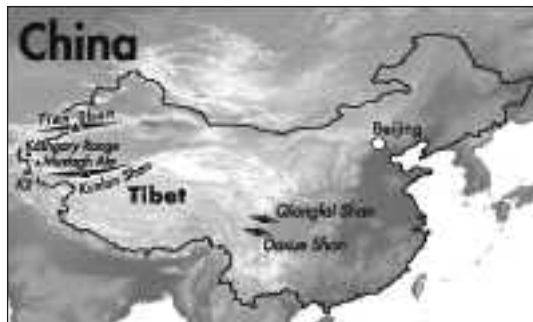


China

XINJIANG PROVINCE

Muzart Glacier, ascents and exploration.

The British–New Zealand expedition of Paul Knott, Guy McKinnon, and Bruce Normand gained a permit for Xuelian Feng (6,628m), the dominant peak in the eastern sector of the Chinese Central Tien Shan, and one of few mountains in this region to have been climbed (by Japanese on their fourth attempt). The three acclimatized to altitudes of 5,400m on peaks on the north side of Muzart basin, after which Normand and McKinnon made a bid on the Xuelian side. After climbing questionable snow and reasonable ice slopes, they reached a point of listed height 6,332m, well east of the main summit of Xuelian Feng. An article by Knott and Normand on this little-known area extending east and south from 7,439m Pik Pobeda is featured in this *Journal*.



QINGHAI PROVINCE

Geladaindong massif, Peak 6,543m. On October 2, 2007, a Japanese expedition made the first ascent of an unnamed 6,543m peak, a major summit in the Geladaindong massif of the Tangula Shan. The summit lies 5.4km southwest of Geladaindong (6,621m) at the head of the Gangjiaquba Glacier. Tamiyoshi Hashimoto, Osamu Kato, Yoshiharu Murakami (leader), Eishi Sato, and Mizuho Sato arrived at base camp (5,300m) below the snout of the Gangjiaquba Glacier on the 27th. On October 2 Kato, Murakami, and Hashimoto started from their 5,700m Camp 2 in strong winds. Eventually Murakami and Hashimoto gave up fighting the wind; Kato continued alone to the top.



Geladaindong (6,621m) from the upper Geladaindong Glacier to the east. Japanese made the first ascent in 1985 by the northwest ridge (right skyline). In 1997 Mark Newcomb soloed directly up the 800m northeast face to the summit. *Courtesy of Tamotsu Nakamura and the Japanese Alpine News*

The Geladaindong massif, which sits roughly in the middle of the Tangula Shan, is 50km long (north-south) and 20km wide (west-east). The highest point, Geladaindong, is surrounded by more than 20 peaks higher than 6,000m, most still unclimbed. French explorer Gabriel Bonvalot came to these mountains at the source of the Yangtze River (Chang Jiang) in 1890 and referred to them as the Dupleix Range. Japanese first tried to negotiate a permit in 1982, but not until 1985 were they able to access the range and make the first ascent of Geladaindong, by the northwest ridge, approaching from the northeast. In 1997 an American team climbed a new route up the northeast face (55–60°).



The east face of Peak 6,543m in the Geladaindong Massif. The peak was climbed in 2007 by a Japanese expedition via the broad col on the right and the north-northwest ridge above. *Courtesy of Tamotsu Nakamura and the Japanese Alpine News*

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, *Editor, Japanese Alpine News*

SICHUAN PROVINCE

Siguniang, southwest ridge integral. Over eight days in late September, Dylan Johnson and Chad Kellogg made the first complete ascent of the southwest ridge of Siguniang (6,250m) in the Qonglai Shan. In July 1992 eight Japanese climbers led by Chiharu Yoshimura sieged a pronounced buttress toward the left side of the south face, leading to the southwest ridge at ca 5,900m and continuing up the ridge to make the second ascent of the summit. Below the Japanese entry point, the southwest ridge continues for a considerable distance until it falls toward lush forest over a 600m-high triangular rock wall. In 2006 Cosmin Andron and Steve Wai Wah Yip climbed 450m up a prominent rib on the lower wall, naming their route Suffering First Class (p. 420, AAJ 2007). Johnson and Kellogg followed a new 17-pitch line up this lower buttress and continued up the virgin ridge for an additional 47 pitches until they followed the Japanese route to the summit. Their bold, committing ascent (1,900m, 5.11 A2 AI3+ M5) is featured in this *Journal*.

