209. The Lunag peaks from the south. L-R: Lunag III, IV and V. *(Steve Holmes)*

Lunag V (6550m), north-east of Pangbuk Ri and near the Nangpa La. They abandoned the attempt in very warm and hazardous conditions – they were also troubled by Tibetan refugees crossing the Nangpa La and apparently willing to plunder their base camp.

In December 2010, three Korean climbers made a new mixed route on **Phari Lapcha East** (6017m). The route was technically difficult at 5.9 A3 WI5+ M5, with three bivouacs on the ascent and another on the descent. Sadly one climber died on the way down, apparently from a stroke – he had been unwell on the ascent.

Andy Parkin's impressive solo ascent of the north face of **Dingjung Ri** (6249m) in the Rolwaling valley in January 2011 was reported in detail in *AJ115*, 290.

JOHN TOWN

China & Tibet 2011

Restrictions in the Tibetan Autonomous Region continue to make climbing or exploration very difficult. With the exception of the Nyenchen Tanglha West, which lies within the central region, within a day's drive of Lhasa, it seems to be impossible to get permits to travel or climb. Tamotsu Nakamura has continued to be successful in visiting the mountains around the lower Yigrong Tsangpo valley, but there is little hope for lesser mortals.

In 2012, matters have deteriorated further. Unrest in the Tibetan areas of Sichuan have resulted in the closure of the Qonglai Shan (Siguniang) and other regions, which do not normally require permits for travel and climbing. It remains to be seen how long these restrictions will remain in place.

QONGLAI SHAN

Li Lan, Yan Dongdong and Zhao Xingzheng visited the Siguniang National Park in August 2010 to make the first ascent of the west face and south-west ridge of **Abi** (5694m) in the less-known western sector of the range.

On the south face of **Siguniang** (6250m), Sun Bin and Li Zhongli completed *Liberation* (1100m), a route that slants through the 1992 Japanese south buttress to finish up the south-west ridge. Sun Bin had made three previous attempts on this line. Two French climbers Maël Baguet and Dimitri Messina had earlier completed a new route on the north-west face, following a spur to the right of the north couloir and the large rock buttress subsequently climbed by Russians, which rises towards mixed ground below the upper south-west ridge. There had been two previous attempts on the 1300m route, which the pair completed in a five-day round trip.

DAXUE SHAN

In October 2011, Jeff Shapiro and Chris Gibisch made the third ascent of **Mt Grosvenor** (6376m) via a new route on the W/NW aspect. Shortly afterwards, Dmitry Paramonov and Denis Shushko, two members of a larger Russian expedition, climbed more or less directly up the east face of Grosvenor to make the fourth overall ascent.

Yan Dongdong and Zhou Peng visited the Riuche valley on the western side of the Minya Konka range and made three new routes. They began with a one-day ascent of the 1000m north face of **Reddomain** (6112m), followed by the second ascent of **Jiazi** (6540m) via a new route on the c1500m west face. For their third route, on the 600m south face of **Xiao**

210. Yan Dongdong and Bruce Normand approach Sir Duk (6653m). Along with Guy McKinnon they climbed the gully on the left, angling right, up to the summit (AD). The rock ridge on the right would be a fine route and is probably unclimbed. *(Guy McKinnon)*

Gongga (**Little Konka**, 5928m) they were accompanied by female filmmaker Li Shuang

SHALULI SHAN

On October 20 2011, Jon Otto, Liu Yong (Daliu), Su Rongqin (Asu), and Tim Boelter made the first successful ascent of **Yangmolong** (6060m).

This had been the subject of several attempts over recent years, concentrating on the southern aspect. This team followed a bold route over three days up the middle of the north face, which is divided in its lower part by a rock buttress and ridge.

LITANG PLATEAU

In October 2011, New Zealand climbers Yvonne Pfluger and Tim Church made the first ascent of **Nideng Gonnga** (5690m), via the western glacier and south face. Earlier, they were turned back from **Xiangqiuqieke** (5863m) due to locals' concerns about them climbing a holy mountain.

NYENCHEN TANGLHA WEST

In October 2009, Yan Dongdong, Guy McKinnon (New Zealand) and Bruce Normand (Scotland) based themselves in the Langbu Qu, the third valley system west of Nyenchen Tanglha Main (7162m). They climbed **Pt 6382m** and **Pt 6286m** (on the Mi Desheng map) at the head of the valley, and **Pt 6120m** (altimeter reading) above the west bank. They also made ascents of **Chorten Garpo (6380m)** and **Sir Duk (6653m)**, both by new routes. In May 2010, Yan Dongdong and Li Lan made the first ascent of **Dongxung (6095m)**, one of a cluster of 6000m peaks in the Beutse group lying south of the south-western end of the Nyenchen Tanglha. They climbed the south-east ridge in a 13-hour round trip.

CENTRAL TIBET

There has been little winter climbing in Tibet – unsurprising given the very low temperatures that prevail. In December 2010, Li Lan and Yan Dongdong made the first ascent of **Nojin Kangsang (7206m)**. The peak is straightforward and access is via the Gyantse-Lhasa road that runs over a spur of the mountain at just below 5000m. Night-time temperatures in winter on the mountain are likely to sink below -30°C. The pair placed a camp at 6050m on the SSW spur and then bivouacked in a snow hole at 6900m on the south ridge, before reaching the summit in the afternoon of 8 December. They encountered ferocious winds on the final section above the 7130m col.

HIMALAYA

Japanese Kazuya Hiraide and Kei Taniguchi, made the first south to north traverse of **Naimona'nyi, (Gurla Mandhata 7694m)** in West Tibet. They ascended the unclimbed south-west ridge, and completed it with four bivouacs, crossing the peak's previously unclimbed south summit **Naofeng Peak (7422m)**. They descended the original route along the north-west slopes, encountering a number of route-finding difficulties due to séracs.

Sources: Alpinist, Climb magazine, BMC.