



## AAC Publications

---

### **Warawarani I, Southwest Face**

Bolivia, Cordillera Real

**On October 10, Artem Bylinski (Russian), Juvenal Condori, Rodrigo Lobo (both Bolivian), and Davide Vitale (Belgian) reached Penas, drove to the road head at Jalluwaya, and then walked three hours to Laguna Warawarani, where they camped. Leaving next day a little after 1 a.m. and climbing as two pairs, they made the first ascent of the southwest face of Warawarani I (5,542m).**

Although this face may have provided a relatively pleasant outing in the past, climate change and glacial retreat have left very unstable rock. Climbing first on the face, Condori and Lobo ascended 15 pitches over mixed terrain, with soft snow covered by a thin crust. Large blocks shifted under their feet and fell, leaving them fearing for their two friends climbing below. For this reason, Bylinski and Vitale made significant variants to the Condori-Lobo line. The first party reached the summit about half an hour before the others, grading the 600m route TD- M4. Bylinski and Vitale gave a grade of D+/TD- 65° 5.6 M4 R. Warawarani means place of many stars, so the team called their route Alaxpacha Warawara Thaki, which roughly means "reach the sky, by the route of stars."

The four started down the northeast ridge, were forced onto the east face, and then downclimbed to the top of a gully. After a 60m rappel they were able to traverse north into a couloir, which they downclimbed in wet snow. They then ascended the glacier northwest to a col and descended the far side southwest to the lake, arriving in camp at 4:30 p.m.

Editor's note: Warawarani had no known prior ascent other than the one on August 12, 1975, when it was climbed by Italians Santino Caligari, Melchiorre and Giovanni Foresti, and Giuseppe Ferrari. They climbed the east face, but their line is unknown. In September 1998, Florence Barrault, François-Xavier Grillon, Olivier Guidet, and Gregoire Volluet (France) started from the Morokho Khota Valley and climbed what they called Warawarani North via the 700m southeast ridge, which they found straightforward at F. This appears to be Peak 5,604m on the watershed ridge well to the north-northeast of Warawarani I, and not part of the Warawarani Group. There are four peaks in the group, with IV (ca 5,480m) not climbed until July 1996 (from the east, PD) by an Anglo-Bolivian team (AAJ 1997).

Supplied by Denys Sanjines, Bolivia, Translated by Christian Romero, Chile

## Images



Warawarani from the east showing the route of descent.



Juvenal Condori climbing choss on the southwest face of Warawarani I.



Rodrigo Lobo near the top of the face. Behind: Laguna Warawarani and the valley flowing southwest to the altiplano.



The southwest face of Warawarani I from Laguna Warawarani, showing the line of Alaxpacha Warawara Thaki (Condori-Lobo, 2014). Bylinski and Vitale climbed variants to the right in the upper half. The four climbers descended the far side.

Article Details

Author	Supplied by Denys Sanjines
Publication	AAJ
Volume	57
Issue	89
Page	207
Copyright Date	2015
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions