

1 Magnitude of the 39.8 ka Campanian Ignimbrite, Italy: insights from 2 an ignimbrite isopach map

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14 Abstract

15 The 39.8 ka Campanian Ignimbrite (CI) is the largest caldera-forming eruption of the Campi Flegrei
16 during the Quaternary, which had a global-scale impact on the environment and human populations.
17 The cooling following the eruption and the several effects of it strongly affected the
18 paleoenvironment and the migration of hominids in Europe. The volume of the eruption is necessary
19 to constrain the climate model of this area in the past. However, despite a large number of studies, the
20 Dense Rock Equivalent (DRE) volume estimates range from 60 to 300 km³. Here we present a
21 review of the previous volume evaluations and a new calculation of the volume of the ignimbrite.
22 This estimate is constrained by the first total CI isopach map, developed through a method able to
23 reconstruct the paleo-topography during the eruption, which is easily reproducible in all ignimbrites
24 strongly topographically controlled and allows the calculation of well-defined uncertainties. The
25 preserved total bulk extra-caldera volume of the ignimbrite is estimated at 61.5 km³ ± 5.5 km³. The
26 total PDC deposit volume is then corrected for erosion, ash elutriation, the intracaldera deposit
27 volume and the volume of tephra deposited in the sea. The total final volume estimate of the eruption
28 ranges from 165 km³ – 248 km³ DRE. This value corresponds to a mass of 4.3 - 6.5 x 10¹⁴ kg, a
29 magnitude (M) of 7.7 and a VEI of 7. This M makes the CI the largest-magnitude Quaternary
30 eruption in the Mediterranean area. The new detailed estimation of CI eruption physical parameters
31 confirms this event has significantly affected human activity and the environment on a large scale at
32 the time of the eruption and, in the future, an event of this size would be cataclysmic.

33 1 Introduction

34 Pyroclastic density currents (PDCs) have large impacts on human communities and the environment;
35 they can cause catastrophic environmental and property damage and loss of life, as well as
36 accounting for the major proportion of deaths caused by volcanic activity. In the last 200 years,

37 26.8% of volcano-induced mortality resulted from PDCs (Tanguy et al., 1998; Witham, 2005).
38 Moreover, global and regional climatic effects can result from the injection of ash and sulfur aerosols
39 into the stratosphere during large explosive eruptions, leading to a “volcanic winter” (Rampino and
40 Self, 1992; Stuiver et al., 1995; Thordarson and Self, 1996). The quantitative computation of the size
41 of explosive eruptions is essential to understand their potential impact on humans, climate and
42 ecosystems (Mason et al., 2004). Calculating the volume of volcanic large eruptions is necessary to
43 define the size and to model the climate effects of these natural phenomena occurred in the past.

44 The total eruptive product of large caldera-forming eruptions can consist of both fall deposits and
45 ignimbrites (Parfitt and Wilson, 2008), and typically the largest proportion is transported in PDCs
46 and emplaced as ignimbrites. Despite numerical models have greatly improved estimates of tephra
47 dispersal from the fallout phase in recent years (Bonadonna et al., 1998, 2005; Bonadonna and
48 Phillips, 2003; Costa et al., 2006, 2012; Barsotti et al., 2008; Folch et al., 2010; Folch, 2012), a clear
49 “reference” method for the calculation of ignimbrite volume does not exist and uncertainties on such
50 computations are huge (Mason et al., 2004). The volume of ignimbrites was subject of numerous
51 studies (Smith, 1960; Parker and McDowell, 1979; Newhall and Self, 1982; Walker, 1983; Aldiss
52 and Ghazali, 1984; Morgan et al., 1984; Ratté et al., 1984; Henry and Price, 1984; Sparks et al.,
53 1985; Knight et al., 1986; Wilson, 2001; Mason et al., 2004; Lee et al., 2004; Pérez et al., 2006;
54 Geyer and Martí, 2008; Folkes et al., 2011; Crossweller et al., 2012; Best et al., 2013a, 2013b; Brown
55 and Andrews, 2015; Pacheco-Hoyos et al., 2018), however it remains difficult to evaluate due to the
56 irregularity of the ignimbrite surface, the variable thickness (controlled by the paleomorphology), the
57 effect of erosion, the presence of younger products and the variable density of the deposits. The
58 eruptive volume, and as a consequence the ignimbrite volume, is essential for magnitude (M) and
59 VEI computation of an eruption. The total absence of any well-defined quantitative method for the
60 calculation of the volume of ignimbrites, which form the major part of eruption M greater than 5, is
61 one of the main outstanding issues in volcanology (e.g. the collapse caldera database (CCDB)
62 project, Geyer and Martí, 2008; the LAMEVE project, Crossweller et al., 2012).

63 The lack of a standardized method for the calculation of ignimbrite volumes, which makes most of
64 the existing figures for large volume ignimbrites rather poorly constrained and unreproducible,
65 allows large spans of volumes estimated (e.g. Cerro Galán, Folkes et al., 2011; Campanian Ignimbrite,
66 Scarpati et al., 2014). The case of study of this work is the Campanian Ignimbrite (CI; Barberi et al.,
67 1978; De Vivo et al., 2001; Fedele et al., 2008; Fisher et al., 1993), associated with the most
68 powerful caldera-forming eruption from Campi Flegrei (CF) (Fig. 1A) (Rosi and Sbrana, 1987;
69 Perrotta et al., 2006; Scarpati et al., 2013), which occurred at 39.8 ka (Giaccio et al., 2017). It is one
70 of the largest late Quaternary explosive events and has been considered as an example of a super-
71 eruption (Sparks et al., 2005). The CI tephra represents the most widespread volcanic deposit and one
72 of the most important temporal/stratigraphic markers for the Early Upper Paleolithic of western
73 Eurasia (Fedele et al., 2003; Pyle et al., 2006; Giaccio et al., 2008). The eruption may have affected
74 human residents in different ways: by destroying the animal and human populations, by altering the
75 species composition and growth rhythm and by changing the availability of water (Fedele et al.,
76 2002, 2007; Lowe et al., 2012). The abrupt volcanic cooling following the eruption occurred in a
77 more intense way in Eastern Europe and Northern Asia, and reached from -6°C up to -9°C . The
78 cooling could have influenced the migration of the populations and have affected the daily life for
79 Neanderthals and modern humans during the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition (Black et al.,
80 2015; Marti et al., 2016).

81 In this work, we present a review of all papers that determined the CI volume. Despite the large
82 number of studies, the estimates of total Dense Rock Equivalent (DRE) volume of CI range from 60

83 to 300 km³, with no apparent convergence on an accepted value and none of this report a well-
84 constrained method for the ignimbrite volume, or the associated uncertainties (Thunell et al., 1979;
85 Cornell et al., 1983; Rosi et al., 1983, 1999; Fisher et al., 1993; Civetta et al., 1997; Rolandi et al.,
86 2003; Fedele et al., 2003; Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Pyle et al., 2006; Giaccio, 2006; Marianelli et
87 al., 2006; Pappalardo et al., 2008; Costa et al., 2012; Scarpati et al., 2014; Marti et al., 2016). The
88 volume of distal tephra (both Plinian and co-ignimbrite) is well defined due to the many
89 measurements across the vast region and a recent improvement of computational methods (Costa et
90 al., 2012; Marti et al., 2016). Nevertheless, the volume of the PDC deposits was never calculated by
91 direct measurements. We propose a rigorous method to develop, for the first time, a complete isopach
92 map of the Campanian Ignimbrite based on mapping of the preserved deposits and the reconstruction
93 of the paleomorphology, especially in mountain areas, a method which can be easily applied to other
94 ignimbrites in the world. We provide a revised volume of the pyroclastic density current extra-
95 caldera deposits of the CI preserved on land based on a verifiable method of calculation and with the
96 relative uncertainties. Using this as a base, we correct for erosion, elutriation, intracaldera volume
97 and underwater deposits to calculate the most reliable total bulk and Dense Rock Equivalent (DRE)
98 volumes for this eruption. The obtained volume strongly reduces the total error in the previous
99 estimates, which should be used to better develop and constrain the climate model of the Eastern
100 Europe during the Paleolithic period.

101 **2. Volcanological background**

102 The activity in the Campi Flegrei began prior to 80 ka (Pappalardo et al., 1999; Scarpati et al., 2013).
103 The area consists of two nested depressions formed and activated during both the CI and the more
104 recent ~15 ka Neapolitan Yellow Tuff (NYT) eruptions (Orsi et al., 1996; Di Vito et al., 1999;
105 Perrotta et al., 2006; Acocella, 2008; Vitale and Isaia, 2014). A recent study identified an M 6.6
106 event correlated to the Y-3 tephra, named Masseria del Monte Tuff; this eruption is likely to have
107 generated a caldera collapse between CI and NYT (Albert et al., 2019). After the NYT eruption,
108 intra-caldera volcanic activity continued with more than 70 eruptions, subdivided into three volcanic
109 epochs: epoch I (15-10.6 ka), epoch II (9.8-9.2 ka) and epoch III (4.6-3.8 ka) (Di Vito et al., 1999;
110 Isaia et al., 2009; Smith et al., 2011). The last eruption occurred in 1538 CE and led to the formation
111 of the Monte Nuovo tuff cone.

112 The CI eruption emplaced both pyroclastic fall and PDC deposits in a complex sequence currently
113 exposed in proximal, medial, distal and ultra-distal outcrops (Fig. 1) (Barberi et al., 1978; Rosi et al.,
114 1988, 1996, 1999; Fisher et al., 1993; Perrotta and Scarpati, 1994, 2003; Orsi et al., 1996; De Vivo et
115 al., 2001; Cappelletti et al., 2003; Perrotta et al., 2006; Fedele et al., 2008b; Engwell et al., 2014;
116 Scarpati et al., 2015a, 2015b; Sparice, 2015; Scarpati and Perrotta, 2016; Smith et al., 2016). The first
117 phase of the eruption generated a Plinian column up to 44 km high (Rosi et al., 1999; Marti et al.,
118 2016), producing a widespread fall deposit dispersed by winds to the east (Rosi et al., 1999; Perrotta
119 and Scarpati, 2003; Marti et al., 2016; Scarpati and Perrotta, 2016). A pyroclastic density current then
120 spread over an area of 7,000 km² and surmounted ridges more than 1,000 m high (Barberi et al.,
121 1978; Fisher et al., 1993). This stage caused the caldera collapse and the accumulation of lithic
122 breccia's deposits (Breccia Museo) in scattered outcrops along the caldera rim (Perrotta and Scarpati,
123 1994; Melluso et al., 1995; Rosi et al., 1996; Fedele et al., 2008b). In distal outcrops, most of the CI
124 is represented by a massive, gray ignimbrite (Barberi et al., 1978; Fisher et al., 1993; Scarpati and
125 Perrotta, 2012; Scarpati et al., 2015a). In more distal and ultra-distal sites deposits are made up by
126 coarse to fine ash containing both co-plinian and co-ignimbrite tephra (Thunell et al., 1979; Sparks
127 and Huang, 1980; Engwell et al., 2014; Smith et al., 2016). The tephra marker related to this eruption
128 is essential to correlate volcanological and archeological sites in the Mediterranean area and Eastern

129 Europe. Tephra-based correlations of human sites were used to date the Middle to Upper Paleolithic
130 transition (Lowe et al., 2012).

131 The complex stratigraphy of this eruption differs between proximal and distal outcrops (Fig. 1B, Fig.
132 1C). Moreover, it is difficult to study the lateral correlations due to the absence of outcrops in medial
133 areas (except for the Lago di Patria outcrop, Table A2 in Data Repository), because all quarry-pits
134 have been refilled. The limited drill core data shows little evidence of lateral unit change. In our
135 study, we refer to the stratigraphic units proposed by Fedele et al. (2008) (proximal area) and
136 Cappelletti et al. (2003) (medial and distal areas). The stratigraphy in proximal areas, from bottom to
137 top, consists of 6 units: 1) Plinian pumice fallout deposit (PPF); 2) unconsolidated stratified ash flow
138 (USAF); 3) welded gray ignimbrite (WGI) interlayered with some more welded levels (Piperno); 4)
139 lower pumice flow unit (LPFU); lithic breccia unit (BU), in places with welded spatter beds (SU);
140 and 6) upper pumice flow unit (UPFU). The stratigraphic sequence of distal outcrops involves, from
141 bottom to top: 1) PPF; 2) USAF; 3) WGI; 4) lithified yellow tuff (LYT); and 5) coarse pumice flow
142 (CPF).

143 3. The previous estimates of the CI volume

144 Defining the eruptive volume is necessary to simulate the climate impact of this eruption in Eastern
145 Europe. Here is reported a review of the previous estimates of the CI volume aim to define a
146 constrained volume for this eruption (Table 1).

147 The total volume erupted during a caldera-forming eruption, like the CI, is composed of the mass
148 ejected during the phases that produced Plinian columns (V_{pf}), and pyroclastic density currents (V_{pdc})
149 (1):

$$150 \quad V = V_{pf} + V_{pdc} \quad (1)$$

151 Both V_{pf} and V_{pdc} are made of the main primary deposits (respectively the Plinian fallout V_{ppf} , the
152 proximal pumice lapilli deposit, and the ignimbrite V_i) and their associated co-plinian fall (V_{cpf}) and
153 co-ignimbrite ash fall (V_{ci}). Indeed, fine ash suspended in the atmosphere can be co-plinian rather
154 than co-ignimbrite (Fierstein and Hildreth, 1992). Consequently (2):

$$155 \quad V = V_{ppf} + V_{cpf} + V_i + V_{ci} \quad (2)$$

156 Due to the difficulty to distinguish the contribution of the co-plinian fall and the co-ignimbrite ash
157 fall in ultra-distal locations, some authors simply refer to the widespread Y-5 ash layer, which
158 comprises both (Table 1). This layer is the tephra marker linked to the CI eruption and is recognized
159 from marine cores across the Eastern Mediterranean region to Russia, for this reason, Y-5 is an
160 excellent chronostratigraphic marker in the Northern Hemisphere (Thunell et al., 1979; Cornell et al.,
161 1983; Narcisi and Vezzoli, 1999; Ton-That et al., 2001; Fedele et al., 2003; Giaccio et al., 2006; Pyle
162 et al., 2006; Engwell et al., 2014; Smith et al., 2016). Previous studies distinguished also the co-
163 plinian and co-ignimbrite contribution (Sparks and Huang, 1980; Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Marti
164 et al., 2016; Smith et al., 2016); some of them calculated the relative volumes (Perrotta and Scarpati,
165 2003; Marti et al., 2016).

166 The first volume estimate of the ignimbrite was presented by Thunell et al. (1979). Based on a
167 geometrical method that considers a covered area of over 6000 km² with a thickness up to 100 m and
168 assuming a radial flow of the PDC, they estimate the DRE volume is at least 30-40 km³. The DRE
169 volume of the Y-5 ash layer within the 1-cm isopach contour was also estimated at 30-40 km³ (65

170 km³ bulk) and the authors recognized that Y-5 is composed by a co-plinian and a co-ignimbrite ash,
171 but they did not calculate each contribution to the volume. Their total DRE volume is 60-80 km³ for
172 the eruption.

173 Cornell et al. (1983) calculated the ash-fall layer volume of Y-5 from an isopach map derived by
174 different cores drilled in the Mediterranean Sea (73 km³ bulk). They then included the ignimbrite
175 DRE volume proposed by Thunell et al. (1979) in their overall eruption volume estimate. On the
176 other hand, the bulk volume of the original pyroclastic current was estimated by Fisher et al. (1993)
177 of about 500 km³ by circumscribing a circle of deposits with a radius of 100 km, 100 m thick at the
178 center that thinned to zero at the perimeter of the circle.

179 Civetta et al. (1997) is one of the first works that subdivided the volume of the CI based on the
180 pumice composition. The authors divided the magma into three different types: a most evolved one
181 that consists of Plinian fallout and some ignimbrite up to 50 km from the vent (a volume of 25 km³
182 DRE), a magma with intermediate composition that includes some of the ignimbrite out to its farthest
183 extent (100 km³ DRE), and a least-evolved magma that includes much of the ignimbrite in the
184 Campanian Plain (20 km³ DRE). All the volume calculations were made by circumscribing circles
185 with a radius similar to the maximum distance reached from the vent by that magma type and a
186 thickness that goes from the maximum thickness of ignimbrite of that composition at the caldera
187 center to zero at the perimeter of the circle.

188 Pappalardo et al. (2008) used petrological data to constrain the pre-eruptive magma storage dynamics
189 and, in agreement with Civetta et al. (1997), proposed a total volume of 200 km³ DRE (20 km³ for
190 the fallout and 180 km³ for the ignimbrite).

191 Rosi et al. (1999) calculated the bulk volume of the Plinian fallout as 15 km³ based on the method
192 proposed by Pyle (1989), which assumes exponential thickness decay away from the vent and an
193 elliptical isopach distribution with the source at one focus; in the CI case, this focus corresponds to a
194 central vent, located in the Campi Flegrei caldera center (town of Pozzuoli). The same technique was
195 used by Perrotta and Scarpati (2003), who estimated a bulk volume of about 4 km³, the different
196 value being the result of a different way than Rosi et al. (1999) used to trace the isopach lines. In the
197 same work (Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003), the authors attempt, for the first time, to discriminate, in
198 term of volumes, between the co-plinian and co-ignimbrite components. The coarse ash of ultra-distal
199 deposits was interpreted as the co-plinian phase, while the fine ash represents the co-ignimbrite
200 component. The authors evaluated the thicknesses of the two parts and estimated the volume as
201 follows: 16 km³ of co-plinian ash and 100 km³ of co-ignimbrite ash. Scarpati and Perrotta (2016)
202 subdivided the fallout into five layers (A to E) and calculated the volumes for each of them using the
203 same exponential fitting, obtaining a primary fallout of about 5 km³ (~1 km³ DRE) and a co-plinian
204 ash of about 15 km³ (~7 km³ DRE).

205 These analyses were improved consequent to Pyle et al. (2006), who estimated the minimum bulk
206 volume of the CI fallout of 74 km³ or 31 km³ DRE: the authors used the general observation that
207 many fallout deposits show exponential decay of thickness (Pyle, 1989). In the same work, the
208 authors compared these results with a second approach based on the rate of thinning of the distal ash
209 sheets (Pyle, 1989, 1990): given that the thickest ash layer in marine cores is of the order of 10–20
210 cm, it is most likely that the total bulk ash volume associated with the eruption was in the range 74–
211 120 km³ (31–50 km³ DRE) (Pyle et al., 2006).

212 A first attempt to compare all the volume estimates was proposed by Fedele et al. (2003), who
 213 considered the sum of the conservative estimates reported in literature. The total DRE volume they
 214 proposed is 200 km³ (the sum of the fallout, the PDC deposits and the Y-5 ash layer volumes
 215 (Thunell et al., 1979; Civetta et al., 1997; Rosi et al., 1999)). Similar value was proposed by Giaccio
 216 (2006), 215 km³ DRE (385 km³ bulk), he calculated the volume of the PDC using a complex
 217 truncated cone, with a concave surface and variable heights: 70 m up to 10 km from the center, 50 m
 218 up to 20 km, 20 m up to 45 km and 0 m up to 100 km. At the same time, he proposed a revised
 219 isopach map for the fallout deposits, resulting in a volume estimate of 10 km³ (3 km³ DRE).
 220 Moreover, combining all available data on the distal tephra of CI from the literature (Cornell et al.,
 221 1983; Melekestsev et al., 1984; Paterne et al., 1986; McCoy and Cornell, 1990; Castagnoli et al.,
 222 1995; Seymour and Christanis, 1995; Narcisi and Vezzoli, 1999; Ton-That et al., 2001; Upton et al.,
 223 2002; Seymour et al., 2004), Giaccio (2006) calculated the volume of this fraction as 180 km³ (86
 224 km³ DRE) and thus estimated a bulk volume of 575 km³ (300 km³ DRE).

225 The most difficult part of drawing isopach maps of the Plinian fallout is the limited number of distal
 226 subaerial locations where the tephra is found. To solve this, a new volume estimate was proposed by
 227 Costa et al. (2012) based on the fit of an advection – diffusion tephra dispersion model to thickness
 228 data. They obtained a bulk volume of the tephra of 250-300 km³ (104-125 km³ DRE) and a total
 229 volume of the eruption of 430-680 km³ (180-280 km³ DRE).

230 Scarpati et al. (2014) estimated the PDC volume applying equation (3) assuming a co-ignimbrite
 231 volume (V_{ci}) of 100 km³ obtained by Perrotta and Scarpati (2003) and a mean vitric loss of 0.65. The
 232 method is based on the enrichment factor of Walker (1972, 1980) and the vitric loss of the ignimbrite
 233 proposed by Sparks and Walker (1977). The volume (V) (3) is equal to:

$$234 \quad V = \frac{V_{ci}}{\text{vitric loss}} - V_{ci} \quad (3)$$

235 This method is strongly influenced by the mean value of vitric loss used, which is normally estimated
 236 from sporadic punctual measurements. The bulk volume of the PDC deposits thus estimated is 54
 237 km³ (25 km³ DRE, using a density of 2600 kg/m³). In the same study, the authors proposed a review
 238 of the previous volume estimations (Scarpati et al., 2014).

239 The most recent work on the fallout volume was presented by Marti et al. (2016). The authors
 240 recognized two distinct plume phases: the Plinian (V_{pt}) and the co-ignimbrite fall. They applied a
 241 computational inversion method that explicitly accounts for the two phases and for gravitational
 242 spreading of the umbrella cloud, dividing in two phases provide the best estimate, as they are two
 243 different spreading and source phenomena. The Plinian fallout bulk volume thus calculated is 54 km³
 244 (22.6 km³ DRE, using a density of 2500 kg/m³) and the co-ignimbrite bulk volume is 153.9 km³
 245 (61.6 km³ DRE), for a bulk total volume of 207.9 km³ (84.2 km³ DRE).

246 To summarize, the existing estimates of the total DRE volume of the CI eruption range from 60 to
 247 300 km³ (Thunell et al., 1979; Cornell et al., 1983; Rosi et al., 1983, 1999; Fisher et al., 1993; Civetta
 248 et al., 1997; Rolandi et al., 2003; Fedele et al., 2003; Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Pyle et al., 2006;
 249 Giaccio, 2006; Marianelli et al., 2006; Pappalardo et al., 2008; Costa et al., 2012; Scarpati et al.,
 250 2014; Marti et al., 2016) and those for the bulk volume of the CI pyroclastic density current deposits
 251 range between 54 and 500 km³ (Thunell et al., 1979; Cornell et al., 1983; Fisher et al., 1993; Civetta
 252 et al., 1997; Rolandi et al., 2003; Marianelli et al., 2006; Pappalardo et al., 2008; Scarpati et al.,
 253 2014). The margin of error in these volumes is unacceptably high due to the different methods used,
 254 especially in view of the relevance of such figures on the impact on climate and the environment.

255 While the computational methods for the fallout deposits have improved significantly in the past ten
256 years and the related figures for the CI fallout phase appear strong and solidly based on field data
257 (Costa et al., 2012; Marti et al., 2016), the volume figures for the CI ignimbrite appear to remain very
258 poorly constrained and without well-assessment uncertainties. Although this volume largely affects
259 the estimation of the volume of elutriated co-ignimbrite ash, which is the dominant fallout phase
260 across Europe and the most relevant fraction of ash injected into the stratosphere at the time of the
261 eruption (e.g. Costa et al., 2018).

262 **4. Constructing the CI isopach map**

263 In order to reduce this wide range in volume estimates, we focus on constraining the volume of the
264 PDC deposits of the CI. Our calculation of thickness and volume does not take into account the initial
265 pyroclastic Plinian fall phase and the co-ignimbrite fallout; we used the fall volume calculation of
266 other authors, the maximum and the minimum proposed in literature by Perrotta and Scarpati (2003)
267 and Marti et al. (2016). Our CI isopach map is based on previous published data, fieldwork and the
268 assessment of the paleo-topographic control exerted on the deposits thickness distribution.

269 **4.1 Database and fieldwork**

270 Published data regarding CI thickness and outcrop locations were collected from 42 papers
271 (presented in Data Repository, Table 1). The whole data were inserted in a GIS Open-Source QGIS
272 3.4 (<https://www.qgis.org/it/site/>) database including 238 localized outcrops. The database includes
273 the name of the location, the lithological description, the geographic coordinates, the elevation a.s.l.,
274 the thickness of the flow units (specifying whether total or outcrop thickness), the maximum lithic
275 dimensions and the degree of welding. Where both base and top of the CI are exposed, the thickness
276 is classified as total and elsewhere it is considered a minimum thickness.

277 This database has been augmented by our field data acquired in 97 locations (presented in Data
278 Repository, Table 2), both in proximal and distal areas (Fig. 1D). Fieldwork was aimed to measure
279 the total or minimum thickness, the local stratigraphy and to understand the relation of the ignimbrite
280 with the topography.

281 **4.2 The zero-thickness isopach**

282 The zero-thickness isopach is an outer limit beyond which the CI is not present, and it delimits the
283 current areal distribution of the PDC outcrops. The isopach was reconstructed through a first phase of
284 revision of the geological maps already existing at the scale 1:10,000, 1:50,000 or 1:100,000
285 (Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1963, 1965a, 1965b, 1965c, 1966, 1967a, 1967b, 1971a, 1971b, 1975;
286 Rosi and Sbrana, 1987; Vezzoli and Barberi, 1988; ISPRA, 2009, 2010, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c, 2011d,
287 2014a, 2014b, 2016, 2018; Sbrana and Toccaceli, 2011). The contact was traced between the CI and
288 older units and extrapolated where CI does not crop out. In this circumstance, the ignimbrite is
289 generally covered by younger deposits, but it is necessary to assess if the CI was never emplaced
290 there. To distinguish between these two cases, a statistical and morphological analysis of the actual
291 slope of the top of the CI was applied and a comparison between the topography and the average
292 slope of the CI top was carried out. Where the slope angle is comparable, the area was included in the
293 zero-thickness isopach, even if CI is not cropping out. Greater slope angles were attributed to
294 underlying basement (mostly Meso-Cenozoic calcareous or flysch) and the isopach was traced to
295 leave out these areas and no primary CI deposition was interpreted.

296 *4.3 The isopachs*

297 To determine the isopach locations, two different methods were used, one in the proximal area (from
 298 the caldera to the base of the Apennine Mountains, including the Campanian Plain) and one in the
 299 more distal area. The almost complete lack of outcrops in the Campanian Plain and the valley-ponded
 300 depositional style in the ridge-valley topography of the Apennine Mountains (Rosi et al., 1983, 1996;
 301 Perrotta et al., 2010; Langella et al., 2013; Scarpati et al., 2014, 2015a; Sparice, 2015; Fedele et al.,
 302 2016) make these different approaches necessary.

303 In the proximal area, data from the literature (Bellucci, 1994; ISPRA, 2011d; Milia and Torrente,
 304 2007; Ortolani and Aprile, 1985; Rolandi et al., 2003; Scandone et al., 1991; Torrente et al., 2010),
 305 consisting of more than 300 thickness values of CI from boreholes, outcrops and geological sections
 306 were used to fit isopachs on the map. In the distal area, the isopach locations were based upon our
 307 field observations and the reconstruction of the pre-CI topography (Fig. 2). A series of profiles (~
 308 150) in the Apennine Mountains were drawn to outline the trend of the valleys (Fig. 2B). The coast-
 309 line in Mediterranean Sea at the time of the CI emplacement (39.8 ka) was lower than present-day,
 310 but it is difficult to define the precise level due to the high tectonic activity in the region and the
 311 difference in behavior between a closed basin such as the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean,
 312 which responded predictably to global sea-level changes. Based upon limited sea-level correlation
 313 work in the Mediterranean basin (Lambeck and Bard, 2000; Antonioli et al., 2004; Antonioli, 2012),
 314 we assumed a sea level between 75 m and 87 m lower than present-day.

