

Yunnan

China's Land of the Blue Poppy

A Greentours Trip Report

7th – 25th June 2011

Led by Chris Gardner

Days 1 & 2 7th & 8th June To Lijiang

I'd flown in the day before to Kunming and met the group and Yvonne who'd also arrived earlier at arrivals at Kunming Airport. We checked in for our short hop to Lijiang (that saved a long, long drive) and met our ground team there before driving on to the hotel in Shuhe a town outside Lijiang, built as a facsimile of the old town area of the latter, but offering much the same with less hassle getting to and from. The first of many tasty Chinese dinners followed.

Day 3 9th June Yulong Shan

Flower packed was the only way to describe our first day in the field. We entered the extensive Yulong Shan National Park and drove into the limestone foothills through tracts of pine and scrub oak full of creamy-yellow or purple *Roscoea cautleyoides*, golden trumpets of *Hemerocallis forrestii*, white *Anemone demissa* and bright yellow *Stellera chamaejasme*. Our first stop among the trees produced non-stop flora with our first colony of pale yellow *Cypripedium flavum* among which grew the architectural *Paris polyphylla* and there were the pink drumsticks of *Androsace spinulifera*, lilac spikes of *Veronica pyrolifolia*, little *Iris collettii*, the purple and white striped spathes of *Arisaema echinoides* and delicate pale green Musk Orchids *Herminium ophioglossum*. Crossbills called from the pines and descending into a nearby shallow gorge a Red-billed Blue Magpie flew over. Down here there were stony areas with much *Paeonia delavayi* including some in flower. Close by was the pinkish *Phlomis betonicifolia*, a tall creamy *Thalictrum sp*, pretty little *Roscoea schmeideriana*, rocks peppered with *Pleione bulbocodioides*, golden yellow *Primula forrestii* and diminutive pink *Primula yunnanense*, deep-pink *Primula pulchella*, slender *Diosporum cantonense* as well as fine shrubs such as *Indigofera pendula* with hanging purple flowers, *Dipelta yunnanense*, *Philadelphus purpurascens* and *Daphne aurantiaca*.

There were also quite a few pink to purple-pink *Roscoea humeana* and these were even more abundant at our next stop in a flat area with short pines where they grew alongside the big pink trumpets of *Incarvillea mairei*, tall spires of *Ligularia langkongense* and another cobra lily *Arisaema ciliatum*.

We had lunch in a small restaurant and then walked a short way past the touristy areas and alongside a stream where there were more, *Primula pulchella*, delicate *Thalictrum virgatum* on the rocks, pale yellow *Salvia digitaloides* and further on pink *Primula pulchelloides*. The

surrounding woodlands were good for birds with Nuthatch, Yellow-throated Bunting, Black-browed Tit and Short-billed Minivet and as we returned along the stream there was Blue Whistling Thrush and a pair of Plumbeous Water Redstarts. Our last stop were to look for *Lilium bakeri* and although we found some in bud we couldn't find any in flower

Day 4 10th June Wenghai

Following a rough road into the hills behind Lijiang we stopped for the prolific bushes of *Clerodendron peii* as some large Helen butterflies zipped around and Nutcracker could be seen perched atop the Yunnan Pines. Down a short slope were some bright pink *Primula bulleyana* ssp *beesiana* and the slender striped spathes *Arisaema franchetianum* one of the loveliest of that genus in China. A flat marshy patch held some fine intense pink golden eyed *Primula poissonii*, *Euphorbia sikkimensis* and further up were Green-backed Tits working the scrub oaks and some fine tall *Thalictrum delavayi* and a big view across the flat plains below. We continued up and over to Wenghai a large lake with a small rustic village with wooden fences around which grew an abundance of *Primula bulleyana* ssp *beesiana*. We began to walk through the village to sample the primula but the rain had started and got heavier and heavier so we retreated to a small guest house where we had lunch and waited for it to ease. It did eventually ease enough for us to venture out and look at some fine drifts of primula growing near patches of *Pedicularis sigmoidea* and finally it stopped and we were able to walk to the low cliffs and walk up for the fine pale yellow *Incarvillea lutea* growing there along with *Hemerocallis forrestii*. Driving back down we stopped for the striking red parasite *Taxillus caloreas*, *Berberis jamesiana* loaded with red berries and some particularly impressive pine cones, but the rain had returned by now and it was best to get back to base and dry off.

Day 5 11th June To Zhongdian

The torrential rain of last night was still with us in the morning as we drove towards the Yangste, descending through pine clad hills with an occasional spray of pale pink *Incarvillea arguta* dangling from the roadside banks. The plan was to enter Tiger Leaping Gorge and drive to the mid-point for lunch. We stopped by one good view point to look along the gorge the soaring cliffs capped by enshrouding mists, but it gave mood to the sombre dark grey rocks clad where possible by sweeps of bamboo or low forest. Fork-tailed Swifts swirled around and Striated Prinias called from the tree tops, showing well as they gave out their repetitive rasping song.

We continued on to a small hotel where we had a tasty lunch and enjoyed rain-free views of the gorge and side gorges where waterfalls thundered down swollen from the rain. There were Blue Rock Thrushes singing from the overhead wires and large Helens (a swallowtail butterfly) gliding about. After lunch we retraced our steps and then drove up towards the Zhongdian Plateau passing fine flowering shrubs/trees of creamy bracted *Dendrobenthamia* (*Cornus*) *capitata* before reaching the highland area with neat fields and large Tibetan houses hemmed in by forested hills. We stopped beside an impressive field of magenta *Incarvillea zhongdianensis* and on the adjacent slopes were many flowers with thousands of *Anemone yulongshanica* mingled with *Erigeron breviscapa*, taller *Anemone demissa*, *Androsace spinulifera*, *Alectoris alpestris* and in

one small patch of short turf a few beautiful *Ponerorchis brevicalarata* with solitary pink flowers held above delicately golden-veined dark green leaves. Elsewhere in the field were tall yellow *Euphorbia jolkini* (syn *nematocypha*), dwarf purple *Lancea tibetica* and the muted green or brown flowers of swallow-worts (*Cynanchum spp*).

We returned to the cars just in time as the next heavy shower arrived and then drove onto Zhongdian and our comfortable guest house in the old town in view of the monastery and many attractive wooden houses.

*The following is written out of sequence – the plant featured is a much sought after by unscrupulous orchid collectors and its location is not mentioned here.

Entering an area of dense woodland Carolyn soon spotted the first stunning *Cypripedium lichiangense* a quite wonderful species with red-spotted green ribbed leaves and the extraordinary 'boat-shaped' red-spotted cream flowers. A hundred metres further on and we found another in bud on a rock and then discovered a colony with five plants in perfect flower and plenty more leaves – superb.

Day 6 12th June Napa Hai

Not far outside the city is the Napa Hai botanic garden within whose walls is a large area of untrammelled natural habitat with a great array of flora. Even walking up to the large main building there were many vivid orange drumsticks of *Androsace bulleyana* and wandering further into the garden we soon saw many fine *Rosa omeiensis*, *Incarvillea zhongdianensis*, *Iris ruthenica*, *Androsace spinulifera* and then a pristine spike of mid-blue *Meconopsis prattii*. Moving on into an area of broadleaf woodland we found the first big-pouched *Cypripedium tibeticum*. Many more followed along with other orchids such as the familiar Eurasian species *Platanthera chlorantha*, *Cephalanthera longifolia* as well as the unfamiliar *Oreorchis erythrochrysea*. There were tall white *Acanthocalyx (Morina) alba*, Willow Tit, the handsome *Pedicularis sigmoidea* and then a few *Cypripedium flavum*. Tucked away in a secret nook was a fine clump of pink *Cypripedium yunnanense* and then crossing into a more open area of large shrubs we found quite a few pretty red and white *Cypripedium guttatum*. There was still time for a couple of *Sinopodophyllum hexandrum* in flower (and many fine marbled leaves) and delightful meadows of *Erigeron breviscapus*, *Incarvillea zhongdianensis* and *Leontopodium franchetii/haplophyllloides* before we returned to the main building for lunch.

As we ate the substantial sandwiches we could see out over the large reflective Napa lake where we picked out nine or ten Black-necked Cranes. We hoped to see these close later on but for now there were close views of Chestnut Thrush bathing and a pair of Chough feeding on the turf below us.

Our first stop after lunch was just beyond a low pass where we walked up (in increasingly heavy rain) to a mixed area of pine and rhododendron scrub seeing Black-browed and Grey Crested Tits and Short-billed Minivets as we went. The rain was a bit much now but we waited fifteen minutes and it stopped allowing us to look around properly. The slope was excellent for orchids and also the soft yellow flowers of *Rhododendron wardii*, mats of *Androsace rigida* and occasional *Polygonatum cirrhifolium*. There was variety in the colour forms of *Cypripedium*

tibeticum including some lovely pinks. Higher up on the slope were many diminutive *Cypripedium plectrochilon*, a tall pale yellow broomrape and one *Cypripedium calcicola*. We descended via a gravelly path studded with *Gentiana curviphylla/asterocalyx* stopping frequently for good orchids, then further down the peculiar honeysuckle relative *Triosteum himalayanicum* and purple *Aquilegia rockii*.

Now we drove down to the lake stopping by the lake for great views of the elegant Black-necked Cranes (all non-breeding birds), richly coloured Ferruginous Ducks, Spot-billed Ducks, a couple of Black Storks and many Ruddy Shelduck. It was very tranquil sat by the lake edge in the perfect calm with sunshine on our backs and we could easily have sat there a lot longer but there were more flowers to be found. Passing by marshy areas dotted with many yaks we stopped by a slope where were several *Cypripedium yunnanense* mixed with a few *flavum* and many blue *Corydalis appendiculata*. Our last stop was for a lot more *Cypripedium guttatum* - it had been *Cypripedium* overload today!

Day 7

13th June

Tianchi Hai

The morning gloom turned to rain by the time we'd reached a small Tibetan village for a wander around, with huge stone houses with ornate windows, barley racks, bamboo fences and wood piles. There were patches of yellow-green *Euphorbia nematocypha* and *Iris bulleyana* and marshy areas with a few primulas but nothing compared to what was to come. Fortunately the rain began to ease by the time we reached an area of birch woods where we found many superb *Nomocharis aperta*, in fact the sun even peeped out a couple of times and things were looking up. There were lovely purple backed *Anemone demissa* and lots of *Acanthocalyx alba* too. Stop number two was for an impressive colony of *Cypripedium flavum* and *guttatum* with dozens of perfect flowers as well as many *Incarvillea zhongdianensis* and bushes of *Syringa yunnanensis*. A pair of Daurian Redstarts were feeding two plump youngsters in the shrubbery as we drank our elevenses cuppa. Continuing up our next floral delight was an expansive display of pink *Primula secundiflora* with thousands of flowers stretching across a marshy area and in one corner a large contingent of *Primula sikkimensis*. Kessler's Thrush and Chough appeared as we photographed this wonderful sight.

