



AAC Publications

Nevado Tatajayco, Northwest Ridge

Peru, Cordillera Central

In March, early in the 2014 season, Alberto Hung (Peru) and I climbed Nevado Tatajayco (5,342m) by a new route up the northwest ridge, which we called A Puro Huevo (D UIAA V M3 60°). We approached from the town of San Mateo and established a base camp in the Quiullacocha Valley, near the glacial lakes of the same name (ca 4,600m). We made our ascent in one day, on March 22, and descended the west side.

Nevado Tatajayco is located in the middle of Quiullacocha Valley, in the Cordillera Central, approximately 100km from Lima. Peruvian mountaineers first climbed the peak in 2003 by easy glacial slopes on the west side. This route has been repeated twice: by English climbers in 2011 and by Peruvian climbers in 2012. Thus we believe our ascent was the fourth overall.

This part of the Cordillera Central is also known as the Cordillera Pariacaca because Nevado Pariacaca (5,750m, a.k.a. Tulluqutu) is the highest mountain in the area. This region is rarely visited by foreign climbers, despite beautiful landscapes, many 5,000m peaks, and impressive glacial valleys. With very few routes, the mountaineering potential is impressive.

Steve Meder, France

Images



Approaching Quiullacocha Valley.



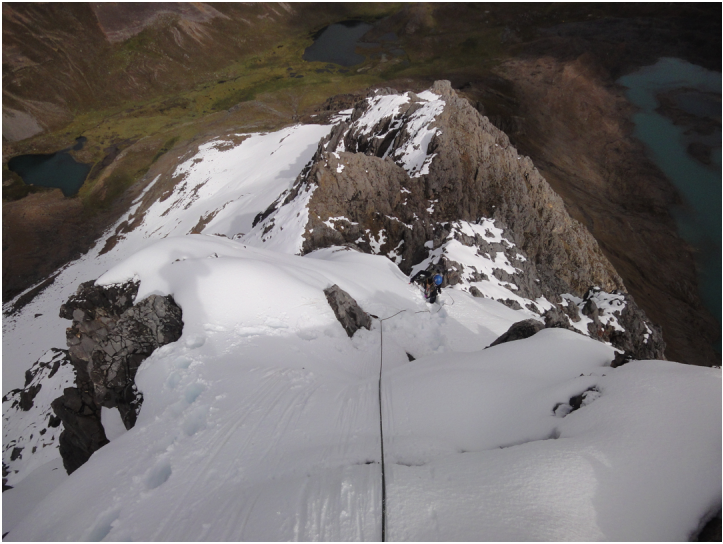
Laguna Quiullacocha and surrounding peaks.



Alberto Hung leading a short section of loose rock up to UIAA V. Steve notes that this crux was short and the majority of the rock climbing was UIAA III or easier.



Typical climbing along the ridge.



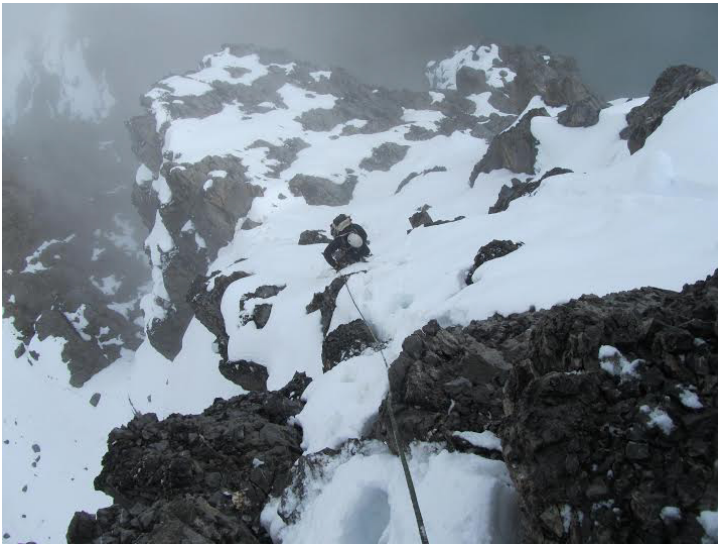
Alberto Hung climbing moderate snow slopes.



At camp in the Quiullacocha Valley.



Nevado Tatajayco's northwest ridge forms the right skyline. The new route A Puro Huevo climbs the apex of the ridge for its entire length and tackles the short headwall midway up directly.



Steve Meder climbing high on the ridge.



Steve Meder and Alberto Hung on the summit.



A photo topo of the route A Puro Huevo, up Nevado Tatajayco's northwest ridge.

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