315 Topographic cross-sections were traced orthogonally to the center of the valley and to the contour
 316 lines, including the flanks of the reliefs and the zero-thickness isopach. The slopes of the valley
 317 above the CI zero isopach were extended and gradually shallowed toward the valley center in order
 318 to reconstruct the paleo-valley with an inclination of the sides similar to the current slope, always
 319 taking into consideration the geological and morphological features (Fig. 2C), and assuming that the
 320 Meso-Cenozoic mountain slopes have not significantly changed since 40 ka. This method considers
 321 that the CI typically has a valley-pond geometry inside the Apennine Mountains (Rosi et al., 1996;
 322 Perrotta et al., 2010; Scarpati et al., 2014, 2015a; Sparice, 2015; Fedele et al., 2016). The base
 323 elevation of the paleo-valleys is constrained by field data where the CI base has been measured.

324 These reconstructed valleys culminate generally in a V shape, with the bottom elevation, above the
 325 sea level, for each profile representing the paleo-valley floor. All these elevations represent the
 326 ancient pattern of the valley bottom, for this reason, they were modified if they were inconsistent
 327 with the progressive downslope decrease in elevation. We also took into account the slope of the
 328 present-day drainage network (Fig. 2A).

329 Finally, the neo-incision of rivers in the profiles was flattened, to not include in the result the linear
 330 erosion of the last 39.8 ka (Fig. 2C). The CI thickness is calculated by these modified profiles, and it
 331 is always constrained by field data on the CI thickness and with the geological maps. These thickness
 332 values are then reported on the isopach map.

333 All the isopachs were traced always in coherence with field data, for both thickness and base
 334 elevation, geology of Meso-Cenozoic sides of the valleys and, finally, the progressive downslope
 335 decrease in the base elevation of the valleys referred to the present-day drainage network. Where
 336 these data were not consistent, an adjustment in some profiles was necessary. The most significant
 337 adjustments were made for a resulting over-thickening inside the valleys. In these cases, the thickness
 338 was modified in coherence with fieldwork.

339 **5. Results**

340 We use, as starting point for the volume estimation, the PDC volume, obtained from the detailed
 341 isopach map. From the previous review, it is evident that this information lacks in previous works on
 342 the CI volume, as a total isopach map. Here, we refer to all PDC units of the CI, that in the medial and
 343 distal outcrops are mainly composed by WGI. Density and porosity data are used to define the DRE
 344 volume.

345 **5.1 The isopach maps**

346 The statistical and morphological analysis of the upper surface of the CI used 48804 points
 347 throughout the areal extension of the deposits (both in proximal and distal areas). This analysis shows
 348 that 64% (31057) of the points have slopes lower than 5°. Moreover, 80% of the points have slopes
 349 lower than 10° and 99% have a surface slope lower than 55° (Fig. 3). This is in agreement with the
 350 observation on the slope of the top surface of the valley-ponded Taupo Ignimbrite, which is around
 351 8° (Wilson and Walker, 1985).

352 Based on these results, the 0-m isopach was traced to enclose all the mapped CI and areas that
 353 probably have the CI below the recent sedimentary cover and have a slope less than 15°. The total
 354 area enclosed by the 0-m isopach of the CI is 3216 km² (Fig. 4). To understand also the total area of
 355 the region involved in the PDC, a shape was drawn comprising all the areal extension of the isopach
 356 0-m. The enveloped area is equal to 7547 km², similar to the 7000 km² earlier estimate (Barberi et al.,
 357 1978).

358 The isopach map traced in the proximal area does not include the intracaldera deposits. The
 359 maximum thickness in proximal areas is 80 m (Fig. 5), mainly based on outcrops near the caldera
 360 rim; the CI thins gradually away from the caldera margin. Two areas of thickening are identified just
 361 north of the caldera and east of Lago Patria (up to 70 m) and in the area of Casoria (up to 50 m) (Fig.
 362 6A). Three main areas of thinning (down to 10 m) are recognized to the north in the Campanian
 363 Plain (Fig. 6B), in the area between Aversa and Acerra and in the south of the Campanian Plain (Fig.
 364 6A).

365 Two thickened portions are on the northern side of the Campanian Plain (north-east of Mondragone)
 366 (Fig. 6B) and on the eastern side (from Caserta to Maddaloni) (Fig. 6C), both just in front of the first
 367 Apennine ridges.

368 The isopach for the distal reaches has a maximum thickness of 50 m in the area of Maddaloni Valley
 369 (Fig. 6C). A series of confined valleys show local thickening. These include, from northwest to
 370 southeast, Mortola (up to 30 m), Roccamonfina (up to 30 m) (Fig. 6D), San Lorenzello and all the
 371 Volturno plain (up to 20 m) (Fig. 6E), Sant'Agata dei Goti (up to 40 m), Tufara (up to 20 m),
 372 Monteforte Irpino and Avellino (up to 30 m) (Fig. 6F), Tramonti (up to 10 m) and Sorrento (up to 20
 373 m) (Fig. 6G).

374 **5.2 Density of the CI deposits**

375 More than 40 samples from different outcrops scattered around the Campanian Plain were analyzed
 376 to determine their density. Samples were cut in cylinders (with radius between 0.9 cm and 2 cm and
 377 height between 0.8 and 5.7 cm) or cubes (sides from 0.8 to 2.5 cm) and analyzed using a
 378 Micromeritics AccuPyc II 1340 helium pycnometer. The resulting density was used to interpret total
 379 and open porosity, the density is used to determine the DRE volume.

380 The bulk density (ρ) of the WGI samples from the Campanian Plain ranges from $745 \pm 15 \text{ kg/m}^3$ to
 381 $1330 \pm 3 \text{ kg/m}^3$, these values follow a Gaussian distribution with an average at $980 \pm 11 \text{ kg/m}^3$. The
 382 bulk density of the Piperno unit ranges from $1275 \pm 8 \text{ kg/m}^3$ to $1302 \pm 2 \text{ kg/m}^3$, with an average of
 383 $1287 \pm 4 \text{ kg/m}^3$ (presented in Data Repository, Table 3). Open porosity was estimated with geometric
 384 (V_g) and matrix volume (V_{mx}): $100 \cdot (V_g - V_{mx}) / V_g$, while closed porosity was determined using the
 385 DRE of the WGI and Piperno powder, which was obtained by the pycnometer. The total WGI
 386 porosity (ϕ_t) was calculated directly adding up closed and open porosity and it ranges from $49 \pm 5\%$
 387 and $71 \pm 5\%$ and the average is $61.6\% \pm 5\%$, for the Piperno unit it is $50 \pm 1\%$. The ρ DRE is 2607.7
 388 $\pm 31 \text{ kg/m}^3$. The DRE volume is determined multiplying the bulk volume by $(100 - \phi_t) / 100$.

389 **5.3 Deposits volume calculation**

390 The area enclosed by each isopach, reported in Fig. 7, allows the ignimbrite volume to be calculated.
 391 This is the subtended area of the plot thickness-cumulative area (Walker, 1980, 1981); the area of
 392 each isopach was calculated directly from the QGIS software. Table 2 displays the values of the area
 393 and the volume for each isopach. The largest part of the volume is relative to deposits thicknesses
 394 $< 10 \text{ m}$ (60.52%), which is present both in proximal and distal areas, whereas the isopachs from 40 m
 395 to 80 m contain less of the 10% of the total volume (7.17%). Summarizing all the isopachs volume,
 396 the total volume of the preserved extra-caldera CI deposits on land is $61.5 \text{ km}^3 \pm 5.5 \text{ km}^3$ (22.0 ± 2.2
 397 km^3 DRE).

398 To understand the extra-caldera volume subdivision in proximal and distal areas, the isopach map is
 399 portioned in two parts, one comprising all the Campanian Plain, and the other from the first Apennine
 400 ridges to the final runout (Fig. 5). The resulting extra-caldera volumes are $46.4 \pm 1.6 \text{ km}^3$ in the
 401 proximal area ($\sim 75\%$) and $15.1 \pm 3.9 \text{ km}^3$ in the distal area ($\sim 25\%$); the sources of error and the
 402 uncertainties were calculated separately for the two methods, their calculation is explained in the
 403 Supplementary Material.

404 A recent study proposed contour maps of the lower and the upper surfaces of the CI for the north-
 405 western sector of the proximal area, based on 1000 of lithostratigraphic logs from boreholes (Ruberti
 406 et al., 2020). The difference of the upper surface and the lower one is the CI thickness, which is not
 407 reported on the work of Ruberti et al. (2020). The extrapolated thicknesses from the maps were
 408 compared with the isopach map of the proximal area of this work and it shown great similarities in
 409 the areas of Mondragone, Caserta and Lago Patria. On the other hand, there are some differences of
 410 the thicknesses in the Volturno Plain, where the authors suggest a thicker CI (Ruberti et al., 2020).
 411 To evaluate these discrepancies, a new proximal isopach map was drawn taking into consideration
 412 the new thickness data. The volume related to this map is 46.7 km^3 , meaning a difference of 0.3 km^3
 413 with the volume previously estimated. This value (0.3 km^3) is fully included in the 1.6 km^3 of error
 414 and uncertainties in the proximal area. For this reason, the data proposed by Ruberti et al. (2020)
 415 were not inserted in the isopach map reported in this work, however, a greater thickness in the
 416 Volturno Plain could be considered, even though it does not change the final total volume of the
 417 proximal area and of all the CI.

