

# China - Plant Hunting in Sichuan, Land of the Panda

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 June - 12 July 2009

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*Meconopsis integrifolia*



*Cypripedium tibeticum*



*Meconopsis punicea* - Balang Shan Pass

Report compiled by John Shipton

Images by kind courtesy of Gordon Rae



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Tour Leaders:                    John Shipton (Naturetrek Leader)  
   Jason Lees (Naturetrek Co-Leader)  
   Adong (driver)  
   Janchuan (driver)  
   Dehun (driver)

Participants:                    Philippe de Spoelberch  
   Daphne Lippitt  
   Martin Angel  
   Heather Angel  
   Klaas Verboom  
   Hans Janssen  
   Charles Snyers  
   Gordon Rae  
   Ian Dudding

**Summary:** It is deeply inspiring to travel through western Sichuan with some of the most spectacular country and the most species rich temperate flora in the world, and I think this year we got a good bite at the cherry. After a reconnaissance in 2007 with Adong I constructed an itinerary that would take in both mountain and forest, covering the collecting grounds of many of the great plant hunters, especially Wilson and latterly of course the Coxes, Lancaster and more recently AGS groups. It was meant to have run last year but the massive earthquake last year put paid to half the route, and political problems in the wake of the Olympics closed off much of the itinerary. We were unable to make some of the route near the Yellow River but nevertheless everything went pretty much to plan and we took in the innumerable botanical highlights from the hillsides covered in the famous Blue, Red and Yellow Meconopsis, the plethora of Rhododendron, Acer and many other woody species to the grail of *Lilium regale*.

The trip encompassed a good range of habitats with the several ascents and descents usually from around 2,000 to 4,500m, which make this part of the world so unique. In the woody wealth of Wolong, Danba and Huang Long we immersed ourselves in the breathtaking array of trees and shrubs, and from the several high passes, the flanks of the 7000m Minya Konka and the Tibetan grasslands we revelled in the masses of alpine and meadow flowers. The group had an array of botanical knowledge unusually heavily weighted in favour of woody experts, and I am deeply indebted to Philippe, Charles, Klaas and Hans for their profound knowledge. Heather, Martin and Gordon provided the Alpine enthusiasm, and Ian a Kiwi slant. Martin's passion for insects and Heather's photographic expertise added extra dimensions to the group's repertoire. We travelled in three vehicles driven by the intrepid indefatigable trio Adong, Dehun and Janchuan with Jason Lees acting as our ever resourceful and entertaining guide.

## Day 1

Sunday 21st June

### Chengdu

The whole group arrived from Europe, various parts of China, and New Zealand, to successfully meet up in the now super modern metropolitan chaos of Chengdu and base ourselves in one of the 45 floors of the Shudu Mansion Hotel.

## Day 2

Monday 22nd June

### Chengdu - Wolong

We headed out of the murky smog of Chengdu in our three vehicles and soon reached the mountains that start abruptly to the west. I had hoped to find *Lilium sargentiae* at the beginning of the Pitiao River Gorge that leads to Wolong but earthquake landslips appeared to have covered the site. We were extremely lucky to negotiate the road up to Wolong as a few days later part of it was blocked by a landslip. We made several stops before Wolong, finding our first *Actinidia*, *Acer* spp, *Euptelia pleiosperma* and much else. One of the stops was outside the Panda Sanctuary, which had been partially destroyed by the earthquake and the pandas evacuated.

After lunch in a Wolong eating-house we drove to the Yin Chang side valley, one of several tributaries into the Pitiao River. Walking up the gorge here we were met by a massive range of material, *Hydrangea heteromalla* in flower, *Cledastris sinensis* and *Pterocarya insignis* in fruit as well as a host of herbaceous plants, including several *Corydalis* and *Pedicularis* spp. The Wolong Hotel had been destroyed by the earthquake so a newly built government hotel housed most of us, but Charles, Philippe and Daphne stayed in a separate hostelry where we all had our meals, an odd arrangement but it worked...

## Day 3

Tuesday 23rd June

### Wolong

We explored the Dasheng Valley which starts at 2,800m just before just before the zigzag up to Balang Shan. Before getting there we made several finds on stops up the Pitiao Valley. The forest is fantastically rich in tree species, and it seemed that almost every adjacent plant was different. Often 3 or 4 species of *Acer* grow next to each other, for example *Acer pectinatum* in flower next to *A. cappadocicum* and *A. stachyphyllum*. We were particularly excited by *Tetracentrum sinensis*, *Salix magnifica* and *Tsuga dumosa* with beautiful new growth, often adorned with *Clematis potanini* and the flashing variegated leaves of *Actinidia cf pilosula*. The Dasheng Valley is a botanical treasure trove of herbaceous and woody plants, and we spent the rest of the day spread out along the paths down to the river. Our first *Veratrum nigrum* and the orchid *Calanthe tricarinata* were amongst the highlights in forest dominated by *Abies ernestii* and *Betula albosinensis*. Beyond a meadow of *Iris chrysographes* was the river adorned the by several *Rhododendron* species with *Ligularia*, *Arisaema* and *Paris* amongst the ground flora. In fact the valley really deserves several days of exploration and it was with difficult to drag ourselves away and back to road down to Wolong.

## Day 4

Wednesday 24th June

### Balang Shan Approaches

Gathering as before at the restaurant/hotel where Philippe, Daphne and Charles were staying we set off up the valley again to have a look at the higher ground towards Balang Shan. The day comprised several stops as we gained altitude. At 3,200m we found our first stand of the bright red *Paeonia veitchii*, and at 3,300m we stopped in one of the many glorious meadows with stacks of plants in flower, including *Veratrum nigrum* and *V. nigrum*, *Primula sikkimensis* and *Polygonatum cirrhifolium*.