A huge clump of *Primula chionantha sinopurpurea* followed with half a dozen flower laden stems and then some very tall *Meconopsis pseudointegrifolia* with wide saucer-shaped pale yellow flowers atop a slope. From here we drove onto Tianchi Hai, the lake ringed by forested hills and slopes coloured pinkish-lilac from acres of dwarf rhododendrons. Among these were a few gorgeous deep reddish-brown *Lilium souliei* and the green spikes of *Veratrilla baillonii* as well as hundreds of pretty *Primula amethystina*. We picked up *Primula boreocalliantha*, dainty *Beesia calthaefolia* and the nearly open spikes of *Megacodon stylophorum* before a filling lunch in the mess tent.

Afterwards we crossed over the rhododendron moorland to find the curious black-green *Mandragora caulescens*, sombre near black *Fritillaria cirrhosa* and then in contrast the pure white of *Allium humile* spread out in a large drift beneath some low willows. A few *Arisaema elephas* were mingled in with these. Walking back to the vehicles we were soon distracted by fine tufts of pretty white-bellied *Cassiope pectinata*, a pink lousewort and then some more perfect *Lilium souliei*. It was hard to leave especially as the sky was by now showing lots more blue and the

sun was becoming a more regular feature. Descending from the lake we stopped for a few more very fine *Meconopsis pseudointegrifolia* with copious light blue *Hackelia uncinata* all around and then there was a longer foray around a small gully where the cliffs were peppered and capped with turf full of slender purple *Primula cernua* and the flat areas full of bushy white to bluish-white *Adonis brevistyla*. Some more large *Arisaema elephas* were found here too.

Short stops for *Clematis montana* and *Schizandra rubicunda* completed a dense day of botany.

Day 8 14th June To Langdu

It was fine sunny day for the start of the 'Sichuan loop' a fascinating and botanically diverse part of the trip. We saw the delicate *Rhododendron trichostomum* growing with *Cypripedium guttatum* and fine stands of an *Osmunda sp.* The big pink cups of *Sinopodophyllum hexandrum* were next in an area of scrub with deep purple *Iris chrysographes*. Negotiating the expanding mining roads we found a few of the very handsome *Primula hongshanensis* as Buff barred Warblers busied themselves in the rhodos and not much further up were some lovely *Omphalogramma vincaeflora*. Lunch was by a small pond around which grew mats of the pretty *Diapensia purpurea*, diminutive *Primula nanobella* and purple *amethystina*, masses of *Anemone obtusiloba*, the electric blue *Corydalis pachycentra* and the tall green spikes of *Veratrum baillonii*. There were Long-tailed Thrushes among the rhodo scrub and *Primula brevicula* was growing among the unstable scree as we progressed stopping for longer at an area of short turf that held some marvellous plants with gorgeous yellow-eyed pink *Androsace delavayi* and in the scree *Saussurea quercifolia* and *Corydalis melanochlora*. There were superb views all around and these grew ever more impressive and we stopped to photograph the best with Ruddy Shelducks appearing on the lakes and Buzzards overhead and again at the four thousand six hundred metre pass where *Draba yunnanensis* grew. Some rain was falling but we still had the chance to stop for some big yellow *Meconopsis integrifolia*, *Primula handelii* and intense pink *polyneura* growing among the rocks before reaching the cosy wooden hotel-cum-cheese factory.

Day 9 15th June To Riwa

There was time to drive back for some good patches of *Primula blinii* growing on the rocks where there were also fine tumbling masses of *Clematis montana* and superb *Corydalis hamata* near a stream. There were tidy bushes of *Rhododendron rupicola* var *chryseum*, fine forest views and then once again we reached the *Primula polyneura* colony. Now it was down through superb forest stopping to explore the odd tract where we found *Polygonatum curvistylum*, more of the lovely *Primula hongshanensis*, *Maianthemum purpureum* and then further down *Aquilegia rockii*, *Arisaema consanguineum* and huge *Populus szechuanicus* trees. Hidden in a wet scrubby patch was a colony of *Calanthe tricarinata* flowering alongside *Paris polyphylla* and blood red *Primula wilsonii*. There were some fine butterflies on the wing with Helens and swallowtails and when we stopped at the large stupa overlooking Langdu village a flock of White-throated Needletails swept by as Black-browed Tits foraged in the scrub below us. There was time for a bit of culture and a stroll around the very neat village with all the wood piled carefully and all the rows in the fields straight. A large *Dendrobenthamia capitata* occupied us for a short time before we finally arrived in Sichuan. The road progressed through a steep sided gorge where

we stopped after a while for the lovely *Arisaema candidissimum* as well as few less glamorous *flavum*. Following lunch we stopped again for a whole field of *Arisaema candidissimum*, including a deep pink one. Another village stop followed with little black piglets and cute but grubby children posing for photos before we drove up to another high pass where the banks were smothered in *Androsace bisulca* var *aurata*, the stemless *Astragalus acualis* and masses of *Anemone trulliifolia*. A big Derbyan Parakeet flew across as we got views of Yading through the prayer flags. On the last stretch we saw a hare and some fine Tibetan houses.

Day 10 16th June Yading

The day was spent in the magnificent Yading area stopping first in an area of *Rhododendron wardii* and *trichostomum* scrub for the large bracted *Ajuga lupulina*, *Oreorchis parvula* and *Incarvillea mairiae* before we descended to Yading with superb views. The walk up was through lush forest where we found *Primula gemmifera*, *Pedicularis axillaris* and tumbling masses of near black flowered *Clematis tibetana* subsp *vernayi* then hundreds of superb big trumpeted *Incarvillea mariae* and many big pouched deep pink *Cypripedium tibeticum* as well as *Polygonatum stewartianum*. The local Three-striped Squirrel seemed content eating horse dung as we carried on seeing *Daphne retusa*, cute little Pikas and then with a final effort we reached the terminus for the golf carts where Giant Laughingthrushes bombed about searching for leftovers. We rode up on the carts through fresh green larch forest to an area of pasture with countless anemone and trollius as Choughs wheeled across the big landscape and a Lammergeier soared overhead. We walked back down following the boardwalk at first and seeing *Meconopsis integrifolia*, various forms of *Fritillaria cirrhosa* and then tight cushions of *Androsace tapete*. Continuing along the road there was *Corydalis calcicola*, lovely dwarf *Pedicularis variegata* with purple beaked creamy flowers that seemed too big for the plants. Treecreepers were seen as we pushed on finding fine stands of the lovely powder blue *Primula bellidifolia* and rosefinches. By now our feet had had enough and we sat back and enjoyed the drive back through the impressive landscape.

Day 11 17th June To Daocheng

Later start after our exertion yesterday with the sun shining and pleasant views across the countryside of neat villages of stout Tibetan houses around one of which we saw Hodgson's Redstart. The *sinensis* race of Common Pheasant were chasing around a field, the male intent on a female whilst a second male seemed to be moving in too. Driving higher into the granitic mountains we stopped for a veritable primula garden perched above the road with *Primula sikkimensis*, *involucrata* and *bellidifolia* all growing together in a wonderful combination of colours, with a lot of *Acanthocalyx nepalensis* thrown in for good measure. The mountain pass was a long broad affair passing yak herder houses and of course many yaks with large tracts of dwarf rhododendrons stretching up the mountain slopes and yellow *Meconopsis integrifolia* scattering among them. Marshy areas held the diminutive *Primula fasciculata* and in the turf between stands of *Rhododendron hippophaeoides* and scented honeysuckles were tiny annual gentians and *Androsace bisulca*. A White-tailed Rubythroat sang from a bush before we left.

After a stop at the pass we descended a little way past flowering shrubs of *Rhododendron phaeochrysum* to an area of turf with plenty of neat mats of yellow flowered *Chesneya (Spongiocarpella) polystichoides* and the crinkled rosettes of purple *Lamiophlomis rotata*. A heavy rain shower saw us leave a bit sooner than we wanted, but this didn't persist long and we arrived into a sunny Daocheng for lunch.

Perched on a hillside above the town is a large monastery and the afternoon was spent in this area. Among the huge granite boulders (that were being rapidly reduced in size by stone-cutters) was the fabulous black-purple *Thermopsis barbata*. Complementing this were blue *Anemone demissa* ssp *villosissima*, a tidy *Aster* sp and the creamy *Pedicularis rupicola flavescens*, whilst a little way up the road beside a small stream was the beautiful purple and white form of *Corydalis hamata*, along with *Arisaema ciliatum*, *Ponerorchis chusua*, *Cypripedium tibeticum* and a bright blue *Corydalis* sp. Birds included Godlewski's Bunting, Oriental Skylarks, Hoopoes and up at the crusty monastery were Choughs. We had a tour of the monastery with Tsebo recounting all the facts and intricacies of Tibetan Buddhism and as we drank tea afterwards there was fantastic light across the landscape and a rainbow.

Day 12

18th June

Haizi Shan and to Xiancheng

Low clouds soon began to break up as we drove towards the immense granite plateau of Haizi Shan, stopping on the way for a wet flush packed with *Primula involucrata*, *Trollius yunnanensis* and *Anemone rivularis*. Kessler's Thrushes were common around the square 'fortress' houses as we passed alongside a braided river and then began to ascend seeing White-eared Pheasants by the roadside. Haizi Shan is a superb plant area and we stopped where there were masses of *Anemone demissa villosissima*, the obligatory *Incarvillea mairei*, *Iris goniocarpa*, very nice *Fritillaria cirrhosa* and good clumps of *Cypripedium guttatum*, along with the magnificent cream-bracted spires of *Rheum alexandrae*.

Up on the plateau proper the remarkable landscape rolled out before us with endless granite boulders stretching to the horizon and little lakes scattered around with Ruddy Shelducks attendant. By one large rock with a commanding view were many great flowers including eventually *Primula orbicularis*, tight cushions of *Arenaria oreoides*, *Aster himalaicus* and a cracking patch of *Crematodium decaisnei* with delicate dangling rays. On the turf and in the shrubs were Horned Larks and Brown Accentors. Retracing our steps we stopped for a big *Meconopsis integrifolia* and fine river views and then had lunch in the small crossroads town.

There was still a fair distance to cover and after lunch we drove towards a very high pass stopping first for good displays of *Iris delavayi*, then *Caragana jubata*, *Primula orbicularis* and *Rhododendron primulinum* and there was a female Blue-fronted Redstart. The weather was kind to us today and we had an extended stop at the top at a giddy 4700metres. The flowers were superb with many blue *Iris dolicantherum*, woolly centred *Soroseris glomerata* that nestled in the rocky flats, pink *Androsace wardii*, yellow *Thermopsis smithiana* and then walking up onto the opposite slope were many more irises, peculiar grey-flowered *Solmslaubachia pulcherimma*, a solitary but perfect *Meconopsis lancifolia* and fine patches of lovely *Silene davidii*, furry *Eriophyton wallichii* and superb views. Two Lammergeiers soared out only metres above our heads for cracking views.