418 **6. The volume of the Campanian Ignimbrite**

419 The isopach map is essential both to calculate the eruptive volume and to understand the flow
 420 dynamics in the interaction with the paleo-topography (Giordano and Doronzo, 2017). The preserved
 421 volume of the deposits of an eruption is the first essential datum to understand the magnitude of the
 422 eruption itself. These data are generally very poorly constrained for very large explosive eruptions,

423 mainly due to the difficult to estimate the PDC volume deposits and the areal distribution of the very
424 distal tephra layers.

425 *6.1 Extracaldera volume*

426 Our quantitative evaluation of the CI extra-caldera bulk volume (V_{pr}), is $61.5 \text{ km}^3 \pm 5.5 \text{ km}^3$. The
427 error and uncertainties are in total less than 10%, a good value considering that many published
428 estimates of eruption volume may be barely more precise than an order of magnitude (Mason et al.,
429 2004). This volume is not the total volume of the CI PDC deposits, which depends upon several
430 corrections that must be applied to this value. A significant amount of pyroclastic material was
431 deposited in the sea and within the caldera, significant erosion has occurred in the last 39.8 ka, and a
432 large amount of co-ignimbrite ash elutriated or rose into the air as a column.

433 The reconstructed isopachs do not consider the linear erosion due to river incision of the CI so the
434 possible areal erosion must be calculated. The linear erosion is referred to the selective erosion due to
435 rivers, while the areal erosion comprises all the regional processes that occurred in the area. The
436 deposits of WGI show a mainly valley-ponded deposit pattern; in many areas where the ignimbrite
437 was deposited in narrow valleys (for instance near Roccamonfina), the only unit that mantles the
438 topography is USAF, while the upper surface of WGI is mainly horizontal (Fig. 3) (Sparice, 2015).
439 This suggests that USAF is a facies emplaced in a wider area distribution than WGI, comprising also
440 topological highs with mantling features. The thickness of USAF is mainly between 10 cm and 1 m
441 and, in rare cases, it can reach 3 m (Fedele et al., 2016). A median thickness of 1 m is assumed as
442 eroded material for all the enveloped area (7547 km^2 , projected area) not covered by valley-pond
443 facies, as a reference for the areal erosion. From a DEM, the real surface enveloped area was
444 computed at 9575 km^2 , meaning the calculation of the area on the DEM and not on a projected
445 horizontal surface, it was so evaluated also the deposition on mountain slope (as a mantling feature
446 deposition). The volume associated with the areal erosion is 9.6 km^3 (V_e) (3.7 km^3 DRE, using the
447 average density of WGI). This is a correction based on field observation (USAF able to mantling the
448 topography) and an average calculation (the thickness and the area), obviously, it is just a reference
449 value, and could vary if the eroded thickness, or involved area, are considered substantially different.

450 The CF caldera is located near and below the current sea-level but, about 40 ka, the coastline was
451 farther to the west and south corresponding to a level between 75 and 87 m below its present position
452 (Lambeck and Bard, 2000; Antonioli et al., 2004; Antonioli, 2012) (Fig. 8). Based on the distribution
453 on land of the ignimbrite, safely assumed with a radial spreading (Thunell et al., 1979; Fisher et al.,
454 1993; Ort et al., 2003), and the position of the CF caldera relative to the coastline (Fig. 8) a roughly
455 equal amount of material should be present both on land and offshore (Barberi et al., 1978). The
456 bathymetry offshore shows depressions and valleys right south of the caldera that can be easily areas
457 of ignimbrite deposits accumulation (Fig. 8). Flow deposits of Kos and Krakatau demonstrate that
458 PDC can travel considerable distance above sea water (Carey et al., 1996; Allen and Cas, 2001;
459 Dufek and Bergantz, 2007) as well the Campanian PDC flowed over the water of the Bay of Naples
460 to deposit on the Sorrento Peninsula (~ 35 km from Pozzuoli Bay to Sorrento) (Fisher et al., 1993).
461 As the PDC passed over the water, the more dilute upper parts did not interact with the water while
462 the denser undercurrent developed a sheared contact with the water, leading to pyroclastic material
463 entering the water and developing submarine currents (Dufek et al., 2007).

464 The presence of the turbidity currents in the Mediterranean basin and coeval to the eruption was
465 confirmed by the analyses of the core CT85-5 in the Tyrrhenian Sea ($40^\circ 19' 02'' \text{N}$, $11^\circ 15' 42'' \text{E}$)
466 located more than 200 km west from the CF caldera (Castagnoli et al., 1995; Giaccio, 2006; Giaccio

467 et al., 2006; Hajdas et al., 2011). The CI tephra recognized within the core was used as an important
 468 time marker and it is 45 cm thick. The nearby CT85-6 confirmed the presence of the CI tephra,
 469 however, it was less studied as its record is shorter and the CI is not reported fully (Hajdas et al.,
 470 2011). In the CI layer, were found shallow water gastropods and internal lamination, which indicate
 471 that at least 10 cm of the section are from turbiditic origin (Castagnoli et al., 1995; Giaccio, 2006;
 472 Hajdas et al., 2011). These volcanoclastic currents related to the CI eruption are strongly reported in
 473 all the Tyrrhenian basin (Giaccio, 2006; McCoy and Cornell, 1990) interpreted as a large syn-
 474 eruptive phenomena of the CI deposits, triggered by the PDCs which entered inside the water and in
 475 general to the volcanic event. The turbidity currents can be reasonably considered as primary
 476 products of the eruption (Giaccio, 2006).

477 For these reasons a large amount of underwater material is realistic and, because of the nearly equal
 478 radial area covered by sea versus on land, is considered equal to the on-land material, so each is
 479 considered to have a volume of $61.5 \text{ km}^3 \pm 5.5 \text{ km}^3 (V_m)$.

480 **6.2 Intracaldera volume**

481 Some deep wells were drilled in the 1940s and 1950s to understand the deep geothermal system in
 482 the Campi Flegrei, reaching depths of 1600-3000 m below ground surface (Rosi and Sbrana, 1987).
 483 A well-developed neogenic mineral zonation was observed with four main zones marked by
 484 distinctive mineral assemblages: argillitic zone (down to ~700 m), illite-chlorite zone (down to
 485 ~1300 m), calc-aluminum silicate zone (down to ~2300 m) and thermometamorphic zone (below
 486 ~2300 m). The temperatures reach high values of 360°C in the calc-aluminum silicate zone (Rosi and
 487 Sbrana, 1987). These wells reached also the CI, but the extensive hydrothermal alteration prevented
 488 its identification. Due to the high uncertainties of correlating CI deposits inside the caldera, the
 489 isopach map was traced without the intracaldera area and the intracaldera volume was not estimated
 490 in this work, which refers to literature data.

491 More recently, a 506 m drill-hole has been drilled western of Naples, reaching both NYT and CI (De
 492 Natale et al., 2016; Mormone et al., 2015). The hydrothermal alteration in proximity of CI (around
 493 439 and 501 m) was recognized and made the correlation with the deposits extremely difficult.
 494 However, through lithological, mineralogical and $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ dating the authors recognized at least 250
 495 m of intracaldera CI (De Natale et al., 2016), this value was already observed through geological and
 496 geophysical features (Torrente et al., 2010). The ignimbrite volume inside the caldera, which in this
 497 work has a dimension of 64 km^2 , was then estimated less than 16 km^3 (De Natale et al., 2016).

498 Though, from field observation and literature data (De Natale et al., 2016), there is no evidence of
 499 significant intracaldera thickening. Therefore, a very large (~0.9) f value (the fraction of the total
 500 magma volume erupted prior to the onset of collapse) is attributed to the CI eruption (Cashman and
 501 Giordano, 2014). Additionally, the ratio between the measured collapses related to the NYT and CI is
 502 2.5, a data that looks unreliable due to the much larger volume of CI than the NYT (De Natale et al.,
 503 2016). The authors proposed two models to explain the low intracaldera thickening: a vent outside
 504 the Campi Flegrei caldera (model 1) and a very large regional uplift related to the CI eruption (model
 505 2). The second model seems realistic to explain the anomalous ratio, especially if a much smaller
 506 eruption as Monte Nuovo one (with a volume less than 1 km^3 DRE (D'Oriano et al., 2005; Piochi et
 507 al., 2005)) produced an uplift of 5 to 8 m (Capocci, 1835; Pescandola, 1947).

508 There are some uncertainties due to the caldera dimension, indeed, Vitale and Isaia (2014) proposed a
 509 polygonal caldera 12 km wide, which corresponds to an area of 144 km^2 . Considering an average

510 thickness of 250 m of intracalderic deposits (De Natale et al., 2016), and an area varying from 64 to
 511 144 km², the intracaldera volume (V_{intr}) ranges between 16 km³ to 43.2 km³ (7.9-21.4 km³ DRE).