At 3,600m we climbed onto pastures above the road to discover acres covered in our first *Lilium lophophorum*, the spectacular *Cypripedium tibeticum*, and the other great feature amongst many others was purple *Omphalogramma vincaeflora*. Ian found *Rhododendron balangensiensis*, which delighted the woody men!

Finally gathered together after exploring the mountainside we carried on up the road but were stopped by road works due to a landslide. Dropping down to 3,800m with mist descending we spotted our first *Meconopsis punicea*.

## Day 5

Thursday 25th June

### Wolong - Baoxing

Today we left Wolong and drove up the Pitiao River for the last time but not without a special stop for *Populus sichuanensis*. Climbing up to Balang Shan we stopped again by one of the many roadwork camps to inspect *Rhododendron balangensiensis* again. We were lucky with the weather today as the pass is often covered in mist in the summer so we had superb views as we climbed the pass. At 4,150m we were stopped by groups of blue *Meconopsis* very clearly two separate species. This led to extensive exploration of the rocky slopes, which yielded a new discovery behind every boulder. As well as the alpines there were groups of rhododendron species as well.

Reaching the pass at almost 4,500m the weather was still clear and despite the altitude energetically clambered around boulders to find *Primula dryadifolia* and *P. amethystina* amongst many other alpines but sadly we didn't explore enough to find *Saussurea*, one of the grail plants. However on the way down, stopping for a group of Rhododendron we found one such, a fine group of *Paraqualegia anemonoides*. Several stops later and far from exhausting the Balang Shan area we made a start on our long journey to Baoxing. This was a journey made even longer by ubiquitous road works and it wasn't until ten or eleven that we finally reached the town, after a breathtaking drive over the 4,200m pass.

## Day 6

Friday 26th June

### Baoxing - Kangding

Today was a long day but we did have one botanical find in *Lilium sargentiae* growing along the road south of Baoxing. Just after Tianquan a small truck reversed into Janchuan's car. The driver's door being damaged we let the other two carry on to Kangding while Jason and I stayed behind with Janchuan, together with Ian who nobly volunteered to stay with us. This meant going back into Tianquan, so after a roadblock (incidentally by some more *Lilium sargentiae*!) and some negotiations, Janchuan managed to extract damage money and we could carry on. Our day was marred further as Adong's vehicle had some problems just short of Kangding, so again we arrived rather late in the day at our hotel.

## Day 7

Saturday 27th June

### Kangding – Kangding Cuo

As the vehicles were being repaired we hired a mini bus and together with Dehun's car we drove up to the lake I had found two years before. I was apprehensive lest the whole place had been turned into a mine or a hotel complex.

In fact this apprehension was partially justified as much of the valley approach was being dug out to make way for hotels. A church that we had previously visited was completely gone, and meadows full of interesting material flattened. However at the head of the valley we made a stop to see what remained. The little orange *Primula cockburniana* was still extant and much of the other variation. Higher up little had changed and we had two splendid stops, the first with a wonderful array *Rhododendron soulei* in flower and an array of alpines. Higher again the splendid stand of *Rheum alexandre* was still there, accompanying Primulas and orchids and much else. The alpine lake at 4,000m was in mist but we spent the afternoon exploring, finding lots of blue and yellow *Meconopsis* and upland *Rhododendron* species and finally making a full kora of the lake.

## Day 8

Sunday 28th June

### Kangding - Kangding Migu Cuo

We drove up to the entrance of the newly inaugurated Migu Cuo Park in our newly repaired vehicles. Their green buses took us up to the lake at 4,000m, and we wandered separately around the lake and in the woods and meadows beyond and noted a good range of plants, many of which we had already come across. Perhaps the richest haul of new material was in the forest lower down with several new *Rhododendrons* and some fine under-storey plants such as *Clintonia*, *Smilicina* and *Chrysosplenium*.

## Day 9

Monday 29th June

### Kangdang - Danba

With the road works over the Zhedou Pass and on to Xinbuqiao, mostly related to the new international airport, I considered a route to Danba up the Dadu River, however the famous pass and the first view of the Tibetan grasslands was not to be missed, and in the event was negotiated reasonably quickly. Stopping at the top we were passed by the daily enormous army convoy on its way to Tibet. Dehun led us onto a side road around the new airport and on to a back road to Tagong. This took us over fabulous moorland where we found our first *Incarvillea* along with *Meconopsis*, *Lilium* and *Primula*. The weather was being kind still and we hoped to fit in a visit to Tagong Monastery. However after stopping to buy fresh yoghurt from yak herders, a roadblock made us take a diversion and we drove on to the very Tibetan town of Bamei for lunch. Turning east from here we drove over a 4,000m pass to get fleeting views of the glaciated Zhara Mountain, making a couple of plant stops before and after the pass. After drinking tea with an old gatekeeper we started the 2,000m descent through the forested gorge to Danba. The forest was fabulously rich in tree and shrub species with plenty of woodland perennials including a sighting of *Notholirion bulbiferum*. Arriving in Danba we met up in our hotel and were greeted by a mass of smiling (and later dancing) Jiarong girls who placed us in our various rooms in their rambling Jiarong style building, built against rock.

