

China - Plant Hunting in Sichuan, Land of the Panda

Naturetrek Tour Report

18 June - 8 July 2012



Cremanthodium brunneopilosum Waqie



Lilium regale Maoxian



Paeonia veitchii - Wolong



Pedicularis cranolopha Songpan

Report and images compiled by John Shipton



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Introduction

After a reconnaissance in 2007 with Adong from Zhongdian I had 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 courses the Coxes, Lancaster and more recently AGS groups. Our guide was the incomparable Gonpo. He not only made sure everything ran smoothly but was the best companion we could have wanted. Our three drivers were also great companions as usual and even more importantly brilliant drivers. This year we were able to stay in Tangkor, which we had been prevented from entering before, and visit our local guide Gonpo's family and the homelands of his nomadic Amdo Tibet homeland, and explore the great bend of the Yellow River. The trip encompasses a good range of habitats with the several vertical ascents and descents usually from around 2000 to 4500m which make this part of the world so unique. In Wolong, Danba and Huang Long there is a breathtaking array of trees and shrubs, and from the several high passes, the flanks of the 7000m Minya Konka and the Tibetan grasslands a mass of alpine and meadow flowers to revel in. In west Sichuan this year extra rain was causing some flooding. This was only a problem for us at Monigou where boardwalks and viewing platforms had been affected, otherwise the plentiful spring rains meant the spectacular flora wasn't held back for us on this trip.

Day 1

Monday 18th June

LONDON/CHENGDU

While the UK people were leaving Heathrow on the flight to Beijing, I arrived in Chengdu from Zhongdian in Yunnan with Nongbu having made a brief reconnaissance of a mysterious mountain near Emei Shan. We met some guests in the hotel, and Gonpo and went to get the Australian contingent that was booked into a different place. We got in touch with Kate and Leah and left a message for Geoff who was yet to arrive.

Day 2

Tuesday 19th June

We picked up Kate and Leah in the morning, and Geoff arrived just before we went to the airport to meet the Beijing flight. We all met up with Ed and Susan having come from Shanghai. With the group all together we had time in the evening for our first Chinese banquet.

Day 3

Wednesday 20th June

CHENGDU - WOLONG

We set off in the morning, taking some time to get released from Chengdu's traffic. After Dujiang yan, brand new tunnels took us quickly to the bottom of the Pitiao river valley. Here we encountered a problem. Despite all the rapid road building along the Min Jiang after the 2008 earthquake, the road up to Wolong was still being built. There was a police road block and an officious traffic policeman stopped us going up the road. Any alternative would mean totally upsetting all our plans, and hundreds of kilometres extra driving. Gonpo went into the hut and we waited biting our nails. After an hour of brilliant diplomacy involving a combination of pleading and flattery the policeman relented and they let us through!

After lunch at a roadside inn, our first plant stop was a spectacular Tree of Heaven *Ailanthus altissima*, although not native to the area, it was a glorious herald to the wonders of Wolong. Not far from here we paid a brief visit to the Panda breeding centre. Driving passed Wolong itself we had time for an afternoon stroll up the Yin Chang Valley (c2300m), a tributary of the Pitiao River. There was lots of botanical interest and just as we were about to turn back I scrambled over a landslip across the track and discovered several *Cardiocrinum giganteum* on the bank above in full flower.

Day 4

Thursday 21st June

WOLONG Dasheng Valley

After a morning exploring the Yi Chang Valley further, to take in more of the *Cardiocrinum* and see Leah's *Phaius delavayi*, we drove up the Pitiao River to 3000m just before the road winds up to Baling Shan La. Here the Dasheng Valley carries on west into the hills and what used to be a yak herders path when I was last here has been made into a tourist trail - as yet without tourists apart from us... After a picnic lunch we set off up the trails. We spent the afternoon exploring the valley coming back with various finds.

Day 5

Friday 22nd June

WOLONG to RILONG via Balang Shan La

We left our lodgings and drove back up the Pitiao River, stopping briefly at the Dasheng Valley again to take in a stand of *Calanthe tricarinata*. After this the road winds up the mountain side gaining height rapidly. At 3300m we stopped at a meadow I had explored previously, a paradise of *Veratrum*, orchids and *Primula*. A little higher we found our first *Paeonia veitchii* in flower. The weather was still good and the views back down the valley and across to the mountains was spectacular. At 3600m we stopped for breathtaking mountain pasture flowers. Carpets of *Omphalogramma viola-grandis* with our first *Lilium lophoporon* followed a little higher up where we had lunch, seeing our first *Meconopsis punicea*, with various blue *Meconopsis* and the ubiquitous *M. integrifolia* along with yet more *Primula* species.

After lunch the weather deteriorated. We reached the pass of over 4600m in thick mist. No visibility meant we didn't linger on the pass but came down the western side and stopped at a spot where the visibility cleared. After exploring this 4000m area the pass itself cleared and we drove back up to it just catching views of snow peaks before the weather set in again.

On the way down we stopped for a pasture with more blue *Meconopsis* and further down for views over the newly developed town of Rilong which appears to be getting ready to take in tourists. We drove down through the town to stay at a splendid looking hotel.

Day 6

Saturday 23rd June

RILONG to BAOXING

From Rilong we travelled down river and then turned south into country travelled by Wilson and before him Pere David when he discovered *Davidia involucrata*. The road to Baoxing had only just been rebuilt, so travelling was much easier than when I was last here. It climbs slowly up to Jia Jin Shan La at 4100m through forest and rolling open pasture. The weather was good and we had great views as we climbed. Our first stop was initiated by a rose at 3000m at the start of the climb. Geoff's passion and knowledge of roses I found very useful, as a rose stop almost always led to other discoveries. After a couple of woodland stops we explored scrub pasture at 3600m where we came across a wealth of alpines including *Lilium lophoporon* in profusion, and several Orchidaceae. The pass at the top coincided with a tourist bus so we had lunch 400m lower on a spectacular ridge, covered in Rhododendrons in flower. Some of us explored the ridge after lunch while some walked down the road to enjoy the fine mountain pasture scenes.

