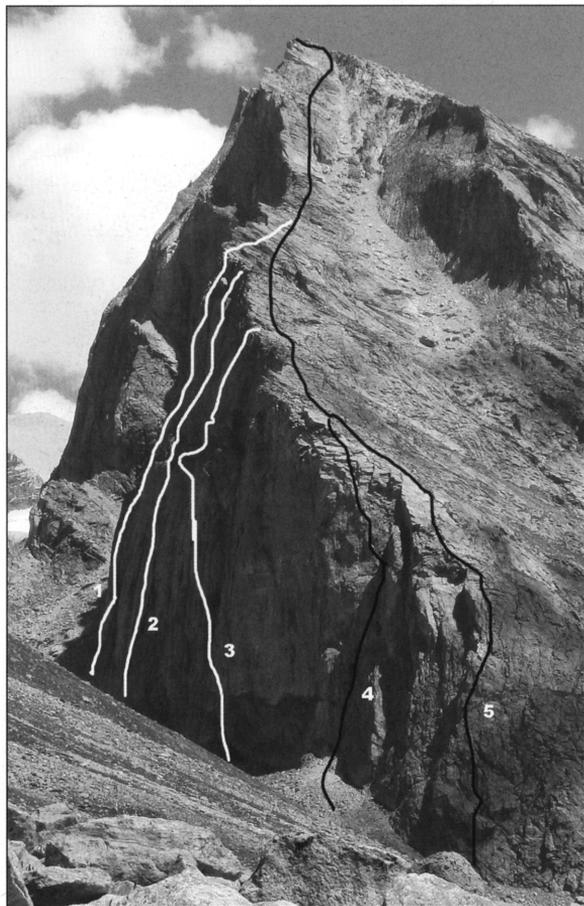


valley up onto the Chhudong Glacier, where we spied a prominent peak with three sweeping summits, north of Paola's Peak (ca 5,460m) on the eastern side of the glacier. We called this peak Triple Crown. Several days of snowfall plastered the peaks and rock walls, but on September 11 we started up a 350m couloir on the west side of Triple Crown. Mixed ground at the top took us onto the northwest ridge of the southwest summit, which we climbed for 300m on mostly soft snow over ice, to gain the summit ridge just below the southwest summit. From this point we climbed northeast over the central summit to the northeast summit—the highest point of the mountain (ca 5,800m). We graded our 1,000m route AD (70°).



Tamadonog (height uncertain) at the entrance to the Takdung Valley. The highest summit was originally referred to as the "Walker Spur." Marked on the north-northwest face, in shadow to the left, are the approximate lines of (1) Doomed to Miyar (1,000m of climbing, UIAA VIII-, Krol-Wojcik, 2006), (2) Tocati di Bola (400m, 6b A2, Cacho-Sans, 2005, not to summit), (3) Ocella a Vent (400m, 6b A2, Cacho-Sans-Larranaga-Rodriguez, 2005, not to summit). On the northwest ridge lie (4) Shakti (1,300m of climbing, UIAA V+ A1, Urtasun-Viscarrets, 2004), and (5) Long Life Ridge (1,400m of climbing, 5.9, Lopez-Pfaff, 2008). *Camilio Lopez*

We also attempted Veneto, which is two summits to the south of Three Peaks Mountain and has one previous ascent [850m, 6b+ and 85°, Gianluca Bellin and Diego Stefani, 1999]. Days of snowfall had resulted in less than ideal conditions, so we ascended a gully to its south and skirted around a vertical orange wall looking for a feasible route. Finally, a snow gully led into a basin at ca 5,470m, rimmed with jagged peaks. Due to cold and lack of time and bivouac equipment, we descended, noting that the surrounding peaks would provide excellent objectives, some consisting of a solid orange rock, and likely all unclimbed.

GEMMA WOLDENDORP, *Australia*.

*Toro Peak, south face, Direttissima; Tamadonog, Long Life Ridge.* On August 27 Anna Pfaff and I arrived at the usual Miyar Valley base camp after blue skies during our three-day trek, and then had to wait out a three-day storm. We scoped a direct line up the south face of Toro Peak and when the weather turned good set up camp near its base. We started climbing at 8 a.m. The first three pitches followed a 5.8 chimney system, which ended with a 5.9 roof (the crux of the route) and a hand

crack to a ledge. From the ledge we traversed 210m across a 5.8 face, then climbed another 5.8 face pitch to the headwall. Of many options we chose the most direct line, climbing 280m of 5.8-5.9 face, with small cracks offering protection. We summited at 4 p.m., after climbing 800m. Although overall rock quality and placements were good, the climbing was often runout. Our descent took us down the west ridge, 3rd to 4th class, and we were back in base camp before sunset, naming our route *Direttissima*.

Since the weather was holding, we headed for Tamadonog, a beautiful peak at the entrance to the Takdung Valley. As we were well-acclimatized, we went light and fast without a high camp. Setting off from base camp at 4 a.m., we started up the toe of the northwest ridge at 6:30. We simul-climbed 500m of 5th class, with some 5.7 to 5.8 pitches. We then encountered a vertical wall and belayed two crux pitches of 5.9 face climbing. We unroped for the last 400m of 5.6-5.7 to the fore-summit, then traversed loose talus to the main summit, with occasional 5th class blocks. We reached the highest point at 5 p.m., having climbed 1,400m.

We descended the west face by one of several gullies. This turned out to be the actual crux of the day; with loose blocks it took way longer than anticipated. Rappelling and down-climbing into the dark, we reached the valley floor and hiked back to our base camp, arriving at 1 a.m. We named the route *Long Life Ridge*.

CAMILO LOPEZ, U.S.

*Editor's Note: The northwest ridge, perhaps better described as the left edge of the large, broken west face, was climbed in 2004 by Spanish Alberto Urtasun and Patricia Viscarrets. They reached the crest by a corner system on the left flank. Their route, Shakti, covered 1,300m of climbing at V+ and A1; presumably they continued to the highest point of the mountain (reached by Poles Krol and Wojcik in 2006, who saw no trace of previous ascent). Long Life Ridge constitutes a variant start, involving several hundred meters of new climbing. Lopez and Pfaff also saw no evidence of previous passage and built a cairn on the summit.*

*Castle Peak, various first ascents.* During September Stefano Cacioppo, Cesare Giuliani, and I, members the Italian Alpine Club, put up four new routes on Castle Peak. Standing at the end of the long ridge forming the southern rim of the Chhudong Glacier, Castle Peak has four summits. In ascending order and from north to south these are David 62's Nose, Iris Peak, an unnamed summit, and the main summit. While a number of routes have been established on the southwest face, some ending at large terraces, I believed that until 2008 only David 62's Nose (ca 4,850m) and Iris Peak (ca 5,200m) had been reached—both by me in 2004.

On September 9, after bad weather stopped an attempt on the 5th, we climbed to the unnamed summit via a route we named *Lost on a Dream Track*. It had 1,600m of climbing, though only 650m were pitched (UIAA VI and VI+); we moved together on the rest (UIAA IV). Once on the summit we discovered someone had been there before. [Editor's note: this is likely Spanish climbers Ferran Rodriguez and Victor Sans, who in 2005 climbed *Tinc Por* on the north face. The route ends on this broad summit, 100m higher than and separate from Iris Peak. It is also possible that the Spanish Patricia Viscarret and Alberto Urtasun, who climbed "Iris Peak" in 2005 via the route *Ananda*, may have reached this summit instead.] Our idea was to name this summit after Stefano Zavka, a fellow Italian who disappeared in 2007 while descending K2. We still hope this is possible, even if we were not the first to climb it, as no previous party has openly assigned a name.