

China (Yunnan) - A Plant-hunter's Paradise

Naturetrek Tour Report

26 May - 12 June 2012



Adonis davidii Tien Chi



Paraquilegia microphylla Xe Ka Shan



Primula amethystina Tien Chi



Rhododendron wardii Tien Chi

Report and images compiled by John Shipton



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Summary:

As I knew from past trips, the plants and country were spectacular. The plants were wonderful despite the horrendous drought being experienced this spring/summer in Western Yunnan. For a third year in succession the springs rains failed to come and woodlands and pastures below 3000m were often desiccated. Despite this we came across most of the herbaceous highlights from before and again discovered many new things. We had a wealth of talent and knowledge in the group everyone contributed enormously with observations and knowledge. This year we had the benefit of the Kew publication of *Flowers of Western China* from which we could key in many plants I had missed in previous years. The settled dry weather although it meant bad news for the flora meant glorious views particularly on high weather. The exception was our days on the Zhongdian Plateau where we spent much of the time in wet conditions. The country of NW Yunnan can't fail to impress, with some of the world's biggest rivers divided by great ranges and plateaus. Our guide was the incomparable Gonpo from the nomadic region of Amdo NE Tibet. Self educated to an astonishing degree, not only did he makes sure everything ran smoothly but he was the best companion we could have wanted. Our drivers were also great companions as usual and even more importantly brilliant drivers on the astonishing roads of NW Yunnan. They were; the great Nongbu from Geza with whom I had travelled numerous times, the unlimitedly resourceful Dashi from Zhongdian who had driven on many of my journeys, a new introduction to the team - young Wu Jiao, and of course Zanzu from Zhongdian.

Day 1

Saturday 26th May

I arrived in Kunming via Beijing and met Gonpo and Peter who had travelled by train from Emei Shan.

Day 2

Sunday 27th May

KUNMING

While Peter walked in the western hills, Gonpo and I met the main party at Kunming airport, most having come from the UK via Hong Kong, whilst Kok came an hour later from Amsterdam via the unlikely Hangzhou. We all enjoyed a dinner near the Green Lake.

Day 3

Monday 28th May

LIJIANG Yuhu

An early flight to Lijiang doesn't allow much time for jet lag recovery but at least we're quickly out of the big city. There's no accommodation this year in Yuhu so we dropped the bags in the hotel in the middle of Lijiang and had a brunch before heading out to the usual meadows outside Yuhu, this time using our three taxis. To my dismay the effects of drought were all too evident. What in previous years had been a paradise of meadow perennials and flowering shrubs on first sight had become not far off desert! Despite this everyone set to and we actually amassed a lot of plant detail, finding more things in flower, going up the shrub covered slopes. The views back down the plateau to Lijiang were superb.

Day 4

Tuesday 29th May

LIJIANG Wan Hai and Lijiang Botanical Garden

We were meeting our boys on the other side of the Yangtse so with our three taxis we drove up to Wan Hai with the aim of seeking out the Lijiang Botanic Garden. This is a reserve set up by Kunming University. Land around Yulong Xue Shan was taken over and all the plants within its boundaries were listed and we came armed with the list given to me by Mr Wei Bang Sun the director of the Kunming Botanic Garden. At the pass above Wan Hai Valley at 3100m we made our first stop en route to explore a moist meadow and our first really showy displays of Yunnan highland flora, featuring here *Primula beesiana* the pink candelabra now classed as ssp of *P. bulleyana*. We then followed a (for me) new road which led us to a reservoir and the gates of the garden. Up some steps we were met by some forbidding staff but on mentioning Mr Sun a mobile call allowed us to climb up into the woodland of the reserve. The drought had taken its toll but we found enough to absorb us - fabulous lichen for example in which subject Kok was good enough to impart huge amounts of information. Around the reservoir also proved fruitful. In the evening we wended our way back to Lijiang picking up plants on the way and absorbing the views over the plateau.

Gonpo then took us to a restaurant in the new town. It turned out to be a big surprise for me as it was the newly opened place just staterd by Jinchuan and his wife. Jinchuan, a Lijiang boy, had driven on several of my earlier tours and it was wonderful to meet him again.

Day 5

Wednesday 30th May

LIJIANG to DAJU

We headed north with our three taxis around the eastern flank of Yulong Xue Shan. Again we saw the effects of drought. As we climbed up to 3000m again where there should have been sheets of Roscoe there was very little in flower although we eventually found some stands and a *Primula forrestii* above the dried out limestone gorge, spectacular on previous trips. It was a similar story over the pass made worse by the now fully developed Disney World theme park which has destroyed previously botanically wonderful meadows. We found enough to keep us happy however. We passed the false tufa ponds and arrived at my prime *Primula bulleyana* spot. Alas a large machine had excavated what used to be a sheet of *P. bulleyana* exhibiting a range of spectacular variety. Although the *Callanthe* had also disappeared the *Primula* was still hanging on further up and down the hill. The *Cornus capitata* often dotting the forest below was still in full flower as usual.

We stopped for lunch in a meadow by a still operating cable car I had used in 2010. On this occasion we stopped for Peter's desire to examine Chinese Hemlock *Tsuga chinensis*. After lunch our next stop was at the final pass before the 1500m descent to the Yangtse at Daju to admire a spectacular *Dipelta yunnanensis* in full bloom

Time pressed as our taxi drivers needed to drop us at Daju and drive back to Lijiang. However we had time still to make some brilliant stops; one in a meadow full of the yellow *Iris forestii*, much as it had been years before. Clear weather allowed great views too down to the great meanders of the river in the Daju plain. Arriving in the village we arrived at our charming lodgings, with its quiet and with gorgeous view across to Haba and up towards Tiger Leaping Gorge.

Day 6

Thursday 31st May

DAJU to ZHONGDIAN

We strolled out after breakfast along the limestone rocks looking down on the brown torrent of the Yangtse. As we started down we were met by a fabulous Bauhinia in full flower. Although *B. brachycarpa*, a rather insignificant shrub had always been there, I couldn't work out the identity of this particular wonder. The boys Nongbu, Dashi and Wu Jiao managed to drive their vehicles down the other side of the river and soon the ferry man got going and we crossed the mighty river and set off with our three vehicles north towards "Shangrila". As we skirted round Haba Mountain we made several plant stops of course. The forest floor was distressingly dry, the usual *Hemerocallis* had completely disappeared by a small Yi village, but there was plenty to absorb us at various points. An *Albizzia julibrissia* stop for example was terrific before we stopped for lunch at Bai Shwei Tai where *Itea yunnanensis* still hangs on. Climbing up through increasingly temperate forest we made significant stops for *Androscae rigida* at 3500m, *Tilia yunnanensis* at 3100m before Jiu Long, and finally on to the pass at 3600m that leads onto the Zhongdian Plateau. Here we made our first attempts at disentangling the plethora of small leaved highland *Rhododendron* species. Rolling into our hostelry in Shangrila late in the evening we huddled around a fire after dinner.

Day 7

Friday 1st June

ZHONGDIAN Tien Chi

Despite the drought in other parts of Yunnan, the Zhongdian Plateau weather was different – a typical British summer fare with rain and showers. On our first day here we had enough clear spells to keep us going. The boys picked us up in the morning and we headed for Tien Chi south of town. Taking the new road south we turned west at Xiao Zhongdian to a track that climbs 500m to the holy lake. Drought was not a problem here, the meadows and track sides were full of spectacular displays of various *Primulas* including the ubiquitous *P. secundiflora* and *P. sikkimensis*. A valley of *Adonis davidii* was my favourite, and other big guns were there as usual such as *Meconopsis integrifolia*. This was by a transhumant village, and as heavy rain started the amused inhabitants came to watch us getting excited. This was perfect timing as the rain meant we could ask them for shelter. One of the families vacated their place for us and we gathered round the fire and had lunch. Just above was the massive grove of *Rhodendron wardii* just coming into flower - this was indeed spectacular. Friendly Tibetan nomadic people, *Meconopsis* and *R. wardii* at its best, the world didn't seem to hold many more possibilities!

Eventually we arrived at Tien Chi. We had plenty of time to explore the lake which revealed its *Lilium soulei* several new Primulas and other delights. The return journey allowed us to take in missed Iris, *Cypripedium guttatum* and much else.

Day 8

Saturday 2nd June

ZHONGDIAN Tien Bao Shan

We headed south again and turned east off the road towards Tien Bao Shan. Peter and Kok were happy enough to see *Daphne calcicola* but the moist meadows produced more and more before the stunning display of the white *Primula chionantha* in sheets. We attempted an exploration of the forest track further up the valley but settled for the usual lunch stop facing the spectacular limestone massif of Tien Bao Shan. After lunch we headed up the valley. Peter and Kok were determined to reach the screes below the mountain and the rest of us followed at various rates. Some of us were entertained by a lady in her summer migrant house in the paradisiacal valley meadow. Various plant discoveries were made during the afternoon. Rob found *Meconopsis forrestii* a blue Meconopsis. Pete and Kok found scree alpinines such as *Corydalis benecinta* while in the woods below we found Omphalogramma and Androsace and Fritillaria sp. We then returned to Zhongdian.

Day 9

Sunday 3rd June

ZHONGDIAN Magic Valley – Botanic Garden Napha Hai

The new road around Napha Hai took away many of the plant highlights from previous years but there was still plenty of interest. We walked up the valley cut through a little limestone gorge I had discovered years ago. It was a little too early for the stacks of Pedicularis and Primula sp and the *Meconopsis prattii* had only just started, but it was still full of interest. The weather clearing we had lunch inside what is now the “botanic garden”. Originally this hill off the main road was indeed a botanical paradise, but management as a garden has reduced the areas botanic wonders, ironically enough! In fact we discovered that by lack of grazing a meadow had lost all its splendour and the most stunning Anemone by not being grazed. Again it is still a magical area and we came across highlights such as a fine stand of *Cypripedium flavum*. Outside the garden we cruised round Napha Hai on the new road. Pete and Kok were overjoyed by the bright red *Androsace bulleyana*. Past Napha village the last protected bank yielded sheets of *Cypripedium yunnanense* and *Incarvillea zhongdianensis* in profusion, and a brief return down the road offered *Primula heucherifolia*. We enjoyed dinner back in town.

Day 10

Monday 4th June

ZHONGDIAN to LANGDU via Geza

We set off for our loop into southern Sichuan. Heading north we left the Zhongdian Plateau and dropped down to Nongbu's village of Geza. Although just off the plateau Geza has the same huge Tibetan houses fronted with great pillars of pine trunks and beautiful paintings and carvings. As we came into the village we helped rescue a truck stuck off the road and then met Shuinion who I've known for years when he worked with us as a cook. We stopped off for tea at Nongbu's family houses, and so everyone had a chance to see inside the fabulous Gyalthag Tibetan homes.

A new road took us east (avoiding a mine which is threatening to cause water pollution in the Geza community), and a stop at 3650m gets us sheets of *Primula involucreata*, and lots of woodland species with *Primula deflexa* and *Meconopsis integrifolia* further along. Higher up, by the junction with the mine road, it was too early for the meadow of *Lilium lophophoron*, but the Veratrilla was coming up and the forest was dotted with *Incarvillea*. I was gratified to find the road as spectacular as ever and with fairly clear weather, views are brilliant across wild untouched country.

We stopped for lunch at 4200m at one of several passes, and stepped out onto a carpet of *Primula amethystina*. As the boys got lunch organised we explored the granite rocks and adjacent woodland finding several *Primula* sp and other alpine delights. After lunch we passed a road here decorated with *Diapensia purpurea*. Hongshan La at 4600m is a rocky ridge and we crossed it in thick mist but the cloud cleared as we went down the other side. At 4300m we made a stop in what can only be described as a paradise garden - at least three *Rhododendron* sp in full flower covered with many species of lichen and carpeted underneath with *Androsace* and *Primula*, and all overlooking a pristine forested valley... The Langdu cheese factory was just below us and provided wonderful accommodation. Set up with the help of an American NGO Langdu is a community industry that also provides rooms and food, and the people are extremely welcoming.

Day 11

Tuesday 5th June

LANGDU to RIWA

We set off down the Langdu Valley, making stops on the way, the intention being to sample various environments as we dropped to around 2500m below Langdu village. Here we crossed into Sichuan and travelled up another tributary, stopping for lunch at Ka Si, a Tibetan village on the road before the loop over a ridge to Riwa and Yading. Pete and Kok were champing at the bit to get higher but a mechanical problem with one of the vehicles held us back. But we climbed the ridge to Udzu La and reached there mid afternoon. Although the drought had taken its toll, the flora held enough interest and views were excellent. We stayed in a hotel in Riwa.

Day 12

Wednesday 6th June

RIWA Yading Park

Yading Mountain was spectacular in the clear weather. From Riwa we spent the day in the recently created park. Xianrizig was fully visible all day against a clear blue sky, as was the Matterhorn-like Xiandorji at the head of the valley. We set off from Yading village with not too many other tourists, as thankfully the season for them hadn't really got going. Peter and Kok headed up the valley towards Xiandorji and the rest of us went towards the lake that nestles under Xianrizig. After lunch by the lake where there was also a large group of pilgrims, I climbed up a few hundred metres to the glacier and its terminal lake below Xianrizig and we split up to explore the country and its flora.

Day 13

Thursday 7th June

RIWA to DAOCHENG

Driving north from Riwa we approached the great Tibetan grasslands by following the Yangtse tributary climbing inexorably until we reached the open treeless pass of Bowa La.

We made a variety of stops to explore the open pastures and glorious country. We explored the alpine pastures of the pass, still full of botanical interest despite the drought conditions compounded by the inexorable yak grazing. Coming down the other side of the pass we stopped to photograph the Za Wu Monastery, perched on the mountain side opposite. Finding a meadow below the monastery we had lunch and explored the valley below the monastery with various *Rhododendrons* in flower. After lunch we climbed up to the gompa. It seemed deserted but we found two monks to show us inside. In the evening we drove into Daocheng which still holds its strong Tibetan feel despite the modern Chinese centre.

Day 14

Friday 8th June

DAOCHENG to XIANCHENG via Sangdui (Sumdo) and Haizi plateau

Because of flight bookings, and the desire to take in the Xe Ka cable car later on, Gonpo and I reprogrammed the trip so that we moved on from Daocheng and took in the Haizi Plateau on the way to Xiancheng. It actually worked well as we had plenty of time for the plateau, and Emin Shan La above Sangdui.

Our first stop was just passed the Sangdui Monastery in the river valley flowing down from Haizi. In the past there had been forests of *Rheum alexandre* but the dry season seemed to have held back flowering. However there was plenty to absorb us along the banks of the river. Climbing onto the granite plateau of Haizi we were met by spectacular views across the bouldered landscape and here the *Rheum* was in flower along with other delights, *Fritillaria*, *Incarvillea*, *Primula walshii* and even *Meconopsis racemosa*. After a visit to the monastery which is Kagyupa, Black Hat sect, we had a great lunch in the roadside inn at Sangdui junction. In the afternoon we drove up to the 4600 Emir Shan La with a couple of very fruitful stops on the way, including *Themopsis alpina* and *Lloydia oxycarpa* and on the main pass itself we had *Soraseris hirsuta* and *Solms-laubachia retrotilosa* amongst our discoveries. It is a spectacular drive down from the pass, through gorges and down another Yangtse tributary and we arrived in the surprisingly modern outpost, considering the remote location of Xiancheng.

Day 15

Saturday 9th June

XIANCHENG to WENGSHUI via Da Xue Shan La

The state of the flora over Da Xue Shan and the first false pass at 3900m above Wengshui had a desiccated woodland floor, mollified however by fine views and lots of fragrant *Rhododendron davidsonianum* in flower. From here the road contours round to Da Xue Shan La and clear skies gave us the best views of the limestone massif I had ever seen! The *Androscae rigida* was missing on this trip however. We then we crossed back into Yunnan. At the last valley before the pass we stopped for lunch which turned out to be a floral paradise - several different *Primulas*, *Corydalis* and seas of *Meconopsis integrifolia*. After a floral feast here we stopped at the pass, and at various speeds explored it... Peter and Kok disappeared along the ridge to come back with sightings of *Saussurea* and *Paraqualegia*, while the rest of us clambered over the little peak or went further along the ridge finding *Diapensia*, *Cassiope*, and *Fritillaria* but no blue *Meconopsis* on this occasion although we did find some probable *M. racemosa* rosettes. Having gathered again we came down the north side of the pass and stopped to scramble through forests of *Rhododendron oreotrephes* which I had taken as *R. yunnanense* on previous tours, mixed with *R. wardii*, again in flower. We arrived at Wengshui and our lodgings.

Day 16

Sunday 10th June

WENGSHUI to ZHONGDIAN Birong Gorge (3000m)

We took the morning to wander up the spectacular limestone gorge which ends right by our lodge. There is tons of botanical interest here and we added considerably to our list. The only people frequenting the gorge, once set up as a tourist destination, was a family taking livestock up to the village above. After lunch we drove over Xiao Xue Shan with stops to take in the spectacular views. We made the descent and then ascent up towards Geza again stopping near Wu Shan for a good stand of *Paeonia delavayi* with both red and yellow flowers. Past Geza we remerged on the Zhongdian Plateau and at the spot where I had known *Nomocharis aperta* in previous years we made a stop for our last chance of seeing it this year. There was none apparent initially but then cries of delight from various parts of the wood signalled its discovery. Arriving back in Zhongdian we felt we deserved a hotpot in the restaurant opposite the lodging.

Day 17

Monday 11th June

ZHONGDIAN Xe Ka and return to Lijiang

Loading some of our bags into the vehicles we drove across the plateau to the cable car. The weather was clear so the views were wonderful. There weren't vast numbers on the top and it was still simple enough to hop across the barriers and climb the limestone peak itself. In doing so we found our *Paraqualegia*, along with other alpine gems such as *Solms-laubachia zhongdianensis* and *Saussurea medusa* and, my favourite, the spectacularly unspectacular *Thalictrum alpinum*. When it was time for most of us to descend we collected by the cable car for group photos and said our farewells to Peter and Kok who were staying on for more plant discoveries. The rest of us went down for lunch in a simple place in town and drove in two vehicles to Lijiang. After stopping in a field covered in *Incarvillea* on the plateau south of town, we made a couple of further stops on the way, one to look towards Tiger Leaping Gorge, which has now been submerged into a tourist theme park, and again at a spot by the Great Bend near Shigu. This stay in Lijiang we found a quiet lodging in the Lijiang satellite village of Su Ke.

Day 18

Tuesday 12th June

LIJIANG to KUNMING

A crack of dawn start was taken to the airport for flights to Kunming, and the start of the journey home...

