

## **Of fake geminates and Ibero-Romance trills: Weight and sonority as two sides of the same coin**

The two rhotic consonants of Ibero-Romance languages are characterised by their very specific distribution and by the prosodic weight of one of them. Data has hitherto suggested a geminate-to-single contrast for the pair of rhotics. It will be shown here that this view must be rejected in favour of another which sees these putative geminates as complex syllabic *onsets*. But this hypothesis only holds if it can be shown that sonorants and only sonorants are likely to have weight in onset position. The Alignment theory of sonority makes this possible.