

Later, as we prepared to fly home, we reminisced about our magnificent new climb. Andy and Ed proclaimed our 14-pitch route one of the finest and most difficult quartzite climbs in the world. We had been lucky to visit the African Sahel (the drought-beset region below the Sahara that includes Mali, Chad, Niger, Senegal, et al.; the exact line of Sahel/Sahara is constantly moving south) and to live for a time among the unique cultures of the region. We were going home safely and as stronger friends. We vowed always to climb with the serene spirit of birds.

PAUL PIANA, *unaffiliated*

## KENYA

*Point Peter, Northwest Face.* It was reported that on March 15, Ulf Carlsson, Nicolas Ganzin and Ian Howell made the first ascent of the Northwest Face of Point Peter (4757m), a sharp granite spire below the north face of Mt. Kenya. The team took a direct line to the summit via a series of cracks and corners roughly in the center of the face. Most of the climbing was moderate. The crux was the penultimate pitch, a strenuous and awkward corner that went at HVS 5a/b. This trio and others active in the area reported an alarming disappearance of ice in the north-facing couloirs and on the Diamond Glacier, which was reduced to almost half its size. (*High Mountain Sports* 197)

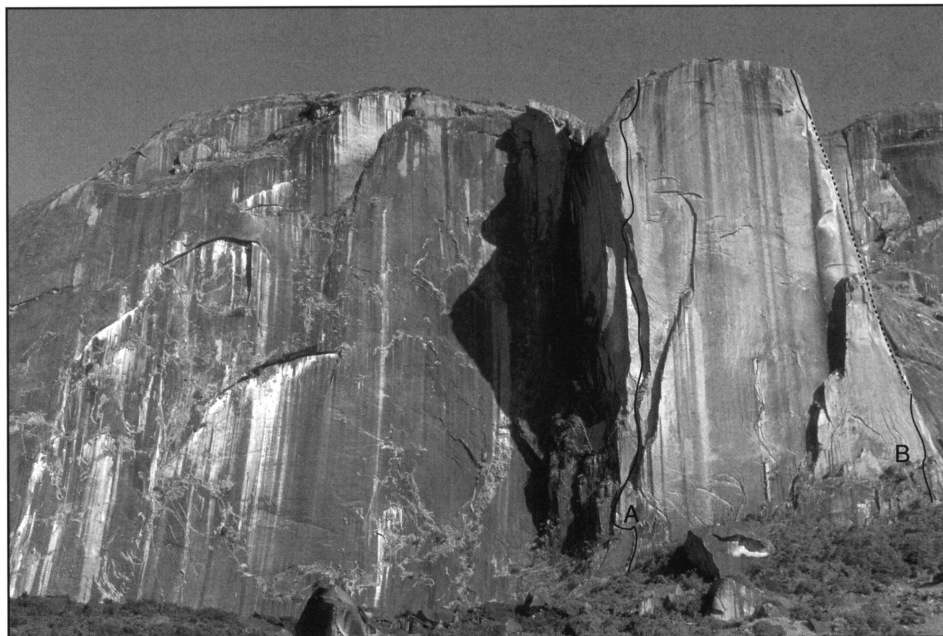
## MADAGASCAR

### Andringitra National Park

*Tsaranoro Atsimo, Never the Same, and Various Ascents.* In September, Italians Rolando Larcher, Marco Sterni, and Erik Svab established the 670-meter route *Never the Same* (V 5.13c/d A0) on the east face of Tsaranoro Atsimo. The 13 pitches of the route range from 35 to 60 meters each; 122 bolts were placed on the route, including 26 for the anchors. The team established the route and then worked it, freeing all the moves on the most difficult pitch (Pitch 8, 5.13c/d), which they climbed with one rest (but did not redpoint). On September 24, they made a one-day, eight-hour ascent of the route. Descent was made with double ropes. The route has obligatory moves of F7b (5.12b). Two other members of the team, Ermanno Francinelli and Mario Cavagnini, repeated five established routes on Tsaranoro, including *Gondwanaland* on Tsaranoro Be. A full report on *Never the Same* appears earlier in this journal.

*Tsaranoro Massif, Various Activity.* Last summer three different teams visited the Tsaranoro Massif in the Andringitra National Park. All the visiting teams, except Kurt Albert and Bernd Arnold, who had first visited the area some years before, used electric power drills to place bolts. All lines are bolted. Bolts are well-spaced and falls up to 20 meters are possible on most of the lines. All routes were opened ground up without previous rehearsal, except for *Tsac Tsac* (Gilles Gouthier and Alain Thiberghien), which was opened via rappel bolting. It's not described in this account.

In early April, Arnaud Petit and Stephanie Baudet (F) visited the area and made a repetition in two days (not one as claimed, since the second day was used to rappel 800 meters) of the longest route of the area, *Gondwanaland*. The route was climbed on-sight except the crux



Little Karambony and Karambony. A: *Fantasia* (Pellizzari-Piola). B: *Rain Boto* (Albert-Arnold).  
EMANUELE PELLIZZARI

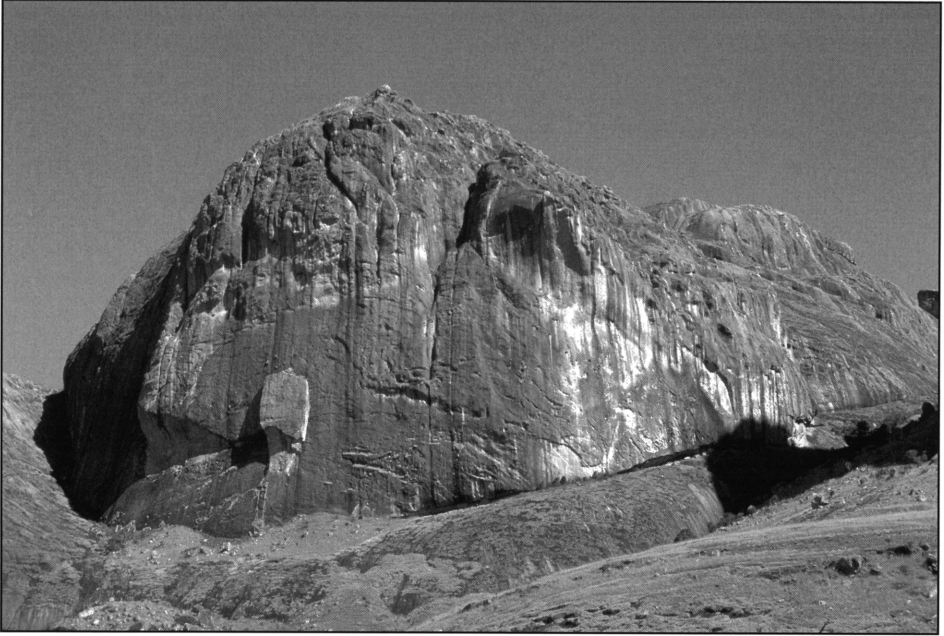
pitch. The overall grade (F7a+) was confirmed. Petit, with Gilles Gauthier, then made an attempt on the obvious dihedral of Tsaranoro Be, which joined the line of a previous attempt of Italians Campana et al after five pitches. The line up to there has difficulties of F6b/6c.

Later in the season, the team of Manlio Motto and Emanuele Pellizzari (I), Benoit Robert (F) and Michel Piola (Swiss) arrived for a one-month stay, during which they established seven new routes. From June 23 to 27, Pellizzari and Piola opened *Fantasia* (A3+ F6c), a predominantly aid route on the overhanging left corner on the left face of Karambony. It's opposite the first route of the area, *Rain Boto* (Kurt Albert and Bernd Arnold). The key pitch, a traverse right under a big roof, has potential for a dangerous (or fatal) fall. For the first 11 pitches, no bolts were placed apart from those at the belays. On pitches 11 and 13 (in the free climbing sections) there is fixed protection. It's impossible to retreat via rappel after the seventh pitch.

While the two were climbing *Fantasia*, Motto and Robert climbed the Normal Route (F5+ for ten meters) on Karambony, meeting Pellizzari and Piola on top. This is also the descent line for the formation.

Motto and Robert established the 250-meter route *Ebola* (F6b+) on the right slopes of Karambony. The four then joined forces to establish *Out Of Africa* (F7a, 14 pitches) from June 29 to July 2 on Tsaranoro Kely. It was repeated, again, by Pellizzari-Piola on July 3. As of today, this route can be considered the "normal" route to the summit of Tsaranoro Be. The line is on the right (lower) pillar of Tsaranoro.

