

DÖDLARSBERGET TOPO GUIDE – selected climbs

20th October 2010

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How to assembly the topo guide:

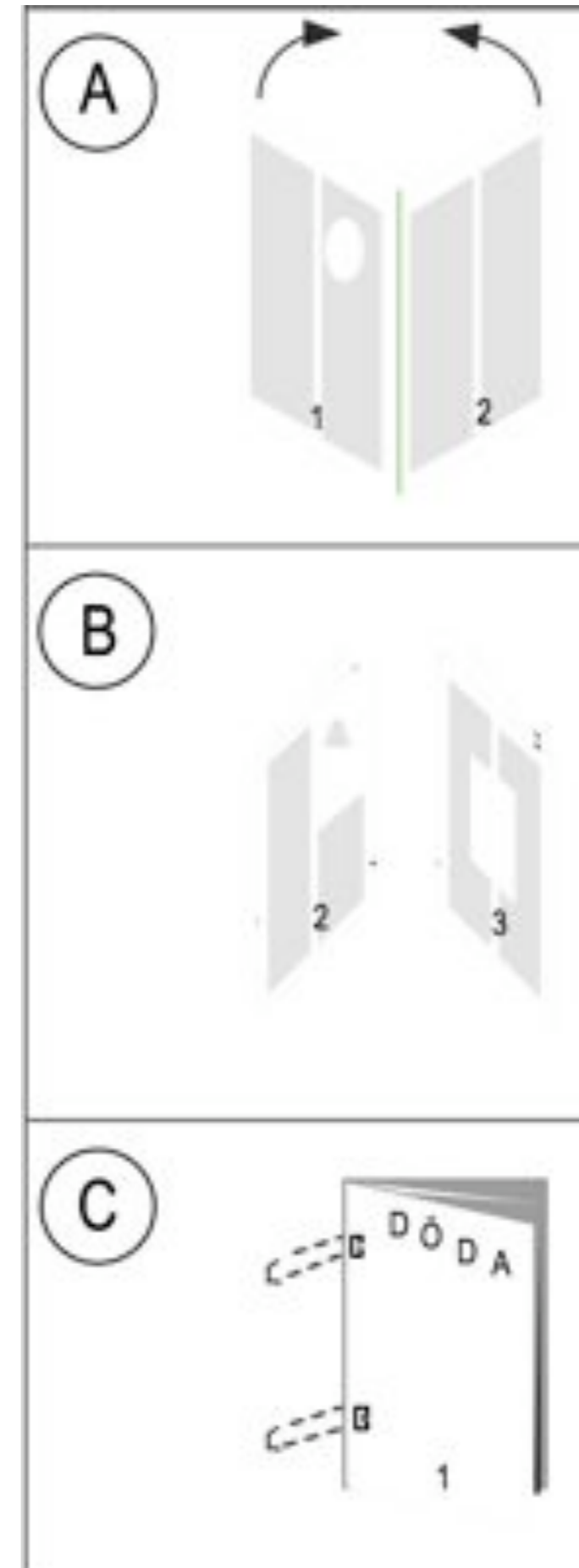
Printing:

- Choose landscape
- If available uncheck *shrink oversize pages to paper size*
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- Do not print this page but pages 2-13

Assembling:

- A) Fold each page separately from the middle text on top
- B) Assembly the pages into a stack folded corner to your right
- C) Staple or bind the pages together from the left side

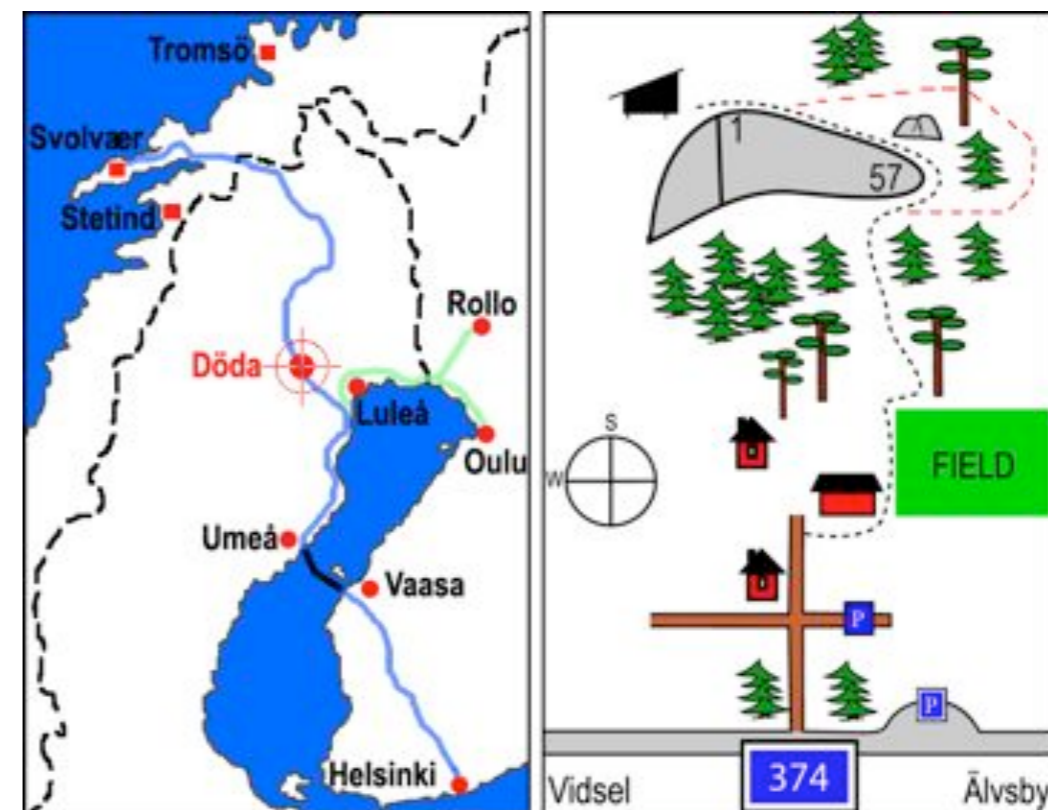
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THIS GUIDEBOOK is mostly aimed towards first time visitors to Dödlars and those new to climbing. The guidebook contains information about the most popular routes on Dödlars: how they are found, their difficulty and the possibilities for protection. Routes that (in the minds of the authors at least) are less nice have been left out. A complete collection of all the routes are in a drawn topo guide made by Magnus Eriksson Brändström in 2004. In this guidebook we've retained the numbering to make comparisons easy. You can download the topos from the bottom of web page <http://www.ouluunkeilyseura.fi/kiipeilypaikat/doda/index.php>

HOW TO GET THERE From E4 south of Luleå take road 94 towards Arvidsjaur and Älvsbyn. Just before entering Älvsbyn (before crossing the river) take a right in the roundabout on road 374 towards Vidsel. Follow this road about 20 kilometres to Riddarhällan. 1.2 kilometres after the sign Riddarhällan there is a rail on the left and a parking place on the right. Turn right onto a private road, and then right again onto a very small grassy road where you park nicely. You can also park on the parking place on the road. Remember this is private property!



APPROACH Walk towards the buildings. Take a right at the “Bergsleden” sign and follow the edge of the property up towards the forest and a path. Follow the path through the forest until you reach an opening. The right part of the crag is now in front of you. Straight ahead the path continues to “fikaplattan” where it is common to gear up. There is a shelter and good spots for tents on the top of the mountain, which is located on the left (western) part of the mountain. The quickest and easiest way to reach the top is to walk about a hundred meters right in the clearing, following tracks in the ground, and then aim for a path that goes on the right edge of the mountain (red dotted line on the map). Routes are numbered ascending from left to right.

