

It was full of crevasses, but they were obvious. We eventually reached a 100m wall of 70° ice, which we climbed to a flat spot at 5,554m, just below the Dangchezhengla-Makara col (5,565m). We camped there for the night.

Next morning we made a long traverse west below the northeast ridge, before climbing 70° snow and ice for 150-200m directly up the southeast face to reach the final section of ridge. We followed this to the summit, the steepest part at 80°. From the top we had a fabulous view of Yangmolong's upper ridge, which looked more challenging than we had imagined. We could also see Everest on the horizon and Namche Barwa to the west. We were the third team to summit this peak and Su Rongjin the first Chinese. We also believe we made a new variant. [In 2002 Japanese reached the Dangchezhengla-Makara col directly and then climbed the right side of the northeast ridge on very steep ice, 11 pitches from col to summit.] We made five 60m rappels directly down the southeast face, regained our traverse line, and followed it back to camp. Continuing down, we made it to base camp at midnight.

JON OTTO, AAC

Editor's note: A history of attempts and ascents in this small massif appears in AAJ 2008, p. 422. However, corrections are necessary. Makara is now reported to have been climbed from the south by Koreans in 2003, likely during an attempt to reach Yangmolong. It was attempted again in March 2007 by a Chinese team (which did not attempt Dangchezhengla, as stated), also likely as part of an attempt on Yangmolong. This attempt was not only unsuccessful but resulted in the death of one of China's most gifted climbers, Liu Xinan. There is now a memorial to him at Yangmolong Lake.

DAXUE SHAN

MINYA KONKA RANGE

Peak ca 6,000m, southwest face, attempt; Jiazi (6,540m), west face, not to summit. In 2008, during an expedition to the Minya Konka Range (AAJ 2009, pp 350-352), Sébastien Moatti and I climbed a nameless summit of 5,200m in the Tshiburongi Valley north of Riuchi Gongga. While making this ascent, I noticed a towering granite wall rising from just beyond the base of the Tshiburongi Glacier. With its image burned into my mind, I returned in 2009 to tackle it with French guides Pierre Labbre, Rémi Sfilio, and Baptiste Rostaing-Puissant.

We established camp on October 3 at the foot of the Tshiburongi moraine. This would be our base for



1,600m west face of Jiazi. (1) Northwest ridge, attempted in 1981 by a British Army expedition that reached 6,100m. (2) West face couloir, climbed to summit ridge in 1982 by Americans Stutzman and Williams. A cornice collapse and dropped sack forced them to abandon the summit and descend east face. (3) 2009 French line, which reached a high point (H) on south ridge: (B) marks bivouac. (4) 2008 French attempt. High point was bivouac at 5,400m, reached after 600m of climbing. (5) South ridge followed by 1982 Americans to make first and only ascent of mountain. *Pascal Trividal*



Pierre Labbre approaching icefall in middle section of west face of Jiazi. *Rémi Sfilio*



Pierre Labbre on mixed terrain near top of west face of Jiazi. *Rémi Sfilio*

the next 22 days. We then required four days to ferry our technical equipment, including two portaledges, 200m of static line, and food, to the bottom of the face, a 900m vertical wall shaped like a cannon shell and topped by 150m of mixed terrain and ribs leading to a nameless summit of ca 6,000m. It took 3½ days to open the first 400m, where the rock varied from compact to crumbling flakes. During the third night a stone, falling from high above, hit my chest, the first in a series of misfortunes that would end our attempt. Next day a faulty rope maneuver, and the sack containing all our supplies fell to the foot of the wall. This conclusively forced our retreat.

To the high point we had climbed and equipped (one 8mm bolt and piton at each belay) eight pitches: the first three up a wide crack (6b and A2, 180m); a long traverse pitch on mixed ground (5 and M4, 80m), and four steep pitches (6b and A2, 200m).

While I was treated at Kangding's hospital (nothing broken, just a crushed muscle), Pierre and Rémi attempted the west face of Jiazi via a different line from the one we tried in 2008. It took 2½ days to reach the top of this 1,300m-long mixed face. The climb, which resembled the Colton-MacIntyre route on the Grandes Jorasses, followed a series of steep snow slopes, ice gullies, and mixed terrain (TD+, WI5+ and M4). They reached the south ridge and climbed to an altitude of 6,200m, before strong wind and poor snow conditions turned them back. They descended the south ridge to the col between Jiazi and Grosvenor, from where they rappelled the west face for 150m from Abalakovs to reach the glacier. They made two bivouacs; one at around two-thirds height on the face and a second on the col. This is the second route on the west face of Jiazi, yet neither has reached the summit.



Ca 6,000m peak above north bank of Tshiburongi Glacier and line attempted by French. *Pascal Trividic*