



Ciuleandra

Ciulin (Romanian) = tumble weed. Ciuleandra (Romanian) = (approx.) the tumble weed dance

The name probably comes from the rhythm of the dance, which speeds toward the end. Also the air and dust moved by a closed circle of good dancers during the end of the dance resemble too well the movements of a tumbleweed wheel.

The dance used to be done in the South part of Romania, in the times of the ox-and-horse propelled agricultural machines. The region is a large, flat plane, with very fertile soil (that is, 'if Good Lord grant us rain'). In the drought periods, at the smallest breeze, dust and tumbleweeds started flying. The introduction of the mechanized agriculture, added to the development of an intensive irrigation system, eradicated the tumbleweeds and their dance altogether. The dance can be found today only in the performance groups repertory. The song however is still very popular (due mainly to Maria Tanase's beloved version). There is also a novel (Liviu Rebreanu, ca. 1930) and a movie (ca. 1985) roughly inspired by the music.

Foaie verde siminoc,
Tzinetzi Ciuleandra pe loc,
Shi-nc-odata mai baietzi,
Hop-sh-asha-sh-asha

Tzinetzi-o flacai asha,
Pina n-ajunge puica,
Shi-nc-o-data, mai baietzi,
Hop-sh-asha-sh-asha.

Intaritzi-o nitzelush
c-ajunge acush-acush,
Shi-nc-o-data, mai baietzi
Hop-sh-asha-sh-asha.

Mai intaritzi-o de-un pas
C-ajuns si n-a ramas
Shi-nc-o-data, mai baietzi
Hop-sh-asha-sh-asha.

Doua fire, doua paie,
Luatzi Ciuleandra la bataie
Shi-nc-o-data, mai baietzi
Hop-sh-asha-sh-asha.

Tot asha ca nu ma las,
Ca sint cu puica pe-un pas,
Shi-nc-o-data, mai baietzi
Hop-sh-asha-sh-asha.

Doua fire, doua paie,
la Ciuleandra la bataie
Shi-nc-o-data, mai baietzi
Hop-sh-asha-sh-asha.

Green leaf of 'siminoc',
Keep the circle in place,
One more time, boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

Keep it like that, lads,
Until my darling catches up to me,
One more time, boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

Speed it up just a little,
She is close to catch up with me,
One more time, boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

Speed it up one more step,
she caught me up, but didn't stay,
One more time, boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

Two straws, two grains,
Let's stomp* the Ciuleandra,
One more time, boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

Keep it like that, don't slow it down,
'Cause I'm on same step with my darling,
One more time, boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

Two straws, two grains,
Stomp the Ciuleandra now,
One more time, boys,
Hop-and-so-and so.

ROMANIA