## Day 10

Tuesday 30th June

### Danba

Retracing our route for a few kilometres we explored the valley Adong that I had discovered two years before. Little had changed and we followed a rough track that zigzags steeply up through forest. The valley, marked at its entrance by resplendent *Koeloetaria paniculata* in flower, is wonderfully species rich, with several species of *Acer*, *Betula* and *Ostrya*, *Carpinus*, *Ulm*, *Hydrangea* and *Quercus* all excitedly recorded.

Klaas was particularly excited by a *Tetrapanax paperifera*. There were herbaceous highlights too, such as *Lilium davidii*, *Lilium duchartrei* and *Anemone hupahensis*. By afternoon we had just reached a deserted conglomeration of decaying buildings, which might have been a redundant government enterprise, when time pressed us to drive back to Danba.

## Day 11

Wednesday 1st July

### Danba - Markham

After viewing the strange Danba Towers whose origin is a mystery, even to the Jiarong themselves, we headed north to Xiaogin, the dry valley decorated with *Incarvillea arguta* and *Ailanthus altissima*. Heading north and gaining altitude again we had lunch at the small hamlet of Mopo where we found *Clematis rebrdiana* and *Caragana* spp. Climbing again at above 3,000m we began finding alpine meadows, which although well grazed by yaks, still furnished us with *Primula*, *Anemone*, *Thalictrus*, *Trollius* and some *Meconopsis punicea*.

We then climbed over a well-grazed pass at 4,150m where we met a policeman and several of his mates on the zigzags on the other side. We became aware of a cavalcade of police cars behind us and an enormous armada of official vehicles surged past us and at the junction at the bottom of the valley we had to wait for the visiting government party to head off into Markham. When we got there ourselves all the major hotels were full so a police deputation took us to another place to stay instead.

## Day 12

Thursday 2nd July

### Markham - Hongyuan

We left Markham and going northwest gained altitude again until we emerged on the Tibetan Plateau at Shuasingsi. We made several stops and everywhere found something new to admire; *Hydrandea*, *Picea*, and *Abies* forest lower down, then roadside *Thalictru.*, *Pedicularis*, *Clematis* and *Sorbus* for Charles who has a particular passion for the genus. We passed the meadow where Adong and I had camped on our recce, and we found our first meadow of *Cremanthodium brunneopilosum*, a wonderful damp meadow plant still not in cultivation in Europe. The woodland meadows were also filled with *Primula*, *Meconopsis*, *Paeonia veitchii* and *Ajuga lupulina*.

Heading north we crossed the watershed between the Yangtze and Yellow River basins. Here there is the rather low insignificant looking pass of Chazhenliangsi. Un-dramatic it may have been, but a wonderful plant stop with the very dark maroon *Primula tangutica*, *Fritillaria unibracteata*, more *Corydalis* and so much else it was hard to drag everyone back to the vehicles. We had lunch at a tiny roadside hostelry at Anqu.

The plan then was to get to Tangke where we could have a view of the great Yellow River bend. But at the junction we were met by a police roadblock again and told we couldn't turn left for Tangke. Adong tried to pull all the strings at his command but it ended in stalemate. We were forced to go south again. At the junction hamlet of Waquie we booked into a simple hotel there, but just before taking a well-deserved refreshment we were told foreigners couldn't stay at this hotel, and so we had to go south to Hongyuan where we were booked us into a different hotel!?

## Day 13

Friday 3rd July

### Hongyuan - Juizhagou

We left the bleak town of Hongyuan, a Chinese concrete blot pasted over the original Tibetan community, and heading north again we turned right at Waqie. The high grasslands were resplendent with meadow flora of all colours; *Vicia*, *Hedysarum*, *Ajuga*, *Aster*, and we made several stops to relish the display. There were so many that Daphne was inspired to make everyone flower garlands. We met groups of nomad children on horseback to complete the wonderful open scenery.

At Sedi we stopped to visit the monastery and had lunch in the little Tibetan town. As we settled down to Tibetan noodles in a small hostelry, the local police again said we were not allowed, but having ordered food they let us finish our meal. Whatever tension it was that blew up last year obviously still hadn't dissipated and the authorities were still twitchy.

Regaining the main road from Rua ar Gai we stopped for wonderful stands of *Meconopsis* and *Corydalis* of every hue, *Primula tangutica* and most impressive of all *Primula orbicularis*. The road drops away from the Tibetan Plateau and we rolled into Juizhagou. I had wanted to avoid Juizhagou since, although it is spectacular and very rich in plants, it has become a tourist mecca with thousands of Chinese tourists flying in every day. But as we had been moved along and out of the Tibetan highlands I had originally wanted to explore we had to bite the bullet and join the throng.

## Day 14

Saturday 4th July

### Juizhagou

Heather and Martin were happy to enter the maelstrom of Juizhagou Park for some photographic enterprises. The rest of us endeavoured to retrace the back road Adong and I had emerged from two years ago, which leads onto a wonderful pass back onto the plateau. We later joined the masses in Juizhagou Park, and taking the green buses up the left fork we were able to admire the vegetation in what is a spectacular place. Numerous tree species, *Acer*, *Betula*, *Abies*, *Sorbus* absorbed Philippe, Hans, Klaas and Charles. Lower down we circled some of the limestone pools escaping the mass of busloads of people to find *Rhododendron*, *Dipelta*, *Euonymus*, *Cornus* and much else.

## Day 15

Sunday 5th July

### Juizhagou - Huanlong

We made several stops as we climbed up to the Gongganhen Pass. Woodland meadows were filled with *Primula*, *Anemone*, *Aster* and *Iris*. The pass itself is now heavily overgrazed but there are still good stands of *Meconopsis* and *Primula*. Climbing again to Huanlong Pass we had lunch on the high moorland where we wandered over the spectacular landscape amongst the dwarf *Rhododendron* and *Cassiope* to find *Incarvillea*, *Androsace*, *Meconopsis* and orchids such as *Galearis*, *Mitostigma* and the usual plethora of *Corydalis*. In thick mist near the top of the pass we had rich finds of alpine flora, *Meconopsis* in profusion, *Pinguicula*, *Cremanthodium* and *Lloydia*. Over the pass we dropped down to Huanlong. Although also now made into a park like Juizhagou it doesn't attract quite so many people and the service town is much smaller and easier to get along with.

## Day 16

Monday 6th July

### Huanlong Park

There are no green buses in Huanlong and one is free to wander the limestone pools more or less at will. Half the group took the cable car to the top of the valley. Although this way affords a high level walk through forest it does carry most of the bus loads of tourists, although Hans and I managed to evade guards and make a fruitful descent to the pools on our way down. At the bottom of the park are fabulous stands of Orchidaceae, *Cypripedium*, *Phaius* and *Galearis*. At the central point is a Bon Monastery, which happened to be in celebration mode with the local Tibetans all taking part. At the highest pond are fabulous stands of *Meconopsis* that can be viewed best by again evading attendants!

## Day 17

Tuesday 7th July

### Dan Yun Gorge

By driving down the Dan Yun Gorge from Huanlong we had a great day taking in the forest below. The road is little used and we were able to take in the fabulous scenery on our own. Again there is a plethora of tree and shrub species, *Acer*, *Cornus*, *Cledastris*, *Schizandra*, and *Hydrangea* were amongst the highlights with *Magnolia officinalis* near the bottom of the gorge at the little village where we had lunch. There was also *Lilium*, *Epipactis* and *Calanthe* to enthuse the herbaceous and Orchid tastes. Our three vehicles headed separately back up the gorge with various individual stops and we cruised back over Huanlong Pass and down to the Min Jiang Valley and Songpan where we spent the night.

## Day 18

Wednesday 8th July

### Songpan - Monigou Park - Mao Xian

After a very brief shopping session in the walled city of Songpan, we headed a short way down the Min River before driving east to the little visited Monigou Park - another realm of limestone pools which so far doesn't attract the crowds. The clear pools fringed with great stands of *Ligularia* and *Cardamine* are a delight as are the meadows full of *Primula*, *Meconopsis* and various orchids with a good range of trees and shrubs to examine. We gathered by the vehicles in late afternoon for the long drive down the Min River. The previous year's earthquake had swept away much of the original road but it had been reconstructed rapidly and we experienced no more hold ups than one finds in any other part of the country. Near Maoxian where we were to stay I kept a look for the stands of *Lilium regale* that Adong and I had found two years before and I feared that the unique populations of this amazing plant may have suffered, but 20km from the city I spotted a fine stand high above us. Hans and I clambered up and took our pictures.

## Day 19

Thursday 9th July

### Mao Xian - Chengdu

In the morning we drove out of town and found great stands of *Lilium regale* a bare 2km from the city. In full bloom this was our botanical piece de resistance. We drove back to Chengdu and because we had missed the pandas in Wolong we went to the Panda Reserve near the city which was enjoyed by everyone.



## Day 20/21

Friday 10th/Saturday 11th July

Chengdu - Europe

We departed from Chengdu en route back to the UK...

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## PLANT LIST

Revised proof read and corrected Gordon , additions Philippe

### DAY 1 CHENGDU to WOLONG (2000m)

Yingxiu Stand of *Lilium sargentiae* buried by landslip /road works

1500m *Cryptomeria japonica var sinense*  
*Ailanthus altissima*  
*Cercidiphyllum japonicum var sinense*  
*Larix potanini*  
*Corylopsis sinensis*  
*Akebia trifoliata*  
*Acer campbellii*  
*Acer cappadocicum*  
*Juglans mandshurica syn J. cathayensis*  
*Viburnum henryi*

1800m

***Actinidia arguta*** in flower  
*Actinidia pilosula*  
*Acer davidii*  
*Euptelea pleiosperma*  
*Cunninghamia lanceolata*

After Wolong

2100m *Hydrangea heteromalla*  
***Cledastris sinensis***  
*Clematis longiloba*  
*Alangium sp ( A. chinense ?)*

Yin Chang valley

***Pterocarya insignis***  
*Betula delavayii*  
*Neillia thibetica*  
*Ilex pernyi*  
*Acer pectinatum*  
*Deutzia longifolia*  
 Several *Lonicera spp*  
*Sorbaria sorbifolia*  
*Taxus wallichiana syn T. yunnanensis*  
*Spiraea sargentiana*

*Astilbe rivularis*  
*Astragalus spp*  
*Gentiana spp* (small, bright pink in flower)  
*Corydalis flexuosa*  
*Saxifrage longipetala*  
*Aruncus dioicus*  
*Acer stachyphyllum*  
*Acer pectinatum*

## DAY 2 WOLONG - PITIAO VALLEY 24/6

2800m *Actinidia cf pilosula**Actinidia kolomikta**Tsuga dumosa**Tilia* spp (*T. Japonica/sinense*?)***Salix magnifica****Populus yunnanensis**Acer pectinatum* in flower*Acer cappadocicum**Acer stachyophyllum**Philadelphus delavayi**Viburnum vitifolium****Tetracentrum sinensis****Clematis potanini**Corylus chinensis**Rubus thibetanus*Dasheng valley*Quercus aquifolioides**Spiraea sargentiana**Betula albosinensis**Euonymus hamiltonianus**Berberis verruculosa**Rosa sweginzowii**Cyanoglossum* spp*Anemone rivularis* + double form*Rodgersia aesculifolia**Smilacina oleracea**Veratrum nigrum**Caltha palustris**Iris chrysographis**Polygonatum cirrhifolium**Arisaema wilsonii**Triosteum himalayanum****Calanthe tricarinata***

## Lunch

*Abies faberi**Rhododendron calophytum**Lonicera trichoxantha**Rhododendron strigulosum* aff***Rhododendron rufum****Rhododendron lutescens**Acer stachyphyllum**Malus kansuensis**Viburnum betulifolium**Viburnum chingii**Abies ernestii*

*Paris polyphylla*  
***Oreorchis patens***  
*Ligularia przewalskii*  
*Acer caesium ssp giraldii*

### DAY 3 Balang Shan approaches 25/6

On road up to 2800 before switch backs

*Syringa komorowii*  
*Ophiopogon bodnieri*  
 3100m  
*Acer geraldii*  
*Aquilegia rockii*

3200m ***Paeonia veitchii***  
*Larix potanini*  
 3240m  
*Primula palmata*

3300m *Primula sikkimensis*  
*Mandragora caulescens*  
*Veratrum nigrum*  
***Veratrum macrophyllum***  
*Polygonatum cirrhifolium*  
*Euphorbia griffithii*  
*Berberis wilsonii*  
*Pleurospermum benthonii*  
*Gymnadenia conopsea*  
*Iris sichuanensis*  
*Ligularia cymbelifera*

3600m ***Lilium lophophorum***  
*Galearis wardii*  
***Cypripedium tibeticum***  
***Omphalogramma vincaeflora***  
*Primula nutans*  
***Lloydia delavayii***  
***Fritillaria unibracteata***  
*Herminium spp*  
***Rhododendron balangensiensis***  
*Clematis montana*  
*Sorbus scalaris*

3800m *Meconopsis integrifolia*  
***Meconopsis punicea***  
*Morina alba*  
*Primula sikkimensis*  
*Rheum palmatum*

*Cremanthodium potaninii*  
*Caltha palustris*  
 Abundant *Pedicularis* spp

#### DAY 4 WOLONG to BAOXING

Stop for *Populus sichuanensis* var *tibetica* 2300m

Up Balang Shan  
 3500m stop again for  
*Rhododendron balangsiensis*  
*Sorbus scalaris*  
*Spiraea mongolica*  
*Spiraea sargentiana*  
*Rhododendron thymifolius*

4150m *Primula nutans*  
*Primula chionantha* var *sinopurpurea*  
***Meconopsis horridula*** (orange stamens, dense orange bristles)  
***Meconopsis racemosa*** (white stamens, narrow leaves, plain fine bristles)  
*Rhodiola* spp  
*Anaphallis nepalensis*  
*Fritillaria unibracteata*  
*Ligularia purdonii*  
*Primula nutans*  
*Saxifraga melanocentra*  
*Rhododendron phaeochrysum*  
***Rhododendron rupicola* var *chryseum***  
***Rhododendron fastigiatum***

Balang Shan Pass 4487m  
*Rhodiola wallichiana*  
 Mound *Potentilla* spp  
*Pedicularis* spp (several)  
*Corydalis aff elata*  
***Primula dryadifolia***  
*Primula amethystina*  
*Corydalis curviflora*  
*Arenaria* sp ( *A. Lantsangensis*?)

4400m *Meconopsis punicea*  
*Meconopsis integrifolia*  
*Cremanthodium potanini*  
*Primula sikkimensis*  
*Leontopodium* spp  
*Taraxacum* spp  
 Yellow *Corydalis* spp

4200m ***Paraqualegia anemonoides***  
*Rhododendron phaeochrysum*  
*Rhododendron rupicola* var *chryseum*

4000m *Rhododendron cephalanthera*  
*Siberia laevigata*  
*Primula stenocalyx*  
*Larix potaninii*

#### DAY 5 BAOXING to KANGDING

***Lilum sargentiae***

#### DAY 6 KANGDING – Kandingxian Cuo

3100m meadow  
*Iris chrysographes*  
*Rosa moyseii*  
*Quercus aquifolioides*  
***Primula cockburniana***  
*Salvia spp*  
*Anemone obtusiloba*  
*Anemone demissa*  
*Geranium spp*  
*Corydalis and Pedicularis spp*  
*Podophyllum hexandrum*  
*Syringa spp*  
*Aquilegia rockii*  
*Paeonia veitchii*  
*Picea linkiagensis var balfouriana*  
*Juniperus recurva*  
*Arisaema grifithii*  
*Berberis wilsonii*  
*Deutzia purpurescens*

3600m *Ligularia cymbulifera*  
*Aster himalaicus*  
*Primula violacea*  
***Rhododendron soulei***  
*Betula delavayii*  
*Rhododendron cephalanthum aff*  
*Trollius pumilus*  
*Stellera chaemojasme*  
*Sorbus sichuanensis*  
***Ajuga ovatifolia***  
*Gentiana spp* (blue flower on succulent foliage)  
*Daphne retusa*  
*Rhododendron nivale*  
*Rhododendron rubiginosum*  
*Androsace rigida*  
***Cypripedium tibeticum***

3800m ***Rheum alexandre***

*Fritillaria unibracteata*  
*Primula secundiflora*  
*Cassiope pectinata*  
*Primula amethystina*  
*Pinguicula montana*  
*Astragalus spp purple*

