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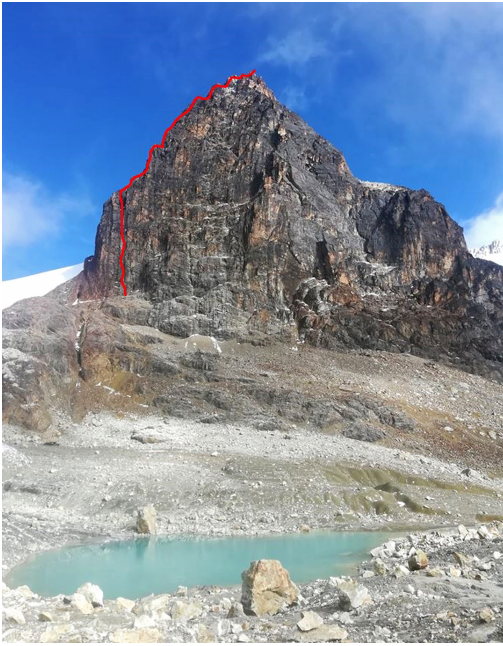
Charquini, Southeast Face, Le Chat

Bolivia, Cordillera Real

Early on the morning of April 28, Davide Vitale and I drove into the valley of Pampalarama, then hiked toward the east face of Charquini (5,392m), crossing a col at 5,000m. We decided to try a line on the left side of the southeast face, well to the left of routes on the east face (see AAJ 2019 for a photo). It began with two hard pitches, the first probably 6b. At the end of the fourth pitch, Davide reached the crest of the south-southeast ridge on the left edge of the face. We continued by simul-climbing, and although the ground was rather easy, the leader was nervous about knocking loose rock on the second. From the summit we descended the glacier flowing north and reached the car in the middle of the afternoon. I called the route Le Chat, not only to keep the feline connection with most other route names on this side of the mountain, but also after a Belgian comic strip—Davide is a Belgian national and has a good sense of humor.

– Alexander von Ungern, *Andean Ascents*, Bolivia

Images



The southeast face of Charquini with the line of Le Chat. For other routes on the east face see AAJ 2019.



Davide Vitale about to reach the beginning of Le Chat on Charquini. The obvious crack, visible just above him, was the crux of the route (about 6b).



Davide Vitale near the end of the third pitch of Le Chat on Charquini.



Davide Vitale on pitch two of Le Chat on Charquini.

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