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Species List

Plants

Yuhu

<i>Paris polyphlla</i>	<i>Oxyria sinensis</i>
<i>Erigeron multiradiatus</i>	<i>Arisaema consanguineum</i>
<i>Senecio spp</i>	<i>Gagea spp</i>
<i>Hypericum forestii</i>	<i>Ophipogon intermedius</i>
<i>Stellera chaemaejasme</i>	<i>Polygonatum pratii</i>
<i>Anemone spp</i>	<i>Leontopodium spp</i>
<i>Aster yunnanensis</i>	<i>Clematis montana</i>
<i>Zanthoxylum piperitum</i>	<i>Caragana franchetiana</i>
<i>Clerodendrum bungei</i>	<i>Pyracantha crenulata</i>
<i>Prinsepia utilis</i>	<i>Rosa sericea</i>
<i>Rubus tricolour</i>	<i>Picea likiangensis</i>
<i>Viburnum nervosum</i>	<i>Jasminum officinale</i>
<i>Jasminum humile</i>	<i>Jasminum beesianum</i>
<i>Elaeagnus spp</i>	<i>Cotoneaster sterniana</i>
<i>Lyonia ovalifolia</i>	<i>Spiraea himalayica</i>
<i>Catalpa spp</i>	<i>Acer capadocica</i>
<i>Roscoea tibetica</i>	<i>Rhododendron decorum</i>
<i>Coryllus ferox</i>	<i>Leptodermis pilosa</i>
<i>Piptanthus tormentosus</i>	<i>Corallo-discus flabellatus</i>
<i>Cyananbchum auriculatum</i>	<i>Ligustrum indicum</i>
<i>Theropogon pallidus</i>	<i>Pink fl Primula on cliff, 1 o 2 fl per rosette pink with yellow eye</i>
<i>Selaginella spp (Clubmoss)</i>	<i>Roscoe humeana</i>
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	<i>Habenaria glaucifolia</i>
<i>Juglans cathayensis</i>	<i>Juglans regia</i>
<i>Hypericum choisianum</i>	<i>Ajuga bracteosa</i>
<i>Pinus armandii</i>	<i>Arisaema taliense</i>
<i>Pinus armandii</i>	<i>Pinus yunnanense</i>
<i>Picea likiangensis</i>	<i>Terris cetica (fernspp)</i>

Wen Hai - Lijiang Botanic Garden

<i>Abies georgii</i>	<i>Pinus yuannensis</i>
<i>Rhododendron racemosum</i>	<i>Quercus aquifolioides</i>
<i>Thermopsis smithiana</i>	<i>Rubus thibetanus</i>
<i>Neilia gracilis</i>	<i>Callianthemum pimpinelloides</i>
<i>Sanguisorba filiformis</i>	<i>Euphorbia jolkini</i>
<i>Acanthocalyx delavayi</i> 9 <i>syn Morina nepalensis</i>	<i>Primula bulleyana ssp. beesiana</i>
<i>Primula poisonii</i>	<i>Maianthemum henryi</i>

Yuhu to Daju

Dong Bu Gu Valley

*Roscoea canteloides**Roscoe humeana**Anemone spp**Hemipilia flabellata**Incarvillea mairei**Incarvillea mairei**Rhododendron lepidotum**Oreorchis spp (white)**Acer cappadocicum**Tilia chinensis*

"Golf Course"

*Habenaria glaucifolia**Roscoe tibetica**Primula bulleyana* stop*Calanthe tricarinata*

Lunch stop by Monipin cable car

*Tsuga chinensis**Acer caesium**Rhododendron rubiginosa**Lonicera hispida**Taxilus delavayi**Dipelta yunnanensis* stop 3200m*Lyonia ovalifolia**Rosa ormiensis**Paeonia delavayi*

(2010 and 2008)

*Adonis brevistyla**Cypripedium flavum**Betula platyphylla sichuanensis*

Meadow 2800m

*Iris forrestii**Primula poisonii**Trollius yunnanensis**Viola biflora*

2300m

*Indigofera arguta**Bauhinia brachycarpa*

Daju to Zhongdian

Daju

Bauhinia bohniana

Below Haba

*Salvia digitaloides**Viburnum cylindricum**Roscoea tibetica**Androsace spinulifera**Thalictrum delavayi**Ligularia spp**Primula spp**Paeonia delavayii* (not in flower this time)*Arisaema consanguineum**Lilium bakerianum var**Acer pectinatum**Cornus macrophylla* (Brown lily)*Pseudorchis alba**Incarvillea mairei**Benthamidia capitata* (syn *Cornus capitata*)*Populus davidiana**Quercus semicarpifolia**Salvia przewalskii**Caltha sinogravilis**Abies yunnanensis**Polygonatum verticillatum**Juniperus recurva**Schisandra rubriflora**Cypripedium tibeticum* (C.,s not in flower this time here)*Cypripedium plectrochilon**Larix potanini**Iris chrysographes**Caltha scaposa**Salvia aerea**Sanguisorba filiformis**Wikstroemia scytophylla**Osteomeles schwenriniae**Incarvillea arguta**Quercus dentata**Rhododendron decorum*