## LAKE

***Meconopsis lancifolia***  
*Meconopsis integrifolia*  
*Oxygraphis polypetala*  
*Cyanoglossum spp*  
*Primula nutans variant*  
***Lloydia delavayii***  
*Ajuga ovatifolia*  
*Rhododendron rupicola vars (purple and yellow fl)*  
*Rhododendron websterianum*

## DAY 7 KANDING - MIGU CUO 4000m

*Rhododendron cephalanthera*  
*Rhododendron phaeochrysum*  
*Daphne retusa*  
*Sorbus spp - S. Scalaris)*  
*Larix potanini*  
*Picea spp*  
*Betula szechuanica*

*Rheum alexandre*  
*Primula sikkimensis*  
*Primula secundiflora*  
*Primula nutans*  
*Caltha palustris*  
*Primula violacea*  
*Morina alba*  
*Morina nepalensis*  
*Androsce spinulifera*  
*Lancea tibetica*  
*Lilium lophoporum*  
*Incarvillea compacta*  
*Meconopsis lancifolia*  
*Stellera chaemojasme*  
*Gentian spp (tiny flowers closing on touch)*

**HOT POOL 3500m forest**  
*Rhododendron bureauvioides*  
***Rhododendron concinuum***  
*Smilacina henryii*  
*Chrysoplenium spp (stunning divided foliage)*  
*Oxalis griffithii*  
***Clintonia udensis***

*Rhododendron watsonii*  
*Rhododendron oreodoxa*

By ticket booth 3000m  
*Lilium spp not in flower*  
*Arisaema consanguineum type*  
*Populus albus*  
*Deutzia longifolia*  
*Hydrangea heteromalla*  
*Oreorchis spp*

## DAY 8 KANDING –DANBA

Over Zhedou Pass below new airport on back Tagong road 4000m

***Incarvillea compacta***  
*Morina alba*  
*Aster himaliacus*  
*Lilium lophophorum*  
*Geranium delavayii*  
*Ligularia dictyoneura*  
*Campanula spp (v slender)*  
*Corydalis (dull yellow)*  
*Rheum alexandre*  
*Primula sikkimensis*  
*Meconopsis integrifolia*  
*Gentiana blue + yellow forms together with frog*  
*Iris sichuanensis*  
*Caltha palustris*

Pass above Bamei  
*Paeonia veitchii*  
*Lancea tibetica*  
***Clematis orientalis***  
*Androsace spinulifera type*  
*Spiraea tibetica*

View of Zhara Mountain

*Abies squamata*  
*Philadelphus sub-canus*

Descent to Danba  
 3300m *Sorbaria sorbifolia*  
*Prunus serrula*  
*Betula albosinensis*  
*Rhododendron vernicosum*  
*Desmodium spicatum*

***Notholirion bulbiferum***  
*Thalictrum delavayi*



*Sedum spp* (bright red)  
*Aquilegia spp*  
*Saxifraga longipetala*  
*Arisaema consanguineum* type

## DAY 9 DANBA SACHUNG HO

*Ailanthus altissima*  
*Incarvillea arguta*  
*Phytolacca polyandra*  
***Koelreuteria paniculata***  
*Zanthoxylum piperatum*  
***Anemone hupahensis***

*Aralia chinensis*  
*Ostrya japonica* in seed  
*Carpinus henryana*  
*Ulmus parviflora*  
*Acer davidii* in fruit  
*Taxus wallichiana* var *yunnanensis*  
*Fraxinus platypoda*  
*Buddleia crispa*  
*Leycesteria formosa*  
***Tetrapanax papyrifer***  
*Cotoneaster franchetii*  
*Populus davidii*  
*Morus albus*  
*Tetradium danielli*  
*Carpinus turczaninowii*  
*Betula spp* new unidentified large *Corylus* like leaves  
*Betula utilis ssp utilis*  
*Betula szechuanica*  
*Acer davidii*  
*Acer cappadocicum ssp sinum*  
*Ailanthus altissima*  
*Cornus macrophylla*  
*Tsuga chinensis* or *T. Dumosa*  
*Abies ernestii*

***Lilium duchartrei***  
***Lilium davidii***  
*Corallodiscus flabellatus*  
*Thalictrum delavayii*  
*Sambucus adnanta*  
*Fallopia spp* (climbing knotweed)  
*Selaginella spp* + ferns *Matteuccia*, *Gymnospermum*, *Dryopteris* and many others

## DAY 10 DANBA – MARKHAM

By towers 2000m

*Incarvillea arguta*  
*Ailanthus altissima*  
*Ligustrum lucidum*,  
*Eremurus himalaicus*  
*Zanthoxylum piperatum*

2300m *Lilium davidii*

From Xioaqin 2400 *Cypripedium chinensis* dominant  
*Koeleria paniculata*

Beyond Mopo (lunch )2800m

*Clematis rehderiana*  
*Viburnum lantana var sinensis*  
*Aster arborescens*#*Caragana* spp  
*Stellera chaemojasme*

3500m *Ligularia przewalski*

*Podophyllum hexandrum*  
*Pedicularis* sp (pink and others)  
*Gentiana* spp (tall, thin)  
*Trollius yunnanensis*  
*Gymnadenia* spp  
*Anemone demissa*  
*Rheum palmatum*  
*Larix potanini*

*Primula nutans*

*Meconopsis punicea*  
*Parnassia* spp  
*Primula cernua*  
*Polygonatum cirrhifolium*  
*Primula palmata*  
*Anemone rivularis*  
*Thalictrum cultratum*  
*Ajuga ovatifolia*  
*Larix potanini*

