

## Estimate of the level of endogamy in Corato

The main issue is to find out how much the Coratini intermarried, at least as far as marriages that took place in Corato are concerned.

What is our estimate based on? Since 2016, our project has created a Corato-centric family tree, which currently contains over 23,000 individuals. To this we have added a database consisting of authentic records, which is maintained and accessible on Google Drive. In our research, we found 9,317 unions, but the place of marriage is specified in only 3,393 (2,866+527) cases (see table below). Of these 3,393 cases, 2,866 unions took place in Corato, 527 in other specified places, including 228 in Molfetta, 28 in France, and 84 in the USA.

In this table we see that the only period that allows us to make a reliable estimate of endogamy is the one from 1835 to 1865 inclusive, that is to say 31 years. Because of the lack of access to online parish archives, we had to be content with making an estimate of endogamy over a very short period - barely two generations. We had originally thought to choose the period from 1809 to 1865, since the Napoleonic Stato Civile begins in 1809; but we would not have been able to find the vast majority of birth records prior to 1809.

During the period 1835-1865, therefore, not only are the dates of birth mentioned in the marriage certificates (with some exceptions), but, where the father of the husband or wife is deceased, not only is the date of death of the latter mentioned, but also the date of death of the grandfather. In fact, this is the period in which the Civil Registry resources are the most complete.

After 1865, the *Stato Civile* becomes progressively more imprecise: the annual birth tables no longer include the filiations of the persons, and the exact date of birth is missing in many marriage records. Fortunately, Antenati.it has digitized the births from 1878 to 1898, but outside these dates, the parentage is missing in the tables.

Our estimate of endogamy is therefore based on 917 marriages between two people born in Corato, from 1835 to 1865 inclusive, out of a total of 948. This is a ratio of 97%. This emphasizes how the difficulties that endogamy poses for research - for the elaboration of a family history, as well as for the writing of the history of Coratino migration based on the 'memory' of those who migrated - could be overcome by access to parish archives.

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Total unions in the 'albero genealogico coratino'	9 317			
Number of unions	Number	Total	%	Notes
Exact date of marriage in Corato	2 866	9 317	31%	During the whole period covered by the tree (ca. 1600 to present)
Place of marriage outside Corato	527	9 317	6%	of which 228 in Molfetta, 30 in France, 84 in USA
Place and date of marriage unknown	5 924	9 317	64%	
Exact date of marriage in Corato	1 694	2 866	59%	Between 1809 and 1865
Exact date of marriage in Corato	948	1 694	56%	Between 1835 and 1865
Marriages between two people born in Corato	917	948	97%	
Marriages where the husband was not born in Corato	9	948	1%	Between 1835 and 1865, exact dates of birth
Marriages where the wife was not born in Corato	19	948	2%	
Marriages where neither spouse was born in Corato	3	948		

NB: This study was made possible thanks to the "VisuGed" software of Jean CHABAUD, [www.visuged.org](http://www.visuged.org)

Of course, since Coratini had a centuries-old habit of migrating to surrounding villages, it is possible that some of them married women in the places where they settled. However, it was customary for marriages to take place where the wife resided, especially since the inheritance of property was through the woman, not the man (Salvemini, personal communication). Was this custom not a strong incentive to endogamy?

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