<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	<i>Quercus pseudocarpinifolia</i>
<i>Rodgersia aesculifolia</i>	<i>Euonymus spp</i>
<i>Iris ruthenica</i>	<i>Cornus cousa</i>
<i>Lilium amoena</i>	(<i>Platycodon grandiflora</i> (in field below))
Huge Blue Anemone hairy pinnate foliage maybe a form of <i>A. rupicola</i> ?	<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>
<i>Itea yunnanensis</i>	<i>Incarvillea mairei</i>
<i>Aralia sinensis</i>	<i>Stachyurus spp</i>
<i>Cornus walteri</i>	
<i>Hemerocallis forrestii</i> stop + Yi villagers	
<i>Androsace spinulifera</i>	<i>Roscoe tibetica</i>
<i>Anemone spp</i>	<i>Onosma confertum</i>
Forest before Jo Long (km 49)	
<i>Abies georgii</i>	<i>Picea likiangensis</i>
<i>Sorbus microphylla</i>	<i>Larix potanini</i>
<i>Betula utilis</i>	<i>Populus cathayana</i>
<i>Tilia chinensis</i>	<i>Acer pectinatum</i>
<i>Rhododendron rubiginosum</i>	<i>Spiraea schneideriana</i>
<i>Syringa yunnanensis</i>	<i>Rhododendron yunnanensis</i>
"Red mistletoe" <i>Scurrula elata</i>	
(Beyond Jo Long)	
<i>Incarvillea mairei</i>	<i>Iris bulleyana</i>
<i>Androsace delavayi</i>	
(After pass)	
<i>Juniper sinensis</i>	<i>Podophyllum hexandrum</i>
<i>Rhododendron hippophaeoides</i>	<i>R. racemosum</i>
<i>R. oreotrepbes</i>	<i>Cremanthodium campanulatum</i>
On to plateau	
<i>Primula secundiflora</i>	<i>Primula sikkimensis</i>
<i>Thermopsis barbatum</i>	<i>Incarvillea zhongdiensis</i>
Tian Chi	
<i>Nomocharis aperta</i> (<i>N. forrestii</i>)	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>
<i>Primula deflexa</i>	<i>Primula sinopurpurea</i>
<i>Primula amethystina</i>	<i>Rhododendron wardii</i>
<i>R. rubiginosum</i>	<i>R. taliense</i>
<i>Acer davidii</i>	<i>Acer caudatum</i>
<i>Acer caesium</i>	<i>Acer pectinatum</i>
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	<i>Adonis davidii</i>
<i>Draba polyphylla</i>	<i>Sanicula bacquetiodes</i>
<i>Cardamine griffithii</i>	<i>Lilium soulei</i>
<i>Cremanthodium campanulatum</i>	<i>Cremanthodium atrocipitatum</i>
<i>Aletris paucifolia</i>	<i>Rheum alexandre</i>
<i>Primula sonchifolia</i>	<i>Fritillaria cirrhosa</i>
<i>Mandrogora caulescens</i>	<i>Rhododendron hippophaeodes</i>
<i>R. nivale</i>	<i>R. phaenochrysum</i>
<i>R. acroanthum</i>	<i>Potentilla stenophylla</i>

Megacodon stenophylla*P. sikkimensis*

Tien Bao Shan

*Potentilla fruticosa**Lonicera ciliata**Morina nepalensis**Primula secundiflorum**Ligularia nelumbifolia**Tibetia coelestris**Iris bulleyana**Podophyllum hexandrum**Incarvillea compacta**Betula albosinensis**Meconopsis forrestii**Veratrilla bailloni**Euphorbia griffithii**Corydalis benecinta**Androsace alchemilloides**Primula boreo caliantha**P. secundiflora**Piptanthus nepalensis**Polygonatum verticillatum**Satyrium ciliatum**P. sikkimensis**Myricaria rosea**Primula chionantha**Megacodon stylophorus**Abies delavayi**Acer flavolatum**Juniper recurva**Rhododendron wardii**Daphne retusa**Omphalogramma vinciflora**Pedicularis oederi*

Napha Hai

Magicvalley

*Meconopsis prattii**Thalictrum delavayii**Salvia bulleyana**Polygonatum verticillatum**P. secundiflora**Anemone demissa*

Botanic garden

*Tibetia himalaica**Platanthera chlorantha**Quercus senescens**Acer caudatum**A. obtusiloba**Hippophae rhamnoides**Acanthocalyx alba**Clematis connata*

Around Napha Hai

*Tilia chinensis**Incarvillea zhongdianensis**Cyanthum forestii**E. aff pallasii**Ligularia lankongensis**Androsace bulleyana**Heraclenum candicans**Cypropedium tibeticum**Cypropedium franchetti**Podophyllum hexandrum**Thalictrum cultratum**Smilicina henryi**Primula sikkimensis**P. poisonii**Pedicularis siphonantha**Populus yunnanensis**Crataegus chungtienensis**Euonymus tingens**Anemone demissa**A. rivularis**Cephalanthera longifolia**Primula beesiana**Rosa sericea**Meconopsis horridula (M. prattii)**Euphorbia nematocypba**E. stacheyi**Androsace spinulifera**Sambucus spp**Lonicera ciliate**Cypropedium flavus**Rodgersia aescilifolia*

