



AAC Publications

Purkung, North Face; Belgian Peak, West Ridge; New Traverse from the Teri La to Muktinath

Nepal, Damodar Himal

The primary aim of our trip was to climb summits of the Teri Himal, a small subrange northeast of the Teri La (itself northeast of the Thorong La) in the southern Damodar Range. I felt these 6,000m peaks would offer interesting climbing at a moderate grade, and in climbing them we would be promoting this “forgotten” region.

Looking northeast at unclimbed summits of the Teri Himal from the top of Purkung.

We surveyed the trek up the Labse Khola above Naar, finding the correct local names of campsites for a new map, locating a suitable base camp, and taking pictures of the nearby summits. These summits were ideal for our purpose, but unfortunately we didn't climb any. The weather was poor and we had to leave enough time for the second part of the project: opening a trekking route from the Teri La, over the Yakawa Kang Pass, to the small village of Jhong, northeast of Muktinath Temple, all without crossing into upper Mustang.

This journey proved excellent, through pure wilderness, and the terrain made it somewhere between trekking and climbing. Along the way we climbed a couple of small, easy summits; Purkung (28°48'54.05"N, 83°59'25.20"E) and Belgian Peak (28°50'1.86"N, 83°57'35.58"E). The icing on the cake!

We climbed Purkung (6,128m, a.k.a. Purkhang) from a camp at 5,795m, via the north-northwest snow slopes, at II/F+ (Dominique Ansel, Jean-Paul Charpentier, Philippe Duchène, and me on May 26; Rajan Bothe, Anil Rai, Karma Sherpa, and Urpa Tamang on May 27). The only previously known ascent of this peak took place in 2004, via the west ridge, by a large team of Japanese and Sherpas [AAJ 2005].

We climbed Belgian Peak (6,110m) from a camp at 5,640m, via the west ridge and snow slopes, at II/F (Ansel, Bothe, Duchène, Anil Rai, Karma Sherpa, and Urpa Tamang on May 28). This peak was probably first climbed from Muktinath to the west in May 2011 by the Belgian Jean-Francois Meyer). We returned via Jomoson and Pokhara.

The Teri Himal is a perfect location to conduct an adventurous trip. Apart from its unclimbed peaks, there is also potential for fine new lines farther south, including Purkung from the Mustang side or the northeast face of Yakawa Kang (6,482m). Just open a map, take the right permit, and go!

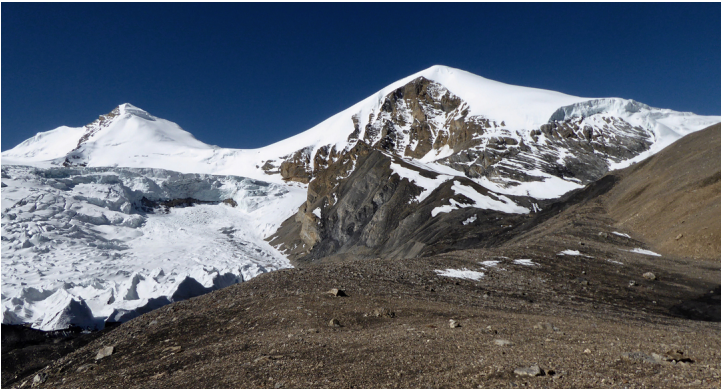
For more information, visit <http://www.paulogrobel.com/de-naar-au-teri-la/> and <http://www.paulogrobel.com/teri-la-2-yakawakang/>.

– Paulo Grobel, France

Images



Khumjungar Himal (a.k.a. Khamjung, 6,759m), one of the highest peaks of the Damodar, seen to the north from the approach up the Labse Khola towards the Teri La. This south-facing aspect of the mountain has not been attempted.



Purkung and an unnamed 6,000m peak to its left (southeast). The 2017 route of ascent on Purkung more or less followed the right skyline.



Philippe Duchène during the ascent of Purkung. On the left is the northeast face of Yakawa Kang, and the distant high summit up and right from the climber is Belgian Peak. Between the two is Yakawa Kang Pass.



Looking northeast at unclimbed summits of the Teri Himal from the top of Purkung.



Descending northwest from Yakawa Kang Pass. Belgian Peak is the summit at far left and was climbed via the snow slopes just this side of the skyline ridge.



Purbung Himal ($28^{\circ}48'4.71''\text{N}$, $84^{\circ}1'4.74''\text{E}$, 6,500m), seen from the north-northeast after crossing the Teri La.

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