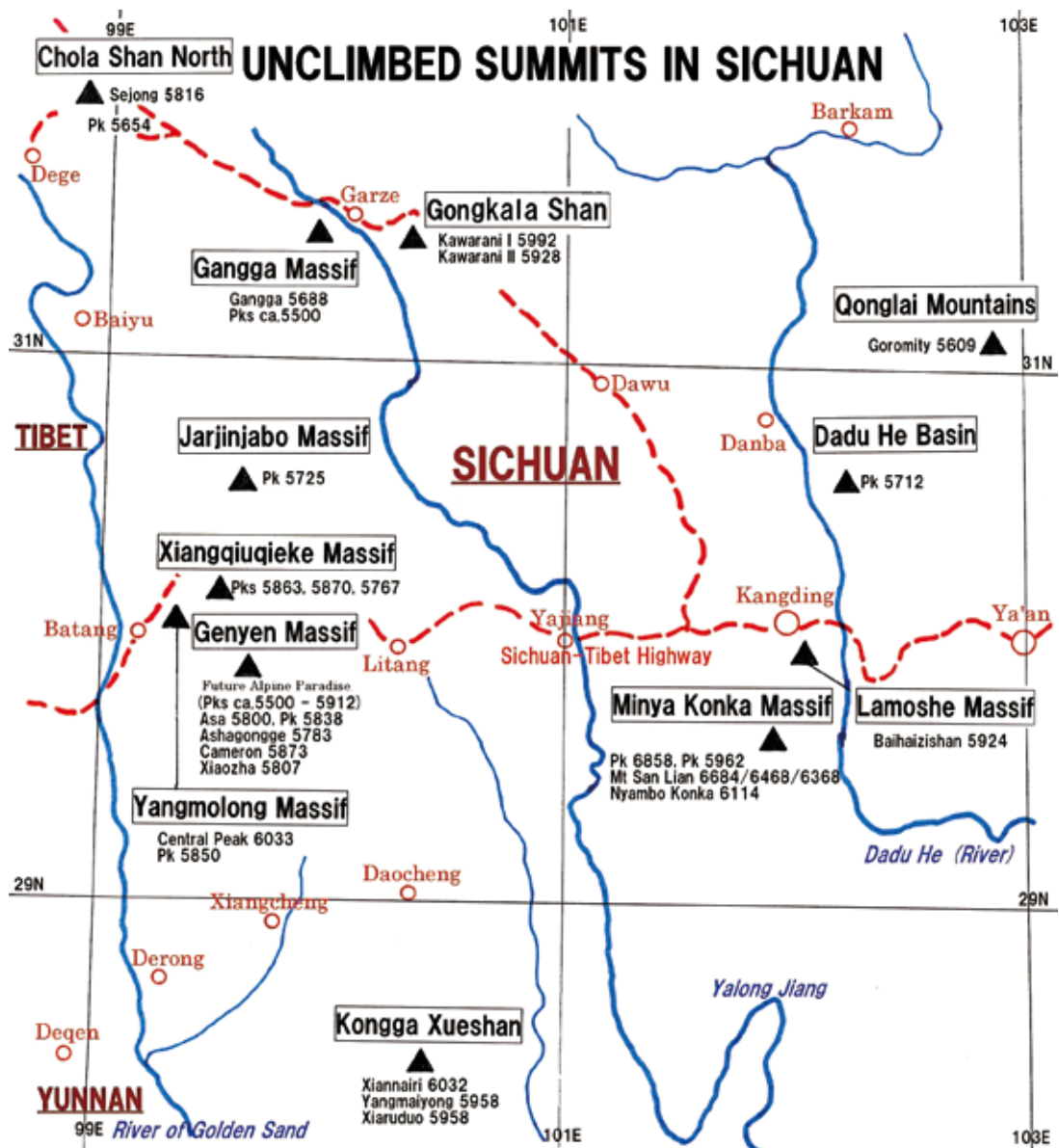


TAMOTSU NAKAMURA

Unclimbed Summits in Sichuan China 2012

Long highlighted Yangmolong main summit 6,060m was scaled by an American–Chinese party in October 2011. One of the last problems in Sichuan was finally solved.