From here the road follows the river valley south, going down to Baoxing at 2000m, travelling through fine forest and gorges where we made several plant and photo stops. Baoxing's altitude made it pleasantly warm and being a national day off today there was a holiday atmosphere.

Day 7

Sunday 24th June

BAOXING to KANGDING

Just south of Baoxing we came across *Lilium sargentiae* high on rock walls above the road where the plants had to be photographed from a distance, but later Geoff and I got close up to a stand by crossing a stream and a field of fully grown maize. We managed to find a shortcut across to Tianquian on a quiet road, and stopped for lunch at the small town of Rua Yi. We had trouble finding a place to eat for all of us, and in the end several families cooperated to feed us, and we spent time exploring the place much to the amusement of the inhabitants who don't see many Lao Wai.

From Tianquian it is a very busy road and stops were impossible as we drove up over Erlang Shan with hundreds of trucks. Erlang Shan was covered in cloud but we did get glimpses of the spectacular country. The road then drops down 1000m to the Dadu River. After making one fruitful plant stop near the river we left the main valley for the 1000m climb to Kangding, where we stayed at the rather splendid Gesar Hotel.

Day 8

Monday 25th June

KANGDING Kangding Shan Cuo

At the meadows just south of Kangding, by a vast military barracks, we were able to explore the formidable botanical array. Further up this quiet road which winds its way up the flanks of Minya Gongka was also a very good site.

At 3400m we explored a stream side with Primulas and our first *Rheum alexandre*. At 3600m despite oncoming showers we snatched a picnic lunch while taking in more of this spectacular plant along with more blue Meconopsis and Nongbu's contribution of *Primula szechuanensis*. Kate, Leah and Ed turned back for an afternoon in town and we carried on up to the 4000m turn I had found with Adong. It was still much as I had left it years before, with the sand quarry at its head, and with its array of Meconopsis, Androsace, and Incarvillea still intact. Retrieving Kate and Leah from the hotel massage parlour we had our evening feast in the Cesar.

Day 9

Tuesday 26th June

KANGDING Mugu Cuo

The lake, the pristine forest below and the alpine country above is a mecca for tourists, and green buses are used to transport people around the park. The green buses mean that we had lost the freedom of our vehicles and we managed the walk the lakeside before lunch, but were rained off walking into the meadows above. We did however take in a walk down through the forest. On leaving the park we discovered a new road to Tagong which would avoid the now heavily used road over Zheduo La.

Day 10

Wednesday 27th June

KANGDING to DANBA

We drove up to the entrance to Mugu Cuo, and then took the brand new road over the Zheduo range. The road leads to the point above the grasslands which I had reached with Dashi three years before. Passing a lake now dubbed the Red Sea or Hong Hai by Chinese tourist planners, it reaches a 4300m pass which today with clear skies had wonderful views over the Tibetan plateau stretching away to the west. A stop at 4000m, then a stop on the pass revealed a paradise of alpine plants; Soroseris, Cremanthodium, extraordinary Pedicularis, Anemones and Gentians. We revelled in the views and plants in glorious sunshine and eventually dragged ourselves away and drove the few hundred metres down into the very different Tibetan country beyond the Zhduo range. To the north the great snow peak of Yala Shan appeared, as we passed through meadows of Incarvillea.

We didn't stop for Tagong Monastery, but after buying yoghurt from the road side, we instead stopped at an ongoing local horse festival which was a wonderful introduction to Tibetan nomadic culture. Gonpo was overwhelmed at the sight of something so familiar to him and reminiscent of a way of life which is fast becoming history. Turning off the Tibet road at Bamei we climbed over the 3800m pass to leave the grasslands and plunge down 1800m through dense rich forest to arrive in Danba in time for diner.

Day 11

Thursday 28th June

DANBA Ja Jui and Towers

Danba and the Jiarong Tibetans have a lot of cultural interest, not least the extraordinary towers of unknown origin and the villages perched high above the Dadu River. In the morning we drove up to Ja Jui village just north of Danba above the great river. Our vehicles started to get stuck in the mud above the village, so we walked along the roads and tracks above and into the village, admiring the special Danba architecture and had lunch in town. In the afternoon we viewed some of the towers across the river, and some of us crossed it and walked up and around the extraordinary structures.

Day 12

Friday 29th June

DANBA to MAERKAEN

We left town early and drove up by the Dadu River. From the botanical point of view the road up the river is less varied but it is still full of interest with more Danba towers and, villages and monasteries. At Gundu village we stopped to visit a Gelugpa monastery, and past Anning we walked across the river to see what I was surprised to discover was a Bon monastery. Bon, the Tibetan religion that predates Buddhism, is rare in Tibet but still flourishes in what are periphery Tibetan areas.

After lunch in the bustling entertaining town of Jin Chuan, at Nongbu's inspiration we took a diversion to drive up a side valley. This turned out to go up to a village called Galang. The road was in the process of being rebuilt so we had to stop and walk. We met some villagers coming down who were rather astonished at the appearance of westerners! On the way down we were rewarded with the discovery of *Lilium davidii* stand in a meadow and then *Hemerocallis fulva* by the river. We approached Maerkaen stopping at a small village 20km from town to walk round some spectacular Danba towers. In Maerkaen we stayed in another brand new hotel.

Day 13

Saturday 30th June

MAERKAEN to TANGKOR

This region is Gonpo's homeland - he booked us in to stay in Tangkor, the Amdo town right on the first great bend of the Yellow River, with the opportunity later of meeting his family and friends who are all still pursuing their nomadic life styles. We followed the Dadu tributary up to the beginning of the high Tibetan grasslands. Running first through *Picea* and *Betula* forest then *Abies* at around 3200m, at the road junction at Shuasingsi this forest gives way to alpine meadows. Just past Shuasingsi we made our first plant stop, a wonderful little marshy copse full of *Pedicularis* species in riotous colours, *Paeonia veitchii* in full flower, and my favourite grassland plant *Crematobodium brunneopilosum*.

