

## **MONTE LOZZO PATH n. 5**

**LENGTH:** 2.8 Km, excluding a detour to the top.

**DIFFERENCE IN ALTITUDE:** about 200m to the centre of Lozzo Atestino; about 90m from the starting point of the ring circuit.

**WALKING TIME:** about 2 hours

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:** none

**Geology.** Monte Lozzo (323m) stands isolated from the rest of the Euganean Hills. This particular feature is due to its origin: this mount is a “laccoliths of eruption”, i.e. a buried volcano where the lava, instead of spreading out, insinuated itself between planes of stratification and cooled down under them while, at the same time, forced the upper layers upwards.

**Flora.** The path winds through a thick false-acacia wood which often hinders the view. On the southern slope there are elms, hackberries (*Celtis australis*), dogwoods (*Cornus sanguinea*), paper mulberries (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), the European spinole (*Euonimus europaeus*), and, in the underwood, the wild aparagus and the butcher’s broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*). On the northern slope grows the chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), the hornbeam, the cornelian cherry dogwood (*Cornus mas*), the maple, the pubescent oak (*Quercus pubescens*) while in the underwood you can find the European pivret (*Ligustrum vulgare*), the liverwort (*Anemone hepatica*), the common lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*), the old man’s beard (*Clematis vitalba*) together with a great quantity of the butcher’s broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*).

**Fauna.** During the breeding season the area hosts the hobby falcon (*Falco subbuteo*), the orphean warbler (*Sylvia hortensis*) and the barred warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*). In spring, if you walk in silence, you can spot the hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) and hear the cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), these are migratory birds which fly to Africa in winter. Near the inhabited areas some hymenoptera build their nest: the ant, the reddish ant (*Formica rufa*), wasps, among which the *Polistes gallica* and some pollination insects such as the honey bee (*Apis mellifica*) and the bumble bee (*Bombus*). In the fields and near the inhabited areas lives the European hare (*Lepus europeaus*), the common pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), the quail (*Coturnix coturnix*), the beech marten (*Martes foina*), the long-tailed weasel (*Mustela nivalis*) and the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).

**History and art.** Between 100 and 180 metres, pre-historic sites dating to the Palaeolithic and to the Bronze Age have been documented by the finding of flint objects and remains of built-up areas and necropolis belonging to the Ancient Venetian people. On the top there is a gate named after Saint Giuseppe, while at the foot of the hill, on the western slope, stands the Castle of Valbona (first half of XIII century).