

Excursions

Mt Taberg (21 June) is a small mountain, 343 m high, made up from the extremely rare mineral titanium-magnetite-olevinitite. Mining activities have been going on since the 1400's. However, to save and protect the unique nature, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation bought both the land and the mining concession in 1986. Most of the mountain is covered by herb-rich conifer forest with species such as *Moneses uniflora*, *Linnaea borealis* and *Neottia nidusavis* but there are also some unimproved pastures with e.g. *Ajuga pyramidalis* and *Scorzonera humilis*. Remnants from mining activity are evident in many places, exposing the bedrock and giving space for species such as *Scabiosa columbaria*, *Veronica spicata* and *Hypericum montanum*. The most famous organisms on the mountain are the ferns *Asplenium septentrionale*, *A. trichomanes*, *A. viride* and the extremely rare but locally abundant *A. adulterinum* together with large populations of several rare bats hibernating in the former mines. No less than 47 (micro-)species of *Hieracium* sect. *Hieracium*, *Bifida* and *Vulgata* have been found on the mountain making it one of the most species-rich sites in southern-most Sweden.

The Huskvarna mountains (22 June). Above the town of Huskvarna, famous for its long industrial tradition (Swedish Match and the Huskvarna company), and all the way along the southwestern side of lake Vättern there is a steep mountain ridge with very heterogeneous geology raising to 250 m above the surface of the lake. The relatively high elevation in combination with the closeness to the third largest freshwater body in Europe and the varied geomorphology provide opportunities for a very rich flora with several regionally rare and unique species. Most of the slopes are covered by mixed deciduous forest (*Fraxinus excelsior*, *Tilia cordata*, *Populus tremula*, *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*) but there are also lots of exposed cliffs, deep humid canyons and former pastures and fields in different stages of overgrowth. *Primula veris*, *Arnica montana*, *Hypochoeris maculata* and *Ajuga pyramidalis* grows in former pastures as well as in open forests along the exposed cliffs, and here we also find many species of *Hieracium* sect. *Bifida* and the regionally rare *Pilosella officinarum* subsp. *peleteriana* together with triploid and pentaploid transitional forms towards subsp. *officinarum*. In the more humid canyons, many nemoral species have disjunct northern outposts, e.g. *Fagus sylvatica*, *Anemone ranunculoides* and *Stellaria neglecta*, and in this habitat there are also multiple (micro-)species of *Hieracium* sect. *Hieracium*.

Galtö mire complex and Habo church (23 June). On the highlands on the western side of lake Vättern, precipitation is locally very high, and large mire complexes are formed where southwestern oceanic species coexist with northern boreal species. Galtö mire is a relatively small mire with open, both oligotrophic and mesotrophic, areas as well as swamp forests. Here we may find the "mire-lilly" *Narthecium ossifragum*, sedges such as *Eriophorum gracile*, *E. latifolium*, *E. angustifolium*, *E. vaginatum*, *Carex vaginata*, *C. dioica*, *C. lasiocarpa* and *C. globularis*, orchids such as *Listera cordata*, *Corallorhiza trifida* and *Dactylorhiza sphagnicola* together with shrubs and half-shrubs such as *Rhododendron tomentosum* (= *Ledum palustre*), *Myrica gale*, *Erica tetralix*, *Empetrum nigrum* and *Rubus chamaemorus*. After the mire (about noon) we may visit the church at Habo, a spectacular wooden cathedral from the palmy days of the Swedish empire in the 1700's, painted all over with motives from the catechism in a rural baroque style.