As shown on the above map, only a few unclimbed 6,000m peaks remain in the West Sichuan Highlands, China. However there are many alluring peaks not exceeding 6,000m which inspire and attract ambitious climbers. I have updated area-wise information on notable unclimbed peaks and



describe an overview thereof from northwest to southeast for the readers having an interest in these mountain regions.

1. Chola Shan North

The Chola Shan is divided into North and South at the Chola Shan Pass 4,910m. The northern part is a massif of Sejong I 5,816m & II 5,816m +, Nobuyugya 5,594m and Polujabu 5,472m not far to south from a historical monastery, Zhogcheng Gompa. The highest peak Chola Shan I 6,168m (climbed) is located south of the Lake Xinlujhai in the southern part, where several expeditions already accomplished ascents.

The northern part north of the Chola Shan Pass 4,910m has been reconnoitered only by Tom Nakamura in the fall of 2000 and a Japanese party from the Hengduan Mountains Club in the summer of 2011. However no one has attempted the ascent yet and therefore all the peaks remain untrodden. In addition an outstanding rock peak 5,654m closely south of the Chola Shan Pass is taken up as a peak worthy to introduce.

2. Gangga Massif – Shaluli Shan

The massif stretches southeastwards from the Chola Shan to Garze town south of the Yalong Jiang, a large tributary of the River of Golden Sand (the upper Yangtze) The highest peak is Gangga 5,688m which was attempted by a Japanese party from Nagano Prefecture. Several attractive rock peaks of some 5,500m are clustered in the vicinity of Gangga. All the peaks remain unclimbed. Eric Teickman admired the grandeur of mountain range in his travel as a consular in 1918.

[Note]

A Chinese map shows that the Shaluli Shan range covers a vast area upto the Genyen massif and further Kongga Xueshan crossing the Litang Plateau but there would presumably be no definite boundary between the Shaluli Shan Range and the other ranges.

3. Gongkala Shan – Kawarani

The two principal peaks Kawarani I 5,992m and II 5,928m soar 30km east of Ganzi town and the Yalong Jiang. Two Japanese parties and a British party tried to set up a base camp for reconnaissance and climbing, but hostile monks of a lamasery in the vicinity hindered their approach and have never allowed foreign visitors to climb the peaks because they believe that Kawarani are sacred mountains. Even in 2011 the situation did not change. The Ganzi Mountaineering Association did not issue a climbing permit to foreign expeditions.

4. Jarjinjabo Massif – Unclimbed Pk 5725

To my best knowledge almost all the prominent peaks except for the second highest peak 5,725m were already climbed. A Japanese party first climbed a rock tower soaring north of the Zhopu Pasture in 2001 and then adjacent rock peaks in the vicinity west of the Lake Zhopu were climbed by American parties. The highest peak, Garrapunsum 5,812m, was scaled by an Anglo-American party in October 2007. The party had an original plan to attempt Kawarani of Gongkara Shan but was unable to access to the mountain.

5. Xiangqiuqieke Massif

This most unknown massif is located south of the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and northeast of Yangmolong Massif. It stretches west to east in about 20km and has 5,863m (called as Xiangqiuqieke), 5,870m, 5,767m, 5,702m, 5,595m and 5,562m.

In October 2005, a Japanese party from Yamanashi Prefecture first approached to the northern side for reconnaissance. In July 2010 Tom Nakamura tried to make an access also from north, say, the Sichuan-Tibet Highway.

In September 2011, a pair of Tim Church and Yvonne Pfluger from the New Zealand Alpine Club attempted on Xiangqiuqieke from the south side. Unfortunately, however, they were forced to resign to continue their ascent because the villagers refused a support to the NZ party after the base camp had been set up. As such, all the peaks remain unclimbed.