THE FARM AND CABINS are owned by three couples on whose property you park and walk over on the approach. They like climbing and climbers are welcome. Respect their land and property: Bring your garbage home with you, don't litter or do other noisy or stupid things. If you have to

defecate, be sure to dig a hole first and cover it up. It is not allowed to make fires when that is forbidden by local regulations (dry-spells). Know this before you make a fire.

STORFORSEN If you continue on road 374 another 20 kilometres, you'll reach Storforsen. There you will find camping, hotel, restaurant, water, parking spaces, outdoor swimming, toilets, fireplaces and more.

VIDSEL Vidsel is a village situated between Storforesn and Dödlars. In Vidsel there is a store and a restaurant.

SWIMMING is possible 30 kilometres from Dödlars when driving back on roads 374 and 94. After going past the road that goes towards Boden a small lake can be seen through the forest on the right. The lake has a beach and changing rooms.



The shelter at the top of the mountain

GEAR The rack should contain at least one full set of nuts, cams (Friends #1-3 or Camalots #0,5-2) and a few long slings. For most climbers this will be enough to protect routes described in this guide. Offset- and micronuts as well as smaller and larger cams, hexes, tricams and more can be used for those that want more options. The descriptions and recommendations here stated do not claim to be perfect. Climbing is dangerous and done on the climber's own responsibility. It is up to the climber him- or herself to choose route and gear suited to their own ability and risk assessment.

COMMUNICATION can sometimes be difficult, especially on those routes that have long pitches and when there wind is blowing. Be sure to agree beforehand on what to do when you can't hear each other.

OLD PITONS occurring on many routes are to be seen as to have historical value only. They are very old, very rusty and some are in inherently weak positions. They might hold you but more likely will not. Place your own gear or at least back them up. New pitons must not be placed.

BOLTS During the years, a number of bolts have been placed. They have been placed where other means of protection have not been possible and the consequences of falling have been considered serious. Very old hand-drilled Troll bolts painted red have all been replaced by other bolts and in many cases removed. Petzl Long Life bolts painted red remain on a number of routes. Their age is uncertain but they are probably still ok. In the first decade of 2000 a number of new expansion bolts and new anchors have been placed. 2009 glue-ins were placed for the first time at Dödlars and some anchors were put up. New bolts must not be placed if not in cooperation with Luleklättrarna (local club).

ROCKFALL The danger of rockfall is very real between routes #27 and #30, especially in the spring. Route 27 (Alpleden) has completely come down during the spring of 2009 and 2010. Around the area surrounding Dödlarshålet the danger of rockfall has also been discussed. Maybe it's best to avoid routes #31-34, at least during the spring. Smaller rocks fall from time to time so one should always WEAR A HELMET.

STARSYSTEM:

Condition:

- *** clean
- ** some dirt or vegetation
- * Pretty dirty or vegetated

Protection:

- *** supersafe, protection can be placed all the time
- ** safe, protection can be placed reasonably often
- * not very safe, runouts or bad protection

Continuity:

- *** Continous at the grade
- ** Fairly continous
- * Obvious cruxes, but the rest of the climbing is still interesting.

SYMBOLS IN TOPOS:

White dot is a trad stance

White dot with P is a bolted stance

White dot with P plus an arrow pointing down is bolted rappel anchor

CREDITS:

Cover page: Johan Lindemark climbing Döende Svanen (photo by Riku Lavia)

Pictures: Jukka Leinonen, Fredrik Nilsson or Juho Nissilä if not mentioned otherwise.

Drawings: Jukka Leinonen and Magnus Eriksson Brändström (folding and walking instructions)

Route info: Jukka Leinonen, Fredrik Nilsson, Juho Nissilä, Johan Lindemark, Antti Hartikainen, Mikko Tolkkinen and others.



Stenansiktet (photo by A-P Ylilehto)



Storforsen (photo by Sakari Tiuraniemi)

1. Sagoinversen (5)

1 glue-in bolt

protection ** condition * continuity *

Abseil down about 25 meters from a tree with a white paper on it or scramble upwards left from grassy ledges to the left of Sympotatis. Climb the wall in the corner with a crack. Under the roof, move out onto the left wall (bolt) and an easy finish. There may be plenty of bird droppings under the roof. A proper belay should be made at the start since it is somewhat exposed.

(Rickard Strand & Hans Lindberg 1980)

2. Sympotatis (7-)

1 red expansion bolt

protection ** condition * continuity ***

Demanding slab climbing. Very nice route but has a slight runout after the bolt.

(Kari Nikkumaa 1989)

4. Peter Pan (6)

protection *** condition *** continuity ***

Many feel this might be the best route of the crag, offering sustained crack climbing on a slightly overhanging wall. Abseil from bolted anchor to the mid belaystation or climb Sympotatis or Varikanten to reach the start. See also the picture on the next spread. **TOP**

(Hans Lindberg & Rickard Strand 1981)

5. Varikanten (5+)

1 glue-in bolt and some old fixed gear

protection ** condition ** continuity **

Easy climbing towards the big chimney. Near the actual chimney, the route moves out onto the left wall and a crack that ends with a roof. Around the edge a glue-in is placed. Continue up on the right side of the wall, passing a tree. The belay (bolted anchor) is to the left on the ledge above the tree. The second pitch can be difficult to protect in the beginning. Go right over the edge and continue rightwards up. Finish at the bolted anchor of Peter Pan via a crack to the left.

(Rickard Strand & Hans Lindberg 1981)

6. Döende svanen (7)

1 piton

protection * condition ** continuity **

Nice crack. Shares start and finish with route #5 Varikanten. **TOP**

(Kari Nikkumaa 1989)

7b. The Nose (6)

3 grey expansion bolts

protection ** condition *** continuity **

Shares the start with #5 Varikanten and #6 Döende svanen. Move right after the first section to gain "the nose". The first bolt is below the roof, then go to the right and back left to reach the second bolt. A belay is often made on Stenansiktet (route #5), but beware of the fact that the obvious place for pro in part consists of a loose block. Finish with Stenansiktet Sr.

(Magnus Johansson & Jan Fredriksson 1995)



Routes 1-8, see next page for more detailed picture of route number 4 - Peter Pan (the yellow line)

7. Stenansiktet Senior 2nd pitch (5-)

1 glue-in bolt and 1 grey expansion bolt

protection ** condition ** continuity **

Usually just the second pitch is climbed because the first is very dirty (guano) and has a lot of loose rock. Use either Stenansiktet Junior or The Nose (see earlier page) as the first pitch. From the belay station you can go either straight up along the crack in the corner and traverse to the glue-in bolt (better protection), or head directly towards the bolts (less rope friction). The rest of the route is easy climbing upwards and to the left in a corner.

(Tommy Nilsson & Gunnar Hägglund 1976) **TOP**

8. Stenansiktet Junior 1st pitch (4)

protection ** condition * continuity **

Usually only the first pitch of this route is climbed. In the beginning there is easy climbing with good holds. At the corner the route steepens. Head upwards towards the belay station of The Nose (see also picture on page5). For the second pitch it is recommended to climb route #7 Stenansiktet Senior. In this case the route is so straight that one can easily climb do the top in one pitch (60 meter rope required). This avoids the problem of finding a good belay halfway since the obvious spot is a loose block, albeit huge.

(Rickard Strand & Gunnar Hägglund 1976) **TOP**



Route number 4 – Peter Pan

11 Djävulens trottoar (5)

1 grey expansion bolt

protection ** condition *** continuity ***

Long and shallow finger crack at the main slab wall. Climb up the horizontal cracks and then traverse to the bolted belay station on your right from the first bolt. The second pitch is a thin crack to the top.

(Rickard Strand & Tommy Nilsson 1977) **TOP**



Djävulens trottoar (below the first pitch and above the second pitch)



10. Himlastegen (6+)

3 grey bolts and a few pitons

protection * condition *** continuity **

Excellent, demanding and long one pitch slab route at the main slab wall. The first twenty-something meters are the same with route #11 Djävulens trottoar. Climb up some holds to a vertical crack. Move up it and some horizontal cracks to an expansion bolt. Continue upwards and then hand traverse left via piton to a thin crack with a grey expansion bolt and pitons. Move up along the crack and then to the small corner on your right. Continue to the top from the highest point of the cliff passing a glue-in bolt. Take along plenty of long quick draws and small protection.