Podophyllum hexandrum
Aster yunnanensis
Lysimachia spp
Primula polyneura
Hippuris vulgaris
Smilicina spp x 2
Cypripedium yunnanensis

Aster soulei
Corydalis flexuosa
Primula secundiflora (10 acres reduced to 1 acre)
Menyanthes trifoliata
Pedicularis spp (several)
Polygonatum verticillatum
Primula heucherifolia

Xe Ka & Magic Valley

Xe Ka (cable car)
Paraqualegia microphylla
Meconopsis lancifolia
Primula ametystina
Chesneya nubigena
 Little valley
Meconopsis horridula
Thalictrum delavayii
Salvia bulleyana
Polygonatum verticillatum
P. secundiflora
Anemone demissa

Meconopsis impedita
Diapensia himalaica
Primula bella

Podophyllum hexandrum
Thalictrum cultratum
Smilicina henryi
Primula sikkimensis
P. poisonii
Pedicularis croizatiana

To Langdu

Passed Copper Mine above Geza
 Yellow *Meconopsis* rather like *M. betonicifolia* apart from colour
Primula secundiflora
 3600m (above Geza)
Primula involucrata
Omphalogramma vincaflora
Primula deflexa
Cardamine griffithii
 3900m Forest glade
Lilium lophophoron in profusion
Rhododendron hippophaeides
 Hudong La 4000m lunch
Primula amethystina
Pedicularis oederi
Sibaldia purpurea
Primula bella
Meconopsis integrifolia
 Gegon La 4600m with view over Gegu Tso
 After Mine barrier
Allium atrosnagunium
Rhododendron salweeniense
Rheum alexandre
Pegaephton angustiseptatum

Salvia spp (blue hastate leaves)
P. sikkimensis in profusion
Polygonatum cirrhifolium
Corydalis pachycentra
Fritillaria cirrhosa
Veratrilla ballonii
Boschniakia himalaica
Lagotis alutacea
Rhododendron chryseum
Astragalus acaulis

Bergenia purpurescens
Diapensia purpurea (by mine)
Koenigia forrestii

Langdu to Riwa

Down valley below Langdu cheese factory

Acer davidii

Valley with *Quercus* S facing – *Abies* N facing

Aquilegia rockii

Thalictrum delavayi

Maianthemum henryii

Tilia chinensis

Aralia chinensis

Benthamidia (Cornus) capitata

Tilia spp (small foliage)

Lunch stop by Chaxi

Arisaema spp (trifoliate new, white spathe)

Morus alba

4100m meadow with views of Yading

Incarvillea mairei

Ajuga lupulina

Anemone obtusiloba

Astragalus accaulis

Spongocapella (Chesneya) yunnanensis

Rhododendron nivale

Acer pectinatum

Arisaema conasguineum

Cardamine macrophyllum

Arisaema elephas

Populus spp

2200m below Langdu village

Ailanthus altissima (tree of heaven)

Acer davidii

Cypripedium spp (large sim *C. funebrio*)

Orchis spp

Androsace spinulifera

Lilium lophophorum (none present 2012)

Iris ruthenica

Rhododendron primuliflorum

Yading Park

Below Xianrzig

Sibiraea angustata

Clematis tibetana

Androsace selago

Polygonatum bookeri

Valley towards Xiandorji

Juniperus pingii

Daphne retusa

Potentilla fruticosa

Salix souliei

Hedysarum sikkimense

Lancea tibetica

Thylacospermum caespitosum

Solms-laubachia sp.

Caragana jubata

Mandragora caulescens

Pediculari roylei

Corydalis melanochlora

Myricaria squamosa

Ephedra likiangensis

Potentilla parvifolia

Salix lindleyana

Koenigia islandica

Pinguicula alpina

Draba involucreta

Paraquilegia microphylla

Riwa to Daocheng

Up valley from Riwa

Lilium bakeriana

3800m

Lancea tibetica

Caragana versicolor

Androsace bisulca

Aster himalaicus

Incarvillea lutea

Thermopsis barbata

Primula tibetica

Incarvillea mairei

Primula involucreta

*Trollius rannunculoides**Betula platyphylla**Meconopsis integrifolia*

Bou Wa Shan 4500m

*Rhododendron nivale**Rheum alexandre**Anemone truchifolia**Arenaria sp*(cushion)

Za Wu Monastery 4100m

*Lonicera syringantha**Spiraea clicicola**Potentilla fruticosa**Sorbus discolor**R. orthocladum**Aster himalaicus**Androsace bisulca**Triglochia maritime**Potentilla fruticosa**R. hippophaeoides**Potentilla glabra**Androsace sp* (cushion)*Lonicera rupicola**Caragana jubata**Potentilla parviflora**Rhododendron phaeochrysum**R. hippophaeoides**Anaphaliscinerascens**Gentiana tibetica*

