

## **MONTE GALLO, MONTE DELLE GROTTA AND MONTE BASSO PATH n. 10**

**LENGTH:** 6 Km

**DIFFERENCE IN ALTITUDE:** about 300 m

**WALKING TIME:** 2 hours

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:** descent is difficult in some places.

**BEST SEASON:** spring

**Geology.** Monte delle Basse is characterized by the presence, in some places, of particular rocks of “intrusive” volcanic origin. These rocks cooled down in the shallows and were forced upwards by the lava. There are also metamorphic rocks in which the calcareous rocks were modified by the huge heat of the magma before its solidification.

**Flora.** The land, which in the past was intensively cultivated, has been now let run wild thus leaving place to shrubs and exotic plants: false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), paper mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*). Worth of notice, at the beginning of the path, is a group of huge turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) a big forest tree which, without any doubt, is a rare species on the hills.

**Fauna.** The path develops among areas which have been strongly modified by man. The species which live here have well adjusted themselves to the new surrounding: the European hare (*Lepus europeus*), the quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) and the peasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). There is evidence of the presence of the beech marten (*Martes foina*), of the long-tailed weasel (*Mustela nivalis*) and of the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) by the excrements found along the path or near the houses.

**History and Art.** At the beginning of the path, near the summit of Monte Gallo, is situated the village named *case steogarda*. Here, in the past, there was an old tracing with a horse station which linked up Arquà Petrarca with Teolo. The agricultural landscape, above all in the Valley of Rio Cingolina, is particular suggestive; on the southern sunny slope of Mount delle Basse you can get a view of the terrace-cultivation where olive trees grow together with vineyards.