



Cerro El Escampe and Cerro Copla Blanca

Argentina, Mendoza Province

From October 13 to 21, Ramiro Casas and Glauco Muratti explored a quebrada (valley) that flows into the Tupungato River south of Punta de Vacas. The pair crossed the Tupungato with difficulty and then walked to the east and southeast along the unnamed creek to reach their first target: an unclimbed mountain they called Cerro El Escampe (4,571m, 32°55'36"S, 69°38'54"W), approximately 12km up the valley. This mountain is west of two big cols that link the unnamed creek with Quebrada Colorada to the north. The two started on the southwest face and then followed the south-southeast ridge before finishing on the upper east face, on the second day of bad weather, finding rotten rock (grade II) and 50° snow.

They then climbed Cerro Copla Blanca (4,630m, 32°55'11"S, 69°42'37"W), the highest summit along the ridge that separates the unnamed creek from Quebrada Negra to its south. Their route on the northeast face had 55° snowy slopes and some rotten rock (grade II), and because of the conditions could not be protected. The overall grade was PD.

– Marcelo Scanu, Argentina

Images



Nearing the summit of Copla Blanca during the first ascent.



High on Copla Blanca, looking toward the north side of La Nadita, first climbed in November 2008.



Cerro El Escampe from the southwest. The first ascent gained the south-southeast ridge (right

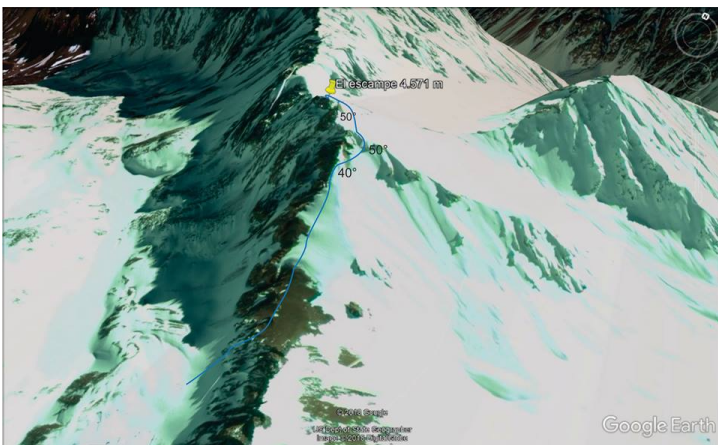
skyline) and followed this to the top, deviating onto east face near the summit.



Glauco Muratti climbing on Cerro El Escampe.



Climbing on Cerro El Escampe.



The route followed for the first ascent of Cerro El Escampe, primarily on the south-southeast ridge.



The route of the first ascent of Cerro El Escampe.



Steep, rocky peaks along the unnamed valley used to access El Escampe and Copla Blanca.



First campsite (ca 3,000m) in the unnamed valley used to approach Cerro El Escampe.



The route followed up the northeast face of Cerro Copla Blanca.



View from high camp in the side valley used to access the northeast face of Cerro Copla Blanca.

Article Details

Author	Marcelo Scanu
Publication	AAJ
Volume	61
Issue	93
Page	0
Copyright Date	2019
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions