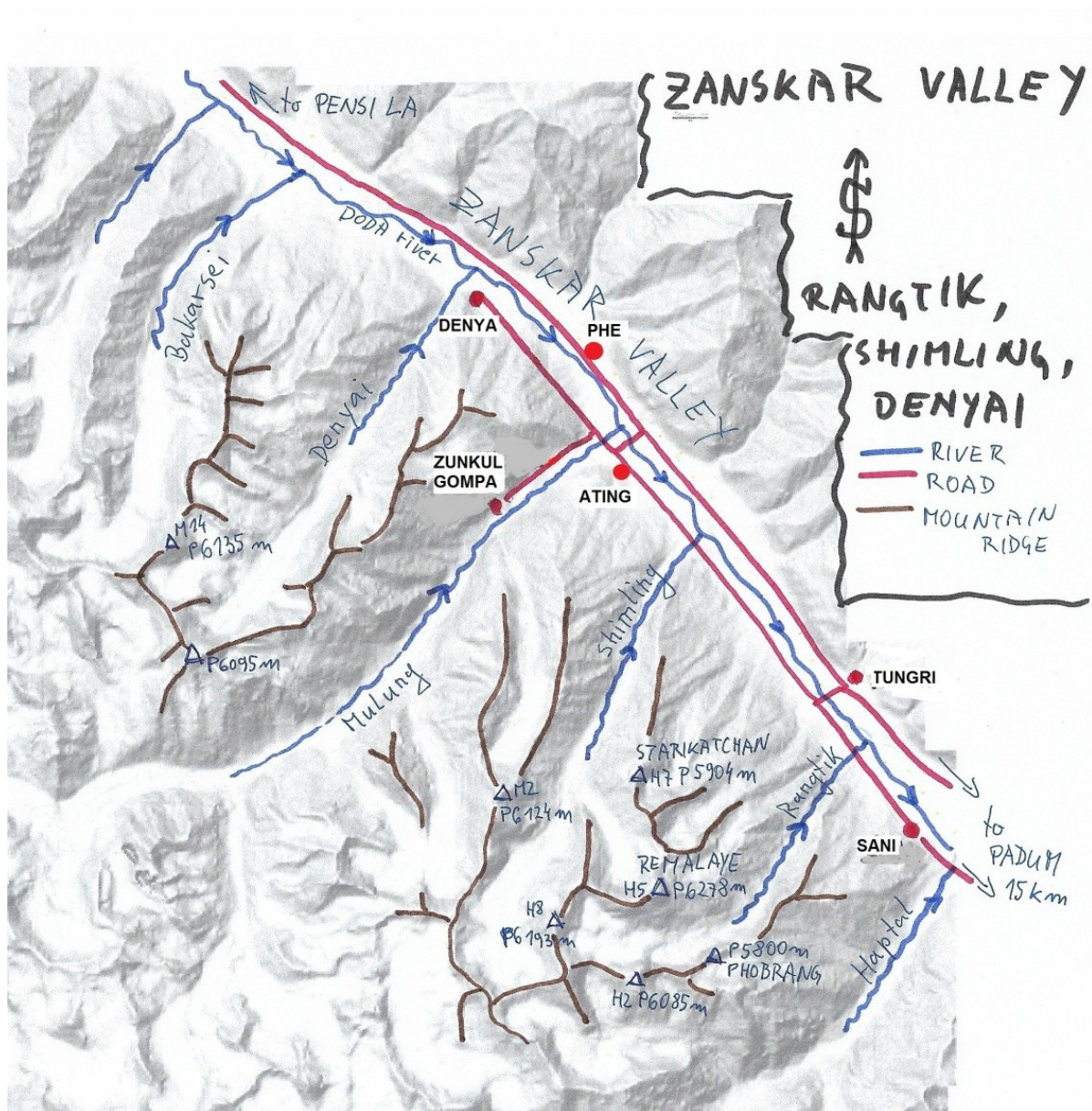


## Haptal mountains 2016 Slovenian expedition

### Exploration of DENYAI TOKPO– alpine climbing potentials in Zanskar

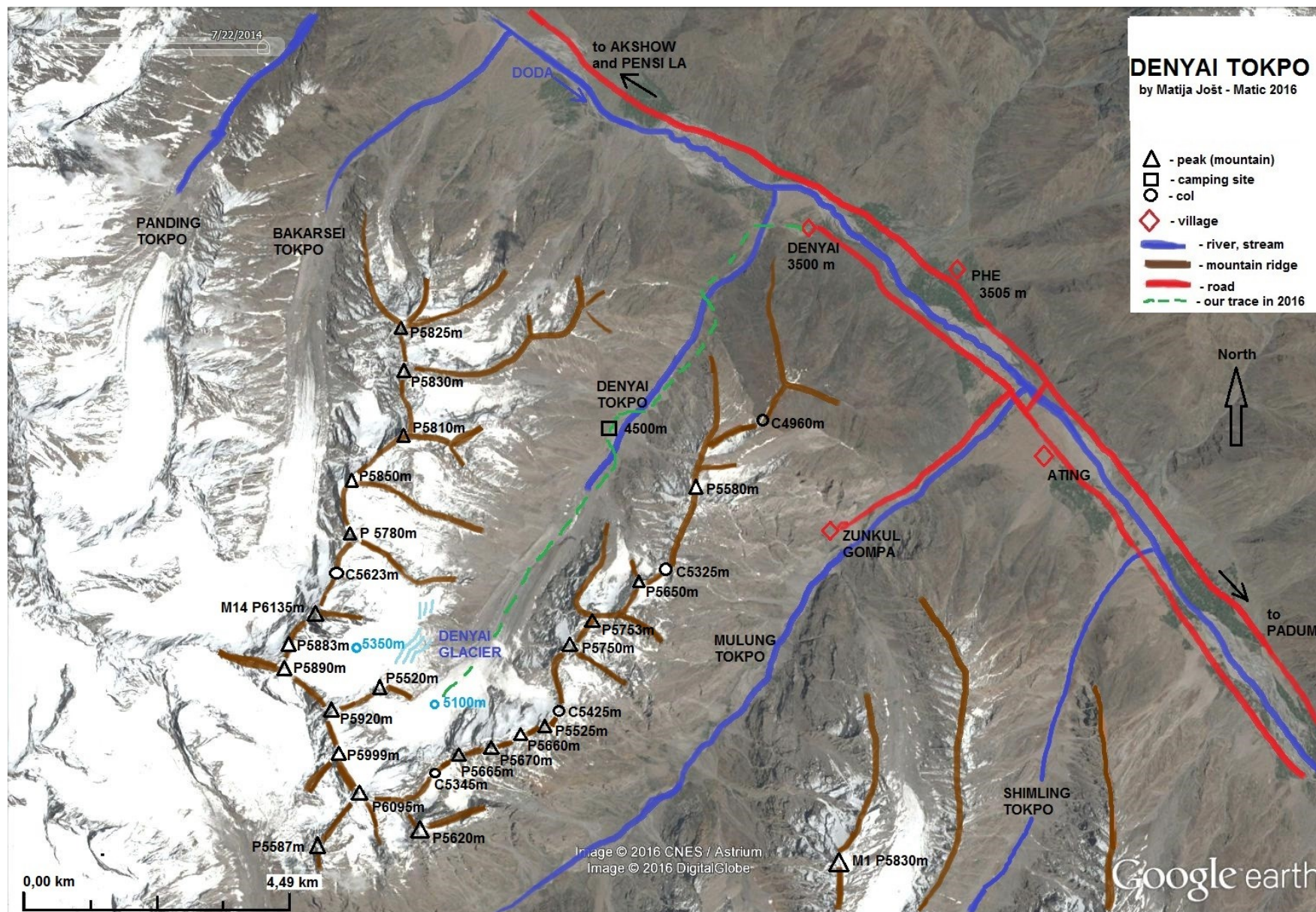
In summer 2016 Anastasija Davidova – Nastja and me (Matija Jošt – Matic) spent some nice time exploring and trekking in the Haptal mountains massif. Idea to travel back to beautiful Zanskar arises in 2015 when we spent nice time in Raru Mountains and Tetheh Nala. At that time we realize that mountain area southwest of the Doda river (also refer as Stod river) is very rarely visited by mountaineers and may be hiding some nice alpine climbing potentials. From mid July to beginning of September 2016 we visit Rangtik Tokpo, Shimling Tokpo and Denyai Tokpo. In this report I will cover exportation of Denyai Tokpo, Exploration of Rangtik and Shimling Tokpo is covered in separate report.



