



AAC Publications

Tengi Ragi Tau Southeast, West Face and Southwest Ridge, Screaming Barfies

Nepal, Rolwaling Himal

Screaming Barfies on the west face and southwest ridge of Tengri Ragi Tau Southeast (a.k.a. Phamlahaka, 6,141m). Photo by Matija Volontar.

Bor Levic nik, Z iga Oraz em, and I left Slovenia on October 1. When we arrived in Kathmandu, a national holiday meant flights to Lukla were not operating. Instead, we drove to Ramechhap, southeast of Kathmandu, where the nearest airport with a flight to Lukla was available. The weather was poor at Ramechhap and we realized flights over the next few days would be questionable. Rather than wait, we continued north by road to Kharikhola (2,250m) and then made a four-day trek to Thyambo/ Thengpo village in the Thame Valley, where we made our base camp.

We acclimatized by walking toward Tashi Lapcha Pass as high as 5,200m, and later by climbing the east ridge of Tengri Ragi Tau Southeast (6,141m, a.k.a. Phamlahaka or Yasa Thak) as far as the east shoulder at around 6,000m. Our initial goal was the south ridge of Tengri Ragi Tau, but the unclimbed west face of the southeast summit motivated us to change our plans.

We left base camp on October 23 and walked toward the Tashi Lapcha Pass before heading up to the bottom of the west face at around 5,300m, which we reached via two pitches of steep rock. We spent the night here and the next day climbed for nine hours up the right side of the face. We had two half ropes but used only one of them on the route, climbing much of the terrain simultaneously. The initial pitches were steep, sustained ice and mixed. The angle then eased to around 70°, and the climbing was rather mellow until just below the southwest ridge, where we met a steep rock section. After climbing this, we followed the ridge to the summit; this wasn't as easy as we anticipated, with a few steep rock steps. [This is the last section of the 2004 route Le Sourire de Mingma; see AAJ 2005.]

After a short party on the summit, we descended the southeast ridge to the east shoulder and continued down the east ridge, following our tracks from the acclimatization climb. Locals told us that the mountain was unclimbed, but we now know we were the third party on the summit [for a brief history see AAJ 2022]. It was very cold and windy on the route, hence the name: Screaming Barfies (1,100m, UIAA V AI5 90°).

– **Matija Volontar, Slovenia**

Images



Screaming Barfies on the west face and southwest ridge of Tengri Ragi Tau Southeast (6,141m).



Žiga Oražem high on the west face of Tengri Ragi Tau Southeast. Visible is the small glacier below the face, and below that the upper Thame Valley leading up right to the Tashi Lapcha Pass.



Bor Levičnik high on the face during the ascent of Screaming Barfies on the west face and southwest ridge of Tengri Ragi Tau Southeast.



Bor Levičnik descending the southeast ridge of Tengri Ragi Tau Southeast after an ascent of the west face, with the Everest massif in the background.



Matija Volontar mixed climbing on the west face of Tengri Ragi Tau Southeast. This was the first pitch on the main face.



Žiga Oražem at mid-height on the west face of Tengri Ragi Tau Southeast with the Likhu Chuli Massif behind. Likhu Chuli I (the pyramid) was first climbed in 2013 by Ines Papert (AAJ 2014).



Matija Volontar climbing through the rock barrier to access the west face of Tengri Ragi Tau Southeast. (Above this rock band, the team carried their second rope in a pack.) Behind, in profile, is the northeast pillar of Teng Kangpoche.



Žiga Oražem during an acclimatization ascent of the east ridge to east shoulder of Tengri Ragi Tau Southeast. This was the first and only real climbing pitch on that route.

Article Details

Author	Matija Volontar
Publication	AAJ
Volume	65
Issue	97
Page	334
Copyright Date	2023
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions