

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 rappelling 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 Hüfner 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

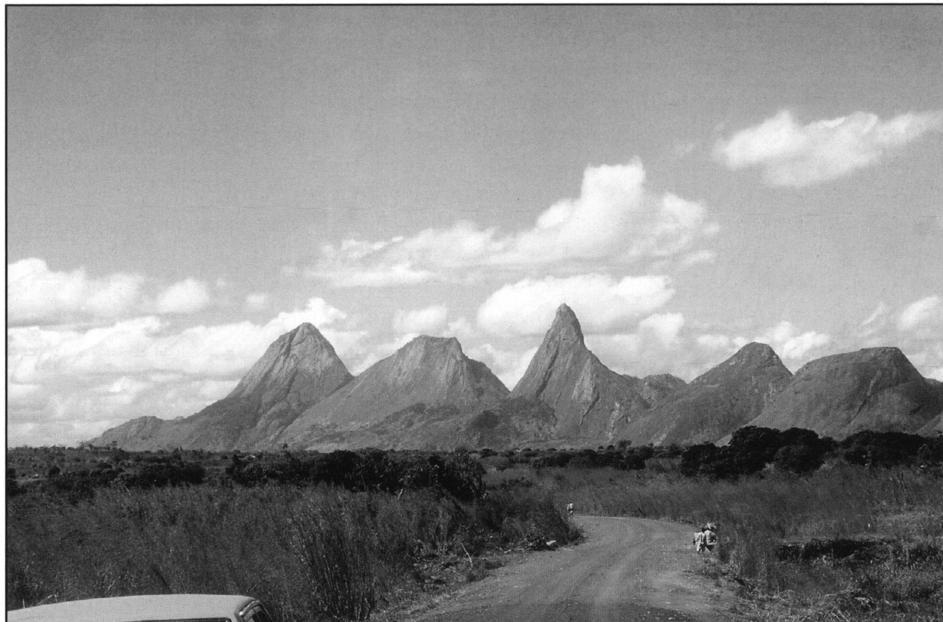
Sphinx Rock, Various Ascents, Previously Unreported. One hundred kilometers south of the island of Mozambique, along some of the prettiest and most remote coastline in the world, you will find the small town of Liupo. Besides being the site of a major crossroads that sees the occasional U.N. Landrover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

Alard Hüfner and I opened four very worthy routes in July, 1998. *Gone Batty* (5.11a A0, 5 pitches) is the most spectacular and involves an exposed line through the prominent roof, the climber swinging from bolts high above the Mozambican plains. It still needs a free ascent. *Cherry in a Minefield* (5.8) follows a beautiful, clean crack up the back of the Sphinx. It has two pitches of fine jamming, the stance being a wild fig tree growing from the crack. *Lizards in the Leaves* (5.9, 4 pitches) follows the crack and chimney system to the left of the large pillar on the east face of the rock. Its second pitch is only 5.8 but involves exposed climbing on good jugs up a 40-meter face with few options for good gear placements. *The Spirit of Totonto* (5.11a, 3 pitches), named after the alcohol locally distilled in large metal drums from sugar-cane, is probably the finest climb there. It follows a steep and perfect crack, the crux being the second pitch, as it heads through a small bulge and then follows a long offwidth.

We have climbed the most obvious and traditionally protectable lines. There is a vast scope for bolted routes on steep and well-featured granite.

MARK SEURING, *Mountain Club of South Africa*

Mlema 3, African Light. In July, Alard Hüfner and I headed up to northern Mozambique with one goal in mind: to climb the 700-meter east face of Mlema 3. After organizing with the local administrator and secretario, we pitched our tent under a mango tree, one hour's walk from the base of our objective. On July 9, we started up the face, heading for the obvious line of weakness. Four pitches of enjoyable 5.10 climbing, including a small pendulum, saw us on Bundu Ledge. After a rest day, we jumared back up our fixed lines to Bundu Ledge. From here we headed up a clean crack system (5.10c crux) and a further flake pitch to Walk-The-Plank Ledge. The following day we stepped out onto the airy face to avoid the wet-looking cracks that follow the marked roof system that diagonally traverses the face. Thin fissures



From left to right: Mlema 1, 2, and 3. ALARD HÜFNER