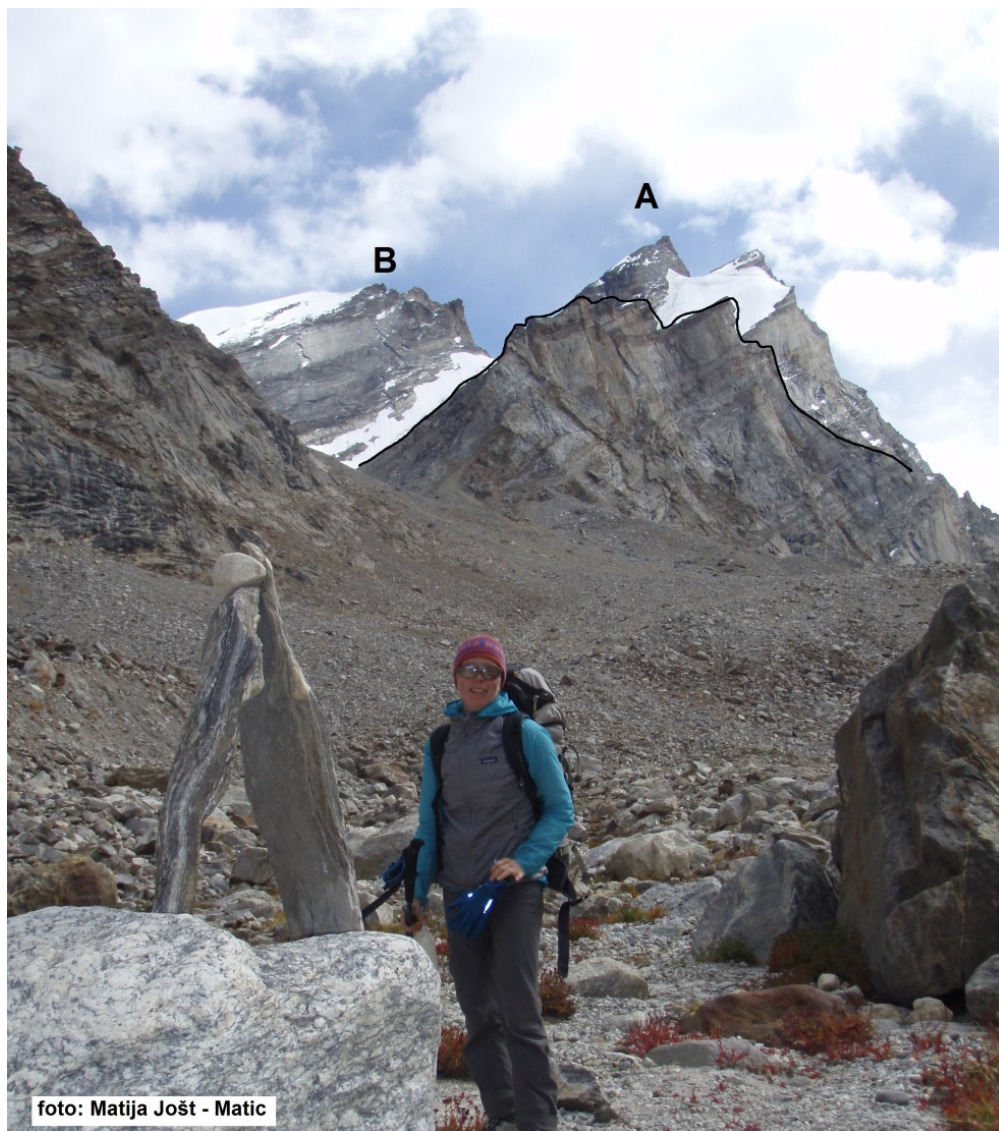
Main Doda river valley (Zanskar valley) running from Darung-Drung glacier near Pensi La to southeast direction towards Padum where after confluence with Tsarap river they form Zanskar river, a tributary of the Indus river. Along the river is main Kargil – Padum road which passes villages of Akshoh, Abran, Kushol, Phey, Tungri. Southwest of the Doda river is Great Himalayan range, there are many valleys originate from it and converge to Zanskar. Some of them are (from north to south): Haskira Tokpo, Kange Tokpo, Hangshu Nala, Panding Tokpo, Bakarsei Tokpo, Denyai Tokpo, Mulung Tokpo, Shimling Tokpo, Rangtik Tokpo, Haptal Tokpo, Chhogo Tokpo, Gompe Tokpo. All these valleys are surrounded by many mostly unclimbed peaks. The altitude of the peaks vary from 5200 m to 6400 m. Local Ladakhi people (and early explorers) use some of the valleys for connection with Kishwar in the south. Main “trekking” passes are: Muni La at the head of Haptal Tokpo, Umasi La at the head of Mulung Tokpo and Hagshu La at the head of Hangshu Nala. Most “popular” for climbing is Hangshu Nala with famous and beautiful peak Hagshu (6515 m). All the other valleys get very little or no attention from climbers, but popularity of the area is increasing in recent years. The main reason for that are two reports. In 2009 Spanish climber Sergi Ricart who spent several months in Ladakh and Zanskar also visit the Haptal area and report in AAJ. At that time he visited Rangtik Tokpo and Kange Tokpo. In 2012 Japanese senior expedition (leader Kimikazu Sakamoto) explore in the area. They report about their activity and also made better mapping of the area and identification of many peaks. So the best map of the area so far is Sakamoto map, he marked peaks with H1, H2 etc for Haptal Tokpo, and M1, M2, etc for peaks in Mulung Tokpo.