Now we had to drive dropping into a thickly forested valley with wonderful rural views and then along the valley bottom past white houses to Xiancheng and our hotel. A couple of bottles of questionable wine helped celebrate Liam's birthday.

Day 13 **19th June** **Da Xue Shan**

Another glorious day both weatherwise and plantwise with an early start that saw us driving along the long valley approach to Da Xue Shan past ripening fields of barley some of which was being harvested in the cool of morning. These golden fields were even more in evidence from our viewpoint high above the valley and many more stunning views of the raw and ragged limestone mountains followed as the morning progressed with crystal clear landscapes, carpets of *Androsace rigida*, slopes clothed in *Rhododendron oreotrephes* and a scree with dozens of deep-red *Cremanthodium campanulatum* as a singing Hume's Leaf Warbler looked on.

A stiffer walk into one of the side valleys produced a smorgasbord of gorgeous alpines with *Primula blinii*, another *Cremanthodium sp.*, the never-opening balloons of *Lilium lophophorum*, pink *Pedicularis przewalskii* and then the triple icing on the cake with first a scree-full of stunning *Corydalis benecinctus* and *Hemilophia sessilifolia* followed by the king of the scree *Rheum nobile*, the crinkled layers of creamy-bracts with a perfect backdrop of the dramatic Da Xue Shan.

Lunch was taken at the pass and afterwards we just had time to scramble up to a colony of purple *Meconopsis lancifolium* growing alongside *Corydalis atuntsuensis*, *Fritillaria cirrhosa* and abundant mats of *Chesneya (Spongiocarpella) polystichoides*.

There was still a fair way to go to reach Zhongdian so we descended into a densely forested valley driving on past fine *Rhododendron wardii* and stands of *Primula sikkimensis* to a spectacular viewpoint more reminiscent of Yosemite than Yunnan with limestone peaks bursting from the forested valleys and White-naped Yuhinas were seen among the conifers. Our last stop in an area of pines was for a good population of *Nomochartis aperta* and the final twenty kilometres went quickly enough and before we knew it we were in the bar eating pizza and supping beers or wine.

The five days of 'Sichuan Loop' had been a dense and memorable journey with a multitude of landscapes and stunning flowers.

Day 14 **20th June** **To Baima Shan**

Yet another fine sunny day as we drove out through pine clad hills stopping for views of the steep dry hills and then for a dramatic confluence of the Yangste and Derong Chu tributary on the border with Sichuan and Yunnan. It was very warm today and we drove from here along a dirt road (Chinese road building meant we had to try this rougher route) up towards the cooler forests, passing a little village oasis full of walnuts, neat fields, orchards and sweet corn eventually bouncing our way to the fir forests where we found a few *Paeonia lutea* in flower along with pink *Rosa sweginzowii* and lots of *Maianthemum henryi*. Higher still and there were fine bushes of *Rhododendron rubiginosum* and a fly by from a big Derbyan Parrot before we

arrived at a fine viewpoint of the Baima Shan with a ridge of steep snow streaked peaks rising above thick forests.

We had lunch before picking up the main (sealed) mountain road and driving on past more superb mountain scenery to where there used to be a good population of *Paraquilegia anemonoides*, except now thanks to the hair-brained scheme to put a tunnel through the mountain large amounts of limestone were being quarried. I hardly recognised the valley but by some small miracle the huge plant of *Paraquilegia* I'd found there previously was still thriving despite the destruction around it. In fact the higher slopes were still very floriferous and ignoring the trucks and diggers below we walked up to find a good number of superb *Paraquilegia anemonoides*, masses of *Primula polyneura*, bushes of *Daphne retusa* and the big white flowers of *Anemone rupicola*.

With clunking diggers in the background we explored another area of rhodo scrub where there was a good colony of *Megacodon stylophorum* and masses of sweet scented lilac *Primula gemmifera* var *amoena* (*zambalensis*).

Day 15 21st June Baima Shan.

We opted for the back road again, which was still much more preferable to the roadworks, with dramatic scenery and the charming little 'oasis' villages tucked deep into the valleys channelling the water for their diverse crops. *Clematis rehderiana*, *Deutzia purpurascens*, lots of *Aquilegia rockii* and Rufous-bellied Woodpecker and Mrs Gould's Sunbird punctuated the trip with Grey-headed Bullfinch, Spotted Nutcracker and Sparrowhawk further along. Reaching the 'top' we drove directly to the pass where we had a lunch of fried rice.

We were after a very special flower and we walked up onto the rhododendron clad slopes towards a rounded summit with increasingly good flowers beginning with masses of *Primula nanobella*, flat-faced pink *Rhododendron calostrotum*, the lovely pink *Chesneya purpurea*, a fine stand of big *Primula calliantha*, *Draba jucunda*, mats of *Diapensia purpurea*, deeper pink *Primula dryadifolia*, some giant *Oxygraphis glacialis* and then the prize of *Chionocharis hookeri* the tight cushions studded with sky-blue flowers. I flushed a pair of Tibetan Snowcock and there were also Tibetan Partridge, Alpine Accentor and lots of Plain Mountain Finches.

Walking down we picked up *Lilium nanum* and on the drive back via the back road we saw blue *Meconopsis rudis* and a fine group of *Corydalis appendiculatus* and then stops for views and finally a walk across the not quite finished new bridge to Benzilan town.

Day 16 22nd June To Zhongdian

A leisurely start to the day involved some souvenir buying before driving back towards Zhongdian driving into the sun-drenched hills and stopping beside a large colony of *Androsace bulleyana*. There was the odd traffic hold-up on the way but nonetheless we arrived by lunchtime and then went for a delicious feed in a Tibetan restaurant.

The afternoon was spent in low hills near the town, involving an initial drive up to a prominent stupa (via gangs of avid tree planters) where there were lots of *Primula pulchelloides* on the

adjacent limestone rocks and a Grey-backed Shrike on top of a bush. The grasslands behind were full of flowers with stands of many now familiar species such as *Iris bulleyana*, *Stellera chamaejasme*, *Androsace spinulifera*, *Primula poissonii* and *Polygonum macrophyllum*. A bit further on and the short turf had many pretty *Ponerorchis brevicarata* and a fair scattering of purple and white *Iris barbata*. Grey clouds were growing in the distance threatening a storm although it never arrived but provided a good backdrop for photos of the stupa. As we descended Carolyn found a small group of *Pedicularis monbeigii* a particularly refined lousewort with tall spikes of purple-beaked white flowers.

Day 17 23rd June Baoshuitai road

After a rather slow breakfast our last field outing was to the wooded hills south of Zhongdian where we looked around an area of pines that had many good clumps of *Cypripedium plectrochilum*, masses of *Primula pulchelloides*, *Morina nepalensis*, slender *Allium cyathophorum* on the higher rocks and the first flowers of pink *Salvia subpalmatinervis*. The latter turned up at our next main location, also an area of pines but one with a dense bamboo and moss understorey. Also nestled among the moss were a few pinkish *Phaius delavayi* as well as *Ponerorchis chusua* in small numbers on the roadside rocks. A beautiful male Mrs Gould's Sunbird sang from a high branch and as we drove back up the road a juvenile Cuckoo was perched on a roadside branch pleading for food.

The final flowery stop was a charming 'garden' of *Primula sikkimensis*, *Primula secundiflora*, *Iris bulleyana* and a pale blue gentian. *Nomocharis aperta* and *Lilium lophophorum* completed the selection. Back in Zhongdian we had a tasty lunch and returned to the hotel as the rain (which had kept away for days) started with an almighty storm lashing the town later in the afternoon and cutting off the internet seconds before I finished buying my air ticket for my continuing Chinese journey*?%!

Day 18 24th June To Kunming and Hong Kong

No problems were encountered in the morning save for dry chewy Tibetan bread for breakfast and airport formalities were a doddle, with everyone at least starting in the right direction. I was staying on to carry out a reccy in northern China, but will Merlin recognise me when I come home?

Day 19 25th June Arrive UK/NZ

As far as I know all arrived where they needed to arrive and set about tidying their gardens!

Systematic List Number 1 Flora

The following represents the main flowers seen during the trip, however, the flora of Yunnan alone amounts to 15000 species so for obvious reasons the full flora is a monumental task and to this end many woody genera remain unrepresented at this moment in time. Also a number of genera are particularly difficult e.g. anemone, aster and indigofera and these could not be identified in the field.

Pinaceae

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Abies delavayi</i> | The widespread fir |
| <i>Pinus yunnanense</i> | The widespread pine |

Aceraceae

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Acer cappadocicum</i> | Yulong Shan |
| <i>Acer forrestii</i> | En route to Weixi and elsewhere, pronounced larger mid-Lobe |

Apiaceae

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>Hacquetia</i> sp. | Napa Hai. Not 2010 |
| <i>Heracleum candicans</i> | Yulong, etc, typical 'hogweed'. |
| <i>Oenanthe</i> sp | Marsh near Zhongdian monastery |
| <i>Tetrataenium nepalense</i> | Large white umbels and broad-lobed pinnate leaves reminiscent of <i>Heracleum</i> . Widespread |

Asclepiaceae

Probably more *Cynanchum* species are involved than recorded

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>Ceropegia longifolia</i> | Yulong Shan |
| <i>Ceropegia mairei</i> | Unusual long tubed flowers. En route to Shaxi |
| <i>Cynanchum (Vincetoxicum) hirundinaria</i> | Widespread component of meadows on Zhongdian plateau and elsewhere, whorls of small green flowers |
| <i>Cynanchum (Vincetoxicum) canescens</i> | Weixi |

Asteraceae

Another family where insufficient information is available to identify many taxa. Aster are simply a mess! We undoubtedly meet with many more species than listed here and even those we do find vary so much....! *Ligularia* is another beleaguered genus.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Anaphalis nepalensis</i> | Widespread |
| <i>Aster himalaicus</i> | Fine wide flowered species with large mauve rayed flowers on short stems, Haizi, Baima. |
| <i>Aster</i> sp | A very large flowered species on roadside slopes on Baima |
| <i>Aster batangensis</i> | Possibly this species around Daocheng and en route to Haizi Shan on dry banks, dense almost shrubby |
| <i>Aster soulei</i> | A lovely variable mauve daisy, widespread with huge meadow populations near Zhongdian |
| <i>Aster yunnanensis</i> | Yulong Shan 2007, a few near Zhongdian 2008, darker, wider flowers with few ray florets than soulei |
| <i>Cirsium bolocephalum</i> | A fine thistle with nodding flowers near Lijiang. Other similar species seen. |
| <i>Cremanthodium decasinei</i> | Good display on Haizi Shan |
| <i>Cremanthodium campanulatum</i> | Good display in scree on Da Xue Shan, also Tianchi, etc |
| <i>Cremanthodium angustifolium</i> | A few below Haizi Sha, long slender leaves, marsh places |