From here the road north rises over a low pass at 3800m Chazhenlangzi which marks the watershed between the Yangtze basin and Yellow River basins. From here we had sweeping views over the Tibetan grasslands, 3500m in altitude even on the river basin itself. The pass was a bit more "yakked out" than I remember but we found the "black" *Primula P.tangutica* and *Fritillaria* and other things. Gonpo recommended lunch in a valley back on the Yangtze side of the pass and named "Sea Flower" on a road sign. Driving across the grasslands we made several plant stops before Waqie. Here Gonpo showed us a place sacred to Tibetan Buddhists, especially after the final visit of the Xth Panchen Lama, a collection of stupas around a Tasse. We arrived at Tangkor and booked into the new hotel there. Everyone was deeply impressed by the wonderful Tibetan feel to the town, and even more by the wonderful welcome we received at Gonpo's mother's house, where his family had prepared an enormous feast for us.

Day 14

Sunday 1st July

TANGKOR to QUIJI

In the morning we had breakfast again at Gonpo's mother's house with lots of yoghurt, honey and fruit. After saying goodbye to Gonpo's family, we took a back road around to the monastery overlooking the Great Bend.

Here we took in the sight of one of the world's greatest rivers, unique in having a huge flood plain at such an altitude. After the river and stopping at a holy spot, we went to tea with a Gonpo's friend, now a monk who had walked all over Tibet. We then drove through the town to a series of green hills overlooking the river and met Gonpo and Tsebho's family and friends and had tea in their tent. We then had lunch in town and wandered Tangkor while Margaret and Pamela saw how they could give medical help to Gonpo's sister.

Leaving Tangkor we drove east across the grasslands, making some plant stops. We turned left off the main road 30km south where a low pass leads off the grassland plateau. This is also a Yangtze/Yellow River watershed and the road here plunges down a valley, losing altitude rapidly and soon comes into *Picea* forest where we made a plant stop at 3100m. We arrived at Quiji and found our delightful "homestays" and later went down for our dinner in a cabin arranged on the outskirts of the village.

Day 15

Monday 2nd July

QUIJI to HUANGLONG

Quiji at 2700m is surrounded by forest, and from here a road leads east over Goli La a 4000m pass which crosses a part of Min Shan very close to the Sichuan/Gansu border. The road is normally quiet but today there were no vehicles at all...we feared that the news we had had from the village that a landslip had blocked the road was true. We could drive up as far as the pass to the *Meconopsis* wonderland, with three species of Blue poppy together with the red *M.punicea* and yellow *M.integrifolia*, along with, confusingly, an exotic yellow Papaver. Villagers coming over the pass from the east confirmed the roadblock so regrettably we had to retrace our steps, but at least we had reached the pass. We had a delightful lunch in a garden back in Quiji and then drove back up to the Tibetan plateau. In fact we were all quite pleased to have an extra view of the grasslands. Taking the main road south we reached Chuanzhusi. From here we drove over the Huanglong Pass for tomorrow's park visit.

Day 16

Tuesday 3rd July

HUANGLONG PARK

Huanglong with its natural travertine pools is indeed a wonder and its associated plants very special. The area has been a park for several years and the last time I was here the number of visitors was fairly modest. However the fame of Huanglong and even more that of nearby Juizhaigou has made it one of the must be seen places for millions of China. An airport has been constructed nearby and today tens of thousands of people visit every day. We saw the botanical highlights such as the *Cypripedium* and *Phaius* near the bottom, and *Meconopsis* at the top. The Bon temple was flooded but the Taoist temple was flourishing. Most of the hordes of visitors return to Juizhaigou or Chuanzhusi at night so leaving our hotel fairly tranquil, and we had dinner at a noodle house next door.

Day 17

Wednesday 4th July

HUANGLONG Dan Yun Xia valley – Huanglong pass.

Today we explored the Dan Yun Xia valley, the densely forested gorge south of Huanglong in the morning. The road is virtually untraveled, so we could walk down it exploring the vegetation and admiring the gorge in peace.

After briefly starting to explore a subsidiary valley that leads away from the road at about 2500m into promising country, we headed back for lunch at Huanglong village. The weather was holding, so leaving Ed and Leah at the hotel, we headed back up to the 4200m pass above. We could park the vehicles and walk freely towards the limestone peaks above, with clear skies allowing us spectacular views over the mountains as we walked. The meadows were fairly well grazed by yaks. Near the rock and scree slopes the plants became abundant with a whole range of *Meconopsis*, *Arenaria* and *Androsace* species. The mountain above was too tempting for me, so I headed up with Gonpo to climb the 4500m peak to get views north towards Juijaigou. On the way we found *Paraqualegia microphylla* and the wonderful white and electric blue scree dwelling *Corydalis trachycarpa*. In the evening we all drove down for a fine repast in Huanglong village.

Day 18

Thursday 5th July

HUANGLONG to SONGPAN via MONIGOU

The weather was glorious in the morning so we stopped again as we drove over Huanglong pass to admire views even better than yesterday. My idea was to have lunch in the little Muslim village of Anhong and head up to Munigou valley for the afternoon. We found out that floods had cut off the road to Munigou, so we drove back to Songpan to try our luck with the new road. This turned out to be fine as the unfinished bridge could be bypassed, and a brand new tunnel had just been finished cutting through the mountain separating Munigou from Songpan. The new tunnel takes you very close to the park however at the park entrance we were met by glum keepers who told us that great floods from the previous days' downpours had swept away boardwalks and the park was therefore closed. We had to content ourselves with a stroll down the road in the sunshine, and we did find some pleasant meadows and stream banks to explore. Passing a Qiang Tibetan village, we attempted a visit to the nearby waterfall, but this too had been closed by the floods. The Min River was indeed in full spate! Our hotel was ten minutes walk from the walls of Songpan and we then met in town where Gonpo found a great eating house.

Day 19

Friday 6th July

SONGPAN to MAOXIAN

In the morning we took in the walled town of Songpan which is well worth exploring. Although touched by tourism it is still a working town of mixed Tibetan and Muslim peoples. While most of us wandered the town I climbed up to the recently restored hill gate 200m above the town, an excellent place to get a feel of the geography, as well as some of the wild flora which includes a plethora of *Pedicularis* species. We met for lunch and headed off down the Min Valley. As we neared Maoxian, stands of *Lilium regale* in full flower started appearing on the steep hillsides above – a most impressive plant, one of Wilson's greatest of prizes. From my last visit I remembered a place quite near the town where access to the plants had been relatively easy. However my memory proved faulty, and I ended up directing our vehicles to some strange looking buildings which turned out to be a reconstructed Qiang village, primed for future tourism. Walking down through this Disney world we were greeted at the bottom by a troupe of musicians and dancing girls practising. Our brand new hotel in Maoxian was splendid and even equipped with computers in every room.

Day 20

Saturday 7th July

MAOXIAN to CHENGDU

We had plenty of time to drive down the Min River around the Chengdu bypass and get to the Panda reserve by early afternoon, having lunch at a workers cafe outside Dujiangyan. There had been a universal cry to make this visit and pandas both Giant and Red were there. Gonpo found a splendid restaurant for our last meal. Kate and Leah went around town with me to get train tickets for tomorrow. Most of us went to a music bar that Gonpo knew for a couple of farewell beers.

Day 21

Sunday 8th July

CHENGDU

Having said our goodbyes to each other and to Gonpo, we made our return journeys home...

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Gonpo at home



Meconopsis punicea Huanglong La

Species List

Plants

CHENGDU to WOLONG (2000m)

Yingxiu Stand of *Lilium sargentiae* buried by landslip / road works (not seen 2012)

1500m

<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> var <i>sinense</i>	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i> var <i>sinense</i>
<i>Larix potanini</i>	<i>Corylopsis sinensis</i>	<i>Akebia trifoliata</i>
<i>Acer campbellii</i>	<i>Acer cappadocicum</i>	<i>Juglans mandshurica</i> syn <i>J. cathayensis</i>
<i>Viburnum henryi</i>		

1800m

<i>Actinidia pilosula</i>	<i>Acer davidii</i>	<i>Euptelea pleiosperma</i>
<i>Cunninghamia lanceolata</i>	<i>Actinidia arguta</i> in flower	

After Wolong

2100m

<i>Hydrangea heteromalla</i>	<i>Cledastris sinensis</i>	<i>Clematis longiloba</i>
<i>Alangium</i> sp (<i>A. chinense</i> ?)	<i>Populus sichuanensis</i> var <i>tibetica</i>	

Yin Chang valley 2300m

<i>Cardiocrinum giganteum</i>	<i>Pterocarya insignis</i>	<i>Phaius delavayi</i>
<i>Pedicularis cotelaeris</i>	<i>Saxifraga rufescens</i>	<i>Betula delavayii</i>
<i>Neillia tibetica</i>	<i>Ilex pernyi</i>	<i>Acer pectinatum</i>
<i>Dentzia longifolia</i>	Several <i>Lonicera</i> spp	<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>
<i>Taxus wallichiana</i> syn <i>T. yunnanensis</i>	<i>Spiraea sargentiana</i>	<i>Astilbe rivularis</i>
<i>Astragalus</i> spp	<i>Gentiana</i> spp (small, bright pink in flower)	<i>Corydalis flexuosa</i>
<i>Saxifrage longipetala</i>	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	<i>Acer stachyphyllum</i>
<i>Acer pectinatum</i>		

WOLONG - PITIAO VALLEY

2800m

<i>Actinidia cf pilosula</i>	<i>Actinidia kolomikta</i>	<i>Tsuga dumosa</i>
<i>Tilia</i> spp (<i>T. japonica</i> / <i>sinense</i> ?)	<i>Salix magnifica</i>	<i>Populus yunnanensis</i>
<i>Acer pectinatum</i> in flower	<i>Acer cappadocicum</i>	<i>Acer stachyophyllum</i>
<i>Philadelphus delavayi</i>	<i>Viburnum vitifolium</i>	<i>Tetracentrum sinensis</i>
<i>Clematis potanini</i>	<i>Corylus chinensis</i>	<i>Rubus tibetanus</i>

Dasheng valley 3000m

<i>Androscae henryii</i>	<i>Paris polyphylla</i>	<i>Aquilegia ecalcarata</i>
<i>Streptopus parviflorus</i>	<i>Phlomis betonicoides</i>	<i>Primula palmate</i>
<i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i>	<i>Quercus aquifolioides</i>	<i>Spiraea sargentiana</i>

Betula albosinensis
Rosa sweginzowii
Rodgersia aesculifolia
Caltha palustris
Arisaema wilsonii
Abies fabri
Rhododendron strigosum aff
Acer stachyphyllum
Viburnum chingii
Ligularia przewalskii
Ophiopogon bodnieri

Euonymus hamiltonianus
Cyanoglossum spp
Smilacina oleracea
Iris chrysographis
Triosteum himalayanum
Rhododendron calophytum
Rhododendron rufum
Malus kansuensis
Abies ernestii
Acer caesium ssp *giraldii*

Berberis verruculosa
Anemone rivularis + double form
Veratrum nigrum
Polygonatum cirrhifolium
Calanthe tricarinata
Lonicera trichoxantha
Rhododendron lutescens
Viburnum betulifolium
Oreorchis patens
Syringa komorowii

3100m

*Acer geraldii**Aquilegia rockii*

WOLONG to RILONG

Balang Shan approaches

3200m

*Paeonia veitchii**Larix potanini**Primula palmata*

3300m

Primula sikkimensis
Veratrum grandiflorum
Berberis wilsonii
Iris goniocarpa
Rhododendron balangsiensis
Spiraea sargentiana

Mandragora caulescens
Polygonatum cirrhifolium
Pleurospermum benthanii
Ligularia cymbelifera
Sorbus scalaris
Rhododendron thymifolium

Veratrum nigrum
Euphorbia griffithii
Gymnadenia conopsea
Cephalanthera damasonium
Spiraea mongolica

3600m

Lilium lophophorum
Omphalogramma aff *viola-grandis*
Fritillaria unibracteata
Clematis montana

Galearis wardii
Primula nutans
Herminium spp
Sorbus scalaris

Cypripedium tibeticum
Lloydia delavayii
Rhododendron balangsiensis

3800m

Meconopsis integrifolia
Acanthocalyx alba
Crematododium potaninii

Meconopsis punicea
Primula sikkimensis
Caltha palustris

Meconopsis quintuplinerva
Rheum palmatum
 Abundant *Pedicularis* spp

4150m

Meconopsis racemosa
 (white stamens, narrow leaves, plain fine bristles)
Primula nutans

Primula chionantha var *sinopurpurea*
Primula russeola

Meconopsis balangensis
 (orange stamens, dense orange bristles)
Primula sikkimensis var *pseudosikkimensis*

<i>Rhodiola spp</i>	<i>Anaphallis nepalensis</i>	<i>Fritillaria sichuanica</i>
<i>Ligularia purdonii</i>	<i>Primula nutans</i>	<i>Saxifraga melanocentra</i>
<i>Rhododendron phaeochrysum</i>	<i>Rhododendron rupicola var chryseum</i>	<i>Rhododendron fastigiatum</i>

Balang Shan Pass 4600m

<i>Rhodiola wallichiana</i>	<i>Pedicularis spp (several)</i>	<i>Corydalis aff elata</i>
<i>Primula dryadifolia</i>	<i>Primula amethystina</i>	<i>Corydalis curviflora</i>
<i>Arenaria sp (A. Lantsangensis?)</i>	<i>Diapesia purpurea</i>	

West of Pass

4400m

<i>Meconopsis punicea</i>	<i>Meconopsis integrifolia</i>	<i>Cremanthodium potanini</i>
<i>Primula sikkimensis</i>	<i>Leontopodium spp</i>	<i>Taraxacum spp</i>
Yellow <i>Corydalis spp</i>		

4200m

<i>Paraqualegia anemonoides</i>	<i>Rhododendron phaeochrysum</i>	<i>Rhododendron rupicola var chryseum</i>
4000m		
<i>Rhododendron cephalanthera</i>	<i>Siberia laevigata</i>	<i>Primula stenocalyx</i>
<i>Larix potaninii</i>	<i>Meconopsis aff pulchella</i>	

RILONG to BAOXING

2900 m after turn off

<i>Rosa sweginzonii aff</i>	<i>Syringa yunnanensis</i>	<i>Thalictrum delavayi</i>
<i>Androsace integra</i>		

3100m (meadow)

<i>Primulka involucrata</i>	<i>Tibetia tongolensis</i>	<i>Poneorchis chusua</i>
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3400m (forest)

<i>Primula palmata</i>	<i>Streptopus parviflorus</i>	<i>Clematis Montana var</i>
<i>Rubus rosifolius</i>		

3600m (scrub/meadow)

<i>Primula sikkimensis</i>	<i>Pinguicula alpine</i>	<i>Veratrum grandiflorum</i>
<i>Anemone demissa (vivid blue)</i>	<i>Pedicularis siphonantha</i>	<i>Corydalis curviflora</i>
<i>Poneorchis chusua</i>	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	<i>Lilium lophophoron</i>
<i>Lloydia delavayi</i>	<i>Polygonatum cirrhifolium</i>	<i>Aletris pauciflora</i>

Jia Jin Shan La 4100m

Meconopsis integrifolia

South of pass 3700m

*Rhododendron galactinum**Primula sillimensis**Corydalis curviflora**Primula muscaroides**Amitostigma* sp (yellow fl)*Rhododendron concinnum**Daphne retusa**Polygonatum hookeri**Clintonia udensis**Trollius ranunculoides**Euphorbia griffithii**Rhododendron nivale**Lloydia ixioliriodes**Maianthemum henryi*

2800m (forest)

Rhododendron decorum

BAOXING to KANGDING

Baoding

Lilium sargentiae

Pengba on Dadu River 1800m

*Eremurus chinensis**Corallodiscus lanuginosus**Phytolacca acinos*

KANGDING – Kandingshan Cuo

3100m meadow

*Iris chrysographes**Primula cockburniana**Triosteum himalayanicum**Pedicularis torta**Trollius pumilus**Geranium* spp*Syringa* spp*Picea linkiangensis* var *balfouriana**Berberis wilsonii**Rosa moyseii**Salvia bulleyana**Phlomis likiangensis**Geranium pylzowianum**Anemone obtusiloba**Corydalis* and *Pedicularis* spp*Aquilegia rockii**Juniperus recurva**Deutzia purpurescens**Quercus aquifolioides**Arisaema elephas**Tibetia yunnanensis**Scutellaria hyperifolia**Anemone demissa**Podophyllum hexandrum**Paeonia veitchii**Arisaema griffithii*

3400m

*Primula sikkimensis**Cardamine macrophylla**Rheum alexandre**Primula violacea**Rhododendron cephalanthum* aff*Sorbus sichuanensis**Daphne retusa**Androsace rigida**Primula involuocrata**Primula flacida**Ligularia cymbulifera**Rhododendron soulei**Trollius pumilus**Ajuga ovalifolia**Rhododendron nivale**Cypripedium tibeticum**Primula cockburniana**Corydalis oxypetala**Aster himalaicus**Betula delavayii**Stellera chaemejasme**Gentiana* spp (blue flower on succulent foliage)*Rhododendron rubiginosum*

3800m

*Rheum alexandre**Meconopsis impedita**Primula secundiflora**Pinguicula montana**Cardamine microzyga**Pedicularis siphonantha**Cassiope pectinata**Astragalus* sp purple*Primula szechuanensis**Fritillaria unibracteata**Primula amethystina*

