

Pellizzari, 1998), by Samitowski and K. Zielinski.

GRZEGORZ GLAZEK, *Polski Związek Alpinizmu*

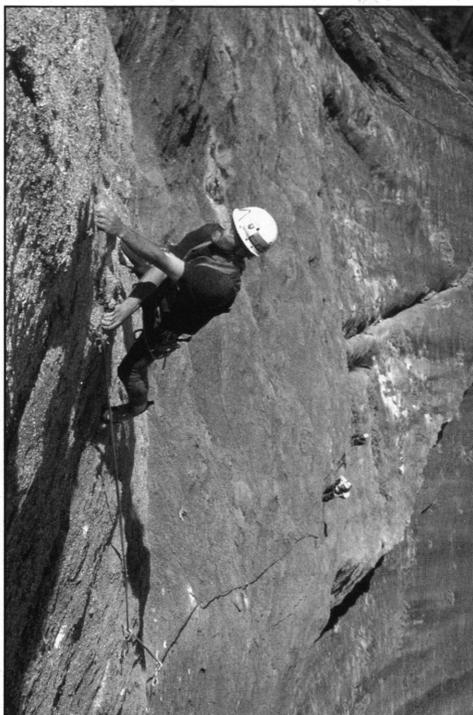
Tsaranoro Massif, Various Ascents. Just after the departure of the Polish group (see above), the six-member Slovak group of Alexander Buzinkay, Ivan Duskocil, Vladimir Linek, Rado Staruch, Rasto Simko (as a climbing cameraman) and Ivan Stefansky came to the Tsaranoro Massif. Their goals were to try existing routes and to make some first ascents.

The Slovaks spent five weeks in this region from September 11 to October 16, acquainting themselves by climbing established routes on the Lemur Wall. On September 16, the two teams of Simko and Linek and Buzinkay and Staruch climbed *Ebola* (6b+) onsight, while Duskocil and Stefansky climbed *Pectorine* (6b A0). The Slovak climbers then decided to put up a new route to the left of *Ebola*. From September 17-21, working in two teams of three and changing leaders every day, they climbed to the top of the Lemur Wall, placing bolts on lead. They found the rock to be brilliant with many tiny holds and flakes. The route is called *Black Magic Woman* (6c+, 5 pitches, 250m); the individual pitches go at 6a+, 6a+, 6b, 6c+, 6b. The fourth pitch is the crux, with 60 meters of endurance climbing. The team placed 48 bolts. Descent is made via the belay anchors. For repetition, it is necessary to have 60-meter ropes and 12 quickdraws. They made a film of the route: *Madagascar: Vertical Life*. On September 22, two rope teams of Duskocil-Linek and Buzinkay-Staruch climbed *Black Magic Woman* free.

On September 27, the trio of Duskocil, Linek, and Stefansky climbed *Out Of Africa* (7a+) on Tsaranoro Kely onsight. The next day, Buzinkay and Staruch climbed *Norspace* (7a, 650m) on Tsaranoro Be onsight. This was the second ascent (a 1999 attempt climbed all but the last few pitches) of this bold and poorly protected route; the route has long runouts, and it is necessary to climb hard moves high above the last bolt. After discussion and considering the lack of time and bolts, five of the team (the cameraman, Simko, had to return to Europe) decided to make a first ascent between *Out Of Africa* and *Cucumber Flying Circus* via a pillar on Tsaranoro Kely.

On September 30, Staruch and Linek made the probable second ascent of another Piola route, *La Crabe Aux Pincés D'or* (7b+, 320m), on Mitsinjo Arivo. This is the only route on this face; it is a super climb with consistently hard climbing.

From September 29-October 9, the team established *Everything Is in Your Mind* (7b; 7a obligatory, 14 pitches, 650m) on Tsaranoro Kely. The pitches were as



Vlado Linek on pitch 8 (7b) of *Everything Is in Your Mind*, Tsaranoro Kely. ALEXANDER BUZINKAY

follows: 5+, 6a, 6a+, 6a+, 6b+, 6c+, 7a, 7b, 7a+, 6b+, 6a+, 7a+, 6b+, 6c. They placed 78 bolts in the pitches and 30 at belays. Descent was made by rapping the route. They named the route according to their feelings during the climb: bolts were often widely spaced, and it is necessary to have everything in order in your mind to climb the route. For repetition, you need 60-meter ropes, 12 quickdraws and some nuts, cams and webbing. On the twelfth pitch they established the variation *Junk Junction* (7a, six bolts), which connects to *Out Of Africa*.

VLADIMIR LINEK, *Slovakia*

MALAWI

Mt. Mulanje, Chambe West Face, First One-Day Ascent, Previously Unreported. We arrived at Mt. Mulanje in August, 1998, with one goal in mind: to climb the largest rock face in Africa in a single day. Alard Hübner and I had been climbing and establishing new routes on the granite domes of Mozambique for the last month, and we felt that our granite climbing skills were as good as they could get. At 3 a.m., we left Likabula Forest Station with our guide and headed out on the dark potholed road to the base of the face. From where we left our car, it was a 45-minute walk to the start of the climb. The whole face is divided into two sections (600m and 1100m) by a large, 250-meter-wide band. Our aim was to reach the band by 9 a.m., collect some water in a nearby stream and complete the crux pitches by early afternoon.

After the first 200 meters of easy climbing, we were forced to rope up and lead. The climbing, however, did not exceed 5.7, so we decided to simulclimb. After negotiating two more difficult and unprotected sections (up to 5.10b) and unintentionally getting off route, we found ourselves on the large, wildly vegetated band at 9:15 a.m. At 9:45 a.m., after fighting our way through the bush, we reached the start of the prominent dike that dissects the main wall and forms the feature we were to follow. After spending an hour descending a dry streambed in the quest for water and, finally, finding a small puddle, we returned to the route somewhat behind schedule. The following ten pitches off the ledge are the crux: mostly 5.9 and 5.10 climbing, with an unpleasant aid section on two quarter-inch, rusty bolts, now hidden under a blanket of lichen, placed by the first ascensionist, Frank Eastwood, in the early 1970s.

Above, the climbing eases, and we moved back into simul-mode, swapping leads when the leader tired or ran out of gear. The climb mostly follows chimneys and wide cracks at 5.6 and 5.7, but on occasion you step out onto the breathtakingly exposed faces on good holds and knobs. We reached the summit just as the sun set into the hazy horizon. Exhausted, yet utterly pleased with ourselves, we followed the cairns down to the warmth of Chambe Hut, a mere two hours away.

MARK SEURING, *Mountain Club of South Africa*

MOZAMBIQUE

Sphinx Rock, Various Ascents, Previously Unreported. One hundred kilometers south of the island of Mozambique, along some of the prettiest and most remote coastline in the world, you will find the small town of Liupo. Besides being the site of a major crossroads that sees the occasional U.N. Landrover zooming by, it is the point of approach to an impressive, 200-meter high dome that looks very much like the Sphinx.