Changping, Shuangqiao, and Bipeng valleys, mapmaking. After my attempt on the Dragon's Tooth in 2007, I trekked around the Changping, Shuangqiao, and Bipeng valleys for about nine days, hiking up hillsides, over passes, and up subsidiary valleys trying to get a concept for the area. There have been many intrepid climbers in these valleys, but it is still hard to figure out which peak is what. Each peak may have a Chinese name, a Tibetan name, a name given by the first Western team to climb it, or no name at all. Some peaks can be seen from two different valleys; the locals in each valley have different names for the same peak.

My mission was to use my local knowledge and language skills to unravel the mystery of this new climbing destination. I interviewed local horsemen, Chinese mountaineers, the Sichuan Mountaineering Association, and foreign climbers such as Jon Otto, Tamotsu Nakamura, and Ben Clark. The result is a hand-drawn map with 50 of the most prominent peaks that comprise the Bipeng, Changping, and Shuangqiao valleys. As of now this is the most



accurate and useful map of the region. Enjoy. This expedition was made possible by support from the McNeill–Nott Climbing Grant sponsored by the American Alpine Club and Mountain Hardwear.

JON LANE SULLIVAN, AAC

DAXUE SHAN

Riuchhi Gongga (5,928m), southeast ridge; Jiazi (6,540m), west face, attempt; Peak 5,200m. From September 23 to October 24 French guides Sébastien Bohin (GMHM), Pascal Trividic, and I visited Sichuan. We climbed in the Minya Konka Range, where for the first half of our stay the weather was still influenced by the monsoon, and we experienced only a few half-sunny days. During this period Bohin and Trividic made the probable second ascent of Riuchi Gongga, (Little Konka or Tshiburongi), a beautiful Matterhorn-like peak to the northwest of



Looking northeast into the northern sector of the Minya Konka Range. (A) Riuchi Gongga (5,928m) and (J) Jiazi (6,540m). The French route up the southeast ridge of Riuchi Gongga is marked. (B) is their bivouac site. Pascal Trividic

THE MOUNTAINS OF BIPENG, CHANGPING, AND SHUANGQIAO VALLEYS
QIONGLAI MOUNTAIN RANGE, SICHUAN, CHINA

* The numbers in the left column correspond with the numbered peaks on the map.
* Fields are blank when there was no conclusive information; please contact the author and the AAJ if you have any information or have added first ascents to this list: jonlane9@gmail.com; aqj@americanalpineclub.org

	Mountain Name			Elevation		Climbing History
	English	Chinese	Pinyin	Valley(s)	(feet) (meters)	
1	First Girl	大峰	Da Feng	Changping/Haizi	16,482	5025 Popular trekking peak from Rilong
2	Second Girl	二峰	Er Feng	Changping/Haizi	17,305	5276 Popular trekking peak from Rilong
3	Third Girl	三峰	San Feng	Changping/Haizi	17,564	5355
4	Signiangshan	四姑娘山	Yao Mei/Yao Feng	Changping	20,500	6250 F.A. Japanese Team 1981
5	Savage Sister/ Snowgoose			Changping	18,604	5672
6	Lara Shan		Lara Shan	Changping	18,696	5700 F.A. Joe Puryear, Chad Kellogg, & Jay Janousek 2007
7	Taga'er	他卡儿	Taga'er	Changping	16,495	5029
8	Celestial Peak	蒙娜山	Pomiu	Changping	17,755	5413 F.A. Vaill, Steck 1983
9	Angry Wife/ The Thorn	刺峰	Ci Feng	Changping	16,466	5020 F.A. Chad Kellogg, Stoney Richards, & Joe Puryear 2005 -or- Ben Clark and Josh Butson 2006
10	Little Prince			Chanping	16,420	5006 F.A. Katherine Fraser, Katy Holm, & Aidan Oloman 2005
11	Chiwen/ The Falcon	獵鷹峰	Lieying Feng	Changping	17,220	5250 F.A. Katherine Fraser, Katy Holm, & Aidan Oloman 2005 -or- Ben Clark and Josh Butson 2006
12	Dao Gou	盜溝	Dao Gou	Changping/Shuangqiao	17,925	5465 F.A. Chad Kellogg, Stoney Richards, & Joe Puryear 2005
13	Dao Gou West	西盜溝	Xi Dao Gou	Changping/Shuangqiao	17,784	5422 F.A. Kester Brown, Vaughn Thomas 2006
14	no name			Changping	?	?
15	Chibu		Chibu	Changping/Shuangqiao	17,876	5450 F.A. Katherine Fraser, Katy Holm, & Aidan Oloman 2005
16	no name			Changping/Shuangqiao	17,004	5184
17	no name			Changping/Shuangqiao	16,603	5062
18	no name			Changping/Shuangqiao	16,990	5180
19	Eagle Peak	老鹰	Laoyin Feng	Shuangqiao	17,384	5300 F.A. Lukus Durr 2003
20	Putala Peak	佛達拉峰	Budala Feng	Shuangqiao/Changping	17,804	5428 F.A. Andrej and Tanja Grmovsek 2003
21	The Barbarian	野人峰	Yeren Feng	Shuangqiao/Changping	18,342	5592
22	Queen's Peak	女王峰	Nuwang Shan	Bipeng/Changping	17,725	5404
23	Queen's Tower	女王山	Nuwang Feng	Bipeng/Changping	?	?
24	Dragon's Tooth	龍牙峰	Longya Feng	Bipeng/Changping	17,220	5250
25	no name			Bipeng/Changping	16,984	5178
26	Jianqun Feng	強群峰	Jianqun Feng	Bipeng/Changping	17,063	5202 F.A. Tommy Chandler, Pat Mangrove 2005
27	Camel Peak West	駱駝峰	Luotuo Feng	Changping/Bipeng	17,968	5484 F.A. Charlie Fowler 1994
28	Camel Peak East	駱駝峰	Luotuo Feng	Changping/Bipeng	?	?
29	Yangmantai	羊滿台		Bipeng/Changping	18,584	5666 F.A. Charlie Fowler 1997
30	Yangganzi	羊杠子	Yangganzi	Changping	?	?
31	no name			Bipeng	18,119	5524
32	no name			Bipeng	17,758	5414
33	no name			Bipeng	16,984	5178
34	Half Ridge Peak	半隴峰	Banjifeng	Bipeng	17,810	5430 F.A. Jon Otto 2004
35	no name			Bipeng	18,407	5612
36	no name			Bipeng	17,417	5310
37	no name			Bipeng	17,272	5266
38	no name			Bipeng	18,089	5515
39	Jade Rabbit Peak	玉兔峰	Yutu Feng	Bipeng/Shuangqiao	18,296	5578
40	no name			Bipeng/Shuangqiao	17,391	5302
41	Eagle Spread	老鹰鋪開翅	Laoying Pukai	Shuangqiao	17,351	5290
	Wings Peaks	勝山	Chibang Shan		~18138	~5530
42	Abi Mountain	阿比山	Abi Shan	Shuangqiao	18,676	5694 Has been climbed
43	Dumu Peak	度母峰	Dumu Feng	Shuangqiao	?	?
44	Ox Heart Mountain	牛心山	Niu Xin Shan	Shuangqiao	16,210	4942 F.A. John and Anne Arran 2004
45	Hunter's Peak	獵人峰	Lieren Feng	Shuangqiao	17,581	5360 F.A. Unknown, climbed several times
46	Jianzi Peak	尖子山	Jianzi Feng	Shuangqiao	17,948	5472
47	Goromiku/ Rhino-Moon Peak	犀牛月	Xiniu Feng	Shuangqiao	18,309	5582 F.A. Charlie Fowler 1994
48	Goromty/ Sun Moon Treasure Mirror	日月財寶	Riyucaobao	Shuangqiao	18,398	5609
49	Five Color Mtn	五色山	Wuse Shan	Shuangqiao	17,810	5430
50	Sanguozhi	三庄	Sanguozhuang	Shuangqiao	13,776	4200



Sébastien Bohin on the narrow southeast ridge of Riuchi Gongga (5,928m). *Pascal Trividal*



The 1,600m west face of Jiazi (6,540m). (1) Northwest Ridge, attempted in 1981 by a British Army expedition that reached 6,100m. (2) West face couloir, climbed to the summit ridge in 1982 by Americans Stutzman and Williams. (3) 2008 French attempt, which reached a bivouac at 5,400m after 600m of climbing. (4) South ridge followed by the 1982 team to make the only ascent of the mountain. *Pascal Trividal*

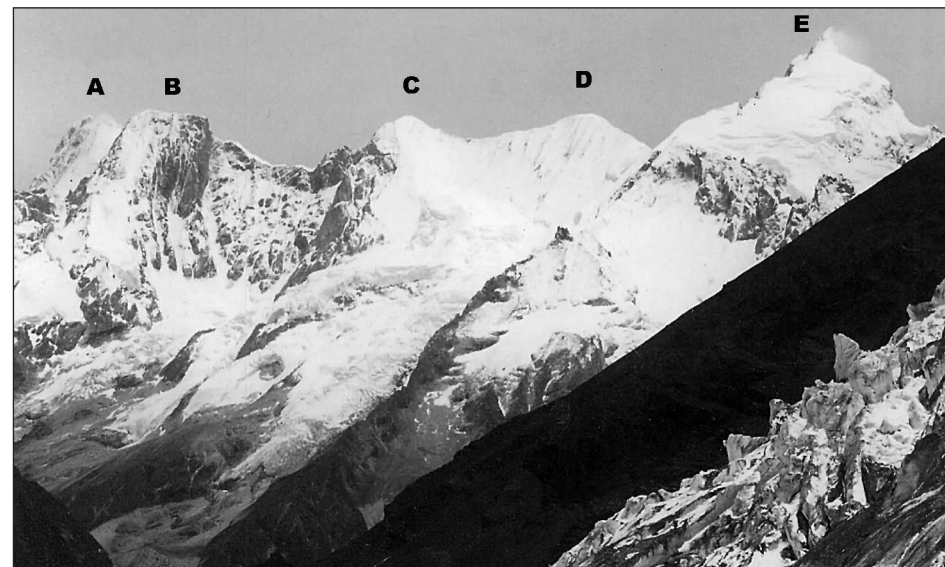
1981 and attempted the following year by Stuart Hepburn's British team. Expedition members made attempts on both the west and south faces before bad weather and poor snow conditions forced them down. The Korean expedition came from the Mokpo University Alpine Club and had attempted the highest mountain in the range, Minya Konka (Gongga Shan, 7,556m), in 1996, 1998, and 2000. Kim Jae-myung, who made the first ascent of Minya Konka's northeast

Jiazi (Rudshe Konka). They approached from the Riuchi Glacier and climbed a 400m snow slope at 50° to reach a col on the southeast ridge, where they bivouacked. The following day they climbed the crest above, which was generally 50–60° and often narrow. The climbing was mixed, with snow and ice gullies at 70–80° maximum and rock to UIAA IV+. The overall grade was D. During the second half of our stay the weather was more stable but colder, which allowed all three of us to attempt our main objective, the 1,600m west face of Jiazi. We climbed 600m up a steep snow couloir on the right side of the face and bivouacked at 5,400m below a narrow ice gully. The site was uncomfortable, and we were disturbed by spindrift and rockfall. Next morning the wind was strong, the spindrift bad, and we retreated.

Later Trividal and I went up the Tshiburongi Glacier, northeast of Riuchi Gongga, and climbed a granite ridge to an unnamed rocky 5,200m summit. The Minya Konka Range is easy to reach. Base camp is seven or eight hours from Kangding, which is accessible in eight hours from Chengdu on a comfortable bus. A permit (\$800–\$1,500 per group) can be easily obtained in a few days.

SÉBASTIEN MOATTI, *France*

Mt. Edgar (6,618m), west face. Previously unreported in the AAJ, but a significant addition to the climbing history of the Daxue Shan, is the first ascent of Mt. Edgar (E Gongga) in 2001 by a Korean expedition. The mountain was reconnoitered by the British military expedition that attempted Jiazi in



A rarely seen view north from the slopes of Minya Konka toward (A) Jiazi (6,540m), (B) Peak 6,134m, (C) Peak 6,130m, (D) Peak 6,130m, and (E) Mt. Edgar (E Gongga, 6,618m). The Korean first ascent of Edgar followed the upper section of the west (left skyline) ridge, the lower part being obscured by the snow-covered rocky ridge in middle distance. *Courtesy of Korean Alpine Federation*

ridge in 1998 (during the ascent one member was lost, and the Koreans returned to the mountain in 2000 to try to find the body), returned in 2001 with Lee Yong-boo and Kim Yong-jai and climbed Edgar by a predominately snow/ice spur on the west face. They established three camps, the highest at 5,900m, before Kim Jae-myung and Lee Yong-boo crossed a foresummit and reached the corniced main summit. Edgar, which lies north of Minya Konka, is named after J. Huston Edgar, an archaeologist with the China Inland Mission, who was an important developer of the historical and topographical knowledge of this region

CHRISTINE PAE, *Director, Korean Alpine Federation*, and LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*.



The unclimbed southeast face of Mt. Edgar (E Gongga, 6,618m). *Tamotsu Nakamura*

Daxue Shan, exploration. After his travels in southeast Tibet, Tamotsu Nakamura traveled to the Daxue Shan to inspect an unclimbed 6,000er south of the Minya Konka Range. On the way he photographed the Lamo-she massif southeast of Kangding (Lamo-She, 6,070m; Baihaizi Shan, 5924m). In fact until last year there were no records of any exploration in the Lamo-she region



Baihaizi Shan (5,924m), the second highest peak in the Lamo-she massif southeast of Kangding, seen from the east. *Tamotsu Nakamura*



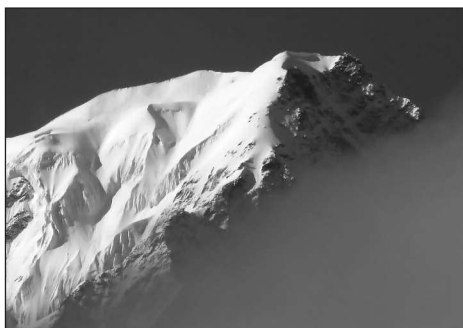
East face of Peak 5,878m in the Lamo-she massif south-east of Kangding. *Tamotsu Nakamura*



East face of Xiaqianla (5,470m) in the northern Daxue Shan, northwest of Dangba. *Tamotsu Nakamura*



The southwest face of 5,958m Xiaruoduo (Chanadorje) in the Gongga Xueshan (Kongkaling Range), east of Xiannairi. As with Xiannairi and neighboring Yangmai-yong, access to this fine peak is strictly controlled by the Deocheng County Government, and for environmental reasons a permit is unlikely to be granted. *Tamotsu Nakamura*



The south face of Ren Zhong Feng (6,079m), south of the Minya Konka Range. It is one of the few unclimbed 6,000ers in Sichuan. *Tamotsu Nakamura*

various peaks including Xiaruoduo, Xiannairi, and neighboring Yangmai-yong is strictly controlled by the Deocheng County Government; for environmental reasons they are unlikely to grant a permit at this time.

1A collection of images of these fascinating mountains, some of which are reproduced here, appear in *Alpine Briefs* Issue 2 - January 2009

From notes provided by TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, Editor, Japanese Alpine News



Looking north into the Tza-leh Xueshan. The most distant peaks lie on the Yunnan-Tibet border. The highest distant peak, which presents a snowy face split by a rock rib, is Peak 5,600m, climbed by the right skyline ridge. *Booth Haley*

YUNNAN PROVINCE

Tza-leh Xueshan, Peak 5,600+m. Juan-Antonio Puyol and I visited Yunnan because it is largely unexplored. The only information we found for our chosen area on the Mekong-Yangtze divide in the Hengduan Range came from a report by Tom Nakamura in AAJ 2003, which noted that north of the 4,292m road pass (Baima Shan Pass) southeast of Deqen lie the Jiazi Xueshan and Tza-leh Xueshan, groups having a number of 5,000m peaks. The only recorded ascent is of a ca 5,300m summit east of the pass, climbed in April 1998 by Damien Gildea, who also reconnoitered an approach to Zhalachoni (5,429m), the highest summit in the Baimang Xueshan, south of the pass. We settled on Tza-leh, or Cali as Chinese maps call it. The peaks there are very close to Tibet, and crossing the frontier requires special permits. Nakamura's map of the region showed Tza-leh to be 5,534m. I also procured from the U.W. Library a copy of Russian maps from 1942, the only topographic maps available of the area (in China such maps either don't exist or are not sold to civilians). This shows the highest peak of the Cali as 5,621m. According to the map, a second summit also exceeds 5,600m. From discussion with locals we learned that no individual peak bears the name Cali; only the group bears that name. We arrived at Zhongdian (Xianggelila or Shangri La) in January 2008 and made a 10-hour bus ride north to the Yangla Copper Mine (Yangla Tongshan, N 28°55', E 99°5'). From there we hiked west for two days before setting up a high camp at 4,700m. Navigating towns and trails in China is possible for me because I speak Chinese. At this time of year the range is bone-dry and freezing. In the shade we found old foot-deep powder snow. We spent the next two days scrambling and acclimatizing, then on day five made a big push for the more southerly 5,600m summit. It was third-class rock, quite crumbly, but with an exposed snow finish on the southeast ridge. The summit is on the Tibet-Yunnan border at N 28°52', E 98°58'.

We don't recommend the Cali group to prospective climbers. The rock is bad, and the summits are gentle. However, to the west, in Tibet proper, northeast of Meili Xueshan but still east of the Mekong, we saw many impressive peaks that would be worthy of exploration. The approach would follow the A-dong River, a north-south Mekong tributary north of Deqin, until the path reaches a high pass leading into Tibet.

BOOTH HALEY, U.S.