



Climbing the iced-up crack before the crux of pitch 2

AGGRAVATED TURTLES

Grades: M6 WI5+ 130m

Location: Mount Field, Yoho National Park BC

Base Elevation & Aspect: 1450m, South facing

First Ascent: Sebastian Taborszky, Bruno-Pierre Couture, December 2021

ATES: Challenging (2)

Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from the post by Sebastian on the Facebook group Rockies Ice & Mixed Conditions. All photos, text and any errors are from that post -NB

"We went to check out *Big Sexy's Yodel*... not really in... We climbed a line to the left in a good looking natural weakness splitting the whole wall. 3 pitches, [M6+]ish crux, no beta on it or any sign of previous passage. What looked good to the eye was actually horrible tedious climbing. Don't. The turtles were getting more and more aggravated the higher we got. "

Approach

Park at the Monarch campground/Yoho Valley Road parking lot 4.2km east of Field.

Hike to the back of the Monarch campground loop, and find an avalanche path coming down from the left side of a tree island on the cliffs above. Hike up this avalanche path, bypassing a lower cliffband on the left side and reaching the cliff above. Traverse rightward along the base of the cliff to a right-trending corner right of a large but thin seep of ice. 0.5-1 hour from the car.

P1: M4 60m

Climb the right slanting corner to the ledge, and build an anchor 8m to the right of the thin dribbles of ice above the left end of the ledge.

P2: M6 WI5+ 30m

Climb the corner through a few cruxy sustained moves with really bad feet. Crucial #3 cam protects this. Climb the rotten ice above and continue on easier ice to where the flow stops, and belay at a screw anchor.

P3: M4+ WI5 40m

Continue up the right slanting corner for 10m to where it ends. Traverse hard right for 10m to gain the upper ice of *Big Sexy's Yodel*, and climb this for another 15-20m to where the ice ends.

Rack

Cams to #3-4, nuts, some pitons. Screws including stubbies and 13cm. Double ropes or single/tag.

Descent

Rappel twice (30-40m, 55m) down *Big Sexy's Yodel* on V-thread anchors.

Editor's Note

- The descent for this route relies on ice being thick enough for V-threads on *Big Sexy's Yodel*. If the ice is not present, it may be possible to walk a long way right (east) over a buttress to a gully leading back down. However, it is not recommended to do this, so be prepared to leave gear if the ice does not form adequately.