Over pass 4200m Police (Jing Cha )spp

*Ligularia purdonii*  
*Rhododendron phaeochrysum*

## DAY 11 MARKHAM – HONGYUAN

Climb through gorge *Picea*/ *Betula* dominant *Abies* at 3200m

Shuasingsi

*Syringa meyeri* (possibly something close to *S. Meyeri*)  
*Gentiana paludosa* ( martin)  
*Sorbus koehneana*  
*Clematis* (white, six petals)  
*Polemonium caeruleum*  
*Thalictrum cultratum*  
*Astilbe rivularis*  
*Thalictrum cultratum*  
*Phlomis* spp (yellow fl)  
*Aquilegia rockii*  
*Pedicularis* spp (white + purple)  
*Astragalus* spp purple  
*Gentiana* spp tall blue fl

After Shausingsi (Yooghurt & Honey)  
***Cremanthodium brunneopilosum***  
*Pedicularis longiflora*  
*Paeonia veitchii* white form  
*Ajuga lupulina*

3200m  
*Cremanthodium brunneopilosum* abundant  
*Salix/Spiraea* dominate hillsides  
*Primula nutans*  
*Meconopsis punicea*

Chazhenliangzi Pass 3900m (Yangtse/Yellow river watershed)  
***Primula tangutica***  
*Ajuga ovatifolia*  
*Primula szechuanica*  
*Corydalis curviflora*  
*Sibiraea angustata*  
*Fritillaria unibractetata*  
*Cremanthodium potanini*  
*Rhododendron nivale*  
*Meconopsis punicea*  
 Below pass Water crowfoot var.

## DAY 12 HONGYUAN – JUIZHAIGOU

Hills covered in *Spiraea*, meadows with *Aster* spp  
 Grasslands before and after Waqie turn c.3600m  
*Clematis akedioides*  
*Ligularia liatroides*  
*Stellera chaemojasme*  
*Pedicularis* sp white  
*Ajuga ovatifolia*  
*Morina alba*  
*Aster* spp orange fl  
*Iris sichuanensis*

*Lonicera* spp  
*Pedicularis longiflora*  
*Potentilla fruticosa*  
*Hedysarum sikkimense*  
*Vicia unijuga*

Turn onto main road 3500m

*Meconopsis punicea*  
*Ligularia cybulifera*  
*Saxifraga tangutica*  
*Corydalis rheinbabenicum*  
*Corydalis curviflora*  
*Meconopsis blue* spp  
*Primula tangutica*  
*Primula orbicularis* (Philippe stop)

### DAY 13 Juizhaigou

Attempt at Dalu

*Sorbaria tomentosa*  
*Acer stachyophyllum*  
*Lonicera* sp large yellow fl  
*Euonymus* spp in flower  
*Viburnum cotinifolium* (probably another species!)  
*Anemone hupahensis*  
*Cornus hemsleyi*  
*Abies ernestii*  
*Picea* and *abies* spp  
*Corylus aff*  
*Betula albochinensis*

Juizhaigou park Top left lake

*Acer caudatum* in flower  
*Abies faberi*  
*Picea asperata*  
*Sorbus sichuanensis*  
*Madania himalaica*  
*Betula alb-sinensis*  
*Betula szechuanica*  
*Juniperus recurva*  
*Acanthopanax cissifolius*  
*Lonicera kansuensis*  
*Ribes tangutica*  
*Clematis potanini*  
*Clematoclethra actinidioides*  
*Acer caesium*  
*Acer pectinatum* var *forestii*  
*Acer stachyophyllum*  
*Acer capadocicum*

Bamboo Lake

*Cornus macrophylla*  
*Acer caesium*  
*Euonymus grandiflorus*  
*Acanthopanax cissifolius*  
*Dipelta yunnanensis*  
*Rhododendron lutescens*  
*Euonymus cornutus*  
*Arisaema consanguineum*  
*Aristolochia moupinense*  
*Juniperus recurva*  
*Aralia chinensis*  
*Rodgersia pinnata*  
*Larix masteriana*

#### DAY 14 Juizhaigou – Huanglong

*Hemerocallis fulva*  
*Betula albo-sinensis*  
*Betula szechuanica*  
*Ligularia przewalskii*  
*Leucanthemum maximum*  
*Picea/betula* forest

#### 3250m Side Road

*Iris sichuanensis*  
 Carpet of *Gentiana* spp  
 Yellow *Pedicularis*  
*Clematis orientalis*  
*Pedicularis longifolia*  
*Parnassia nubicola*  
*Polemonium caeruleum*  
*Triosteum* spp (cut foliage)  
*Primula nutans*  
*Primula chionantha* var *sinopurpureum*  
*Aquilegia rockii*  
*Anemone demissa*  
*Aster himalaicum*  
*Potentilla fruticosa*  
*Primula tangutica*

#### Up to Gonganhen Pass 3700m

***Primula orbicularis***  
*Rhododendron bureauioides*  
*Meconopsis punicea*  
*Viola lutea*  
*Caragana* spp  
*Caltha palustris*  
*Primula tangutica*  
*Primula palmata*  
*Ligularia przewalski*

Huang long Pass

Lunch stop 3900m

*Incarvillea compacta*

*Primula latisecta*

*Meconopsis henrici*

*Leontopodium spp*

*Cassiope selaginoides*

*Rhododendron przewalskii*

*Rhododendron primuliferum* ( not *R.cephalantherum* re Cox)

*Rhododendron nivale*

*Galearis roborowskii*

*Caragana jubata* (possibly!)