Later on, the team split again, creating two new lines on Vatovarindy: *La Coix du Sud* (Piola-Robert) and *Veloma Madagasikara* (Motto-Pellizzari). *La Coix du Sud* takes the left



*Mitsin Joarivo, home to the ten-pitch Le Crabe aux Pincés d'Or.* EMANUELE PELLIZARI

ridge of the face and joins the center line of *Veloma Madagasikara* on the final belay. With *Veloma Madagasikara*, the Italians were looking for an easy line and got a reasonably difficult one (F7a+), while the French, who were looking for a hard line, got an easy one with *La Coix du Sud*. At this point the team suffered from a shortage of bolts, not because they placed too many (never more than eight per pitch, with an average of six every 50 meters) but because they had climbed too much. On Mitsin Joarivo, a dome in between Vatoarindry and Tsaranoro, Piola and Robert then established *Le Crabe aux Pincés d'Or*, an overhanging line of ten pitches with maximum difficulties of F7b+.

Still not tired, the French-speaking team went to Le Dondy to open *Le Revoltes du Dondy*, a very exploratory 1600-meter line that gets to the summit of this very grassy mountain. The team reported overhanging turf, cow shit falling from above, and tropical grass.

All the routes except for *Fantasia* have been repeated. The rock is granite, and very solid. Most of the cracks are choked with tropical grass, which is very hard to remove; for the talented, two ice axes and experience in dry tooling is enough to work out a nice line. All the face routes are bolted. Fall potential up to 20 meters is normal. *Fantasia* has bolts at the belays.

The valley and its inhabitants are not prepared for more than ten climbers/tourists at a time. They haven't food for themselves and too many people at once will ruin their culture. Water sources are poor. Hygiene is a delicate issue; climbers live higher than the locals, which means defecation up-stream will contaminate their water. Climbers will find nothing to buy in the villages. Do not buy the locals' food. If you do, they will use the money to buy cigarettes instead of food. Never give candy to the children, since they can't brush their teeth and you will forever ruin their smiles. They don't have shoes and don't need them. If you can,

bring warm clothes for locals, which they do need. Don't carry pens or other typical Western gifts: give them food (they basically eat only rice), possibly proteins, especially for the children. With the equivalent of \$50 you can buy them a few tons of beans—enough protein for a year. Don't leave any garbage, nor bury it: locals will recover it to see if they can find something useful and leave the rest to the wind to blow away.

Only really environmentally conscious teams should consider an expedition to this area.

EMANUELE PELLIZARI, *Italy*

## ASIA

### INDIA

#### UTTAR PRADESH

##### CENTRAL GARHWAL

*Mukut Parvat East, First Ascent.* A Korean team made an important and difficult first ascent in July and August when Oksun Hong led an expedition to Mukut Parvat East (7130m). Two members of the team reached the summit. The team accessed the peak through the West Kamet Glacier. This was the last virgin 7000-meter peak in the Garhwal.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

*Badrinath to Kedarnath, Second Mortal Traverse, and Ascent of Pt. 5758.* The crossing of the Satopanth Col and across the Markanda Ganga valley involves a mixture of mountaineering and bushwhacking to negotiate three 15,000-foot ridges through some of the wildest bits of the Indian Himalaya. In 1934, after hearing the legend of a Hindu priest who had preached at both temples on the same day, Eric Shipton and Bill Tilman attempted what they thought would be a two-day crossing, and found themselves involved in a two-week epic hacking their way through dense forest and competing with bears for a diet of bamboo shoots when their food ran out. Two Bengalis who attempted to repeat the route in 1986 disappeared without a trace. In 1997, a team from Bombay led by Harish Kapadia attempted to repeat the route but via the Panpatia Valley. They were stopped lower in the valley and did not reach the Panpatia Col.

Between May 25 and June 7, an Indo-British team (Brede Arkless, John Harvey, Ben Lovett, Martin Moran, and Sobat Singh Rana) repeated the watershed crossing from the Badrinath to Kedarnath valleys which had remained unvisited since Shipton and Tilman's 1934 traverse. The route commenced at Badrinath, crossed the Inner Line at Mana village, then ascended the Satopanth Glacier to a col at its head at ca. 5450 meters. The icefall beneath the col was badly broken and objectively dangerous, so the team climbed a mixed face on the left, assisted by excellent pre-monsoon snow conditions. While camped at 5100 meters on the far side of the col, Arkless and Moran were able to ascend the unclimbed peak (Pt. 5758m) immediately south of the col, which they propose to name Shipton's Peak. The ascent (AD) was made by the south ridge and face, with descent down the north slope back to the col. The climb enabled a thorough inspection of the upper Panpatia Glacier, where there are numerous