

4. Girabäcken



The deeply indented ravine of the Girabäcken brook is in a fertile farming area about 1 km north of Uppgränna. In May, there is a strong aroma of wild garlic here.

The brook cuts through the Visingsö formation, sedimentary rock formed about 700-850 million years ago. The successive layers of sandstone and slate with some chalk are visible close to Lake Vättern in the long valley of the Girabäcken brook.

The brook is edged with trees and bushes on the slopes, such as elm, ash, oak, wild cherry, alder, fly honeysuckle and hazel. You get a feeling of undisturbed natural forest when you enter the luxuriant ravine. There are many old and dead trees, standing and fallen. On the ground are wild garlic, dog's mercury, Solomon's seal, bearded wheatgrass,

wood sedge and several species of fern. In the upper part of the ravine, common ivy climbs trunks and partly covers the ground. Shelf fungi are tree-living fungi which are in good evidence on dead and dying trunks and logs along the brook.

The mountain bulin and *Macrogastera ventricosa* – a species of door snail - are examples of Girabäcken's rich diversity of rare and threatened land snails. Together with the *Cyanostolus aeneus* beetle and other less common beetles, they are part of the rich fauna of the natural deciduous woodland of the brook ravine. In the spring, the birdsong here is deafening, with wren, wood warbler,

blackcap, song thrush, scarlet rosefinch and many other species.

During a period of some twenty years in the last century, a company called Gränna Sandsten quarried in the ravine. The remains of a transport track can still be seen in the lower of the three quarries.



WORTH KNOWING

There is a planked path with steps, bridges and benches up through the brook ravine. Down by the lake there is a barbecue site and a small bathing beach. Girabäcken is part of the Biosphere Reserve East Vättern Scarp Landscape and is a Natura 2000 area.

HOW TO GET THERE: Take the tourist road from Gränna towards Ödeshög for about 5 km. Turn left at the cross-roads at Uppgränna.

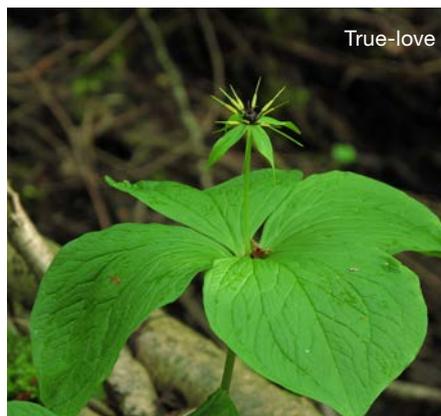
PARKING: On the left-hand side of the road about 1 km to the north of Uppgränna is a parking area with information signs about Girabäcken and Lake Vättern.

BUS: Bus towards Gränna harbour, change to bus towards Ödeshög, the bus stop is called Uppgränna norra.

DIFFICULTY: ● *Medium*



Common ivy



True-love



Wild garlic



Mountain bulin



Solomon's seal