Kanding Shan Cuo 4050m

<i>Polygonatum bookeri</i>	<i>Incarvillea compacta</i>	<i>Aletris pauciflora</i>
<i>Androsace stenophylla</i>	<i>Rhodiola dumulosa</i>	<i>Amytostigma tibeticum</i>
<i>Meconopsis lancifolia</i>	<i>Meconopsis integrifolia</i>	<i>Oxygraphis glacialis</i>
<i>Cyanoglossum spp</i>	<i>Primula nutans variant</i>	<i>Lloydia delavayii</i>
<i>Ajuga ovatifolia</i>	<i>Rhododendron rupicola</i> vars (purple and yellow fl)	<i>Rhododendron websterianum</i>

KANGDING - MUGU CUO 4000m

<i>Rhododendron cephalanthera</i>	<i>Rhododendron phaeochrysum</i>	<i>Daphne retusa</i>
<i>Sorbus spp - S. Scularis)</i>	<i>Larix potanini</i>	<i>Picea spp</i>
<i>Betula szechuanica</i>	<i>Rheum alexandre</i>	<i>Androsace minor</i>
<i>Pedicularis rupicola</i>	<i>Ajuga ovalifolia</i>	<i>Primula sikkimensis</i>
<i>Primula secundiflora</i>	<i>Primula nutans</i>	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
<i>Primula violacea</i>	<i>Acanthocalyx (Morina) alba</i>	<i>Morina nepalensis</i>
<i>Androsace spinulifera</i>	<i>Lancea tibetica</i>	<i>Lilium lophoporum</i>
<i>Incarvillea compacta</i>	<i>Meconopsis lancifolia</i>	<i>Stellera chaemojasme</i>
<i>Lloydia tibetica</i>	<i>Gentian spp</i> (tiny flowers closing on touch)	

3500m forest & hot pool

<i>Rhododendron bureauvioides</i>	<i>Rhododendron concinnum</i>	<i>Smilacina henryii</i>
<i>Chrysoplenium spp</i> (stunning divided foliage)	<i>Oxalis griffithii</i>	<i>Clintonia udensis</i>
<i>Beesia calthifolia</i>	<i>Maianthemum henryii</i>	<i>Maianthemum tatsiense</i>
<i>Rhododendron watsonii</i>	<i>Rhododendron oreodoxa</i>	

By ticket booth 3000m (2009)

<i>Lilium spp not in flower</i>	<i>Arisaema consanguineum type</i>	<i>Populus albus</i>
<i>Deutzia longifolia</i>	<i>Hydrangea heteromalla</i>	<i>Oreorchis spp</i>

KANGDING to DANBA

New Mugu Cuo to Tagong Road

4000m

<i>Iris goniocarpa</i>	<i>Lagotis sp</i>	<i>Rheum alexandre</i>
<i>Soroaseris hookeriana</i>	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	<i>Pedicularis siphonantha</i>
<i>Androsace minor</i>	<i>Aster himalaicus</i>	<i>Potentilla saundersoniana</i>

Hong Hai

<i>Pediculari oederi</i>	<i>Lilium lophoporum</i>
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New Zheduo pass

<i>Pedicularis variegata</i>	<i>Anemone demissa</i> (vivid blue)	<i>Astragalus</i> (blue sp)
<i>Primula amethystina</i>	<i>Arenaria kansuensis</i>	<i>Thermopsis alpine</i>
<i>Gentiana sp</i> (electric blue with spots)	<i>Corydalis hemidicentra</i>	<i>Cremanthodium decaisne</i>

Anemone trullifolia

Western side of pass near new airport

<i>Silene davidii</i>	<i>Anemone trullifolia</i> red form	<i>Nardostachys grandiflorum</i>
<i>Androsace spinulifera</i>	<i>Lloydia tibetica</i>	<i>Hedysarum sikkimense</i>
<i>Incarvillea compacta</i>	<i>Acanthocalyx alba</i>	<i>Aster himaliacus</i>
<i>Lilium lophophorum</i>	<i>Geranium delavayii</i>	<i>Ligularia dictyoneura</i>
<i>Rheum alexandre</i>	<i>Primula sikkimensis</i>	<i>Meconopsis integrifolia</i>
<i>Gentiana</i> sp blue + yellow forms together with frog	<i>Iris gonicarpa</i>	<i>Caltha palustris</i>

Pass above Bamei

<i>Lonicera chaetocarpa</i>	<i>Potentilla glabra</i>	<i>Paeonia veitchii</i>
<i>Lancea tibetica</i>	<i>Clematis alkeboides</i>	<i>Androsace spinulifera</i>
<i>Spiraea tibetica</i>		

View of Yala Shan

<i>Abies squamata</i>	<i>Philadelphus sub-canus</i>
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Descent to Danba

3300m

<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>	<i>Prunus serrula</i>	<i>Betula albosinensis</i>
<i>Rhododendron vernicosum</i>	<i>Desmodium spicatum</i>	<i>Notholirion bulbiferum</i>
<i>Thalictrum delavayi</i>	<i>Sedum</i> spp (bright red)	<i>Aquilegia</i> spp
<i>Saxifraga longipetala</i>	<i>Arisaema consanguineum</i> type	

DANBA

Near town

<i>Incarvillea arguta</i>	<i>Cerastostigma minus</i>	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>
<i>Anemone tomentosa</i>	<i>Campylotropis polyantha</i>	<i>Bauhinia brachycarpa</i>

SACHUNG HO Valley (starting 2900m on Bamei road)

<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	<i>Incarvillea arguta</i>	<i>Phytolacca polyandra</i>
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	<i>Zanthoxylum piperatum</i>	<i>Anemone hupahensis</i>
<i>Aralia chinensis</i>	<i>Ostrya japonica</i> in seed	<i>Carpinus henryana</i>
<i>Ulmus parviflora</i>	<i>Acer davidii</i> in fruit	<i>Taxus wallichiana</i> var <i>yunnanensis</i>
<i>Fraxinus platypoda</i>	<i>Buddleia crispa</i>	<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>
<i>Tetrapanax papyrifer</i>	<i>Cotoneaster franchetii</i>	<i>Populus davidii</i>
<i>Morus albus</i>	<i>Tetradium danielli</i>	<i>Carpinus turczaninowii</i>
<i>Betula</i> spp new un-id large <i>Corylus</i> like leaves	<i>Betula utilis</i> ssp <i>utilis</i>	<i>Betula szechuanica</i>
<i>Acer davidii</i>	<i>Acer cappadocicum</i> ssp <i>sinum</i>	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
<i>Cornus macrophylla</i>	<i>Tsuga chinensis</i> or <i>T. Dumosa</i>	<i>Abies ernestii</i>
<i>Lilium duchartrei</i>	<i>Lilium davidii</i>	<i>Coraliodiscus flabellatus</i>

