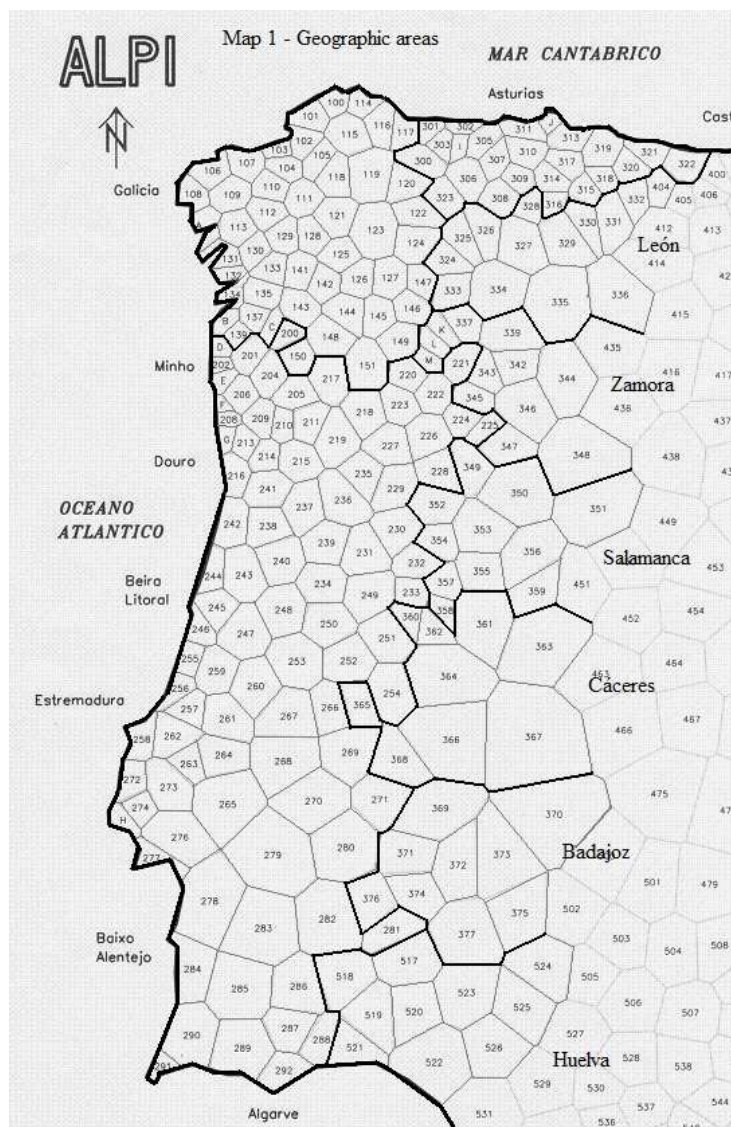
O presente estudo desenvolve-se na área da geolinguística e aborda as designações relacionadas com quatro leguminosas (a ervilha, o feijão, o feijão encarnado e o feijão verde). Os dados estudados foram recolhidos para o *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica* (ALPI). A área geográfica abrangida inclui Portugal, Galiza, Leão, Astúrias e pontos da Extremadura e da Andalusia vizinhos da fronteira portuguesa.

Palabras clave

Dialectología, geolinguística, atlas lingüísticos, variação lingüística, léxico

1. Introduction

This analysis is based on the data collected for the *Atlas Lingüístico de la Península Ibérica* (ALPI) project in Portugal, Galicia, Asturias, León and the areas of Extremadura and Andalusia near the Portuguese border (see Map 1).

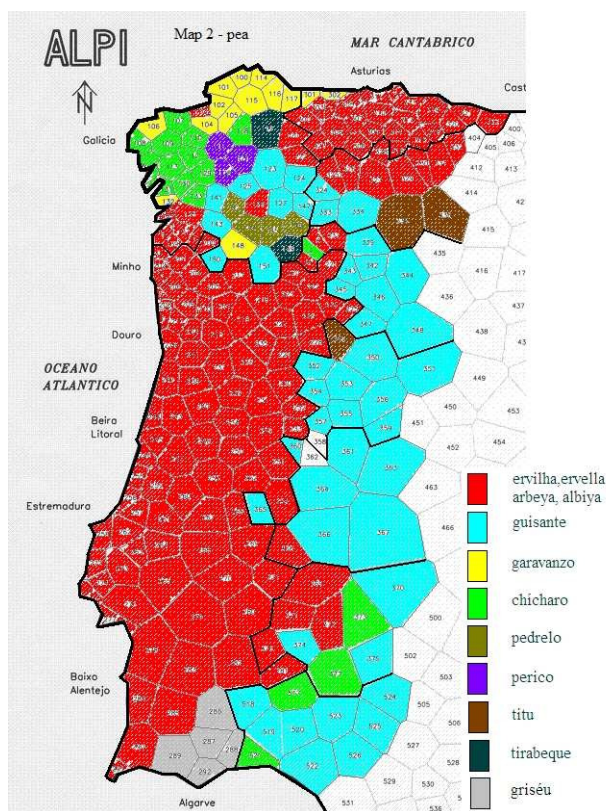


Map 1.

The concepts selected for this study are: the pea (*Pisum spp.*), the haricot bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), the pinto bean (*Phaseolus spp.*) and the green bean (the unripe fruit of the *Phaseolus vulgaris*).

2. The pea (Map 2)

Two main lexical areas can be found concerning the designations of pea: one of them includes Portuguese *ervilha*, Galician *ervella*, Asturian *arbeya* and southern Extremaduran *albiya*, all of them derived from Latin *ERVILIAM* (< *ERVUM* ‘lentil’) (marked with red colour in the map); the other represents the Castilian *guisante* (< Mozarab *biššáuṭ* < *PISULUM Sapidum* ‘tasty pea’; see Corominas 1980-1991, s. v. *guisante*) (marked with blue-turquoise colour in the map). The former occupies all the Portuguese territory (with the exception of five southern points), the entire Asturian domain and some Galician, Leonese and Extremaduran (Badajoz) points most of them near the Portuguese territory. The latter occupies all the area of Zamora, Salamanca and Cáceres. In Andalusia, in the southwest of León and in part of the southeast of Galicia, *guisante* is well represented. There are also a few points with this designation in Badajoz. It is interesting to notice the spreading of *guisante* over the Galician territory in a way that clearly separates the Asturian domain from those Galician and Leonese points where designations derived from *ERVILIAM* can be found.



Map 2.

Galicia is the domain where a larger lexical variation occurs. Besides the above mentioned lexical items, *ervella* and *guisante*, five others are attested. Four of them form bigger or smaller compact areas, and three are exclusive to Galicia: *garavanzo* (from the romanised *ARWATIUS < gothic *ARWAITS — influenced by *garroba* and *gálvana*. See Corominas 1980-1991, s. v. *garbanzo*) (marked with yellow colour in the map), *perico* (< *pero* ‘sweet apple’ + diminutive suffix) (with violet colour in the map) and *pedrelo* (< *pedra* ‘stone’ + suffix) (with green olive colour in the map). The Galician area of *chícharo* (< CICER, with Mozarabic influence), (with green colour in the map) is common with some Andalusian points. These points as well as the Southern answer *albiya* constitute a kind of barrier to the expansion of Castilian *guisante*. Another designation occurs in two separate Galician points: *tirabeque* (< TIRARE + Celtic BECCUS) (dark green colour).

In three points of León, *titu* (*guisante*) (with brown colour in the map) was the answer obtained.

In Portugal, a small southern area is formed by the item *griséu*, derived from the Latin PISELLUM with Mozarabic influence.

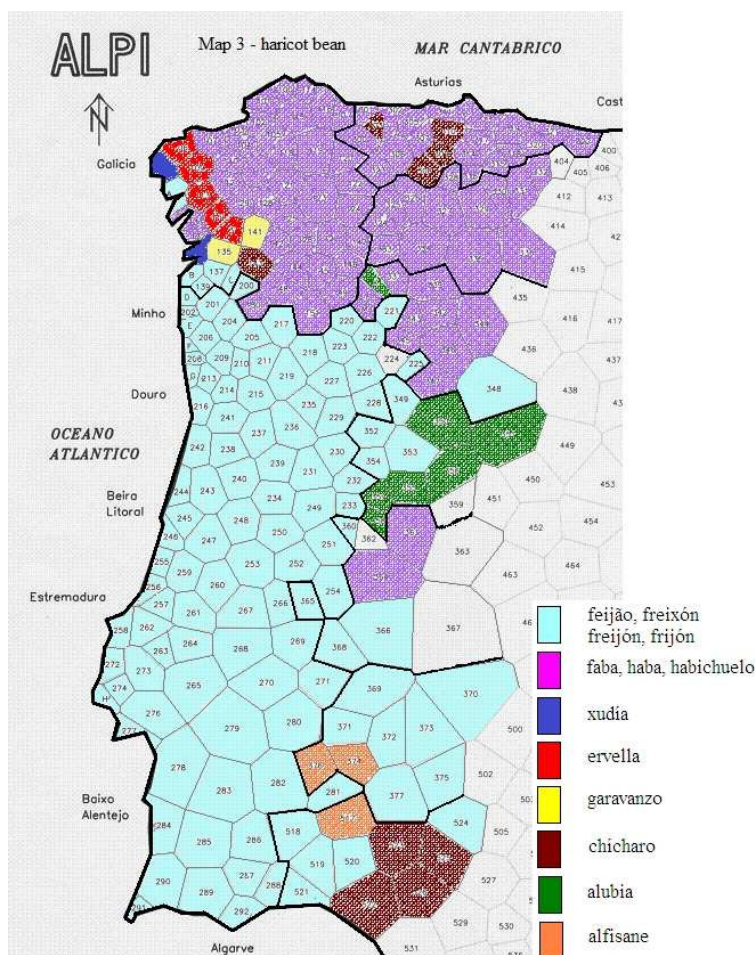
As a final comment it must be stated that all the lexical areas, regardless of their extension, are quite homogeneous and clearly delimited, in a general way. The advance of the Castilian *guisante* can be observed in Andalusia as well as in León and Galicia. And finally, the influence of the Mozarabic in the Latin etymons is quite strong.

3. The haricot bean (Map 3)

Before analysing the results found for this concept’s designations, it must be remarked that the adjective: the adjective that normally follows the name was not taken in consideration, because it was usually the same “branco, blanco” (‘white’).

Like it happened for pea, the haricot bean presents also two main lexical areas: on the one hand *feijão*, *freixón*, *freijón*, *frijón* (< PHASEOLUS) (with blue-grey colour on the map) and on the other hand *faba*, *haba*, *habichuelo* (< FABIA) (with violet colour on the map). These areas are dense enough and almost divide the entire territory in two parts: Galicia (except for a few points near the northern Portuguese border and a narrow strip parallel to the western coast), Asturias, León and Zamora, on north (the area of FABIA);

Portugal, some Galician points, and some areas of Extremadura and Andalucía, on south (the area of PHASEOLUS).



Map 3.

Portugal does not present any kind of lexical variation for the concept in study. For the other linguistic domains, some additional small areas can be mentioned. In the western Galician coast there are two separated points of *xudía* (< related to *xudío* ‘Jewish’. See Corominas 1980-1991, s.v. *judío*) (with dark blue colour on the map). Parallel to the same coast, an internal line defines the area of *ervella* (marked with red colour in the map). At the edge of the abovementioned area of *ervella*, there are two points with the answer *garavanzo* (yellow colour in the map) and *chicharo* (brown colour in the map), also found in four Asturian points and in another four points in SW Andalusia, defining an homogeneous area. Another area can be found in the area of Salamanca: the one of *alubia* (< Hispanic-Arabic LÚBYA) (green colour in the map).

Near the Andalusian area of *chícharo*, neighbouring the Portuguese border, there is a small area of *alfisane* (related to ‘pheasant’): two points in the south of Badajoz and one in the north-east of Andalusia (light brown colour in the map).

A reference must be made to four unique designations: Portuguese *corunha* (224 of ALPI network)¹ and Extremaduran *pipa* (359), *grano* (363) and *abacho* (367).