6. Yangmolong Massif

This massif is situated about 16km east of Batang town. There are three principal peaks of Dangchechengla 5,833m climbed by a Japanese party in 2002, Yangmolong Central 6,033m (Makara) and the highest peak of Yangmolong 6,060m. The main summit was scaled by an American-Chinese party led by Jon Otto and filmed by Tim Boelter in October 2011 after repeated assaults by Japanese, British and American-Chinese parties. It is felt that the Yangmolong main summit is one of the toughest peaks in Sichuan.

There was information that the Central Pk was climbed by a Korean party in 2002, but no detail record and evidence are found, and those who went to Yangmolong raise questions on the Korean ascent. In this article, therefore, the Central Peak is written as unclimbed. The other outstanding 5,850m peak also remains unclimbed.

7. Genyen Massif – Future Alpine Paradise

The Genyen Massif covers a wide area in the Litang Plateau south of the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and in near future must be an Alpine paradise as it is now beginning to draw climbers' attention.

The main summit, Genyen 6204m, was first climbed by a Japanese party in 1988 and then an Italian party made the second ascent via a new route on the east face. The second highest peak 5964m and Pk 5,716m (Sachun) seen from a historical lamasery, Rengo Gompa were also already scaled by American parties. Chalie Fowler and Christin Boskoff were lost in Genyen. However many challenging rock peaks of 5,500-5,900m peaks north and northeast of the Genyen remain untouched.

These are:

- (1) Asa 5,800m and Ashagongge 5,783m seen from the Sichuan-Tibet Highway passing through the Litang Plateau.
- (2) Fantastic peaks of a granite castle Cameron 5,873m, Xiaozha 5,807m and other challenging peaks viewed from a high pass, Three Smith Brothers 4,800m, between Litang and Lamaya.
- (3) Rock peaks clustered just north of the Genyen and further north attractive peaks 5,838m and 5,784m and other several 5,700 – 5,900m peaks.

8. Kongga Xueshan (Kongkaling) Massif

The Kongga Xueshan having three fascinating famous snowy peaks is located in Daocheng County. The area is worshiped as holy mountains among local Tibetan inhabitants and is now developing as a tourist place which is attracting hundreds of trekkers. However all of three peaks remain unclimbed.

- (1) Xiannariri 6,032m, the highest peak, was attempted by a Japanese party in 1989.

(2) Stunningly beautiful pyramid of Yangmai Yong, Joseph Rock's Jambeyang, 5,958m was reached by Charlie Fowler and Christine Boskoff to 500m below the summit

(3) Xiaruduo 5,958m was once attempted by an American party.

At present climbing of these peaks is not allowed by the local government of Daocheng County on account of the sacred religious mountains.

9. Lamoshe Massif – Daxue Shan

Lamoshe was called by early explorers as “Mountains of Tatsienlu”, which is located closely east of Kangding (Tibetan name: Tatsienlu) town. The highest peak is Lamoshe and was first climbed by an American party in 1993. The second ascent was soloed by a Czech climber in 2010. The other 5,800m peaks were already climbed by New Zealand, American, Canadian and Chinese parties, but the second highest peak, Baihaizishan 5,924m still remains unclimbed.

10. Minya Konka Massif – Daxue Shan

No many peaks over 6,000m now remain unclimbed in this huge and largest mountain range of Daxue Shan in Sichuan. The outstanding unclimbed peaks among them are as follow from south to north.

- (1) Nyambo Konka 6,114m. An American party attempted this peak but was unsuccessful.
- (2) Mt. San Lian 6,684 (called as Longshan) / 6,468 / 6,368m three peaks which look hard to climb.
- (3) The highest unclimbed peak 6,858m in the massif closely southwest of the main summit Minya Konka 7,556m.
- (4) Pk 5,962m between Pk 5,960m (Donogomba) and Daddomain 6,380m.
- (5) Unnamed peaks of 6206m on the ridge between Mt. Edgar (E-Kongga) 6,618m and Grosvenor 6,376m. This peak is not alluring.