*Corydalis melanochlora*

*Androsace brachystegia*

Stop over pass 3900m *Rhododendron przewalskii*

*Meconopsis punicea*

*Trollius farreri*

*Cremanthodium potanini*

Quarry 4100m

*Alchemilla sieboldii*

*Primula tangutica*

*Arenaria kansuensis*

*Caragana jubata* *Meconopsis henrici*

*Lloydia serotina*

*Lloydia delavayii*

*Meconopsis integrifolia*

*Meconopsis horridula* (syn *M racemosa*)

*Pinguicula alpina*

*Galearis spp* (Brown tepals, yellow lip)

*Cassiope selaginoides*

DAY 15 HUANLONG 3200-3400m

*Ligularia przewalskii*

*Galium odoratum*

*Viola biflora*

*Tiarella spp*

*Acanthopanax spp*

*Polemonium caeruleum*

*Lonicera rupicola*

*Phaius delavayi*

*Cypripedium flavum*

*Cypripedium tibeticum*

*Galearis daiantha*

*Rhododendron bureauioides*

*Pyrola rotundifolia*

*Lonicera kansuensis*

*Rhododendron wilsonii*

*Rhododendron rufum*

3400m

*Rosa moyesii*  
*Primula palmata*  
*Rhododendron oreodoxa*  
*Rhododendron cephalathera*  
*Rosa ormiensis*  
*Smilacina spp*  
*Allium sp* (pair of large ovate leaves, white fl)  
*Polygonatum cirrhifolium*  
*Pleurospermum spp*  
*Rhododendron nivale*

Bonpo shrine above top lake

*Meconopsis lancifolia*  
*Primula orbicularis*  
*Fritillaria unibractata*  
*Meconopsis punicea*  
*Chryplenium spp* ( near *C.davidi*)  
*Rheum palmatum*  
*Primula deflexa*

Cable car down

*Primula orbicularis*  
*Rhododendron rufum*  
*Abies faberi var faxonium*  
*Juniperus chinensis* (ancient trees)  
*Prunus pilosiuscula*  
*Rhododendron vernicosum*  
*Rhododendron watsonii*

## DAY 16 HUANLONG DAN YUN GORGE

1<sup>st</sup> stp down gorge

*Ligularia przewalskii*  
*Clematis akebioides*  
*Tilia in flower*  
*Buddleia colvilei* (possibly not *B. colvilei*?)  
*Hydrangea heteromalla*  
*Acer pectinatum*  
*Acer cayudatum*  
*Acer caesium spp giraldii*  
*Larix potanini*  
*Clematoclethra actinidioides*  
*Cornus macrophylla*  
*Philadelphus sp*  
***Clematis montana* (var *Wilsonii*?)** huge flowers  
*Clematis longiloba*  
*Deutzia longifolia*  
*Lilium davidii*

2650m

*Eupetelia pleiosperma*

*Cryptomeria japonica*

*Aralia chinensis*

***Magnolia wilsonii***

*Anemone hupahensis*

*Gentiana* spp bright purple

*Cornus contraversa* (maybe not *C. contraversa* a native of japan!)

*Ilex pernyi*

*Actinidia arguta* in fruit

*Daphniphyllum macropodium* ( again maybe not *D. macropodium* as this is a Japanese species)

*Cledastris sinensis*

*Cornus macrophylla*

*Rubus thibetanus*

*Lilium duchartrei*

*Campanula* spp

*Celastrus* spp

*Akebia* spp

*Schizandra chinensis* in fruit

*Stachyurus chinensis* in fruit

*Viburnum betulifolium*

Baby owl

*Fraxinus* spp

*Lindera triloba*

2400m *Corylopsis sinensis*

*Buddleia colvilei*

*Calanthe davidii*

*Rhododendron augustinii*

*Coreraria sinica*

*Mahonia japonica*

*Viburnum henryi*

*Hydrangea involucrate*

*Aruncus dioicus*

*Juglans mandshurica* syn *J. cathayensis*

***Epipactis mairei***

*Carpinus turczaniowii*

*Alnus cremastogyne*

At bottom of valley 2100m *Magnolia officinalis*

Back up gorge

*Salix magnifica*

*Delphinium elata*

*Holboellia* spp

*Coryllus ferox* in fruit

*Lindera obtusiloba* (L. *Triloba* is Japanese)

*Skimmia revisianum*

*Abelia* spp



*Phlomis* spp  
*Rodgersia aesculifolia*  
*Daphniphyllum* spp  
*Cornus contraversa*  
*Rhododendron augustinii*  
*Aristolochia* spp

## DAY 17 MONI GOU

On road from Songpan  
*Clematis rehderiana*  
*Clematis orientalis*  
*Caragana arborescens*  
*Dianthus* spp  
*Delphinium* spp  
*Syringa yunnanensis*  
*Aconitum* spp

In park

*Lonicera kansuensis*  
*Lonicera rupicola*  
*Pyrola rotundifolia*  
*Parnassia nubicola*  
*Primula palmata*  
*Astilbe rivularis*  
*Rosa sericea*  
***Primula nutans* / *involucrata***  
*Aster soulei*  
*Lancea tibetica*  
*Ajuga ovatifolia*  
*Clintonia udensis*  
*Galearis roborowskii*  
*Plantanthera fuscescens*  
***Ligularia przewalskii***  
***Cardamine macrophylla***  
*Meconopsis punicea*  
*Primula secundiflora*  
*Primula tangutica*

## DAY 18/19

MONI GOU – MAOXIAN - CHENGDU

***Lilium regale*** 2200m Min Valley near Maoxian  
*Incarvillea sinensis*