

## The green fern

On my hikes out in the raised bog, Lille Vildmose, at my native Himmerland in Jutland I often choose to visit places almost impassable.

The surface of the bog is often wet and muddy, and everywhere small and large ditches cross my way through the scrub. The low birches and willows often shade from the sun. Only few rays of sunshine find its way to the surface of the bog.

The hike is constantly interrupted by flicking small twigs of the low scrub and frequently I get the face entangled in the large spider's web which the hard-working spiders have formed to catch their prey of all sorts of small creeping things.

The bog water is often standing water in the deep, bottomless ditches. The water is coloured dark brown and often appears completely black under the scrub. In these places, I often on the edge of the ditches find the big, beautiful ferns. The ferns have apparently succeeded in catching a few rays of sunshine. The beautiful green colour of the ferns contrasts with the darkness around them.

The ferns form itself a dense layer of foliage, which no ray of sunlight can penetrate. Beneath the ferns is often only bare wet peat. In here in this shelter there is still plenty of life. In here the adder seek shelter while hunting the large amounts of mice and frogs that also have found shelter under the ferns.



*The green fern,  
Lille Vildmose, July 2012*