<i>Cremanthodium bulbiferum</i>	Possibly this species on Da Xue Shan, wide open flowers and broad triangular rugose leaves
<i>Cremanthodium reniforme</i>	Leaves only on Hong Shan
<i>Dolomiaia berardioides</i>	Large rosettes at Yulong Shan
<i>Dolomiaea souliei</i>	Bizarre stemless thistle on Haizi Shan
<i>Erigeron breviscapus</i>	Very common in Zhongdian area, provides confusion with Aster! Denser rays, smaller diameter flowers.
<i>Jurinea</i> sp.	Stemless thistle on Haizi Shan originally thought to be a <i>Dolomiaea</i> sp
<i>Leontopodium haplophylloides/franchettii</i>	Widespread in meadows e.g. Napa Hai, long spidery rays, narrow leaves. No text available for comparison of these two species
<i>Leontopodium jacotianum</i>	Above Zhongdian, typical edelweiss, long rayed infl
<i>Ligularia cymbrifera</i> .	A fine large leaved species, widespread e.g. Yulong, Zhongdian, not flowering but corymbose when it does
<i>Ligularia lankongensis</i>	Widespread species on damp roadsides, spicate inflorescence
<i>Ligularia nelumbifolium</i>	Common in marshy areas, very large orbicular leaves e.g. Shika Shan
<i>Saussurea nidularis</i>	On Hong Shan growing in alpine turf and scree
<i>Saussurea quercifolia</i>	Fine population on scree of Hong Shan c4300m
<i>Soroseris</i> sp.	A wonderful species with broad woolly domes and rosettes of undulate leaves at 4700m near Daocheng, also Da Xue Shan at 4500m in scree

Berberidaceae

<i>Berberis jamesiana</i>	One in fine fruit below Wenghai. Napa Hai botanic garden
<i>Berberis</i> spp.	Several species seen but not identified
<i>Berberis tsarongensis</i>	Hong Shan
<i>Berberis wilsonii</i>	Possibly this species on Da Xue Shan

Betulaceae

<i>Betula platyphylla</i>	Tianchi Hai and elsewhere, more weeping habit
<i>Betula utilis</i>	Widespread

Bignoniaceae

<i>Incarvillea</i> with the exception of <i>lutea</i> are all very similar with small differences in leaves.	
<i>Incarvillea arguta</i>	Very common along roadsides in drier areas, bushy with small pinnate leaves
<i>Incarvillea compacta</i>	Baima Shan, en route to Da Xue Shan in loose soil and light scree, also a population in a depression 2010. Much shorter and compact with a whiter throat, crucially it has entire leaflets (<i>mairiei</i> has serrate leaflets).
<i>Incarvillea lutea</i>	Wenghai, tall yellow species
<i>Incarvillea younghusbandii</i>	It appears the small species found north of Da Xue Shan in 2008 was this species, only one poor plant showing 2010. Same form seen near Yading, although the species is not supposed to be in either area. Both could be depauperate <i>mairiei</i> ?
<i>Incarvillea mariei</i>	Common and variable with a golden/yellow throat and greatly enlarged terminal leaflet, although this character varies a lot e.g. Yulong, Da Xue Shan. Variable.

Incarvillea zhongdianensis

Very common around Zhongdian with some impressive tall specimens. Considered by the Flora of China to be *mairei* var *multifoliata*

Boraginaceae

Chionocharis hookeri

Some fine flowering cushions on Baima Shan at 4700m

Cynoglossum ambile

Very common along roadsides

Hackelia uncinata/brachytuba

Big population near Tianchi growing in logged areas with masses of blue flowers

Lasiocaryum trichocarpum

Unusual black borage, Napa Hai, Tianbaoshan (2010), Hong Shan

Brassicaceae

Capsella bursa-pastoris

Of course!

Cardamine macrophylla

Very common and widespread tall pink brassica, large pinnate leaves

Draba amplexicaule

Hong Shan, probably elsewhere too, tall with clasping leaves

Draba jucunda

Tighter growing species with typical bright yellow flowers e.g. Yulong

Draba surculosa

Zhongdian

Draba yunnannensis

Common on high passes of Hong Shan, Baima, etc

Hemilophia sessilifolia

Pretty white-flowers with green veins, scree on Da Xue Shan

Loxostemon delavayi

Pretty dwarf lilac-pink crucifer, common on Baima and elsewhere

Megacarpa delavayi

Similar to *Cardamine macrophylla* frequent on Da Xue Shan and perhaps overlooked elsewhere

Pegaeophyton scapiflorum

White flowers, Hong Shan among rocks, stony tracks

Solmslaubachia pulcherrima

Common in high scree and rock slopes e.g. Baima, also near Haizi

Campanulaceae

Platycodon grandiflorum

Appeared to be cultivated as a crop along the Yangtse. Not 2010/2011

Cannabinaceae

Cannabis sativa

Occasional roadside weed

Caprifoliaceae

Several species in this family were found but with no text available most remain a mystery!

Dipelta yunnanensis

Yulong Shan in shrubberies, also Napa Hai and Weixi (2010).

Leycesteria formosa

Scattered in shrubberies and roadsides

Lonicera spinosa

Deliciously fragrant prostrate shrub on Baima, similar taller species near Daocheng 2010

Lonicera spp.

Various shrubby honeysuckles were seen but not identified

Lonicera xylostemon

Possibly this species at Napa Hai botanic garden, pairs of largish erect yellow flowers

Lonicera tangutica

A pretty shrub with delicate hanging yellowish cream flowers. Weixi

Sambucus ebulus

Abundant roadside weed, an herbaceous elder

<i>Viburnum</i> spp.	Several species seen but not identified
<i>Triosteum himalayanaum</i>	Zhongdian plateau, Yulong Shan, etc
<i>Viburnum nervosum</i>	Possibly this species on Yulong Shan
<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>	
<i>Arenaria oreophila</i>	Dense dome-like cushions. Balang Shan, Haizi Shan, Da Xue Shan, Baima
<i>Arenaria kansuensis</i>	Flatter greener mats on high pass between Daocheng and Xiancheng
<i>Arenaria barbata</i>	Scattered in Yulong Shan area, delicately toothed palest pink petals
<i>Silene davidii</i>	Good cushions on high pass south of Daocheng
<i>Silene scopulorum</i>	Yulong Shan
<i>Arenaria napaulensis</i>	South of Daocheng
<i>Celastraceae</i>	
<i>Euonymus frigidus</i>	Not 2010
<i>Cornaceae</i>	
<i>Cornus</i> sp	Very large flowering shrub en route to Weixi
<i>Dendrobenthamia capitata</i>	Common along roads between 1000 and 2000m, superb flowering shrub/tree with wide creamy bracts
<i>Crassulaceae</i>	
<i>Rhodiola dumulosa</i>	Hong Shan, reddish flowers,
<i>Rhodiola</i> spp.	Two or three species were seen in the mountains, but not identified
<i>Rhodiola yunnanensis</i>	Delicate tall species, airy spikes of starry yellowish flowers, leaves in whorls of three
<i>Diapensiaceae</i>	
<i>Diapensia purpurea</i>	Plentiful on Hong Shan and Baima.
<i>Dipsacaceae</i>	
<i>Acanthocalyx (Morina) alba</i>	Scattered e.g. Tianchi, Napa Hai, white flowers
<i>Acanthocalyx (Morina) nepalensis</i>	Common and widespread in light woods, meadows, etc. Deep pink
<i>Droseraceae</i>	
<i>Drosera peltata</i>	Pretty upright sundew, Weixi, Zhongdian (not 2011)
<i>Ericaceae</i>	
Dwarf purple rhodos are utterly confusing and just how many taxa are involved depends on your point of view, some clarification (?) is attempted below.	
<i>Cassiope pectinata</i>	Da Xue Shan, Hong Shan and Baima shrublet with small white bell flowers
<i>Enkianthus deflexus</i>	Weixi pass, growing with <i>Rhododendron glischrum</i> (not 2011)
<i>Gaultheria hookeri</i>	Probably this species en route to Weixi, dominant in open pine woods where it was reminiscent of <i>Leucothoe</i> (USA) a dwarf evergreen shrub with white bell flowers

<i>Lyonia ovalifolia</i>	Evergreen shrub seen en route to Weixi with rows of pendant white flowers beneath the stems reminiscent of <i>Oxydendron</i> (USA) (not 2011)
<i>Pieris Formosa</i>	Good shrubs en route to Weixi
<i>Rhododendron calostrotum</i>	Relatively large flat crimson-purple (Shika Shan 2008) or pink flowers on small bushes, in large drifts on Baima.
<i>Rhododendron decorum</i>	Very common in mid altitude woodlands, pines, etc – pink and white forms – easily confused with <i>vernicosum</i> – has pubescent filament bases
<i>Rhododendron fastigiatum</i>	Another purple flowered dwarf rhodo, widespread e.g. Tianchi
<i>Rhododendron glischrum</i>	Weixi pass, blackish hairy leaves and stems, trumpet-like flowers (not 2011)
<i>Rhododendron hippophaeoides</i>	Pale lilac flowers, generally upright habit, Sichuan
<i>Rhododendron impeditum</i>	Very small leaved, mauve dwarf, near Daocheng – like a diminutive (!) <i>rupicola</i>
<i>Rhododendron oreotrepthes</i>	En route to Da Xue Shan this was the common medium sized pink rhodo (uniform abaxial leaf scales)
<i>Rhododendron phaeochrysum</i>	Common and widespread high altitude species in variety of colours from white to pink e.g. Shika, Da Xue Shan and pure white var <i>aglutinosum</i> at Tianchi and Hong Shan
<i>Rhododendron primulaeflorum</i>	Common small flowered species with white flowers, cinnamon indumentums e.g. Baima
<i>Rhododendron racemosum</i>	Common and widespread e.g. Tianchi Hai
<i>Rhododendron roxieanum</i>	Common on Baima, narrower leaves than <i>phaeochrysum</i> probably more widespread than recorded.
<i>Rhododendron rubiginosum</i>	Bright to pale pink, local on drier hillsides e.g Weixi, north of Zhongdian, not flowering this year. Scattering of larger abaxial scales among small scales
<i>Rhododendron rupicola</i>	Delicate dwarf shrub abundant at highest elevations and forming immense pure scrubs on Baima
<i>Rhododendron rupicola ssp chryseum</i>	Pale yellow dwarf species, widespread
<i>Rhododendron russatum</i>	Another small lilac species, upland moors
<i>Rhododendron trichostomum</i>	Similar to <i>primuliflorum</i> but narrower, smaller flowers and often pink. Widespread e.g. near Yading, Hong Shan.
<i>Rhododendron vernicosum</i>	Easily confused with <i>decorum</i> so probably under recorded. Glabrous filament bases. Weixi. Not 2011
<i>Rhododendron wardii</i>	Lovely clear yellow species, Shika Shan, Napa Hai, Da Xue Shan, etc. For once something easy to identify!
<i>Rhododendron yunnannense</i>	Scattered, e.g. Wenghai, also Weixi pass (not 2011), Julong more airy appearance, long stamens and darker centre markings, white to pink
<i>Vaccinium fragile</i>	Widespread

Fagaceae

Quercus aquifolioides
Quercus spp

Widespread evergreen oak with ovate, obtuse leaves
Other unidentified species seen including a spiny one akin to *coccifera* of the Mediterranean

Fumariaceae

Corydalis appendiculata

Delicate upright blue species near Tianchi Hai, also Baima (Tianbaoshan 2010).

<i>Corydalis atuntsuensis</i>	Lovely elegant, slender yellow species in alpine turf of Hong Shan and Da Xue Shan
<i>Corydalis benecincta</i>	Fine brown-marbled leaves and purple flowers, one on Hong Shan (2007), common on scree of Da Xue Shan and also on Baima 2011.
<i>Corydalis calcicola</i>	Probably this species at Yading, fine purplish, rose-tipped flowers, ferny leaves. Very similar if not conspecific with <i>trachycarpa</i>
<i>Corydalis hamata</i>	Handsome dense flowered yellow species on Hong Shan, etc, a fine purple/white form was found near Daocheng
<i>Corydalis melanochlora</i>	Screes on Baima at 4450m, various colour forms from white to purple. Hong Shan 2011
<i>Corydalis pachycentra</i>	Da Xue Shan, pass south of Daocheng, Shika Shan, Hong Shan; widespread electric blue species of variable habit depending on habitat, although other species might be involved, possibly pseudoadoxa.
<i>Corydalis pterygopetala</i>	Lovely delicate yellow species en route to Weixi. Not 2011.
<i>Corydalis smithinana</i>	Napa Hai. Not 2010/11

Gentianaceae

The identification of the many small annual gentians is challenging and many went unidentified!

<i>Gentiana curviphylla</i>	Tiny dark blue species above Napa Hai, dense clustered habit, on stony slopes
<i>Gentiana pubigerum</i>	Common and widespread, variable little gentian growing on roadsides and alpine turf on Haizi Shan.
<i>Gentiana chungtianensis</i>	Possibly this species on Zhongdian plateau
<i>Gentiana aperta</i>	What appeared to be this in damp ground near Zhongdian, pale blue and spreading stems with pronounced basal leaves. Supposedly not in Yunnan!
<i>Megacodon stylophorum</i>	Impressive colony on Baima. Also en route to Tianchi and Hong Shan (2007). Tianbaoshan 2010. Massive, tall gentian with greenish bell-shaped flowers
<i>Veratrilla baillonii</i>	Curious dark green flowered herb, widespread in uplands
<i>Veratrilla sp.</i>	What appears to another of this genus on Shika Shan, broader leaves and inflorescences

Euphorbiaceae

<i>Euphorbia bulleyana</i>	Stunning orange bracted species, common below Weixi pass. Not 2011
<i>Euphorbia nematocypha</i>	Very common near Zhongdian
<i>Euphorbia pekinensis</i>	Orange species like a mini-bulleyana. Tianbaoshan. Not 2011
<i>Euphorbia sikkimensis</i>	Red-veined leaves, red stems, small bracted inflorescences, Wenghai, also Napa Hai
<i>Euphorbia stracheyi</i>	Scattered low growing species wider than tall. Dwarf, prostrate species near Daocheng was also this
<i>Euphorbia yunnanensis</i>	Widespread in Yunnan, large yellow bracts, similar to <i>sikkimensis</i> but lacks red stems (usually)

Fabaceae

Probably twenty taxa of *Indigofera* were seen as well as many *Astragalus* almost all of which we cannot identify

<i>Albizia julibrissum</i>	Roadside tree at lower altitudes
<i>Astragalus acaulis</i>	Stemless creamy yellow flowers with rosette of pinnate leaves on high mountains en route to Daocheng and Baima Shan
<i>Astragalus yunnanensis</i>	Handsome white edged yellow flowers with black haired calyces and stems on Baima. Not 2011
<i>Campylotropis capillipes</i>	In drier areas, scruffy pink shrub
<i>Caragana jubata</i>	Spiny highland shrub with pink flowers e.g. near Haizi, Baima
<i>Caragana maximovicziana/franchetiana</i>	Yulong Shan, Zhongdian, etc
<i>Indigofera balfouriana</i>	Widespread low pink shrub e.g. Yulong
<i>Indigofera pendula</i>	Widespread e.g. Yulong Shan, attractive hanging racemes of lilac flowers
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Roadsides, widespread
<i>Piptanthus nepalensis</i>	Common on Hong Shan, etc and other high areas, scattered. Yellow flowered shrub with large trifoliolate leaves
<i>Chesnya (Spongiocarpella) nubigena var purpurea</i>	Attractive reddish-purple pea flowers above prostrate mat of hairy leaves on Baima.
<i>Chesnya (Spongiocarpella) polystichoides</i>	Another fine species with yellow and red flowers, shiny green leaves. Baima, near Daocheng, Da Xue Shan.
<i>Thermopsis barbata</i>	Haizi Shan, blackish-purple flowers, also near Daocheng
<i>Thermopsis smithiana</i>	Very common on Baima Shan also near Haizi, Zhongdian
<i>Tibetia tongolensis</i>	Widespread little legume with purple flowers on long stems. Other species may well be involved as many colour forms were seen.
<i>Vicia nummularia</i>	Roadsides, a typical vetch
<i>Hedysarum sikkimense</i>	Deep reddish-purple spikes, pinnate leaves, turf at Yading
<i>Hedysarum pseudastragalus</i>	Probably this fine species on high pass near Daocheng, pink-lilac, fleshy leaves

Geraniaceae

<i>Geranium delavayi</i>	Scattered e.g. Weixi, downward pointing pink flowers, a blackish form on Haizi Shan (not 2011)
<i>Geranium moupinense</i>	Widespread, large pink flowers
<i>Geranium strictum</i>	Pass between Lijaing and Shaxi, dissect leaves, medium sized pink flowers (not 2011)

Gesneriaceae

<i>Corallodiscus lanuginosus</i> .	Blue flowers and wrinkled leaves, Yulong Shan, Yangste Valley en route to Weixi
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Hydrangeaceae

<i>Deutzia calycosa</i>	Pink flowered species, longer leaves and less intense colour than <i>purpurascens</i> e.g. Yulong, Tianchi
<i>Deutzia glomeruliflora</i>	White flowers in globose infl, Yulong, also Weixi 2010
<i>Deutzia purpurascens</i>	Weixi, the common pink species there. 2011 en route to Baima
<i>Hydrangea heteromalla</i>	Weixi pass, a fine lacecap species. Not 2010!
<i>Philadelphus purpurascens</i>	Distinctive smaller flowers species with dark reddish purple pedicels and calyces
<i>Philadelphus subcanus</i>	Yulong Shan and elsewhere, the common Mock Orange

Hypericaceae

Hypericum forrestii

Very common on roadsides

Lamiaceae

Lamiophlomis rotata

Baima and other high areas, amazing 'crinkled' leaves and dense central infl of purple flowers

Salvia digitaloides

Yulong, Baima. Soft yellow

Salvia flava

Fine yellow and purple flowered species below pass near Weixi. Not 2011

Salvia przewalskii

Quite widespread, seen at Yading and elsewhere, soft plum-purple with deepest purple lip, not in flower 2011

Salvia subpalmatinervis

Pink species at the orchid site near Julong, not entirely sure this is the species concerned.

Ajuga nipponensis

Pale blue bugle with dense infl; Yulong, etc

Phlomis betonicoides

Attractive pinkish flowered species at Yulong, well spaced infl

Loganiaceae

Buddleja crispa(?)

Maybe this or a similar species along roadside north of Xiancheng

Myricaceae

Myrica rosea

Scattered and widespread, by streams, racemes of pinkish flowers

Oleaceae

Jasminum polyanthum

Roadsides between Xiancheng and Da Xue Shan

Ligustum paniculatum

Fine shrubs with creamy panicles en route to Daocheng, near Wenghai

Osmanthus delavayi

Widespread in shrubberies

Syringa yunnanensis

Scattered and widespread, white flowers

Onagraceae

Chamaerion angustifolium

Scattered

Orobanchaceae

Boschniakia himalaica

Fine parasite with tall yellowish-grey spikes. Napa Hai

Papaveraceae

Meconopsis – the taxonomy of this genus is confused, the widespread species *horridula* having been split, but now recombined by some authors. However, many are quite distinct and I have retained the former nomenclature here.

[*Meconopsis horridula*]

Lovely pale blue poppy with orange stamens on Yulong. Probably var *racemosa*. Not 2010/11.

Meconopsis integrifolia

Abundant above 4000m on Balang Shan (2007), also Da Xue Shan, Hong Shan – distinctive three veined leaves. Flowers tend to be less open and lax. Leaves on Da Xue Shan showed some intermediate character with *pseudointegrifolia*

Meconopsis lancifolia

Gorgeous purple species seen on Hong Shan 2007, near Daocheng and on Da Xue Shan in good numbers although they look much like *forrestii* here.