512 **6.3 Distal tephra volume**

513 The CI tephra is an important correlation tool and time marker mainly to relate the Quaternary
 514 stratigraphy in different basins and archeological sites in the Western Eurasia. The tephra layer is
 515 visible in numerous sedimentary records, including archeological (Kozłowski, 1998; Fedele et al.,
 516 2003; Pyle et al., 2006; Anikovich et al., 2007; Giaccio et al., 2008), marine (Keller et al., 1978;
 517 Paterne et al., 1986, 1999; Ton-That et al., 2001), and terrestrial sequences (Veres et al., 2013) as also
 518 cave-entrance environments (Fedele et al., 2003; Giaccio et al., 2008) and lacustrine records (Narcisi,
 519 1996). In very distal sites, it can be found as a cryptotephra not visible to the naked eye, but clearly
 520 useful as an absolute and relative chronological and stratigraphic marker (Lowe et al., 2012). The
 521 tephra it has been identified in the Mediterranean basin (Thunell et al., 1979; Sparks and Huang,
 522 1980; Cornell et al., 1983; Paterne et al., 1986, 1988, 1999; Cramp et al., 1989; Vezzoli, 1991;
 523 Calanchi et al., 1998; Ton-That et al., 2001), in south-western Romania (Veres et al., 2013), in Italy
 524 (e.g. Monticchio, Fedele et al. 2002, 2003; Giaccio et al. 2008; Narcisi 1996), in Eastern Europe and
 525 Russia (Melekestsev et al., 1984; Pyle et al., 2006; Anikovich et al., 2007), in Greece (Vitaliano et
 526 al., 1981; Seymour and Christanis, 1995; Kozłowski, 1998), in Ukraine (Melekestsev et al., 1984)
 527 and in Bulgaria (Harkovska et al., 1990; Bluszcz et al., 1992; Paterne, 1992).

528 Defining the distribution of the ultra-distal deposits is a difficult task due to the limitation of the field
 529 data available and to the thinning of the ash layers, affected by a large erosion. Underestimation of
 530 the deposit volume can be derived by simple extrapolation from proximal, medial and distal data to
 531 the ultra-distal region. The case of the CI is complicated by the presence of both co-plinian ash and
 532 co-ignimbrite ash due to the large-volume pyroclastic flow that generate a co-ignimbrite plume
 533 (Woods and Wohletz, 1991; Woods, 1998), both transported far away from the vent up to eastern
 534 Europe and Russia (Thunell et al., 1979; Cornell et al., 1983; Narcisi and Vezzoli, 1999; Ton-That et
 535 al., 2001; Fedele et al., 2003; Giaccio et al., 2006; Pyle et al., 2006; Engwell et al., 2014; Smith et al.,
 536 2016).

537 The ultra-distal tephra volume is necessary to define the total CI eruptive volume. Sparks and Huang
 538 (1980) recognized the bimodal grain-size of the ultra-distal deposits of the CI, where the coarse lower
 539 unit is formed during the plinian phase, while the finer unit at the top corresponds to the co-
 540 ignimbrite phase, features observed also by Wulf et al. (2004) in the Monticchio Lake. Sparks and
 541 Huang (1980) estimated that the fine layer represents, on average, the 65% of the tephra volume,
 542 which increases away from the vent, from 20% at 450 km distance up to 95% of the deposit at 1660
 543 km from the vent. However, an absolute volume for each phase was not defined. The decreasing of
 544 Plinian material with distance from the source was also observed by Engwell et al. (2014), who used
 545 the grain-size data to investigate the dispersal of the co-plinian and the co-ignimbrite phases. The
 546 authors calculated that $40 \pm 5\%$ of the volume of tephra within 850 km of the vent is related to the
 547 Plinian phase. Furthermore, they recognized the difficult to quantify the absolute volume of the two
 548 phases.

549 The first work that attributed a volume to the two components was presented by Perrotta and Scarpati
 550 (2003). The method used by the authors was previously explained. At a later time, Marti et al. (2016)
 551 modelled the CI tephra dispersion and gave a volume estimation of the two phases. They recognized
 552 the great impacts of the tephra fallout in the westward migration of modern hominid groups in
 553 Europe.

554 Smith et al. (2016) used the CI tephra glass composition to map the dispersal of the Plinian and the
 555 co-ignimbrite components over the dispersal region. This method is substantially crucial to recognize
 556 the CI in the ultra-distal region. In an especial way, it is essential to correlate this important
 557 chronological marker in archeological sites and to investigate spatio-temporal variability in climate
 558 change and the timing of human cultural events in eastern and central Europe (Fedele et al., 2003,
 559 2008a, 2008b; Lowe et al., 2012). Based on the glass composition, the authors recognized that the
 560 PDC component is dominant in the ultra-distal deposits, and the PDC produced the most voluminous
 561 deposits of the eruption.

562 **6.4 The volume, mass and magnitude of the CI**

563 A great part of the pyroclastic current was elutriated or rose into the air as a column during the
 564 eruption and dispersed to the east (Thunell et al., 1979; Cornell et al., 1983; Perrotta and Scarpati,
 565 2003; Pyle et al., 2006; Engwell et al., 2014; Scarpati and Perrotta, 2016). The co-ignimbrite phase
 566 resulted as a substantial part of the total volume; however, it remains difficult to define the associated
 567 absolute volume instead of a percentage of the tephra layer.

568 The ignimbrite volume (V_i) (4 and 5) without the co-ignimbrite phase can be estimated as follows:

$$569 \quad V_{imin} = V_{pr} + V_m + V_{intr} + 2V_e = 56 + 56 + 16 + 9.6 + 9.6 = 147.2 \text{ km}^3 \quad (4)$$

570 and

$$571 \quad V_{imax} = V_{pr} + V_m + V_{intr} + 2V_e = 67 + 67 + 43.2 + 9.6 + 9.6 = 196.4 \text{ km}^3 \quad (5)$$

572 The total bulk PDC volume obtained by (4) and (5) is $147.2 - 196.4 \text{ km}^3$ (Table 3). The co-
 573 ignimbrite volume (V_{ci}) is estimated using the formula (6) based on the crystal concentration method
 574 proposed by Scarpati et al., 2014 (3):

$$575 \quad V_{ci} = \frac{V_{itric\ loss} * V_i}{1 - V_{itric\ loss}} = \frac{0.65 * V_i}{1 - 0.65} = 273.4 - 364.7 \text{ km}^3 \quad (6)$$

576 The co-ignimbrite volume, using a vitric loss of 0.65, ranges between 273.4 km^3 and 364.7 km^3
 577 ($107.6 \text{ km}^3 - 143.5 \text{ km}^3$ DRE). However, V_{ci} could change a lot, according to the value of vitric loss
 578 used. From the literature, Walker (1972) proposed for the outcrop of Altavilla (WGI), near
 579 Benevento, a vitric loss of 0.55. Using this data, the co-ignimbrite bulk volume decreases and it is
 580 substantially lower between 168.2 km^3 and 240.0 km^3 . It is necessary great attention to the right
 581 value of vitric loss to use, which can significantly influence the total eruptive volume. In this work,
 582 we use 0.65, proposed by Scarpati et al. (2014), which is an average of more samples located in
 583 several sites all over the CI distribution and from different units (WGI, LYT and CPF) and it is not
 584 quite far from 0.55 previously proposed in literature (Walker, 1972).

585 The total volume of the material erupted during the PDC phase of the CI eruption ranges between
 586 411 km^3 and 561.1 km^3 ($163.2 \text{ km}^3 - 225.1 \text{ km}^3$ DRE) (Table 3). This estimate is based on the actual
 587 preserved deposits of the CI so that all proposed corrections are grounded in a real starting value.
 588 Among the previous estimates presented in the literature, the closest to our PDC volume are those
 589 proposed by Giaccio (2006) and Pappalardo et al. (2008).

590 The fallout volume considered in this chapter is the minimum and the maximum proposed in
 591 literature by Perrotta and Scarpati (2003) and Marti et al. (2016). However, any of the previous
 592 estimates for the fallout volume and any of them could be used in our total volume estimate. The

593 total volume estimate ranges from 415 km³ to 615.1 km³ (164.9 km³ – 247.7 km³ DRE) (Table 3).
 594 These values are similar to some previously proposed total volumes (Cornell et al., 1983; Fedele et
 595 al., 2003; Giaccio, 2006; Pyle et al., 2006; Pappalardo et al., 2008; Costa et al., 2012), however, they
 596 are constrained, for the first time, to the actual ignimbrite deposit.

597 The mass associated with this volume estimate is (7):

$$598 \quad \text{mass}_{min} = 164.9 \text{ km}^3 * 2608 \text{ kg/m}^3 = 4.30 * 10^{14} \text{ kg} \quad (7)$$

599 And (8)

$$600 \quad \text{mass}_{max} = 210.7 \text{ km}^3 * 2608 \text{ kg/m}^3 = 6.46 * 10^{14} \text{ kg} \quad (8)$$

601 and the magnitude (M) (9) (Mason et al., 2004):

$$602 \quad M = \log_{10}(\text{mass}) - 7 = 7.7 \quad (9)$$

603 This value is consistent with a VEI 7 and a M = 7.7, which makes this eruption the largest
 604 Quaternary event from the Campi Flegrei caldera and in Europe. Our new volume estimates should
 605 help constrain the modeling of the impact on climate and the environment, including on the history of
 606 migrations of humans.

