

## MONTE CECILIA PATH

*LENGTH:* 5,4 Km

*DIFFERENCE IN ALTITUDE:* 170 m. including detours

*WALKING TIME:* 4 including detours

*DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:* none

*BEST SEASON:* spring

**Geology.** Monte Cecilia (199m.) is the most relevant example of laccolite as the hill developed through a series of volcanic events during which the lava did not spread rapidly, but rather cooled down more slowly thus remaining in the shallows, covered by the stratified layers of rocks. The volcanic rock which forms Monte Cecilia is latite, which produces the typical ‘onion-skin’ exfoliation, i.e. portions of rock peeled away in concentric rings due to the cooling of the lava and to the atmospheric attack.

**Flora.** The path runs through a wood mostly covered by false acacia where you can also find elms, mulberries (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), flowering ashes (*Fraxinus ornus*), nettle-trees (*Celtis australis*), elders (*Sambucus nigra*), common maples; among the bushes, hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and dog-roses (*Rosa canina*). The undergrowth is rich in butcher’s-broom and skewer-wood (*Euonymus europaeus*). In the eastern slope you can see the most interesting Mediterranean maquis: brooms, smoke trees (*Rhus cotinus*), shrubs (*Viburnum lantana*) and, above all, worth of notice is the endemic Ruta patavina (*Haplophyllum patavinum*).

**Fauna.** The wood hosts the jay (*Garrulus glandarius*), the wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) and the nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), which nests on the ground. Even if rarely, you can spot the nests of the wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) and among the birds of prey the common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), the bee hawk (*Pernis apivorus*), the buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) and the sparrow hawk (*Accipiter nisus*). Reptiles are represented by the aesculapian snake (*Elaphe longissima*) called “ansa”, the grass snake (*Natrix natrix*), the colubrid (*Coluber viridiflavus carbonarius*) called “scarbonasso” and more rarely the adder (*Vipera aspis*). As regard insects the “vegri”, i.e. pasturelands and unfruitful fields, are home to grasshoppers, flies, beautiful butterflies, such as the màcaon swallowtail (*Papilio macaon*) and the Vanessa together with wasps and bees.

**History and art.** On the summit of the hill stand the ruins of an old medieval fortress belonging to the counts from Baone. It was later destroyed by the Ezzelinis who were at war with the Camposampieros. The legend tells that the war was caused by a very charming girl named Cecilia. Near a second lower summit, in the north, some archaeologists have discovered some ceramics and tiles belonging to the ancient church of Saint Fidenzio.