Meconopsis prattii

Fine blue species with pale stamens on gravelly roadsides near Zhongdian. Formerly included in *horridula*

<i>Meconopsis pseudointegrifolia</i>	Common above 4000m on Shika Shan (2007), Tianchi Hai and Baima, the leaves with only one prominent vein and more open saucer-shaped flowers
<i>Meconopsis rudis</i>	A colony on the approach to Da Xue Shan growing in crevices on shale, (not flowering) also on limestone and steep slopes on Baima. Dark spotted bases to prominent bristles, dark blue flowers with white stamens.
<i>Hypercoum</i> sp	Napa Hai
<i>Parnassiaceae</i>	
[<i>Parnassia delavayi</i>	Weixi. Not 2011]
<i>Podophyllaceae</i>	
<i>Dyososma veitchii</i>	Along valley between Langdu and Kasa
<i>Sinopodophyllum hexandrum</i>	Frequent in woodland edge e.g. Shika
<i>Polygonaceae</i>	
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Common roadside species in highlands
<i>Rheum nobile</i>	Impressive 'rhubarb' on high scree of Da Xue Shan
<i>Polygonum macrophyllum</i>	Common and widespread usually pink
<i>Rheum alexandrae</i>	Damp areas in highlands e.g. Haizi, Kangding
<i>Rheum delavayi</i>	Small round leaved species, scattered
<i>Rheum likiangense</i>	Possibly this species near Tianchi, Haizi Shan, etc reddish heart shaped leaves and red-stemmed branched inflorescence. Similar to <i>forrestii</i>
<i>Rheum tangutica</i>	Near villages, dubiously wild
<i>Polygonum viviparum</i>	Widespread, white or pinkish
<i>Primulaceae</i>	
<i>Androsace bisulca</i> var. <i>aurata</i>	Bright yellow mats all over Haizi Shan and en route to Daocheng
<i>Androsace bulleyana</i>	Startling scarlet-orange, frequent at Napa Hai and west, dryish areas of pine or <i>Corylopsis</i>
<i>Androsace delavayi</i>	Pretty pink species on Hongshan at 4500m, probably this was also the rather poor flowering pink species high in Baima
<i>Androsace rigida</i>	Fantastic carpets in various shades of white to deep pink, Da Xue Shan also Napa Hai
<i>Androsace spinulifera</i>	Common and widespread. Tall drumsticks of pale pink to deep purplish-pink
<i>Androsace</i> spp.	A number of unidentified low growing species were seen in high areas
<i>Androsace tapete</i>	Wonderful, dense cushions at Yading, white, red or yellow centred flowers. The Flora of China states that it should have pink flowers, but other sources white!
<i>Androsace wardii</i>	Deep pink species on Baima Shan at 4300m, also near Daocheng 4700m
<i>Androsace yargonensis</i>	Pink form encountered near Daocheng and near Haizi Shan. Not 2011
<i>Lysimachia pumilum</i>	Yellow creeping pimpernel
<i>Omphalogramma vincaeflora</i>	Lovely purple flowers on long stems; Hongshan
<i>Primula amethystina</i>	Charming species, locally abundant on high turf elsewhere e.g. Baima, Hong Shan, Tianchi

<i>Primula apoclita</i>	Probably this species in damp areas below pass at Baima, reddish-purple dense inflorescence, softly hairy leaves. However, it does not seem to key perfectly for any of the species in this group. Not 2010/11.
<i>Primula beesiana</i>	Good displays near Wenghai. Pink form
<i>Primula bellidifolia</i> ssp <i>hyacinthina</i>	Pass before Daochang, lilac-blue flowers, growing on granite especially near water seeps. Also common at Yading
<i>Primula blinii</i>	Delicate pink-lilac species with serrate leaves, large aggregation near Langdu and Tianbaoshan
<i>Primula boreocalliantha</i>	Tianchi Lake under shrubs, pink
<i>Primula brevicula</i>	Baima Shan above 4200m on high scree and among shrubs. Hong Shan, near Daocheng
<i>Primula bulleyana</i>	Common between Lugu and Lijiang also on Yulong Shan near Yak Meadow! Apricot orange. Not 2010
<i>Primula calliantha</i>	Lovely lilac species, wide flowers with pale centre, Baima
<i>Primula cernua</i>	Tianchi Hai, differs from <i>deflexa</i> in efarinose hairy stem and flatter leaf rosette
<i>Primula chionantha</i> ssp <i>chionantha</i>	Haizi Shan. Pale yellow form of the species growing among scrub and granite boulders. Also Tianbaoshan (2010), near Daocheng
<i>Primula chionantha</i> ssp <i>sinoplantaginea</i>	Possibly attributable to some of the high altitude dwarf forms found on Da Xue Shan, etc.
<i>Primula chionantha</i> ssp <i>sinopurpurea</i>	Widespread and variable e.g. Tianchi, Baima with some sumptuous colour forms from lavender to cerise
<i>Primula deflexa</i>	A few in alpine turf on Shika Shan (2007). One at Yading
<i>Primula dryadifolia</i>	Lovely species on Hongshan (not 2011) fine groups on Baima
<i>Primula fasciculata</i>	Pretty dwarf pink species with golden annulus in marshy areas near Daocheng
<i>Primula forrestii</i>	Fine clumps at Yulong Shan and areas further south
<i>Primula gemmifera</i>	Sweet-scented tall pink species in wet flush at Yading. Farinose stems and lack of auricles separate it from <i>involucrata</i>
<i>Primula gemmifera</i> var <i>amoena</i> (<i>zambalensis</i>)	Lilac to blue in open wet flushes, roadsides. Common on Baima Shan
<i>Primula handelii</i>	A few on Hong Shan. Unusual yellow flowers with strongly deflexed and adpressed petals.
<i>Primula hongshangensis</i>	Fine species, good population east of Zhongdian
<i>Primula involucrata</i>	The widespread pink species seen in wet flushes on the Sichuan loop e.g. near Daocheng. Pronounced adpressed auricles and lack of efarinose stems.
<i>Primula nanobella</i>	Common on Baima and on Hong Shan
<i>Primula poissonii</i>	Between Shaxi and Weixi, scattered elsewhere. Scarce 2010
<i>Primula polyneura</i>	Good population on Hong Shan and also Baima
<i>Primula pulchella</i>	Bluish-mauve species seen at Yulong Shan
<i>Primula pulchelloides</i>	Several populations near Zhongdian, pink with yellow centre, drier slopes and rocks
<i>Primula secundiflora</i>	Very common, spectacular display on Baima
<i>Primula sikkimensis</i>	Very common, large drifts at Tianchi
<i>Primula sonchifolia</i>	A few very late flowers below Shika. Not 2010/11

<i>Primula szechuanica</i>	Handsome tall species with reflexed pale yellow flowers in whorls, Shika Shan. Not 2011
<i>Primula wilsonii</i>	Blood red species in wet areas near Langdu
<i>Primula yunnanensis</i>	Yulong Shan on rocks

Pyrolaceae

Pyrola sororia Haba Shan, south of Da Xue Shan 2010

Ranunculaceae

Anemones are a tricky genus with great variation within species making identification a problem	
<i>Adonis brevistyla</i>	Fine colony below Tianchi Hai, also Shika Shan
<i>Anemone demissa</i> ssp <i>villosissima</i>	Lovely sky-blue form seen on the approach to Haizi Shan
<i>Anemone demissa</i> var <i>demissa</i>	Yulong Shan, Zhongdian, etc, dissect leaves and prominent dissect bracts, often purple reverse to petals. Variable colour with deep purple forms on Baima Shan, Haizi Shan. Perianth segments often unequal
<i>Anemone demissa</i> var <i>major</i>	Very dissect leaves and bracts, scattered
<i>Anemone rivularis</i>	Common on Haizi Shan, also Yading, like <i>demissa</i> but generally longer, larger in bracts in proportion and glossier leaves. Perianth segments +/- equal
<i>Anemone rupestris</i>	Weixi. Not 2011
<i>Anemone rupicola</i>	Baima Shan, extra-large white flowers near Paraquilegia colony on Baima Shan.
<i>Anemone trullifolia</i>	Yulong Shan (not 2011) and yellow form on Haizi distinctive tri-lobed square cut leaves
<i>Anemone vitifolia</i>	Leaves in mid-altitude forests. Not 2011
<i>Anemone obtusiloba</i>	Small flowered (white to lilac), leaves less hairy than <i>yulongshanica</i> . Abundant en route to Riwa and other areas around Daocheng
<i>Anemone yulongshanica</i>	Abundant on pastures, white and blue forms, small with distinct tri-part villous leaves
<i>Aquilegia rockii</i>	Frequent with both pure purple and white rimmed forms
<i>Batrachium bungei</i>	A crowfoot, occasionally seen in ditches and ponds
<i>Beesia calthaeifolia</i>	Unusual species with sprays of whitish flowers and round leaves under rhododendrons at Tianchi
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Very common and widespread in wet areas, bracts and multi-flowered infl
<i>Caltha scaposa</i>	Common, dwarf highland species with large flowers stems lacking bracts
<i>Cimicifuga</i> sp	Napa Hai, etc leaves only
<i>Clematis akebooides/tangutica</i>	One of these two species near Daocheng, yellow bell flowers. Not 2011
<i>Clematis chrysocoma</i>	An attractive pink flowered species on Yulong Shan, growing as a small scrambling shrub
<i>Clematis montana</i>	Widespread and common, smaller flowered with pink backed petals, e.g. Hongshan, Da Xue Shan, etc
<i>Clematis montana</i> var <i>grandiflorum</i>	Larger white flowers, Tianchi
<i>Clematis pseudopogonandra</i>	Blackish bells, large plants by river at Yading
<i>Clematis rehderiana</i>	Between Xiancheng and Da Xue Shan, also en route to Baima, greenish-yellow bells
<i>Oxygraphis glacialis</i>	Scattered in highlands, a miniature celandine, abundant on Hong Shan, large flowered form on Baima

<i>Paeonia delavayi</i>	Blackish-red flowers, Yulong, Wenghai
<i>Paeonia lutea</i>	Good population below Baima Shan but few good flowers
<i>Paraquilegia anemonoides</i>	Magnificent plants on Baima in various colours, but primarily deep lilac-blue. Regarded as <i>microphylla</i> by some authors
<i>Ranunculus tanguticus</i>	Delicate buttercup - everywhere
<i>Thalictrum alpinum</i>	High alpine turf, woodland edge, scattered. Glossy leaves, slender infl
<i>Thalictrum delavayi</i>	Yulong Shan, Wenghai, Napa Hai, a tall lilac-pink species
<i>Thalictrum javanicum/leuconotum</i>	Yulong Shan, taller fine yellowish flowers
<i>Thalictrum virgatum</i>	Delicate small white flowered species, with distinctive crenulated leaves along the stems. Yulong Shan
<i>Trollius yunnanensis</i>	Typical deep yellow trollius, common on Baima, near Daocheng and elsewhere

Rosaceae

Numerous species were not identified owing to a lack of literature, in particular many *Potentilla*.

