



AAC Publications

Hemar Ri, Northwest Ridge

India, Ladakh

In preparation for a higher trek in the Pologongka Group, Claudia Bäuml, 15-year-old Nina Bielefeldt, Nuhbu Gojing, and I made a three-day trek from Kanji via the Yogma La and Shinguche La to the Spang Nala (valley). Ascents by others in the region have appeared in the 2016 and 2020 AAJs. Since the purpose of the trek was acclimatization, we climbed only an easy peak near the entrance to the valley.

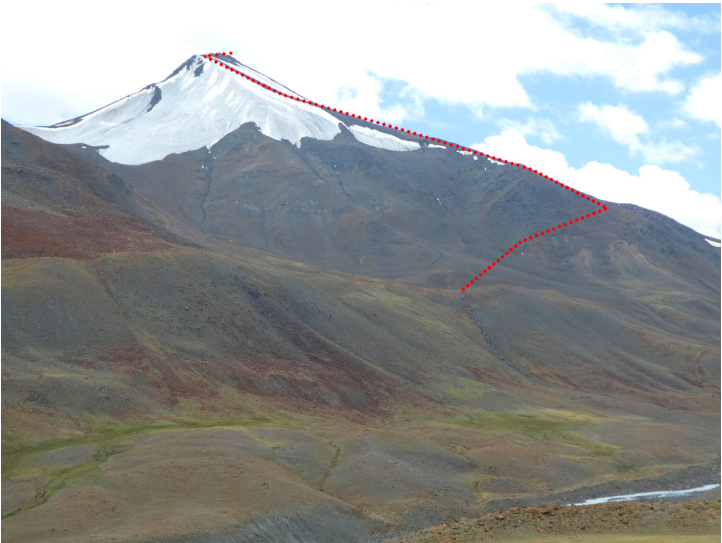
On August 8, from a camp near Spang Nala as marked on the Survey of India (Sol) map at 4,840m, we ascended a peak to the south, on the east rim of the valley. We hiked easily up the northwest ridge—mostly a scree slope—until it turned south. Scrambling, with little elevation gain, took us to the summit, which we measured as 5,699m. Astonishingly, we found no sign of a previous visit, such as a cairn or prayer flags. This peak has no name on the Olizane or OpenTopo maps. On the free version of the Sol map (143K12) there is a Hemar Glacier marked just to the north of the peak. We therefore suggest the name Hemar Ri (34°03'46" N, 76°44'30"E). In terms of alpine trekking/hiking, the grade was T3/T4.

—Hartmut Bielefeldt, Germany

Images



Hemar Ri (right) seen in snowy conditions from partway up Nigutse South in 2015. On the left is a peak of around 5,600m, close to the road that leads to the Sirsir La. In the center background is Machu Kangri (6,086m).



The northwest ridge—finishing up the north ridge—of Hemar Ri in the Spang Nala.

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