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ANTONELLA CICOGNA

## Madagascar

### A new route on the unclimbed E Face of Tsaranoro Atsimo

A team of Italian climbers opened a new route on the unclimbed E Face of **Tsaranoro Atsimo** (Southern Peak) in Madagascar (13 pitches, 670m, 8a+).

*Mai più così* (Never again) is in the heart of the Andringitra Massif (whose highest summit reaches 2600m above sea level) in the SW part of Madagascar Island. The E side of the mountain, **Tsaranoro**, boasts the most imposing face: 2000m wide and 800m high.

'Tsaranoro consists of three independent summits, the third one still unclimbed,' explained the Italian expedition, Madagascar 98, formed by Rolando Larcher (Trento), Marco Sterni and Erik Svab (both Trieste). 'It was on this third summit that we scored the success.' The route, on vertical and compact granite, is 670m long, 13 pitches with maximum difficulty 8a+ (X-). The start required bolts, but they were never used for progression, only for protection.

Length of the route: 670 metres – 13 pitches

96 bolts + 26 bolts on belays

Maximum difficulty: 8a+ (X-)

Unavoidable difficulty: 7b

Descent: rappel down the route

Opened on 9-10-12-14-16 of September 1998

Openers: Rolando Larcher, Marco Sterni, Erik Svab