<i>Cremanthodium brunneopilosum</i>	<i>Paeonia veitchii</i>	<i>Gentianopsis paludosa</i>
<i>Pedicularis kansuensis</i>	<i>Pedicularis torta</i>	<i>Pedicularis semitorta</i>
<i>Pedicularis davidii</i>	<i>Pedicularis longiflora</i>	<i>Ajuga lupulina</i>
<i>Anisodus tanguticus</i>	<i>Hedysarum sikkimense</i>	<i>Anemone pratii</i>

3200m

<i>Cremanthodium brunneopilosum</i> abundant	<i>Salix/Spiraea</i> dominate hillsides	<i>Primula nutans</i>
<i>Meconopsis punicea</i>		

Chazhenliangzi Pass 3900m (Yangtse/Yellow river watershed)

<i>Primula tangutica</i>	<i>Ajuga ovalifolia</i>	<i>Primula szechuanica</i>
<i>Corydalis curviflora</i>	<i>Sibiraea angustata</i>	<i>Fritillaria unibractetata</i>
<i>Cremanthodium decaisne</i>	<i>Rhododendron nivale</i>	<i>Meconopsis punicea</i>
<i>Pyrethrum tatsiense</i>		

Grasslands -Hongyuan & Waqie to Tangkor 3600m

<i>Clematis akedoides</i>	<i>Ligularia liatroides</i>	<i>Stellera chaemejasme</i> pink form
<i>Pedicularis sp white</i>	<i>Ajuga ovalifolia</i>	<i>Acanthocalyx alba</i>
<i>Iris sichuanensis</i>	<i>Lonicera spp</i>	<i>Pedicularis longiflora</i>
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	<i>Hedysarum sikkimense</i>	<i>Vicia unijuga</i>
<i>Rosa ormiensis</i>	<i>Ajuga lupulina</i>	<i>Scutellaria hypericifolia</i>
<i>Pyrethrum tatsiense</i>	<i>Ligularia cymbulifera</i>	<i>Saxifraga tangutica</i>
<i>Corydalis rheinbabeniana</i>	<i>Corydalis curviflora</i>	<i>Meconopsis blue spp</i>
<i>Primula tangutica</i>	<i>Primula orbicularis</i>	

TANGKOR to QUIJI

Grasslands around Tangkor and Yellow River

<i>Iris farreri</i>	<i>Stellera chaemejasme</i>	<i>Tibetia himalaica</i>
<i>Spiraea canescens</i>	<i>Pedicularis oederi</i>	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>
<i>Anaphallis triplinervis</i>	<i>Acanthocalyx chinensis</i>	<i>Ligularia liatroides</i>
<i>Ajuga lupulina</i>	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	<i>Pedicularis kansuensis</i>
<i>Hermium monarchis</i>	<i>Pedicularis tricolor</i>	<i>Scutellaria amoena</i>

Road to Quiji leaving grasslands plateau 3100m forest

<i>Pedicularis torta</i>	<i>Pedicularis kansuensis</i>	<i>Ligularia przewalskii</i>
<i>Podophyllum hexandrum</i>	<i>Polemonium chinense</i>	<i>Paeonia veitchii</i>
<i>Lonicera pelulata</i>	<i>Berberis dictoneura</i>	<i>Triosteum pinnatifolium</i>

QUIJI TO HAUNLONG via Goli La

Quiji 2700m

<i>Pedicularis semitorta</i>	<i>Aconitum gymnandrum</i>	<i>Thalictrum macrorhynchum</i>
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Goli La

3400 to pass 4000m

<i>Meconopsis quintuplinerva</i>	<i>Meconopsis racemosum</i>	<i>Meconopsis henrici</i>
<i>Meconopsis punicea</i>	<i>Meconopsis integrifolia</i>	<i>Corydalis curviflora</i>
<i>Daphne tangutica</i>	<i>Lonicera pelulata</i>	<i>Saxifraga tangutica</i>
<i>Fritillaria sichuanica</i>	<i>Primula tangutica</i>	<i>Trollius farreri</i>
<i>Lloydia ixioliriodes</i>	<i>Fritillaria sichuanica</i>	<i>Arenaria sp</i> (cushion)
<i>Corydalis trachycarpa</i>	<i>Erysium roseum</i>	<i>Primula orbicularis</i>
<i>Pedicularis densispica</i>	<i>Fritillaria dajiensis</i>	<i>Lloydia tibetica</i>
<i>Cremanthodium decaisnei</i>	<i>Primula polyneura</i>	

JUIZHAIGOU (2009)

Attempt at Dalu road

<i>Sorbaria tomentosa</i>	<i>Acer stachyophyllum</i>	<i>Lonicera sp</i> large yellow fl
<i>Euonymus spp</i> in flower	<i>Viburnum cotinifolium</i> (pro. another species!)	<i>Anemone hupabensis</i>
<i>Cornus hemsleyi</i>	<i>Abies ernestii</i>	<i>Picea and abies spp</i>
<i>Corylus aff</i>	<i>Betula albochinensis</i>	

Juizhaigou park - Top left lake

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

Bamboo Lake

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

JUIZHAIGOU to HUANGLONG (2009)

<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	<i>Betula albo-sinensis</i>	<i>Betula szechuanica</i>
<i>Ligularia przewalskii</i>	<i>Leucanthemum maximum</i>	<i>Picea/ betula forest</i>