11. Qonglai Mountains

All most all the peaks in the Qonglai Mountains including Mt. Siguniang 6,250m and surrounding 5,200 – 5,900m peaks have already been ascended and new routes have been opened on difficult rock peaks, as many climbers have been rushing to this mountain area in the last decade. According to information of Mr. Kenzo Okawa, a Japanese photographer, who works in the Mt. Siguniang National Park, the only unclimbed peak is Goromity 5,60 m, which was attempted by a Chinese party a couple of years ago and by a Japanese party in the summer of 2011.

12. Dadu He (River) Basin

Many 5,300 – 5,700m peaks range along the both sides of Dadu He (River) Basin between Danba and Luding. However no climbing record is published. The highest peak is 5,712m on the left bank of the river valley, but details of the mountains in this area are unknown on account of lack of information.



Chola Shan North, Sejong II 5,816m northwest face (Takao Ohe)



Chola Shan North, Sejong I 5,816m + (left), Nobuyugya 5,594m (right) north face (Takao Ohe)



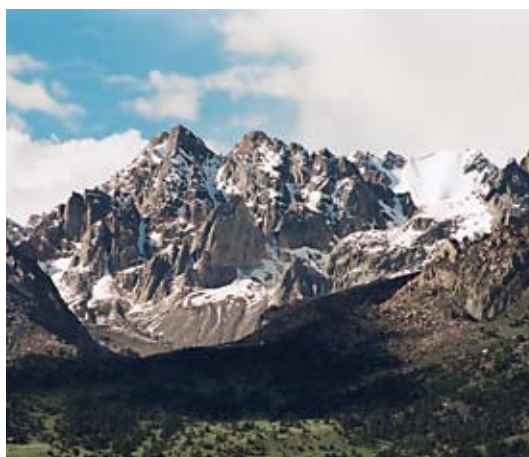
Chola Shan North Pk 5,654m north face



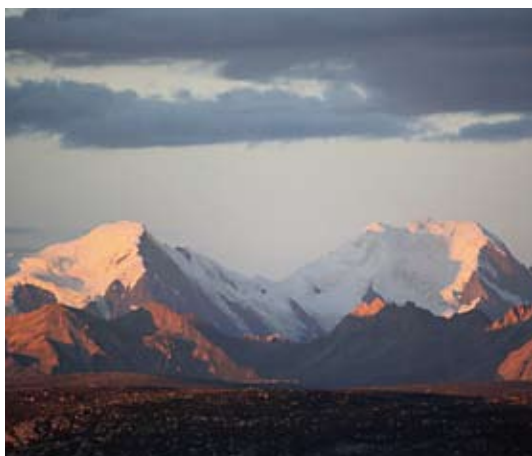
Gangga 5,688m north face



Gangga massif 5,591m east face



Jarjinjabo 5,725m (right snow peak) south face seen from Zhopu Pasture



Kawarani I 5,992m (right) & II 5,928m (left)
southwest face (Takao Ohe)



Kawarani I 5,992m north face (Takao Ohe)



Xiangqiuqieke 5,863m south face (Tim Boelter)



Yangmolong Main Pk 6,060m (left) & Central Pk
6,033m (right) east ridge (Tim Boelter)



Yangmolong Central Pk (Makara) 6,033m (right)
east face (Tim Boelter)



Yangmolong massif 5,850m northwest face
(Tim Boelter)



Litang Plateau, Asa 5.800m north face



Genyen massif ca. 5,600m east face
(Katka Mandulova)



Genyen massif, Cameron 5,873m east face
(Tomas Obtulovic)



Genyen massif 5,912m east face



Kongga Xueshan - Xiannairi 6,032m north face



Kongga Xueshan - Xiaruduo 5,958m west face



Kongga Xueshan - Yangmaiying 5,958m northwest face



Lamoshe massif, Baihaizishan 5,924m west face



Minya Konka massif - Mt. San Lian 6,684, 6,468, 6,368m (from right) east face (Zhang Shaohong)



Minya Konka massif, Nyambo Konka 6,114m west face (Pedro Detjen)



Qonglai Mountains Goromity 5,609m south face



Dadu He (River) basin, Pk 5,712m north face