(Hans Lindberg & Rickard Strand 1980) **TOP**

11. Djävulens trottoar (5)

1 grey expansion bolt

protection ** condition *** continuity ***

Long and shallow finger crack at the main slab wall. Climb up the horizontal cracks and then traverse to the bolted belay station on your right from the first bolt. The second pitch is a thin crack to the top. See also pictures in earlier spread.

(Rickard Strand & Tommy Nilsson 1977) **TOP**

12. Malin kom hem (7)

Bolted throughout with grey expansion bolts

condition ** continuity **

Excellent slab climbing. The route is usually accessed by climbing the first pitch of Djävulens trottoar or an abseil from the top.

(Kasper Kotake & Stefan Nilsson 1993) **TOP**

13. Sagopassagen (6-)

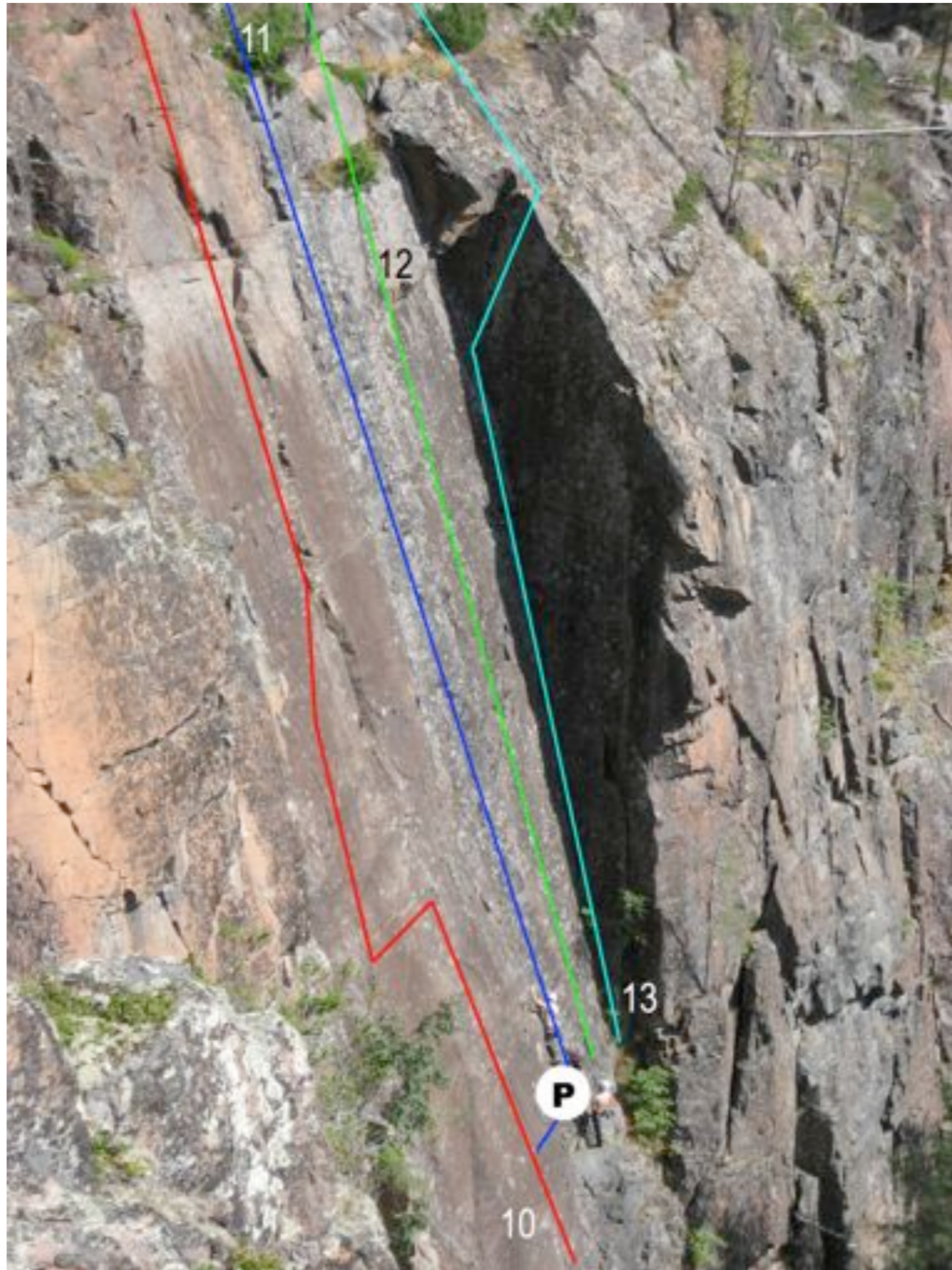
1 grey expansion bolt

protection ** condition * continuity *

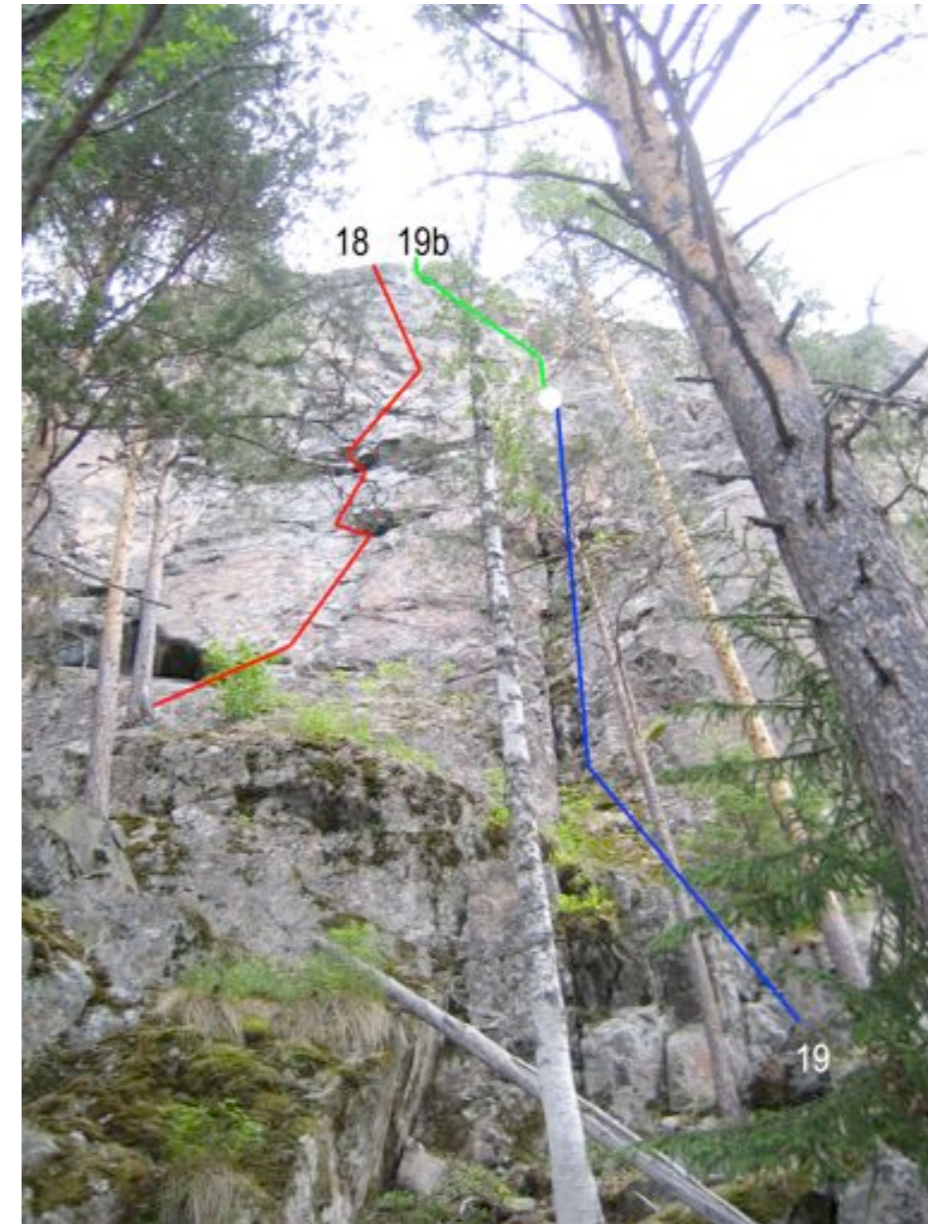
The route goes in the right diedre of the main slab wall. The first pitch is climbed along route #11 Djävulens trottoar since the official first pitch is extremely dirty. In the autumn of 2009 a loose rock came down from the crux and it improved the safety of the route considerably. The bolt can now be clipped easier & safer than before.

(Rickard Strand & Tommy Nilsson 1977)

History: Climbers from Luleå first arrived to Dödlarsberget (actual name is Dödlarsberget) in the spring of 1975. Half of the current 80 routes had been put up by 1987. Only then were the first ascents made using magnesium chalk. First official topo guide was put together by Magnus Johansson and Jan Fredriksson in 1997, and in those days the use of chalk was prohibited on routes graded 6- and below. Nowadays there are no restrictions on this and chalk is used in abundance. Even so that the most popular bolted routes have begun to show first signs of polishing (still very little luckily). We suggest that you remove surplus chalk left on the route for example by hitting the chalky rock with a towel, shirt, etc. The number of climbers at Dödlarsberget have reduced from the golden era of the 80's and 90's and therefore crowds and queues are rare.



(Photo by H-P Hyppänen?)



18. Morfars fingerkrok (6-)

a variety of bolts and pitons
protection *** condition *** continuity ***

Scramble up to the right of the main slab wall to a big grassy ledge. Climb the two small roofs on their left side. Then move diagonally to the left along the bolt line. After about 30metres of climbing the route angle lowers and the rest of the route is an easy walk to the top. Note that the route is close to 60metres long and that the audibility from the start to the top is poor.

(Rickard Strand & Hans Lindberg 1985) **TOP**

19. Tommys avsked 1st pitch (3 +)

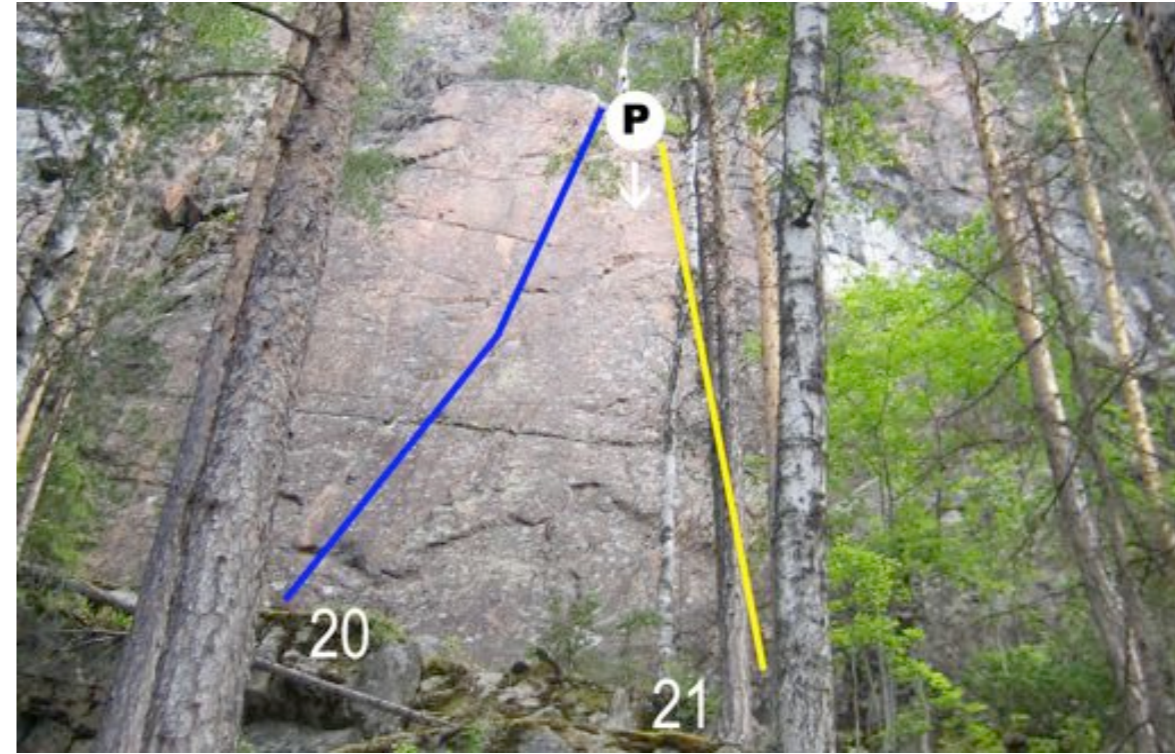
protection *** condition * continuity ***

Nice route for beginners and as a warm-up, very interesting at it's grade. Straight and steep crack with good holds and protection. Traditional belay station on the grassy ledge after about 20 metres of climbing. The second pitch has a bird's nest and a lot of dirt. Therefore it is recommended to climb route number 19b Vänstra utsteget as the second pitch.

(Tommy Nilsson & Gunnar Hagglund 1975)

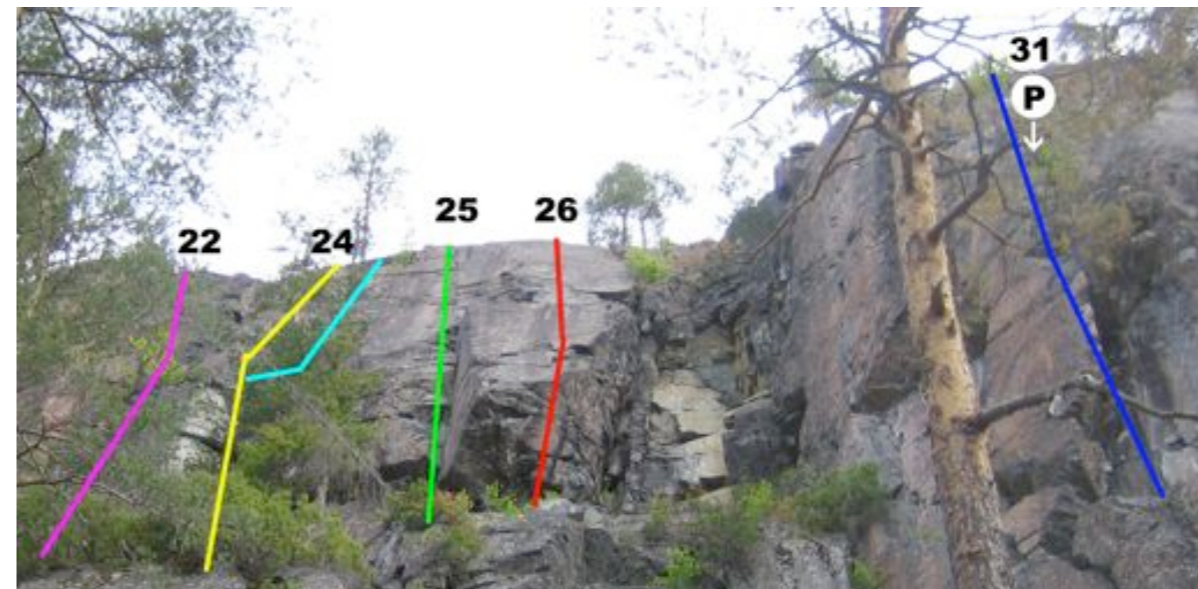


19b Vänstra utsteg (4+)
 protection ** condition ** continuity **
 From the halfway belay on Tommys avsked, climb the corner straight up some five meters. Move left onto a good ledge and continue upwards diagonally to the left in broken rock. After about five meters the crack steepens for a couple of meters (crux of the pitch). Finish off with an easy slab to the top.
 (Rickard Strand & Gunnar Hagglund 1976)