With cooperation of local agency Skitpo Travel (<http://www.skitpotravel.com/>) we first visit Rangtik Tokpo, where we spent some 20 days climbing and exploring. Skitpo Travel employs local people mostly from Tungri village and they provide us really with excellent service and very nice cultural experience as we were introduced well to their traditional way of life. We started our trek up the Denyai Tokpo in Denyai village. During our trip we see and identify some very attractive peaks. I think all peaks we see in Denyai are unclimbed and unnamed but they provided great potential for alpine style ascents of all sorts and of all grades. We found very little trace of human passage. Local people graze their animals in lower part of the valley, but upper part of the valley is very unspoiled.

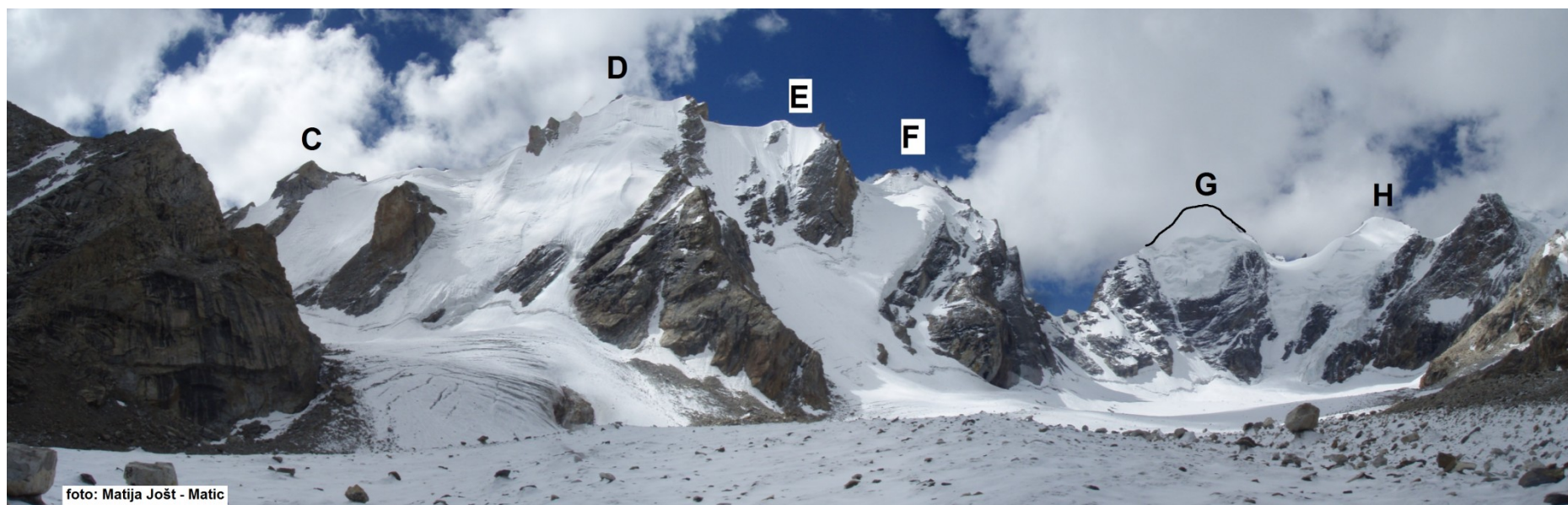








Mountains on the true right side of Denyai Tokpo as seen from campsite (GPS: 4518 m, 33°35'20" North, 76°38'19" East). A is P5753 m and B is P5650.

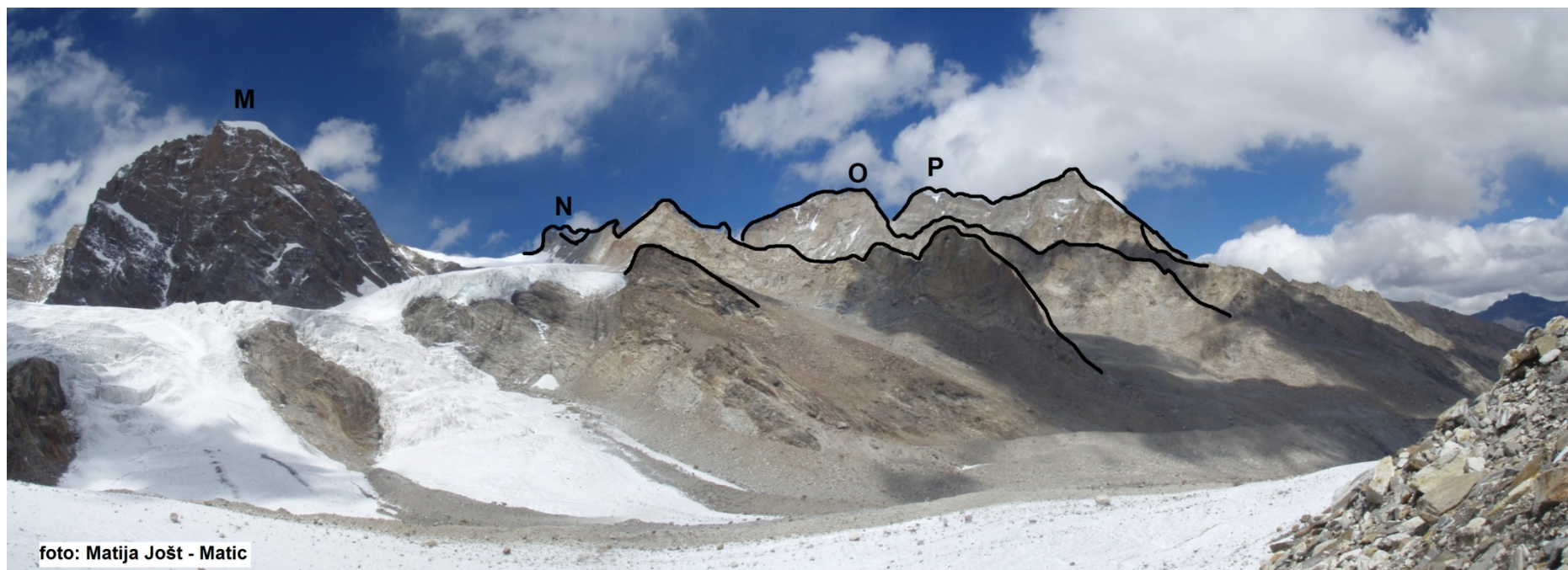


Mounatins on the south side of upper Denyai glacier. You can see their North-East, North and North-West faces on this photo. C is P5525 m, D is P5660 m, E is P5670 m, F is P5665 m, G is P6095 m, H is P5999 m.





Mountains on the true left side of upper Denyai glacier. G is P6095 m, H is P5999 m, I is P5920 m, K is P5890 m, R is P5520 m, L is P5883 m and M is P6135 m (aka M14).



Mountains of true left (West) side of Denyai Tokpo. Photo is taken from upper Denyai glacier. M is P6135 m (aka M14), N is P5780 m, O is P5850 m, P is P5810 m.





East and South-East face of P6135 m (aka M14) marked with M.



East face of P5890 m marked with K, I is P5920 m, R is P5520 m.