<i>Cotoneaster buxifolius</i>	Yulong Shan
<i>Cotoneaster franchetii</i>	Possibly this species, Lijiang area
<i>Cotoneaster microphyllus</i>	Widespread
<i>Fragaria orientalis</i>	Very common on banks, etc
<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Wolong roadsides
<i>Potentilla coriandrifolia var dumosa</i>	Alpine turf e.g. Shika Shan, Wexi, pinnate leaves non-shiny
<i>Potentilla glabra</i>	Widespread shrubby species with white flowers
<i>Potentilla leuconota</i>	Denser leaves than <i>coriandrifolia</i> on Hong Shan
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Widespread shrub white to yellow flowers
<i>Potentilla spp.</i>	Several similar species of yellow flowered herbaceous species were seen but not identified
<i>Potentilla stenophylla</i>	Shiny pinnate leaves, scattered e.g. Tianchi, Hong Shan
<i>Princepia utilis</i>	Spiny arching branched shrub with bluish oval berries on Yulong
<i>Rosa lichiangensis</i>	Yulong Shan. Pink flowers
<i>Rosa odorata</i>	Scattered around Yulong area, darker glossier leaves than multiflora, but intermediates seem to occur!
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Handsome dense flowered species, Wenghai, but similar to <i>odorata</i> .
<i>Rosa omeiensis</i>	Impressive thorny stems. Scattered e.g. Napa Hai
<i>Rosa sericea</i>	Common upland species with white to cream flowers
<i>Rosa sweginzowii</i>	Fine deep pink species, scattered e.g. Napa Hai
<i>Sanguisorba filiformis</i>	Small capitate white infl., frequent in marshy ground with primulas
<i>Sibbaldia sikkimensis</i>	Very distinctive red-flowers on Baima
<i>Sibbaldia sp</i>	Various other species seen
<i>Stephanandra incisa</i>	Srambling low shrublet, white flowers
<i>Potentilla discolor</i>	Palmate leaved herb with tall infl, Yulong, etc
<i>Sorbus hupehensis</i>	Probably this species near Riwa
<i>Sorbus prattii</i>	Shiny-leaved species near Riwa
<i>Spenceria ramalana</i>	Yulong Shan and scattered elsewhere e.g. en route to Daocheng
<i>Spiraea calcicola</i>	Long racemes of white flowers, but still similar to <i>schneideriana</i> . Weixi. Until proper text is available these are best guesses! Not 2011
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Weixi (2010), Wenghai. Corymbose species

<i>Spiraea schneideriana/campsophylla</i>	One of these two species, quite widespread, clusters of white flowers forming longer inflorescence.
<i>Spiraea</i> spp.	Other white flowered species were seen but not identified
Rubiaceae	
<i>Leptodermis potanini</i>	Pretty dwarf shrub, slender stems and scented pink tubed white flowers. Other species may also be involved.
<i>Leptodermis</i> spp	Other species were seen
Rutaceae	
<i>Ruta</i> sp	A fine species near Lijiang
Salicaceae	
<i>Populus szechuanicus</i>	Magnificent trees on the descent from Langdu
<i>Salix brachista</i>	Prostrate species on montane turf e.g. near Daocheng
<i>Salix</i> spp	Other species seen, often planted
Saxifragaceae	
<i>Bergenia purpurascens</i>	Baima Shan, Hong Shan and elsewhere
<i>Chrysopenium griffithii</i>	Widespread in woodland, springs, etc. Not 2010
<i>Rodgersia pinnata</i>	Very common large pinnate-leaved herb with dense pink flowers on branched spikes
<i>Saxifraga rufescens</i>	Near Tianchi on rocks, also en route to Baishuitai in woodland. Not 2011
Schisandraceae	
<i>Schisandra rubiflora</i>	Handsome waxy red flowered climber, Weixi, (2010), Tianchi
Scrophulariaceae	
<i>Lagotis yunnanensis</i>	Round heads of whitish to lilac flowers, reddish leaves on running stems Da Xue Shan
<i>Lancea tibetica</i>	Widespread, dwarf, purple flowered
<i>Melampyrum klebelsbergianum</i>	Pink Cow-wheat en route to Weixi. Not 2011
<i>Mimulus tenellus var platyphyllus</i>	Small yellow monkey-musk near Wenghai and elsewhere in marshy areas
<i>Pedicularis axillaris</i>	Pinewoods, Weixi, Zhongdian, deep pink, scrambling species
<i>Pedicularis densispica</i>	Scattered and widespread, especially near Zhongdian, spreading tall pink species
<i>Pedicularis dichotoma</i>	Zhongdian
<i>Pedicularis lachnoglossa</i>	Elegant slender species with dark pink flower en route to Da Xue Shan, Haizi Shan
<i>Pedicularis monbeigii</i>	Spicate white species with pink beak. On Zhongdian plateau
<i>Pedicularis oederi</i>	Widespread, fine forms on Da Xue Shan, spicate, yellow with red tipped beak
<i>Pedicularis przewalskii ssp australis</i>	Pretty small deep pink species with twisted beak, flowers borne singly, Baima, near Daocheng
<i>Pedicularis pseudomelampyriflora</i>	The abundant lousewort on the Zhongdian plateau, covering large areas of damp meadow, especially near Napa Hai. Branched stems with brown tipped pink flowers, pinnatisect leaves, villous hairy. Not 2011
<i>Pedicularis rex</i>	Tall yellow flowered species en route to Weixi, also Napa Hai botanic garden.

<i>Pedicularis rhinanthoides</i>	Baima
<i>Pedicularis rhinanthoides ssp labellata</i>	Baima, Zhongdian, large pink flowers in flattened heads
<i>Pedicularis rupicola ssp rupicola var flavescens</i>	Small yellowish species near Daocheng monastery
<i>Pedicularis sigmoidea</i>	Pink with white centre and twisted beak, e.g. Weixi pass, Zhongdian
<i>Pedicularis siphonantha</i>	Da Xue Shan, pink white white centre and twisted beak. I may have originally called this as <i>przewalskii</i> for this location
<i>Pedicularis superba</i>	Tall growing speies not in flower in Zhongdian area are probably this or <i>cyathiphylla</i>
<i>Pedicularis variegata</i>	Lovely dwarf species with cream, purple-pink beaked flowers, Yading
<i>Ptheirospermum tenuisectum</i>	Slender yellow flowered species, Weixi
<i>Scutellaria orthocalyx</i>	Frequent along roadsides pinkish-blue spikes. Scarce 2011, only seen at Napa Hai
<i>Scutellaria spp</i>	At least two other species were found, one yellow near Wenghai and one reddish-mauve near Zhongdian
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Common along roadsides in drier areas
<i>Veronica pyroliflora</i>	Unusual speedwell on Yulong Shan

Solanaceae

<i>Mandragora caulescens</i>	Tainchi Hai area, also Hong Shan (2010). Black flowers
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Near Zhongdian, etc scattered

Thymeleaceae

<i>Daphne (callicola) aurantiaca</i>	Yellow flowered species, Napa Hai, Yulong, etc
<i>Daphne retusa</i>	A plant as we climbed up to Yading, also Baima
<i>Stellera chamaejasme</i>	Common in pastures, alpine turf in white, cream and yellow forms

Verbenaceae

<i>Clerodendron bungei</i>	Village roadsides in Sichuan. Not 2011
<i>Clerodendron peii</i>	White flowered shrub with pubescent red calyces en route to Wenghai
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Roadsides, small whitish spikes, branched stems

Violaceae

<i>Viola biflora</i>	Widespread from Wolong to Zhongdian, rounded leaves
<i>Viola delavayi</i>	More pointed leaves than the above found on Hong Shan and especially Weixi

Araceae

There was some confusion regarding arisaemas which I have now clarified, please read the notes;

<i>Arisaema candidissima</i>	Beautiful white species in gorge en route to Daocheng where common
<i>Arisaema ciliatum</i>	This species was actually quite common on Yulong Shan, bearing beautifully green or purple striped spathes with a fringing of hairs around the mouth of the spathe and radial narrow leaflets.
<i>Arisaema consanguineum</i>	Widespread and variable species with green or reddish-green spathes and radial narrow leaflets, but generally much larger than ciliatum.

<i>Arisaema echinoides</i>	Delicate species similar in many ways to <i>ciliatum</i> but much smaller with purple and white striped spathes and radial leaflets not more than 8. On rocks in Yulong
<i>Arisaema elephas</i>	Widespread, e.g. below Tianchi Hai. largely purple and white striped spathe with smooth spadix with long upward pointing appendage
<i>Arisaema flavum</i>	Small yellow spathes, a few en route to Riwa with <i>candidiissima</i>
<i>Arisaema franchettii</i>	A population en route to Wenghai, striped with downward pointing spathe tip and broad trilobed leaves
<i>Arisaema handelii</i>	Similar to <i>elephas</i> but spathe predominantly green striped white and rough-looking spadix that has an upward pointing appendage. Only seen en route to Weixi. Not 2011
<i>Arisaema taliense</i>	Trifoliate upward folded leaves and green and white striped spathes with curved thin green spadixes. Other odd species may turn out to be this. Not 2011
<i>Arisaema yunnanense</i>	Trifoliate flat leaves with green and white striped/lined spathes and curving green spadix. Yulong and Wenghai

Iridaceae

<i>Iris barbatula</i>	Pretty purple species with white striped falls, near Zhongdian, also en route to Weixi
<i>Iris bulleyana</i>	Abundant in grazed areas. Variable but usually mid-blue.
<i>Iris delavayi</i>	Near Daocheng by streams, larger pale blue flowers
<i>Iris chrysographes</i>	Deep purple species seen near Langdu Cheese Factory
<i>Iris colleti</i>	Small species at Yulong Shan. Blue with orange beard
<i>Iris cuniculiformis</i>	Lovely species, east of Zhongdian, Tianchi, etc, not 2011
<i>Iris dolichosiphon ssp orientalis</i>	At 4700m above Daocheng where many seen on open slopes
<i>Iris goniocarpa</i>	A population on Haizi Shan, lilac with large whitish blotches, also Zhongdian.
<i>Iris ruthenica</i>	Widespread in small numbers. Common on Haizi Shan where var <i>nana</i> occurs. Purple with white purple speckled/lined falls
<i>Iris subdichotoma</i>	Branched inflorescence and pale lilac flowers near Tiger Leaping Gorge. Not 2011
<i>Iris forrestii</i>	A yellow species seen in Yulong Shan in 2007
<i>Iris tectorum</i>	Common in northern Sichuan, also planted in hotel garden Daocheng. Large blue flowers. Leaves only

Liliaceae

<i>Alectris alpestris</i>	Common spikes of little white bells, widespread
<i>Allium humile</i>	Tianchi Hai and elsewhere, white
<i>Allium cyathophorum</i>	Possibly this species on rocks near Zhongdian, purplish pink, long pedicels
<i>Allium prattii</i>	Pink, Haizi Shan
<i>Barnardia japonica</i>	Scattered, tall white bells-flowers, like a big <i>Alectris</i> . Not 2011
<i>Disporum cantonense</i>	Yulong Shan
<i>Fritillaria cirrhosa</i>	Da Xue Shan, Tianchi, Hong Shan, variable colour form yellowish to purplish-black. The forms at Yading seem closer to <i>unibracteata</i> (?).
<i>Hemerocallis forrestii</i>	Yulong Shan, Wenghai,
<i>Lilium bakerianum</i>	Yulong Shan. Not 2008. in bud 2011