20 Masken (6+)
 2 expansion bolts and a piton
 protection ** condition *** continuity ***
 Difficult slab climbing. There are some places for traditional pro as well.
 (Jan Wärmelin 1990)

21 Spanska flugan (6-)
 bolted throughout
 condition *** continuity ***
 Slab climbing. Towards the end easier climbing can be found on the right side of the bolt line. More to the left of the bolt line the climbing is continuously taxing.
 (Magnus Johansson & Jan Fredriksson 1995)



Routes 22-26 are usually accessed by abseiling some 25metres from a tree marked with a white paper. On its sides are Nattmaran and its variation.

22. Nysnö (5)

1 glue-in bolt

protection ** condition * continuity **

Easy crack climbing with steeper climbing at the end.

(Kasper Kotake & Stefan Nilsson 1992)

24. Nattmaran (6-)

1 grey expansion bolt

protection ** condition ** continuity **

Crack climbing with a steep corner in the start. The second half is a finger crack in a slab. Camalot #3 is good to have.

(Rickard Strand & Mikael Kivijärvi 1985)

24b. Nattmaran variation (6 / 6+)

1 grey expansion bolt

protection ** condition ** continuity **

After the bolt at Nattmaran reach to your right and climb a thin crack to the top. First ascent was done ground-up. No second ascents are known to this date. Camalot #3 is good to have.

(Juho Nissilä 2006)

25. Errolf (5+)

1 piton

protection ** condition ** continuity **

MOST CLIMBERS FEEL THAT THE DIFFICULTY IS HARDER THAN THE GRADE 5+ SUGGESTS. In the beginning move upward in a wide crack. A big cam is good to have (#4 Camalot is probably the best but you may find numbers 3 and 5 useful too). There's a slight runout after the big cam. The piton is non-vital. The other half of the route is a finger crack in a slab.

(Rickard Strand & Hans Lindberg 1978) **TOP**

26. Theobald Thor (7-)

some bolts

protection ** condition *** continuity **

The route starts with steep climbing over the roof and then a difficult slab section.

(Stefan Nilsson 1992)

31. Mamma mia (6-)

2 glue-in bolts and a piton

protection ** condition ** continuity *

SEVERAL CLIMBERS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO BACK DOWN FROM A LEAD ASCENT AND FELT THAT THE DIFFICULTY IS HARDER THAN THE GRADE 6- SUGGESTS. Start at the same grassy ledge as Vita leden and head diagonally to the left towards the corner. Climb upwards in the corner and over the edge to the left below the roof. The rest of the route is lower angled crack to either the top or bolted descent anchor. You can use a red bolt on the route to the left of you instead of the piton.

(Jan Esensjö & Henrik Gabrielsson 1987)

33. Le look le plus cool (7-)

bolted throughout with grey expansion bolts

condition *** continuity **

Excellent face climbing on a steep wall. Climb on the left side of the bolt line along the edge. Clipping the top anchor is much easier for climbers with long reach.

(Anders Björkén 1995) **TOP**

34a. Vita leden original (4)

protection *** condition *** continuity ***

Well protected, easy and popular two pitch trad route. Climb the crack to a ledge. From there, move right up a short wall to another ledge with a pine tree. Belay in the crack to the left. Continue upwards in the corner, over a very big loose block (careful!) and then continue in the corner to the top.

(Tommy Nilsson, Rickard Strand & Gunnar Hagglund 1975)

34b. Vita leden genom Dödlarshålet (4-)

protection ** condition *** continuity **

A Dödlars super classic and must do! Well protected, easy and spectacular trad route. Climb the crack to a ledge. From there, traverse leftwards towards the big corner and "the hole". Watch out for rope friction as the pitch turns, and be sure to safeguard your second when placing protection. The hole in the roof is awesome! (or horrid). It is significantly easier to do this route in the morning when the sun shines into the cave and one is able to see the holds. Squeeze through and belay in the cave. The second pitch starts out with a short traverse to the left over the edge but beware of going too far to the left. Continue along the vertical crack to the pine tree with slings on it.

(Tommy Nilsson & Rickard Strand 1976) **TOP**

34c. Vita leden direkt (6-)

2 glue-in bolts

protection *** condition *** continuity**

First part is the same as #34a and #34b. From the ledge, continue straight up the now considerably thinner crack and some typical, delicate, Dödlars climbing. (Tommy Nilsson & Rickard Strand 1975)

TOP

35. Bagatelle (6)

4 expansion bolts (2 red and 2 grey ones)

protection ** condition * continuity **

Probably the easiest grade 6 at Dödlars. Little vegetated in the start but the key holds are clean. The last few meters at the end can be hard to protect so one may wander little to the right where the protection is better. Climb to the top along Vita leden original (4) or Sankt Bernhardt (6).

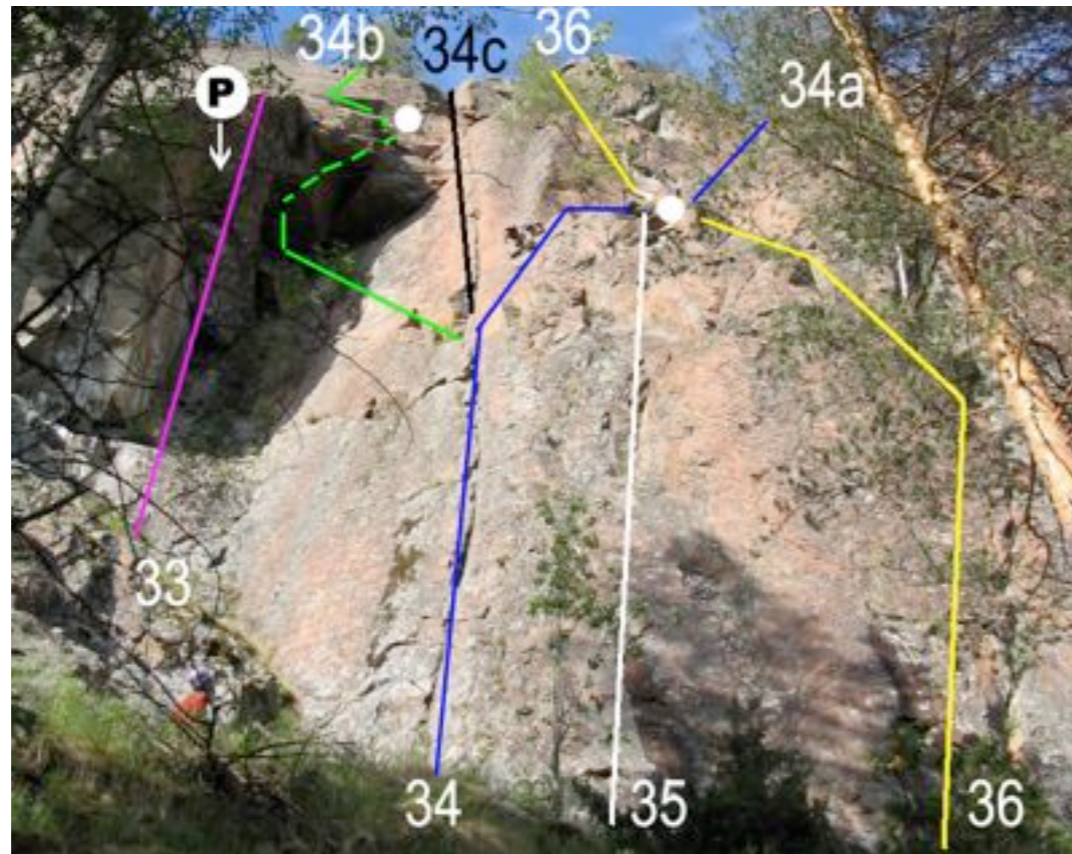
(Anders Björkén 1993)

