



AAC Publications

Lapche Kang II, East Spur and Southeast Face, Attempt

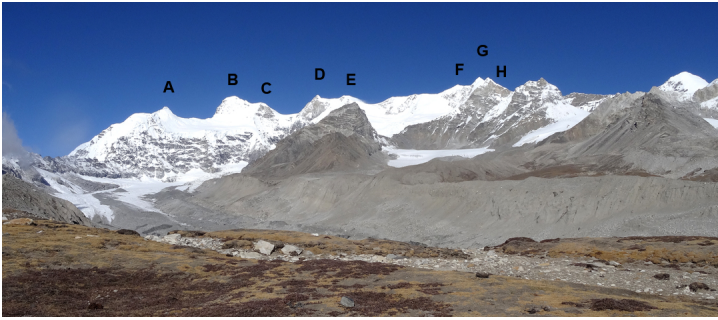
Tibet, Himalaya

Lapche Kang II (7,250m, 28°18'01"N, 86°23'03"E) lies in the northern Himalaya, about 35km northwest of Cho Oyu, in a massif variously called Labuche Himal, Pamari Himal, or Lapche Kang. The highest summit, Lapche Kang I (a.k.a. Choksam, 7,367m), was first climbed in 1987 by a Sino-Japanese expedition. (American climber Joe Puryear died while attempting this peak in 2010.) The pyramid of Lapche Kang III (sometimes erroneously called Lapche Kang West or Lapche Kang II, 7,072m) was first climbed in 1995 by a Swiss expedition. Until 2016 no one had attempted Lapche Kang II. Maciej Przebitkowski, Jakub Rybicki, Jarosław Żurawski, and I arrived in Kathmandu on September 6. Although we had all the necessary documents for onward travel to Lhasa awaiting us at the Chinese consulate in Kathmandu, these were not released to two members; the authorities cited visas for Muslim countries in their passports. Eventually we were told it would be possible to continue to China in 10 to 12 days. Given the situation, we went trekking in Langtang and only flew to China on the 17th. We reached Tingri on the 20th, where we were told that, despite arrangements promised by the Tibet Mountaineering Association (TMA), we would not be allowed to approach the mountain from the north via the Choksam Glacier, which we had worked out to be the easiest route. Instead, we would have to come in from the east, up the East Lapche Glacier. We were driven to Cho Oyu base camp, and on the 23rd we started up the glacier.

An advanced base was established at 5,400m and Camp 1 at 5,500m. After fixing some rope up sections of WI2, we placed Camp 2 at 6,150m, below a rib leading to an upper terrace at 6,400m. This rib had sections of UIAA IV and snow to 60°. Camp 3 was placed a little above the terrace at 6,600m. From here, Jakub and I made a summit attempt on October 12, climbing a 65° snow/ice face to 6,907m (GPS), where we decided to retreat when we felt there was no chance of reaching the summit before nightfall.

Krzysztof Mularski, Poznań Mountaineering Society, Poland, supplied by Janusz Majer

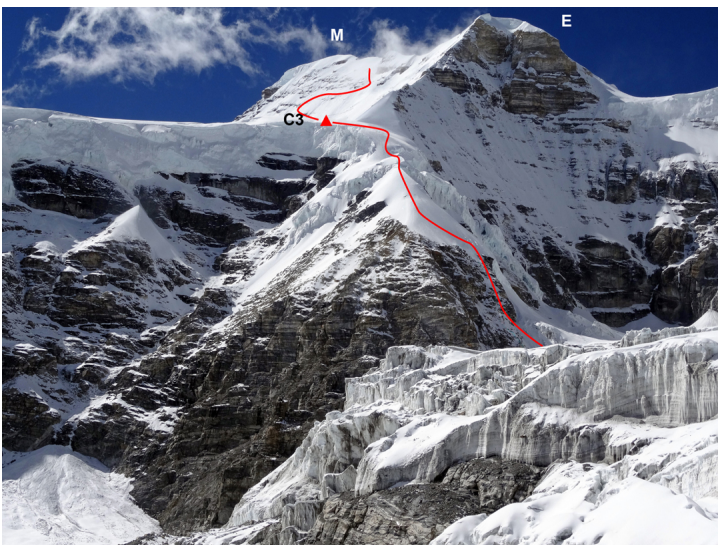
Images



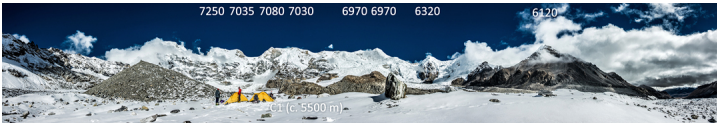
The approach to the Lapche Kang massif up the East Lapche Glacier. (A) Peak 6,920m. (B) Lapche Kang II Main (7,250m). (C) Lapche Kang II East (7,035m). (D) Lapche Kang IV Main (7,080m). (E) Lapche Kang IV East (7,030m). (F) Peak 6,970m. (G) Peak 6,970m. (H) Peak 6,370m. Krzysztof Mularski



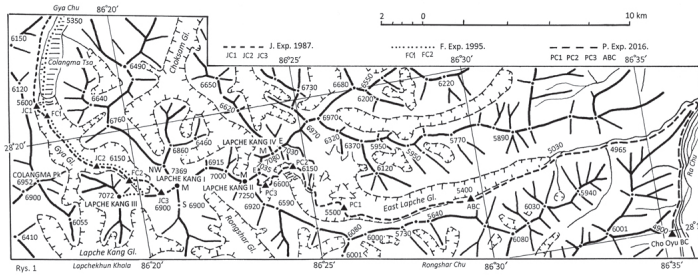
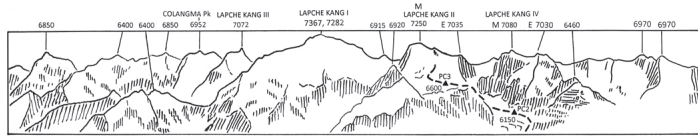
Camp 1 on the East Lapche Glacier, at 5,500m. The attempted route (with Camps 2 and 3) is marked. (A) Lapche Kang II Main (7,250m). (B) Lapche Kang II East (7,035m). (C) Lapche Kang IV Main (7,080m). (D) Lapche Kang IV East (7,030m). (E) Peak 6,400m.



Seen from above Camp 2, the attempted route up the east spur and southeast face of Lapche Kang II is marked. (M) Main summit (7,250m). (E) East summit (7,035m). (C3) Camp 3 at 6,600m on the upper terrace.



View northwest to northeast from Camp 1 (5,500m) on the East Lapche Glacier.



A new sketch map of the main area of the Lapche Kang massif by the Polish cartographer Jerzy Wala, showing the routes taken by the 1987 Japanese, 1995 Swiss, and 2016 Polish expeditions. A similar map in shaded relief can be found at http://himalaya-info.org/images/Images%20Landkarten/Map%20Lapche%20Kang_2560.jpg.

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