<i>Lilium lophophorum</i>	Rhododendron scrub east of Zhongdian, Baima, Da Xue Shan, odd looking non-opening creamy flowers
<i>Lilium souliei</i>	Wonderful deep maroon-brown. Plenty at Tianchi Hai
<i>Lloydia delavayi</i>	Widespread, yellow with reddish inside
<i>Lloydia serotinum</i>	Yulong Shan, white with reddish markings on some
<i>Nomocharis aperta</i>	Superb colony near Tianchi, also Napa Hai, Zhongdian
<i>Nomocharis pardanthina</i>	Gorgeous pink to white flowers with red spots, near Weixi. Not 2011
<i>Ophiopogon intermedius</i>	Scattered
<i>Ophiopogon bodinieri</i>	Widespread in Yulong Shan area, white or bluish
<i>Polygonatum curvostylum</i>	Woodlands. Sichuan
<i>Polygonatum hookeri</i>	Diminutive pink flowered species common on Baima alpine turf
<i>Polygonatum cirrhifolium</i>	Tall, white or pink species, leaflets with tendrils.
<i>Polygonatum stewartianum</i>	Although too high according to the Flora of China the plants found at Yading c3800m are ascribable to this species, but there are suggestions that the taxonomy needs revision
<i>Polygonatum prattii</i>	Common dwarf pink species, broad leaves
<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>	Or similar species on Hongshan
<i>Maianthemum lichianensis</i>	Diminutive species with white flowers and broad leaves, woodland edge near Zhongdian
<i>Maianthemum henryi</i>	Tubular green flowers, Tianchi birchwoods, Hongshan, etc
<i>Maianthemum atuntsuensis (paniculata)</i>	Tianchi birchwoods, Zhongdian, etc delicate branched panicles
<i>Maianthemum purpurea.</i>	A white or lilac flowered species below Hongshan
<i>Maianthemum forrestii</i>	Similar to atuntsuensis but larger white flowers
<i>Streptopus sp 1</i>	Pretty white bells on pass above Weixi. Not 2010
<i>Streptopus sp 2</i>	Brownish bells en route to Wenghai. Not 2010

Musaceae

<i>Musatella lasiocarpa</i>	Amazing plant, high on cliffs between Sichuan/Yunnan. Large yellow-bracted inflorescences, paddle shaped leaves. Not 2011
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Orchidaceae

<i>Phaius delavayi</i>	Near Julong also Napa Hai, etc
<i>Calanthe tricarinata</i>	Yellow and red species near Langdu
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Napa Hai, Weixi
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	One noted at Napa Hai 2007
<i>Cypripedium flavum</i>	Frequent in areas on pine, usually on top of banks e.g. Tianchi, Napa Hai and Yulong
<i>Cypripedium calcicola</i>	A plant ascribable to this species at Napa Hai, no white rim to pouch aperture and more slender sepals, deep pink-purple colour
<i>Cypripedium guttatum</i>	Widespread e.g. Napa Hai, Tianchi, etc
<i>Cypripedium lichiangense</i>	Wonderful species with huge spotted leaves and 'egg-shaped' flowers, Yulong Shan
<i>Cypripedium margaritaceum</i>	Fine species with attractive spotted leaves. One in superb flower above Haba. Not 2011
<i>Cypripedium plectrochilon</i>	Under pines with good litter, Napa Hai and other places around Zhongdian
<i>Cypripedium tibeticum</i>	Good colony above Napa Hai, also Yading where all flowers much smaller
<i>Cypripedium yunnanense</i>	Lovely pink species at Napa Hai
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Wenghai, Zhongdian, not flowering

<i>Goodyera repens</i>	Yulong Shan. Not 2011
<i>Hermidium ophioglossoides</i>	Widespread on rocks in Yulong Shan
<i>Habenaria</i> sp	Pairs of glaucous broad leaves on Yulong and Zhongdian
<i>Oreorchis erythrochrysea</i>	Widespread
<i>Oreorchis parvula</i>	Probably this species near Yading
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Napa Hai botanic garden, Zhongdian plateau
<i>Platanthera</i> sp	Napa Hai
<i>Pleione bulbocodioides</i>	Nice colony near Tianbaoshan
<i>Ponerorchis brevicarata</i>	Pretty little jewel, deep pink flowers, beautifully marked single leaves, Zhongdian
<i>Ponerorchis limprichtii</i>	Small deep pink species, long spur. Yading
<i>Ponerorchis pauciflora</i> (<i>Orchis chusua</i>)	Small pink orchid on Baima

Trilliaceae

<i>Paris polyphylla</i>	Widespread e.g. Yulong, Zhongdian
<i>Paris tibetica</i>	Napa Hai, not 2011

Zingiberaceae

<i>Roscoea caulteoides</i>	Very common at Yulong, in both yellow and purple forms, scattered elsewhere. Tall and narrow leaved
<i>Roscoea humeana</i>	A plant on Yulong Shan, stouter yellow flowered species
<i>Roscoea schneideriana</i>	Tiny species below pass near Weixi, Tianbaoshan, Zhongdian
<i>Roscoea scillifolia</i>	Pale narrow leaved species en route to Shaxi, but similar to <i>schneideriana</i> . Not 2011
<i>Roscoea tibetica</i>	Yulong Shan, scattered elsewhere e.g. Zhongdian. Shorter with broad leaves, dominant on the plateau at Yulong where most are a pale rose colour

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

Relatively few birds were recorded, in part due to the attention paid to the flora added to which were the pressures of hunting and trapping that keep Chinese avifauna decidedly wary. However, the forests and the high mountain areas still held many interesting birds. [Species in parentheses] are from previous trips and are included to give a complete picture of what might be encountered during the tour.

Tibetan Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus tibetanus</i>	2 on Baima Shan at over 4700m when I was searching for <i>Chionocharis hookeri</i>
Golden Pheasant		A female below Tianchi
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Two males in pursuit of a female near Riwa. The sinensis race.
White-eared Pheasant	<i>Crossptilon crossptilon</i>	At least 8 birds seen very well near the Sumdo monastery below Haizi Shan
Blood Pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>	One seen well on Haizi Shan, also a couple on the way up to Baima
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	A 3 on one of the high altitude lakes of Hong Shan and 4 at Yading
Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	A few at Napa Hai
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Napa Hai
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya ferruginea</i>	About 10 at Napa Hai, seen well
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Two sub-adult birds at Napa Hai
Black-necked Crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>	9 sub-adult birds at Napa Hai
[Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Below Da Xue Shan]
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>	Yulong Shan
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus hyperythrus</i>	Lovely species, seen very well below Baima
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Widespread
[Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	Heard calling from lower forests]
[Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	Scattered, e.g. en route to Weixi]
Eurasian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common and widespread, especially at high altitudes where there were many accentors breeding
[Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>	One calling for a prolonged period from an exposed perch en route to Weixi]
[Grey-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula finschii</i>	A bird flying over Da Xue Shan pass, a bit high but obviously taking a short cut] between forests!
Derbyan Parrot	<i>Psittacula derbiana</i>	A bird on Baima Shan at 4000m another en route to Rewa
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	Wonderful big swifts over Langdu
Fork-tailed Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Scattered, e.g. Tiger Leaping Gorge
Hill Pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>	Scattered, gorges and rocky valleys
Snow Pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>	Baima Shan and Yading
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	Surprisingly common given how tasty they are!
[Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	Two at Bangkok Airport on the way home]
[Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	High on Haizi Shan at over 4500m]
Redshank	<i>Tringa xxx</i>	Heard at Napa Hai

Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	One over Yading and two on high pass near Daocheng
[Himalayan Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Balang Shan]
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Baima Shan
[Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	Balang Shan]
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	En route to Riwa and on Hong Shan
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinunculus</i>	Near Riwa
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Tianchi Lake
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Scarce in lowlands
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Napa Hai
Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	Common and widespread in rural areas and uplands
Jay	<i>Garrulous glandarius</i>	Forests
Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissus erythrorhyncha</i>	Widespread e.g. Wolong, near Zhongdian, etc
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Widespread in rural areas
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	Yulong Shan and north-east of Zhongdian
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Widespread in uplands
Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus dauuricus</i>	Widespread e.g. Tagong Grasslands, Baima Shan
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Widespread around villages, etc
Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>	Forests below Baima Shan, Yulong
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	Occasional in lower forest edge
Ashy Drongo		Below Baima
White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Forest below Baima Shan
[Grey-headed Canary	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Forest near Weixi]
Flycatcher		
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Common along gorges
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	Common and widespread beside rivers
[Plain-backed Thrush	<i>Zoothera mollissima</i>	High moorland on Shika Shan]
[Long-tailed Thrush	<i>Zoothera dixonii</i>	Upland forests of Hong Shan]
[White-collared Blackbird	<i>Turdus dissimilis</i>	En route to Weixi]
[Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Zhongdian area]
Chestnut Thrush	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>	Kangding pass
Kessler's Thrush	<i>Turdus kessleri</i>	Frequent around villages, yak herder's settlements
[Golden Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i>	Hong Shan forests]
White-tailed Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	Upland scrub, seen this year near Daocheng
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Haizi Shan
Hodgson's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus hodgsoni</i>	Near Riwa and Zhongdian
Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>	Widespread in forest edge e.g. Wolong, Yulong Shan
White-capped Water Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>	Common along streams and rivers
Plumbaceous Water Redstart	<i>Phyacornis fuliginosus</i>	Common along rivers, often perched on mid-stream boulders
Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>	High moorland and forest clearings, this year a female on Hong Shan
Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>	One near Julong
[Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Lowland rural areas]
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Widespread in open areas

[Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tritis</i>	Zhongdian]
[Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Shika Shan]
Grey-crested Tit	<i>Parus dichorus</i>	North-east of Zhongdian
[Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Widespread]
Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	
Black-browed Tit	<i>Aegithalos bonvaloti</i>	Widespread
Rufous-vented Tit	<i>Parus rubiventris</i>	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Widespread
[Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Scattered]
Asian House Martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>	Widespread
Brown-breasted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i>	Scattered
Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>	White-headed form at Dijiangyan
Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	Common and widespread above 2000m
[Ashy-throated Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus masculipennis</i>	En route to Weixi]
Buff-barred Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>	Tianchi Lake, etc wonderful trilling call
Great Laughingthrush		Seen very well at Yading
Elliot's Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax elliotii</i>	widespread in shrubberies and seen ver well at Yading
[Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Beta Hai]
[White-browed Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe vinipectis</i>	En route to Weixi]
White-naped Yuhina	<i>Yuhina bakeri</i>	Below Da Xue Shan
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>	Scattered in grasslands e.g. Zhongdian
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	High mountains; this year Haizi Shan
Mrs Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>	A real stunner of a male seen very well below Baima and near Julong
[Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	Weixi]
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Common and widespread around settlements
Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer</i>	Scattered individuals
[Citrine Wagtail	<i>Monticola citreola</i>	Haizi Shan]
White Wagtail	<i>Monticola alba</i>	Widespread and common
Grey Wagtail	<i>Monticola cinerea</i>	Wolong
Rosy Pipit	<i>Anthus roseatus</i>	Baima Shan
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	A bird on Baima
[Rufous-breasted Accentor	<i>Prunella strophciata</i>	Common on Baima Shan and other upland shrubberies]
Brown Accentor	<i>Prunella fulvoescens</i>	Haizi Shan
Plain Mountain Finch		Baima
[Long-tailed Rosefinch	<i>Uragus sibiricus</i>	Below Shika Shan]
[Beautiful Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus pulcherrimus</i>	Shika Shan]
[Red-faced Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus puniceus</i>	A pair feeding quietly in the turf on Da Xue Shan]
Grey-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythaca</i>	A pair en route to Baima
Godlewski's Bunting	<i>Emberiza godlewskii</i>	Scattered