4. The pinto bean (Map 4)

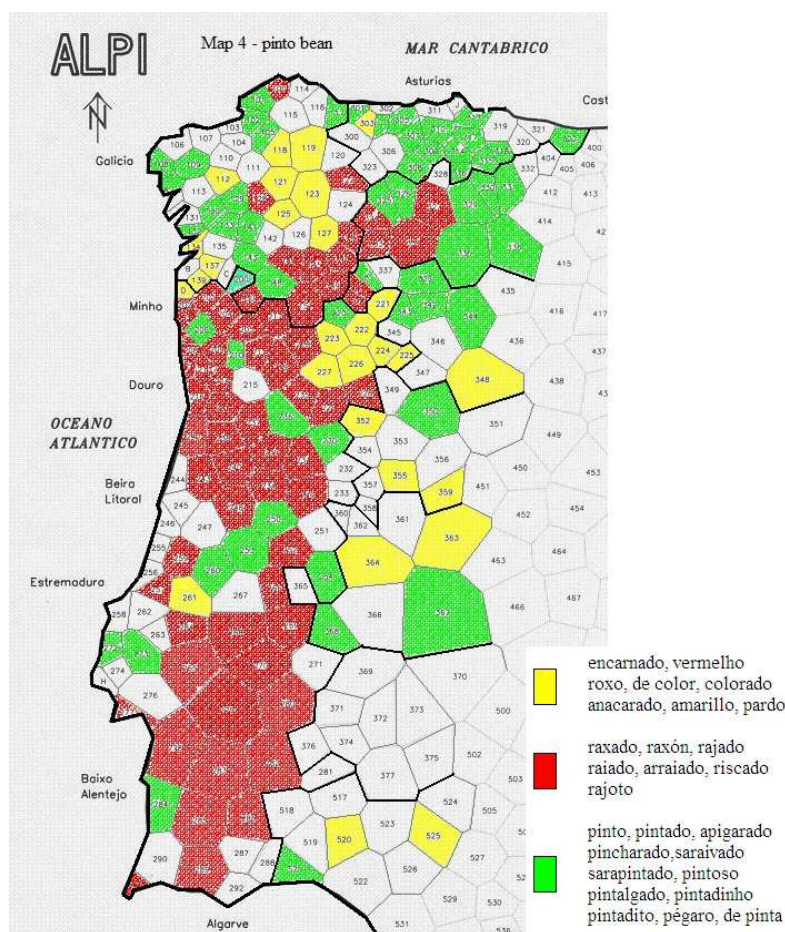
The map of the pinto bean only represents the designations motivated by the visual aspect of this legume: coloured, streaky or speckled.

The coloured aspect (yellow colour in the map) is designated by the modifiers *encarnado*, *vermelho*, *roxo* (‘red’), *de color*, *colorado* (‘coloured’), *anacarado* (‘nacreous’), *amarillo* (‘yellow’) and *pardo* (‘dun’). The map shows a larger concentration of these modifiers in Galicia and in the northeast of Portugal. A few points can be found also in Extremadura and in Andalusia.

The streaky aspect (red colour in the map) is designated by *raxado*, *raxón*, *rajado*, *raiado*, *arraiado*, *riscado* and *rajoto*. These designations form a large and compact area in the south of Portugal and another one in the centre and north with an extension to the south-east of Galicia and some points of Zamora and León. In Asturias, Extremadura, Andalusia as well in a large part of León, there are no designations for the pinto bean motivated by its streaky aspect.

The speckled aspect (green colour in the map) is designated by *pinto*, *pintado*, *apigarado*, *pincharado*, *saraivado*, *sarapintado*, *pintoso*, *pintalgado*, *pintadinho*, *pintadito*, *pégaro* and *de pinta*. It is differently represented in all the linguistic domains: in isolated points in Andalusia and Salamanca (one point each) and in Extremadura (two points), and in areas of medium-extension in León, Asturias, Galicia and, more sparsely, in Portugal.

¹ The number that follows some designations indicates the number of the locality in the ALPI network where the answer was obtained.



Map 4.

In the points that have no answer represented in Map 4, the designation of the pinto bean corresponds to a generic name *feijão*, *frijol*, *faba*, *judia*, *chicho*, with or without a modifier. In some cases, the modifier clearly specifies the motivation behind the designation. Other answers are single forms with fairly visible motivation. For the ease of illustration, a short/partial list is presented with the original meaning, if possible, and the respective localisation.

Faba castellana ('Castilian') – 111, 136

Faba costureira ('dressmaker') – 131

Faba reina ('queen') – 107

Faba rubidora, *feijão de atrepa* ('climbing') – 135, 142, 247

Feijão carrapato, *carraço* ('tick') – 251, 274, 276, 288

Feijão de Santa Iria, *de Santa Catarina* ('saint Iria', 'saint Catherine') – 245, 267, 271, 274, 275

Feijão mocho ('owl') – 246

Feijão pintassilgo ('goldfinch') – 258, 262

Frejón gallego ('Galician') – 524

Agostiña (woman's name? related to the month of August – harvest season?) – 114

Cagavivo – (This is also a designation for the fish *Stromateus maculatus* that presents some round marks) – 103

Faisán ('pheasant') – 374, 523

Fradiño ('monk') – 371

Jabato ('young wild boar') – 370

Perro ('dog') – 319

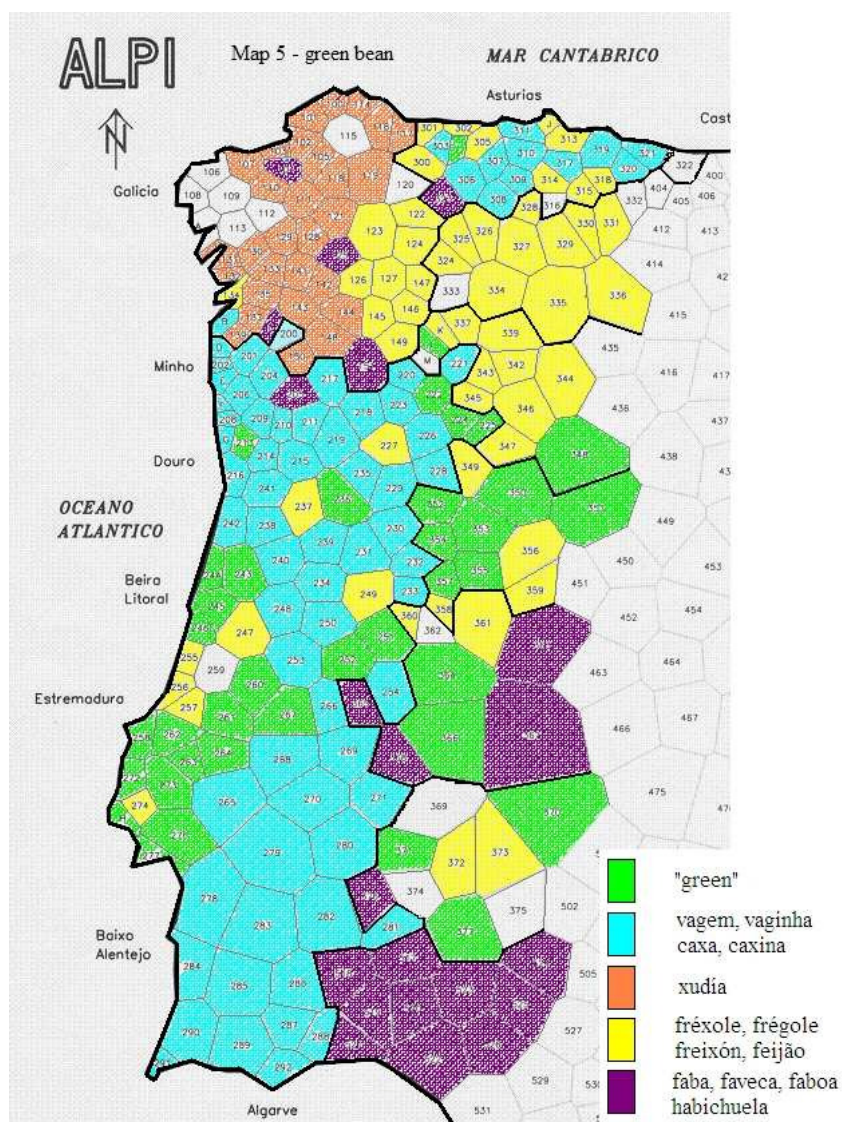
5. The green bean (Map 5)

The map of the green bean organizes the answers obtained for this concept according to two different criteria. The first one, represented in the map by light green and blue colours, groups the designations according to the meaning. Therefore, one section gathers all the answers with the modifier *verde* ('green'), regardless of the first element (*faba*, *feijão*, *habichuela*) (light green colour), while another section groups all the designations that have in common the meaning 'container': *vagem*, *vaginha* (< VAGINA) 'pod', *casula* (< CASULA) 'chasuble' and *caxa*, *caxina* (< CAPSA) 'box' (blue-turquoise colour). The second criterion takes into account the lexical type, without paying attention to the modifier, when it exists.

The map shows five well-defined lexical areas, some of them more or less fragmented.

The area of the modifier "green" is concentrated on two different domains (green colour in the map): the Portuguese one (centre-western coast, with a few disseminated points across the territory) and the other at Salamanca, Cáceres and Badajoz regions. In Asturias (one point) and in Zamora (two points) *verde* was also registered.

