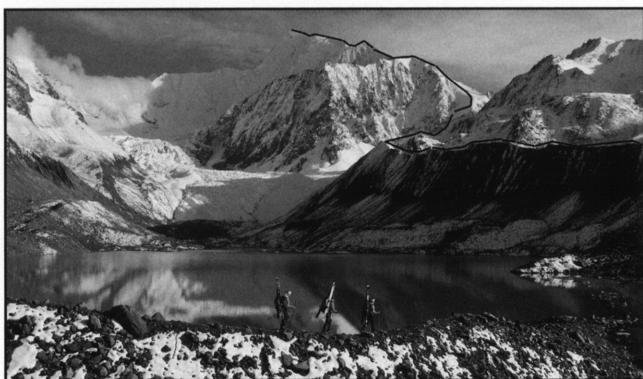


Minya Konka Range, Reddomain (6,112m), second ascent, first ski descent via west ridge. Jimmy Chin, Giulia Monego, Kasha Rigby, and I established base camp on September 29, 2009, at 4,500m and the following day scoped a new access to the west ridge from the north. On October 4 we walked up moraine and climbed steep snow to the west ridge. After a section of loose rock and delicate steps, we reached the hanging glacier at 5,200m, where we set up camp.



Reddomain from northwest, showing line of ascent and ski descent in 2009. Photo supplied by Tamotsu Nakamura

On the 5th we climbed mixed snow and rock on the crest to reach a snow gully, where we joined the route of the first ascensionists, who arrived at this point from the south [Japanese Norisuke Ogawa, Hiroyuki Takahashi, and Yuji Tashiro, who in 1999 fixed ropes and placed two camps on the west ridge, reporting dangerous cornices and slopes up to 70° a little below the summit]. From that point it was a long walk on snow, navigating through crevasses, while keeping our distance from the crest. Due to unstable weather from the south, which brought strong wind and poor visibility, the climb was tough and slow. We expected to find wind-packed snow, but it was surprisingly soft.

The top appeared to be split by a huge fracture, dividing it into two summits. Visibility wasn't good enough to see which was the higher, but the difference seemed insignificant. We assumed the one we reached was the top and put on our skis. We were able to ski all the way to the junction with the original route at ca 5,400m. Keeping skis on, we rappelled for 10m, then skied to the rocky section directly above camp. We took off skis, made one full-length rappel, downclimbed a section, and resumed skiing to our camp.

Next day we climbed back onto the west ridge and skied the snowy talus we'd ascended. The visibility was good and the snow soft at the outset, though it became heavy and wet toward the end. The snow line was at ca 4,800m, from where we walked down to base camp. Next day we were back in Kangding.

INGRID BACKSTROM, *provided by Tamotsu Nakamura, Japanese Alpine News*

Minya Konka Range, Dogonomba (5,960m), first and second ascents. In late autumn 2008 Aidan Loehr made the first ascent, solo, of Dogonomba, which lies on the main ridge immediately south of Reddomain. Loehr had been guiding an American Alpine Institute team on Dogonomba's east ridge. They were unsuccessful, but after the group departed he went to the other side of the mountain and climbed the west ridge. The lower section, reaching the ridge itself, proved quite difficult, with exposed 4th class climbing. Once he reached snow and ice, the route became more reasonable. Slopes of 30–40° led to the summit ridge, where he was forced to traverse 60° slopes of poor snow, below the corniced crest. He gained the tiny summit in high winds. The only previously recorded attempt on this peak was made by another AAI party in 1995.



Donogomba from west, showing line of 2010 New Zealand ascent. 2008 American route is thought to be similar. Yvonne Pfluger

This ascent was unknown to Tim Church (New Zealand) and Yvonne Pfluger (Austrian living in NZ), when they visited the range in May 2010. Heavy snow cover delayed access, and they first attempted 5,928m Ruiche Gongga from the north, getting within 300m of the summit. This left only a week for an attempt on Dogonomba. Spotting an obvious route up the west ridge, they established an advanced

base at 4,400m among moraine debris and scrubby vegetation in a side valley south of the ridge.

The lower ridge appeared difficult, with extensive broken rock, but they spotted a snow gully rising from near the head of the side valley to easier ground on the upper, glaciated part of the ridge. They made a 12½-hour roundtrip reconnaissance from advanced base, stashing gear at a proposed high camp (5,300m) and climbing some distance up the ridge above. Next day they carried a second load to high camp and stayed the night. The following morning they made their summit bid, retracing their steps up the ridge and continuing on heavily loaded 30–40° slopes to a broad low subsummit. The ridge between the subsummit and main summit proved technical, with loose rock, a knife-edge, an exposed ridge of bullet-proof ice, and the 50–60° summit pyramid. Only Church completed the final pitch, as the weather rapidly deteriorated to snowfall and high winds. White-out conditions accompanied the return to high camp, where they spent the night before descending to base camp next day. They note that south of their summit, between it and Daddomain (6,380m), stands the unclimbed Peak 5,962m, possibly called Sequinomba.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*, from material provided by Tamotsu Nakamura and Yvonne Pfluger

Minya Konka Range, Edgar (6,618m), east face, The Rose of No-Man's Land. The previously untouched east face and upper south ridge of Edgar rises 2,500m and features an objectively threatened approach couloir. The smaller southeast face to the left was where Americans Jonny Copp and Micah Dash, with film maker Wade Johnson, were killed by an avalanche in 2009. American Kyle Dempster and Scot Bruce Normand climbed the ice-plastered east face and south ridge in an eight-day round trip, with sustained difficulties of M6 and WI5 on the east face. For details see Normand's feature article in this Journal.

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Abi (5,694m), west face and southwest ridge, Shivering (not to summit). Abi has been climbed several times from the southeast and southwest but had not been attempted from the west until July 2009, when He Lang and I tried from the Jiesigou Valley. The peak lies between the north end