607 7. Conclusions

608 The CI eruption is the largest eruptive event of the CF caldera and a fundamental chronological
 609 marker in all central and eastern Europe. The CI eruption influenced the migration of the hominid
 610 groups and it had great effects on the Paleolithic societies (Black et al., 2015; Marti et al., 2016).
 611 However, the volume of CI, fundamental to the climate impact and simulations, is poorly
 612 constrained. Here we present a review of previous estimations existing in the scientific literature and
 613 propose a new method to trace ignimbrite isopachs based on the extrapolation of the paleo-
 614 topography that works well in valley-ponded ignimbrites such as the CI, which allows the calculation
 615 of well-defined uncertainties on the total volume. A complete isopach map of the ignimbrite is
 616 absent, due to the high irregularities of the deposits, feature that this method can overcome. A new
 617 entire isopach map of the extracaldera sub-aerial CI pyroclastic flow deposits yields a volume of 61.5
 618 km³ ± 5.5 km³. The greater part of this volume is in the proximal area (46.4 ± 1.6 km³, ~75%) while
 619 only around the 25% of the volume is in the distal region after the Apennines Mountain (15.1 ± 3.9
 620 km³).

621 Evidence suggests that the same amount of material should be both on land and offshore (e.g. the
 622 radial spreading of the flow). The generated submarine currents could have produced a large amount
 623 of volcanoclastic deposits in all the submarine canyons in the Gulf of Naples, as in large part of the
 624 Tyrrhenian Sea and possibly had a strong impact on the underwater dynamics of that area.
 625 Furthermore, the observation of this volcanoclastic layer can help the correlation and the
 626 understanding of sediment cores. Including separate estimates of the marine volume, the volume
 627 removed by erosion, the intracaldera volume, and the co-ignimbrite ash volume yields a total volume
 628 erupted during the PDC phase of 411.0 km³ to 561.1 km³ (163.2 km³ – 225.1 km³ DRE), these values
 629 are in agreement with Giaccio (2006) and Pappalardo et al. (2008), although it is the first time that
 630 they are calculated by direct measurements.

631 A series of error analyses and corrections were applied to reach a total (including Plinian fallout)
632 final volume estimate: $415.0 \text{ km}^3 - 615.1 \text{ km}^3$ ($164.9 \text{ km}^3 - 247.7 \text{ km}^3$ DRE). The volume of
633 material, ash and aerosols is extremely important to understand and model the climate impact of this
634 eruption, which could affect the intensity of solar radiation and consequently cause short-lived
635 climate changes in a critical period for the modern human as the Middle to Upper Paleolithic
636 transition.

637 This volume corresponds to a mass of $4.30 - 6.46 \times 10^{14} \text{ kg}$, to a magnitude of 7.7 and to a VEI 7.
638 This was a high impact event with significant effect on the climate and populations of the Paleolithic
639 European region and is a proof that the Campi Flegrei caldera was able to generate a devastating
640 eruption of this dimension.

