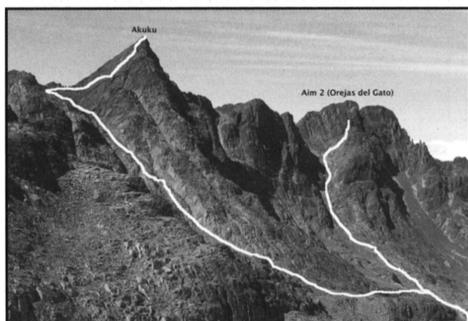


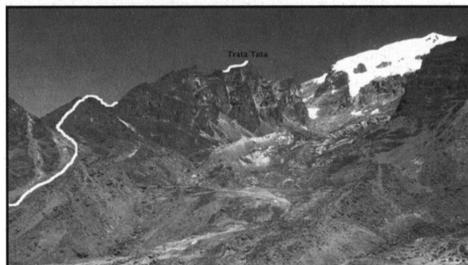
Bolivia

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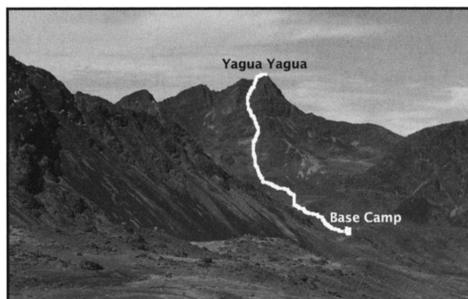
CORDILLERA APOLOBAMBA



Akuku and Orejas del Gato from southwest. Marcin Kruczyk



Trata Tata from northwest. High snowy peak right is Hanako. Marcin Kruczyk



Yagua Yagua and 2011 base camp from southwest. Marcin Kruczyk

Huancasayani Valley, various ascents. In July the second expedition of the Polish Apolobamba Exploration Project visited the Huancasayani Valley. The first, in 2009, reported in *AAJ 2010*, included Wojciech Chaladaj, Jakub Galka, and me. This time I was accompanied by Filip Drozd, Tomasz Mucha, and Magdalena Tworek. Much geographical and historical research had already been done on this valley, and we used the map drawn by Chaladaj, published on the *AAJ* website with our report. Two years ago we had bad experiences with a local muleteer when trying to reach Puina from Pelechuco, so this time we hired a 4WD. We established base camp lower than in 2009, three hours walk up the Huancasayani Valley in a side cwm. It had the advantages of a nice stream and invisibility from the bottom of the main valley.

Acclimatizing on our first day, we walked to the 2009 base camp and found gear left under a boulder. We attempted our first peak on July 30. We chose an unnamed and likely unclimbed rock pyramid 1km east of Hucuncunca, as named on the Chaladaj and Paul Hudson sketch maps. On the west flank of a huge south rib we found a long arête and climbed it for several hours, eventually over 50° snowfields to a col. The last two pitches from col to summit were more difficult. Although the moves were not hard (UIAA IV), the rock was extremely fragile and protection difficult. We named the peak Akuku (4,975m, digital altimeter) and graded our route AD-.

On August 1 we attempted the unnamed and also likely virgin peak 500m southeast of Akuku. It is a twin-summited mountain we called Orejas del Gato (Cat's Ears). However, as we did not summit, we leave the final naming of this peak to the first ascensionists. We began to the southwest, ascending a

long talus slope until 50m below the col, then worked southeast to make our first belay on the southwest ridge leading toward the north summit. We then climbed sections of UIAA V and M4, but again found very fragile rock and poor protection, the gap between placements sometimes more than 15m. For these reasons we retreated at 4,800m (two rappels, then down climbing). As far as we got, the route was AD+.

In 2009 we had climbed the two lower peaks of the Trata Tata Massif. Now we wanted to reach the highest summit. On August 3 we approached from the northwest, reaching a col on the Trata Tata ridge, where Magdalena opted to remain. Filip, Tomasz, and I continued, bypassing the first two summits on the southeast flank to reach minor difficulties below the highest point. Overall the ascent was F+, with very loose rock of UIAA II to reach the summit at 5,156m. We returned the same way, a tiring day due to large talus.

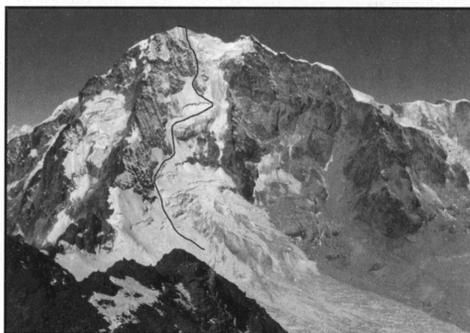
On the 7th we made our last ascent, of a peak marked as Yagua Yagua on the Hudson map. We had learned of no documented climbs, but on top, where our altimeter recorded 4,721m, we discovered a small cairn. We climbed from the southwest and reached the summit without major difficulty (F). After 12 days in the valley, we returned to Puina with the help of Juan Sulca and his llamas. By the 9th we were back in La Paz.

MARCIN KRUCZYK, *Poland*

CORDILLERA REAL

Overview and recent new routes. In recent years little mountaineering information has come out of Bolivia. This may partly be due to there currently being no agency or individual committed to collecting mountaineering information, particularly activity relating to new routes or notable repeats of established climbs. One of Bolivia's best known guides and archivists, Alain Mesili, has taken a break from climbing to concentrate on writing, which may have further limited the flow of information. It seems the number of climbers to Bolivia continues to decrease, despite the country offering one of the most stable weather patterns in the mountaineering world and high scope for new route development. In recent years most activity has been on the popular and often guided peaks of the Southern Cordillera Real, easily accessible from the capital: Huayna Potosi, Condoriri, and Illimani.

In September, after a five-year break from mountaineering, I traveled home to Bolivia, joining Kiwi expat Gregg Beisly for two weeks intensive climbing. Gregg and his family work as missionaries in El Alto. In his backyard, at 4,000m, Gregg has set up what must be the highest bouldering wall in the world. After I had repeatedly failed on the easiest problems, we decided to tackle bigger, easier, and potentially achievable objectives in the Northern Cordillera Real.



West face of Huayna Potosi from Maria Lloco. Photo taken in 2009. There was a little more snow cover in 2011, but face bears no resemblance to more snowy 1970s, when up to half a dozen lines were climbed. Marked is line followed by Beisly and Monasterio in 2011, which apart from initial section corresponds with 1970 American Direct. In 1971 an ice route was climbed up middle of rock wall on right (Via del Triangulo, 1971, D- 70°).
Gregg Beisly