Daocheng to Xiancheng

Sangdui Valley

*Thermopsis barbata**Primula tibetica**Aletris pauciflora**Abies fargesii**Potentilla fruticosa**Logotis yunnanensis**Rhododendron trichostomum*

Haizi plateau

*Arenaria polytrichoides**Primula soongii**Pagaephyton scapiflorum**Meconopsis racemosa*Pink *Oxytropis spp**Cremanthodium spp* (lanceolate leaves)*Primula amethystina**Caltha scapiosa**Aconitum spp**Hedysarum sikkimense*

First pass above Sangdui 4600m on Xiancheng road

*Thermopsis alpine**Oxytropis sp**Primula soongii**Lamiophlomis rotata*

Wu Ming Xue Shan

*Solms-laubachia eurycarpa**Themopsis yunnanensis**Allium sp**Primula involucrata**Iris ruthenica**Cremanthodium angustifolium**Rheum likiangensis**Rheum alexandre**Cypropedium tibeticum**Rheum alexandre**Primula washii**Logotis yunnanensis**Meconopsis pseudointegrifolia**Cremanthodium spp* (round leaves)*Primula chionantha* (pale yellow fl)*Rhodiola bupleuroides**Chysoplenium spp**Androsace bisulca* (yellow fl)*Valerianalike spp* (umbel of purple fl yellow stamens)*Astragalus yunnanensis**Arenaria polytrichoides**Silene davidii**Lloydia oxycarpa**Sorozeris hirsute**Iris goniocarpa*

Meadow west side of Wu Ming Xue Shan (2008)

Lilium lophophoron
P. secundiflora
Trollius yunnanensis
Abies squamata

Primula sikkimensis
P. zambelensis
Myricaria germanica
Gentianella spp (cream fl)

Big Snow mountain Da Xue Shan

Rhododendron davidsonianum
R. wardii

Pinus densata
Smilicina oleacea

Sichuan side of border

Leptodermis forrestii
Scopiola carniolicoides
Lonicera hispida

Trollius yunnanensis
Berberis jamesonii
Androsace rigida

Lunch below pass

Prinula chionantha ssp sinoplantaginea
Corydalis pachypoda
Meconopsis integrifolia
Rhododendron roxieanum
Primula secundiflora in profusion

Corydalis hamata
Cardamine purpurescens
Mandrogora caulescens
Cremanthodium campanulatum
Primula involucrata

Pass

Diapensia purpurea
Cassiope selaginoides
Arenaria oreophila
Spongiocapella (Chesbeya) yunnanensis

Fritillaria cirrhosa
Primula deflexa
Rhododendron primulaeflora

Limestone screes

Saussurea medusa
Paraqualegia anemomoides

Solms-laubachia minor
Sorozeris glomerata

Forest below pass

Rhododendron oreotrephe
Androsace rigida

R. wardii

Wengshui Birong Gorge

Androsace limprichtii
Vincetoxicum forrestii
Pinus densata (2 needles)
Populus yunnanensis#*Syringa yunnanensis*
Dipelta yunnanensis
Primula polyneura
Podophyllum hexandrum
Clematis akebooides
Ophiopogon bodinieri
Meconopsis prattii
Arisaema elephas
A. ciliatum
Convallaria spp
Saxifraga rufescens
Thladiantha longispala

Paris polyphylla
Pinus armandii (5 needles)
Pinus yunnanensis (3 needles)
Berberis yunnanensis
Leptodermis forrestii
Euonymus sanguineum
Philadelphus subcanus
Acer davidii
Aquilegia rockii
Cornus contaverta
A. consanguineum
Deutzia monbeigii
Aruncus dioicus
Anemone rupicola
Betula calcicola (on cliffs)

Wengshui to Zhongdian

Xiao Xue Shan

(2008)

*Primula zambalensis**Podophyllum hexandrum**Trollius yunnanensis*

Wu Shan

Paeonia delavayi yellow and red*Pass onto Zhongdia plateau**Lancia tibetica**Thermopsis smithiana**Rhododendron primulaeferum**Allium humile**Rheum alexandre**(var lutea + var trolliodes)**Nomocharis aperta**Cyanoglossum triste**Rosa macrophylla*

Xe Ka & magic valley

Xe Ka (cable car)

Arceuthobium pini (parasite on trees from cable car 4000m)*Solms-laubachia zhangdiensis**Primula amethystine**Corydalis pachcentra**Primula banobella**Diapensia himalaica**Meconopsis lancifolia**Paraqualegia microphylla**Oxygraphis glacialis**Thalictrum alpinum**Marmoritis complanata**Saussurea medusa**Meconopsis impedita*

Team Xe Ka Shan