36. Sankt Bernhard (1st pitch 5 / 2nd pitch 6R)

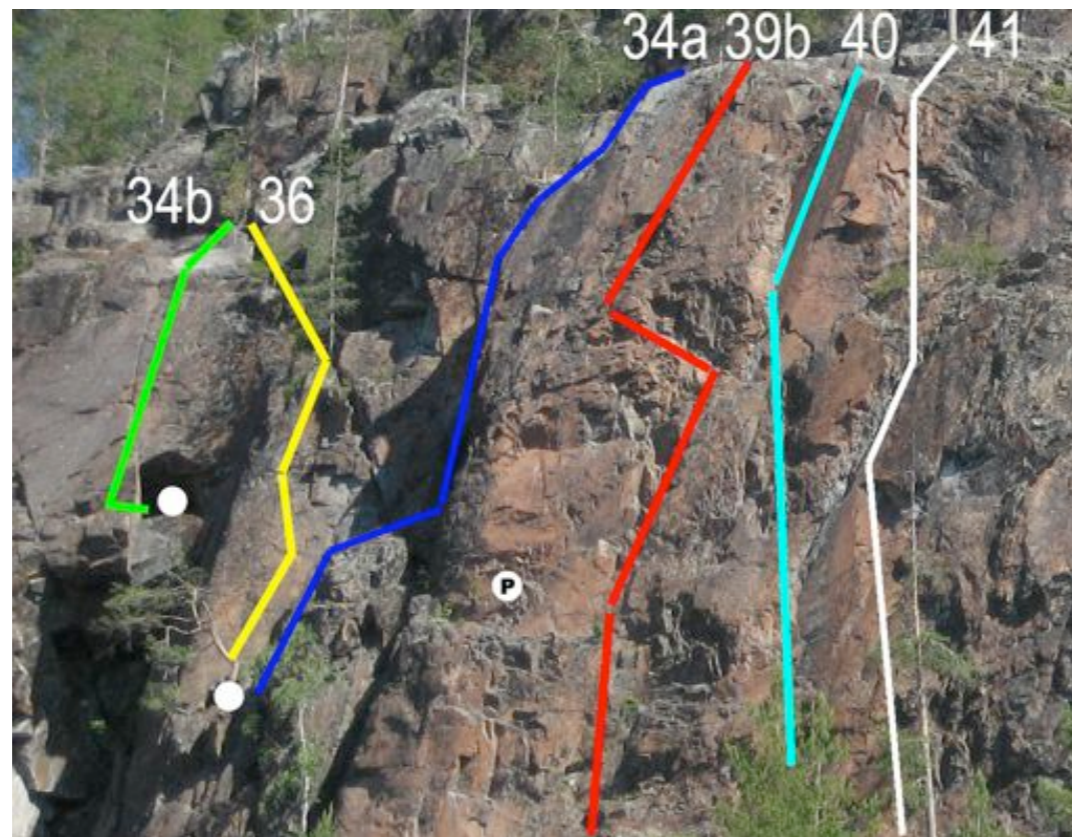
protection **/* condition ** continuity **/*

The first pitch is somewhat hard for a grade five but well-protected and nice crack climbing. Start out with a right slanting crack which turns in the middle of the route to a left slanting crack. The second pitch (6R) goes from the belay ledge up a thin crack for some seven meters. Micro nuts are a big help for protection but it is still slightly runout. After the thin crack there is easier climbing to the top. The best finish might be towards the pine tree on top of route #34c Vita leden direkt. One can also climb the second pitch of route #34b Vita leden original.

(Hans Lindberg & Anders Nordgren 1978 / Rickard Strand 1979)



The starts of the routes number 33 to 36 (photo by ?)



The second pitches for routes 34a, b and 36 plus upper parts of routes 39-41

38. Chips (6)

2 red expansion bolts

protection ** condition *** continuity **

At the beginning easy climbing along a right-slanting ramp (same as route #39 Riddaren). Then traverse left towards the red bolts. Climb upwards to the bolted belay station. The second pitch is rarely climbed, probably because the protection is not that good.

(Jan Wärmelin & Petra Öhman 1990)

39. Riddaren (4-)

protection ** condition *** continuity **

Climb the right-slanting ramp until it ends. Continue upwards and slightly rightwards to a ledge through a series of awkward moves. Aim for the belay of route #38 Chips on the obvious ledge on the steep wall to the left. Easy climbing but loose rock so take care. The second pitch is usually substituted for route #39b Jungfruns balkong. In this case, it is possible to climb in one pitch. Beware of going too far right to the bolts on route #40 Kosmiska leden.

(Rickard & Strand Gunnar Hagglund, 1977)

39b. Jungfruns Ballkong (4-)

1 expansion bolt

protection ** condition ** continuity **

From the belay on route #39 Riddaren / #38 Chips, move upwards on large holds under a roof and a bolt. Extend with a long sling and traverse on good holds to the left for three or four meters until a groove is reached. Continue rightward up this to the top. Rope friction and poor audibility are likely.

(Hans Thunehed & Hans Lindberg)

40. Kosmiska Leden (5)

some grey(?) expansion bolts

protection ** condition *** continuity ***

The route originally had no bolts and that's where the route name has come from. One gets some five decent trad protections on the way. The crux is a few boulder moves at the start to reach a ledge at about five meters height. After the first bolt there is slightly runout but easy climbing. The route is difficult to follow because there are no crack lines to follow. Climb from bolt to bolt where the climbing is easiest. At the very end, climb the corner to the top. One long pitch (about 50 meters).

(Hans Lindberg & Gunnar Hagglund 1978)

41. Skorpionen (6+)

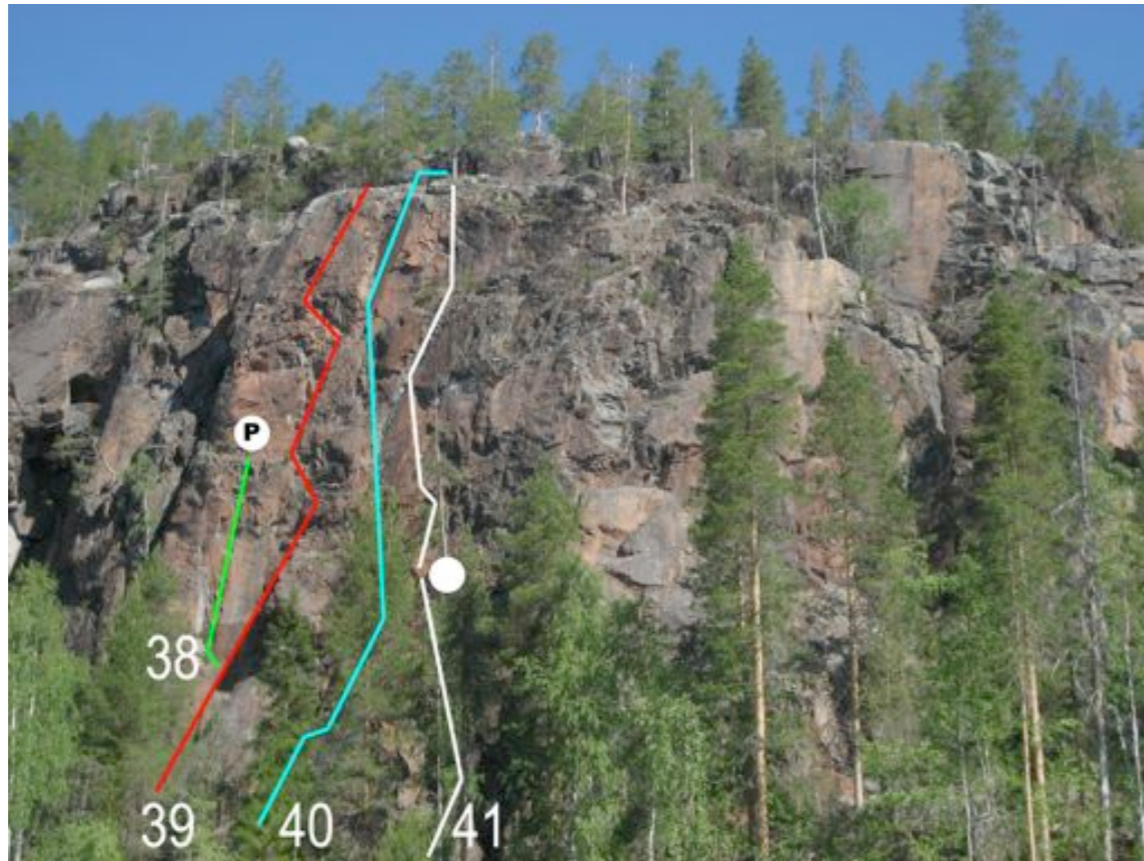
some red expansion bolts

protection * condition ** continuity ***

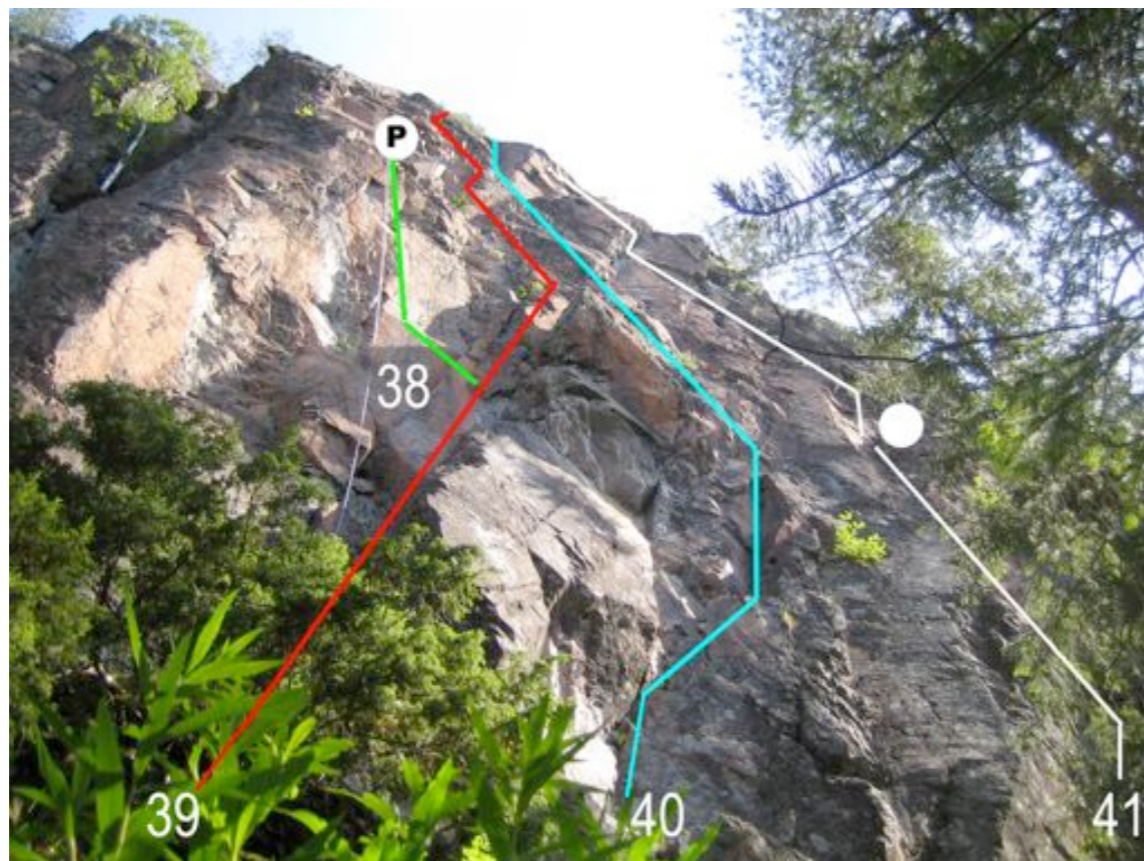
Typical Dödlars harder climbing, not quite vertical but with small holds and steps that hurt your to. Start as route #42 Trollstigen but don't go right into the corner but move left under the roof. Place a good cam and turn the roof on the left. Continue upwards using the odd bolt for protection. The pine tree can also be used if properly extended. After passing the pine tree to the left, the route is very difficult to protect until reaching the crux, where bolts are again available. Finish with a short wall.

The route can be done in one pitch (about 50 meters) or split into two. See also the picture on next spread.

(Per Lundin 1993)



Routes 38-41 as seen from the start of the routes (below) and far away (above)



42. Trollstigen (4)

protection *** condition ** continuity **

Easy route moving up cracks in a corner. Well protected and good trad climbing practice.

The route ends at the bolted rappel anchor below Röde orm (#49).

(first ascentist is unknown)

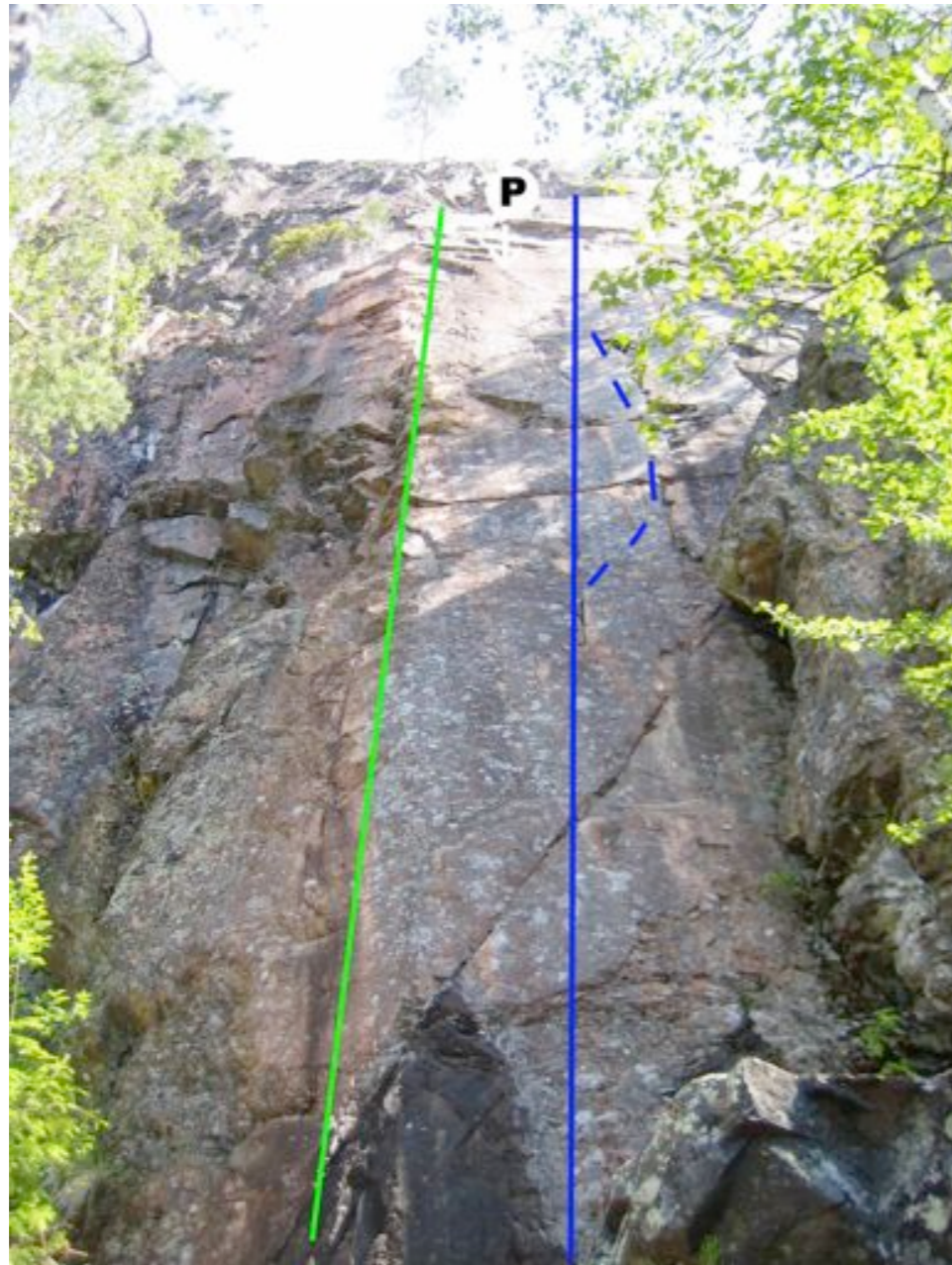
44. Tallkotten (5 +)