3250m Side Road

<i>Iris sichuanensis</i>	<i>Clematis orientalis</i>	<i>Pedicularis longifolia</i>
<i>Parnassia nubicola</i>	<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>	<i>Triosteum spp</i> (cut foliage)
<i>Primula nutans</i>	<i>Primula chionantha var sinopurpureum</i>	<i>Aquilegia rockii</i>
<i>Anemone demissa</i>	<i>Aster himalaicum</i>	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>
<i>Primula tangutica</i>		

Up to Gonganhen Pass 3700m

Primula orbicularis
Viola lutea
Primula tangutica

Rhododendron bureauioides
Caragana sp
Primula palmata

Meconopsis punicea
Caltha palustris
Ligularia przewalskii

HUANLONG PARK 3200-3400m

Primula palmata
Rosa moyseii
Viola biflora
Lonicera rupicola
Cypripedium tibeticum
Oreorchis erythrochrysa
Aquilegia ecalcarata
Lonicera kansuensis
Rhododendron oreodoxa
Allium sp (pair of large ovate leaves, white fl)
Rhododendron nivale

Beesia calthifolia
Ligularia przewalskii
Acanthopanax spp
Phaius delavayi
Cypripedium calcicola
Primula muscarioides
Rhododendron bureauioides
Rhododendron wilsonii
Rhododendron cephalathera
Polygonatum cirrhifolium

Maianthemum henryii
Galium odoratum
Polemonium caeruleum
Cypripedium flavum
Galearis diantha
Maianthemum tatsiense
Pyrola rotundifolia
Rhododendron rufum
Rosa ormiensis
Pleurospermum spp

Bonpo shrine and above top lake

Meconopsis quintuplinerva
Fritillaria unibractata
Rheum palmatum

Meconopsis x *cookei*
Meconopsis punicea
Primula deflexa

Primula orbicularis
Chrysoplenium spp (near *C. davidi*)
Pinguicula alpina

Cable car down

Primula orbicularis
Juniperus chinensis (ancient trees)
Rhododendron watsonii

Rhododendron rufum
Prunus pilosiuscula

Abies fabri var *faxonium*
Rhododendron vernicosum

HUANGLONG - DAN YUN GORGE and HUANGLONG PASS

Dan Yun Gorge

Ligularia przewalskii
Hydrangea heteromalla
Acer caesium spp *giraldii*
Cornus macrophylla
Clematis longiloba

Clematis akebioides
Acer pectinatum
Larix potanini
Philadelphus sp
Deutzia longifolia

Buddleja colvilei
Acer cayudatum
Clematoclebra actinidioides
Lilium davidii
Clematis montana (var *Wilsonii*?) huge flowers

2650m

Eupetelia pleiosperma
Magnolia wilsonii
Ilex pernyi
Cornus macrophylla
Campanula spp
Hydrangea xanthoneura

Cryptomeria japonica
Anemone hupabensis
Actinidia arguta in fruit
Rubus tibetanus
Celastrus spp
Ligularia przewalskii

Aralia chinensis
Swida (*Cornus*) *contraversa*
Cledastris sinensis
Lilium duchartrei
Schisandra sphenanthera
Anemone hupabensis

Berberia yunnanensis
Viburnum betulifolium

Akebia spp
Fraxinus spp

Stachyurus chinensis in fruit
Lindera triloba

2400m

Corylopsis sinensis
Rhododendron augustinii
Viburnum henryi
Juglans mandshurica syn *J. cathayensis*
Alnus cremastogyne
Skimmia revisianum
Rodgersia aesculifolia
Rhododendron augustinii

Buddleia cochilei
Coreraria sinica
Hydrangea involucrate
Epipactis mairei
Coryllus ferox in fruit
Abelia spp
Daphniphyllum spp
Aristolochia spp

Calanthe davidii
Mabonia japonica
Aruncus dioicus
Carpinus turczanowii
Lindera obtusiloba (L. *Triloba* is Japanese)
Phlomis spp
Cornus contraversa

At bottom of valley 2100m

Magnolia officinalis
Holboellia spp

Salix magnifica

Delphinium elata

Huang long Pass 4000m +

Incarvillea compacta
Primula amethystina
Trollius ranunculoides
Caragana jubata
Corydalis curviflora
Meconopsis punicea
Rhododendron przewalskii
Galearis roborowskii
Trollius farreri
Lloydia delavayii
Megacarpa delavayi

Primula latisecta
Androsace brachystegia
Pedicularis oederi
Saxifraga lumpuensis
Androsace selago
Androsace stenophylla
Rhododendron primuliferum
Corydalis melanochlora
Arenaria kansuensis
Meconopsis integrifolia

Meconopsis henrici
Primula tangutica
Primula denticulatea (v small)
Lloydia ixioliriodes
Meconopsis racemosa
Cassiope selaginoides
Rhododendron nivale
Rhododendron przewalskii
Caragana jubata
Pinguicula alpina

Limestone peak above pass 4500m

Paraqualegia microphylla

Corydalis trachycarpa

Galearis diantha

MONI GOU (mostly 2009)

Outside park

Clematis rehderiana
Delphinium sp
Pedicularis davidii
Lonicera kansuensis
Parnassia nubicola
Rosa sericea
Lancea tibetica
Galearis roborowskii

Clematis orientalis
Syringa yunnanensis
Parnassia delavayi In park
Lonicera rupicola
Primula palmata
Primula nutans
Ajuga ovatifolia
Plantanthera fuscescens

Dianthus sp
Aconitum sp
Primula tangutica
Pyrola rotundifolia
Astilbe rivularis
Aster soulei
Clintonia udensis
Ligularia przewalskii

*Cardamine macrophylla**Meconopsis punicea**Primula secundiflora*

SONGPAN/MAOXIAN

Sonpan restored gated 200m above town

*Pedicularis rupicola**Pedicularis kansuensis**Pedicularis cranulophya**Pedicularis semitorta**Androsace integra**Clematis montana*

Min Valley

*Incarvillea sinensis**Rosa setipoda**Rosa soulieana*

Near Maoxian 2200m

Lilium regale