The meaning of 'container' (blue-turquoise colour in the map) is concentrated in Asturias (with *caxina*) and in Portugal (with *vagem*, *vaginha*) and is the most frequent lexical type. Galicia has only one point near the Portuguese border.



Map 5.

Galicia presents an exclusive designation for this concept: *xudía* (light brown colour in the map). It occupies, from north to south, almost all the central and western territory. The empty cases mean that there was no answer in the questionnaires for these localities.

The area of *fréxole*, *frégole*, *freixón* and *feijão* (+ some modifiers) (yellow colour in the map) has its most concentrated zone in León, Zamora, Galicia (eastern zone) and in Asturias. There are also some points in Portugal and in Extremadura. Some of the modifiers are: *de manteca* 'butter' (134), *de estaca* 'stake' (237), *vassoiro* 'broom' (247), *de caldo* 'soup' (249), *de atrepar* 'to climb' (255), *de quebrar* 'to break' (257), *tierno* 'tender' (349), *indiano* 'Indian' (360).

The fifth area, the one of *faba*, *faveca*, *faboia* and *habichuela* (violet colour in the map) has its most concentrated area in Andalusia. Some points in Extremadura (one in Badajoz and four in Caceres), one point in the north of Portugal, four in Galicia and one in south-western Asturias complete the dispersion of these designations. In Galicia, one can find *faba* with the modifier “*de picar*” ‘to chop’ (125), “*de crebar*” ‘to break’ (151).

Some unique answers were also obtained: *ervellón* (106 — a coastal point in the west of Galicia), from *ervello* ‘pea’; *ponga* (322 — a coastal point in the east of Asturias), which may be related to *ponxa*, *poxa* ‘beans, pods residues’; (*x*)*aluga* (332 a north-eastern point of Zamora bordering with Asturias); *chícharo* (341 — a south-western point of Zamora near the northern Portuguese border); *baluga* (259 — Portuguese centre point); *garrapata* (369 — north-west point of Badajoz), from *carrapato* ‘tick’; and *alfrisane* (374 — south-west point of Badajoz), from *faisán* ‘pheasant’.

5. Conclusion

Each linguistic domain presents, at least for two or more of the concepts studied, lexical areas that are more or less compact. These areas can also be shared with others domains.

Analysing each domain it is possible to notice:

1. The Asturian domain shows very well defined lexical areas for the four concepts: *arbeya*, *faba*, *pinto* and *caxina* are the main lexical areas in this domain.

2. The Leonese region presents for the haricot bean and for the green bean two designations, one for each one, which cover the entire territory: *faba* and *fréjol*. These terms cover also the region of Zamora.

3. The regions neighbouring the eastern Portugal frontier present different results according to the studied concepts. As it was said, Zamora shares the designations *faba* (Map 3) and *fréjol* (Map 5) with León and some others areas. It also shares *guisante* (Map 2) with all the other Spanish southern regions, as well as with the south of León and a south eastern Galician area. It is interesting to notice that this Castilian term gets to break the ERVILIAM linguistic continuum between Galicia, Asturias, León and Portugal.

4. In some of these regions it is possible to detect some cases of linguistic continuity between the Portuguese and the Galician and the Spanish domains: results of ERVILIAM can be found in the south-west of Galicia, in the north-west of Zamora and in the west of Cáceres and of Badajoz (Map 2); the same happens with the derivatives of PHASEOLUS: there is a linguistic continuity in Andalusia, Badajoz, Cáceres, Salamanca and Galicia (Map 3); in a smaller degree the same happens for the *rajado*, a designation that presents a continuation in south-eastern Galicia.

5. With respect to Galicia it is also possible to detect a linguistic continuity with Asturias, León and Zamora: the most evident one is that of *faba* (Map 3). In a lesser degree *garavanzo* (Map 2), *raxado* (Map 4) and *fréxole* (Map 5) have continuations in those contiguous regions.

6. Considering all four concepts, the Portuguese domain is the one that presents the highest lexical cohesion. Asturias is the second one. All the others, especially Galicia, display greater lexical richness and diversity.

7. Considering the linguistic results obtained for these four legumes and considering that the data collected for the ALPI gives a general linguistic image from a very dated period, for the entire Iberian Peninsula, it is possible to deduce the valuable information contained in these data. They will allow us to enrich and to complete all the information that can be found in recent regional and national atlases.

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