1 glue-in bolt and 1 red expansion bolt

protection ** condition ** continuity *

Easy climbing in the beginning on a low-angled somewhat mossy wall for a “warm-up”, followed by some more taxing climbing passing the roof. The route ends at the bolted rappel anchor below Röde orm (#49).

(Rickard Strand & Lo Fischer 1988)



45. Pimpinella (5+)

bolted throughout
condition *** continuity **

Excellent climbing on good holds on the vague arete. At the middle of the route there is easier climbing and also a bit longer distance between the bolts.

(Anders Björkén 1992) **TOP**

46. Petitatess (6+)

bolted throughout
condition *** continuity **

Slab route with two variations. After the first three bolts, the easier (about 6-) but more popular variation moves a little to the right while the more difficult variation runs straight up through the thin horizontal crack. After a few meters the variations join again and use the same 4th bolt.

(Kari Nikkumaa 1990)

49. Röde orm (5)

bolted throughout
condition *** continuity ***

From Fikaplattan, move carefully left upwards towards the top of the ledge and a somewhat rusty anchor. A few steep power moves on good holds takes you to the slab. From there, follow the bolted line to the right and enjoy excellent slab climbing and a committing crux move. Same anchor as #52 Fikaplattan. The route is difficult to top-rope because of its continuously traversing nature.

(Gunnar Hägglund & LG Johansson 1982) **TOP**

52. Fikaplattan (5-)

protection * condition *** continuity **

Route starts directly behind the bench at Fikaplattan. The start in the steep wall offer good holds but few decent places for protection. In the grassy horizontal ledge a good largish friend can be placed. Moving up on the slab the possibilities for protection increases as the route follows a crack to the top and a bolted anchor. Same anchor as #49 Röde Orm. The route is easy to top-rope, the anchor being reachable from above.

(first ascentist is unknown)

55. A-side (4)

bolted throughout
condition *** continuity ***

Very easy and popular bolted route which is well suited for lead climbing practice or top-roping for beginners.

(Rolf Romer 1985)

56. 90 grader (5+)

bolted throughout
condition *** continuity ***

Shortish bolt-route which however offers nice pumpy climbing on good holds.

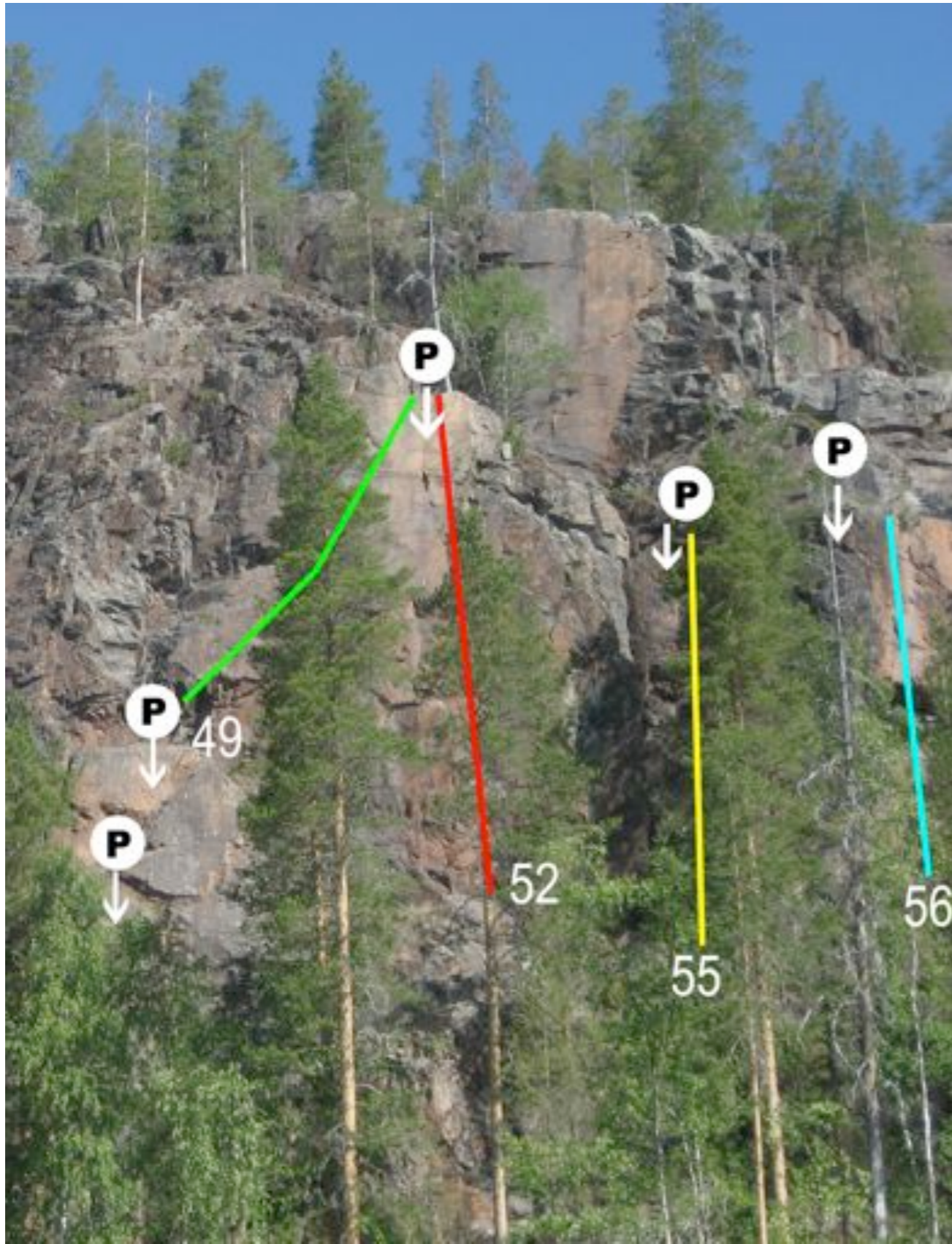
(Rickard Strand 1979)

57. Ironside (6-)

bolted throughout
condition *** continuity **

Shortish bolted route right from route #56 90 grader. Danger of falling to the ground if one tries to clip the last bolt in the middle of the crux.

(Rickard Strand & Roland Strömgren 1985)



The canyons near Storforsen