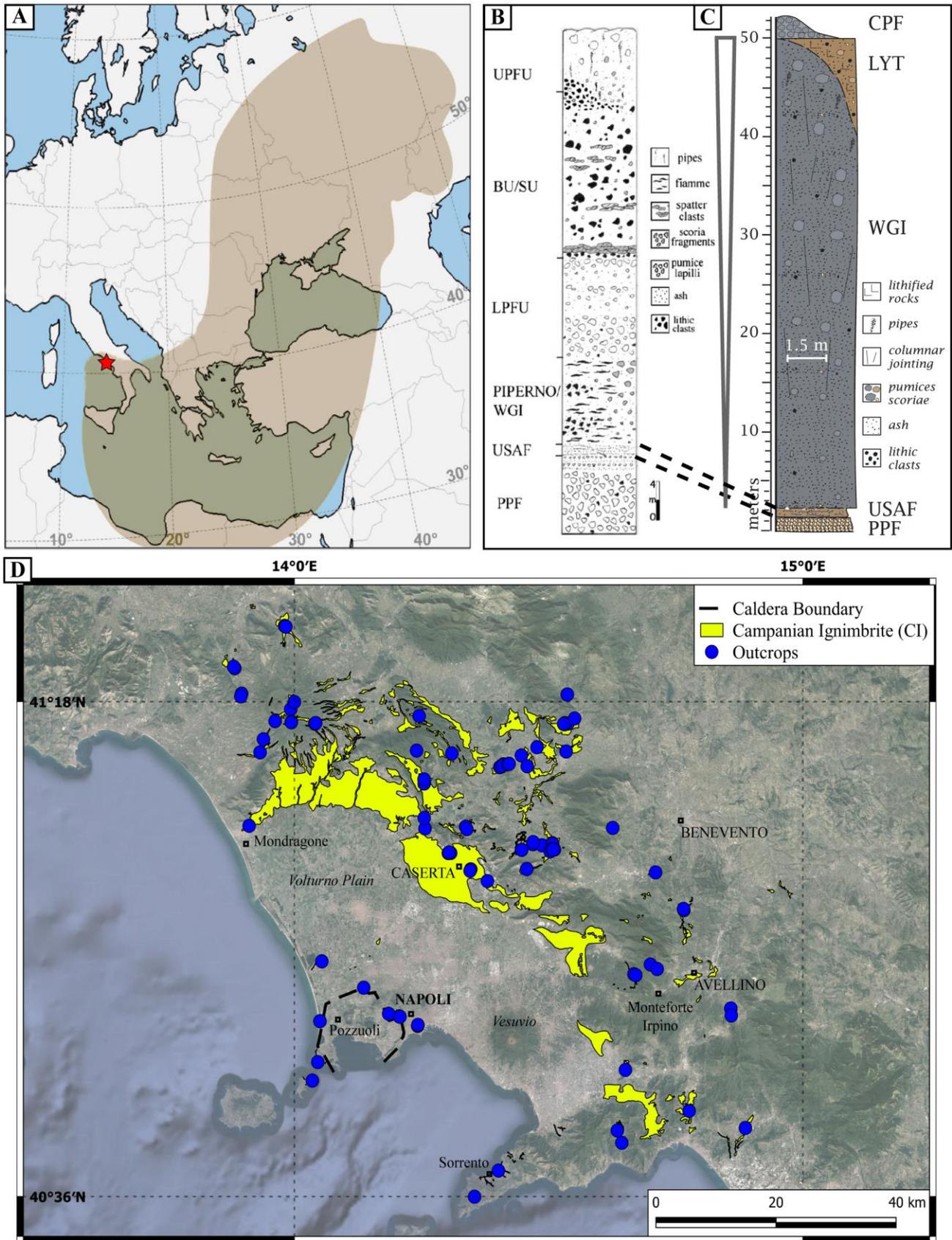
641 **2 Article types**

642 Original Research

643 **3 Manuscript Formatting**

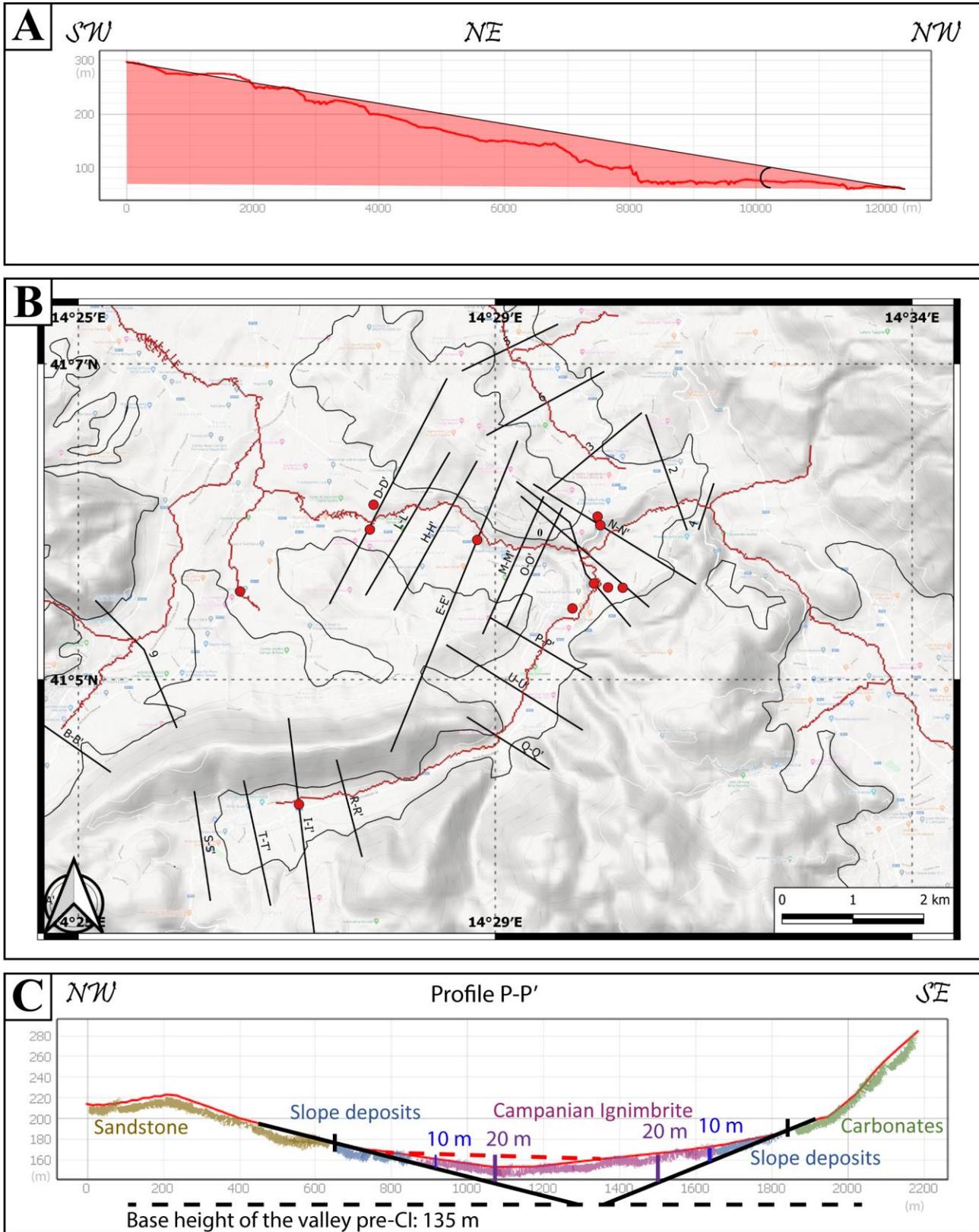
644 **3.1 Figure legends**

Magnitude of the Campanian Ignimbrite



645

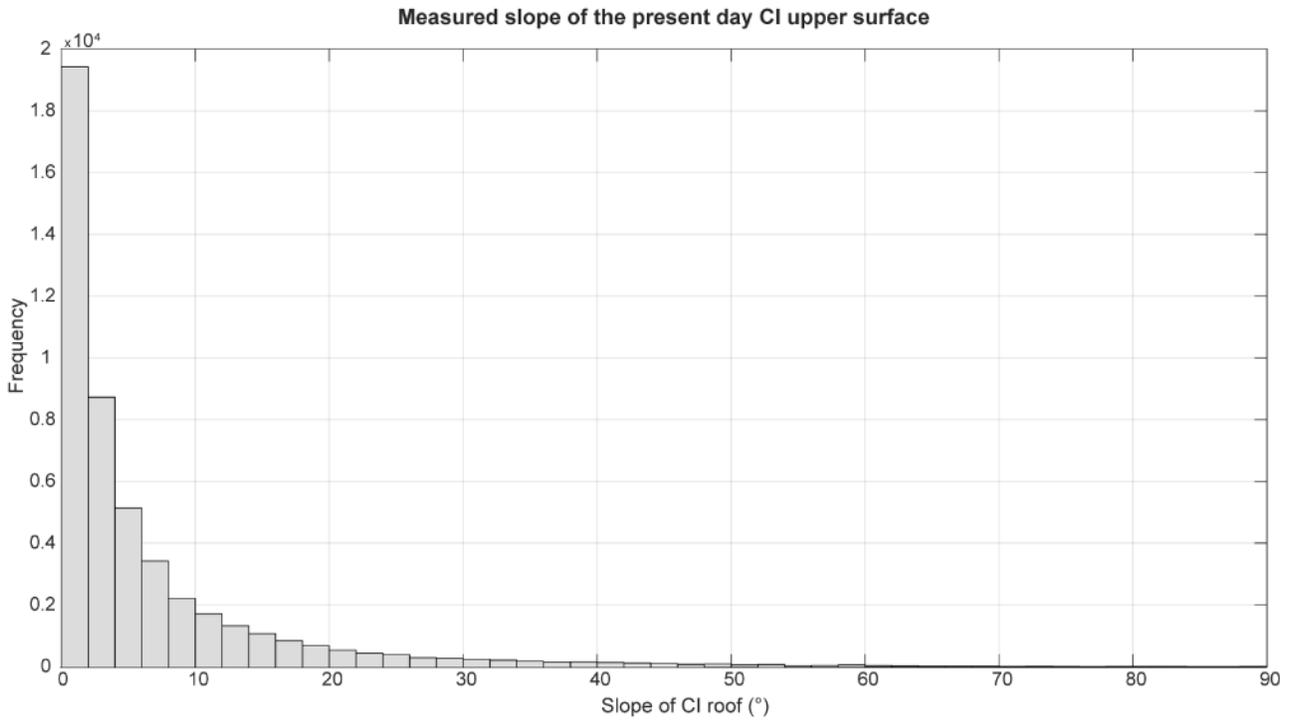
646 **Figure 1.** *The Campanian Ignimbrite distribution. (A) Dispersal area of the CI tephra from the*
647 *Campi Flegrei caldera (red star), modified from Giaccio et al. (2017). Stratigraphic type-sections of*
648 *CI proximal (Fedele et al., 2008) (B) and distal (C) deposits. (D) The Campanian Ignimbrite*
649 *distribution in the Campanian region (the base map is from Google Satellite). Blue dots indicate the*
650 *location of the studied outcrops (coordinates are reported in the data repository). The maps were*
651 *generated using the QGIS Open-Source 3.4 (<https://www.qgis.org/it/site/>).*



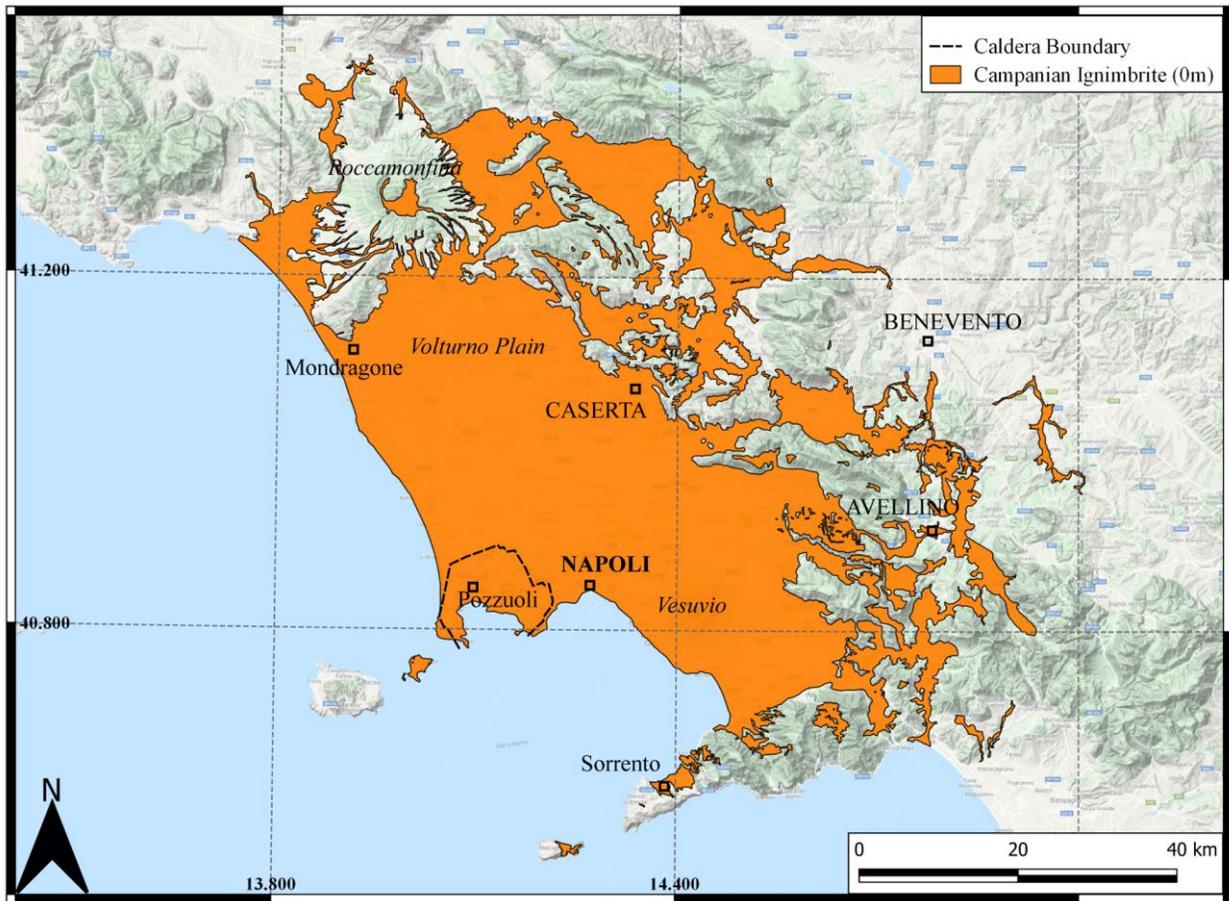
652

653 **Figure 2.** The topography reconstruction in the Sant'Agata dei Goti area. (A) The modern valley is
 654 used as a reference for the paleo-slope during the CI eruption. (B) A series of profiles traced to study
 655 the paleo-valley; the red dots are outcrops where the CI is exposed. (C) Reconstruction of the paleo-

656 valley in profile P-P', the base elevation is constrained to the CI base observed by fieldwork and to
 657 the current slope of the valley. The resulting thickness is always coherent with fieldwork, so where
 658 thicknesses are too high, they weren't considered and the isopachs were traced up to a realistic
 659 thickness. The numbers represent the thickness of the CI in meters.

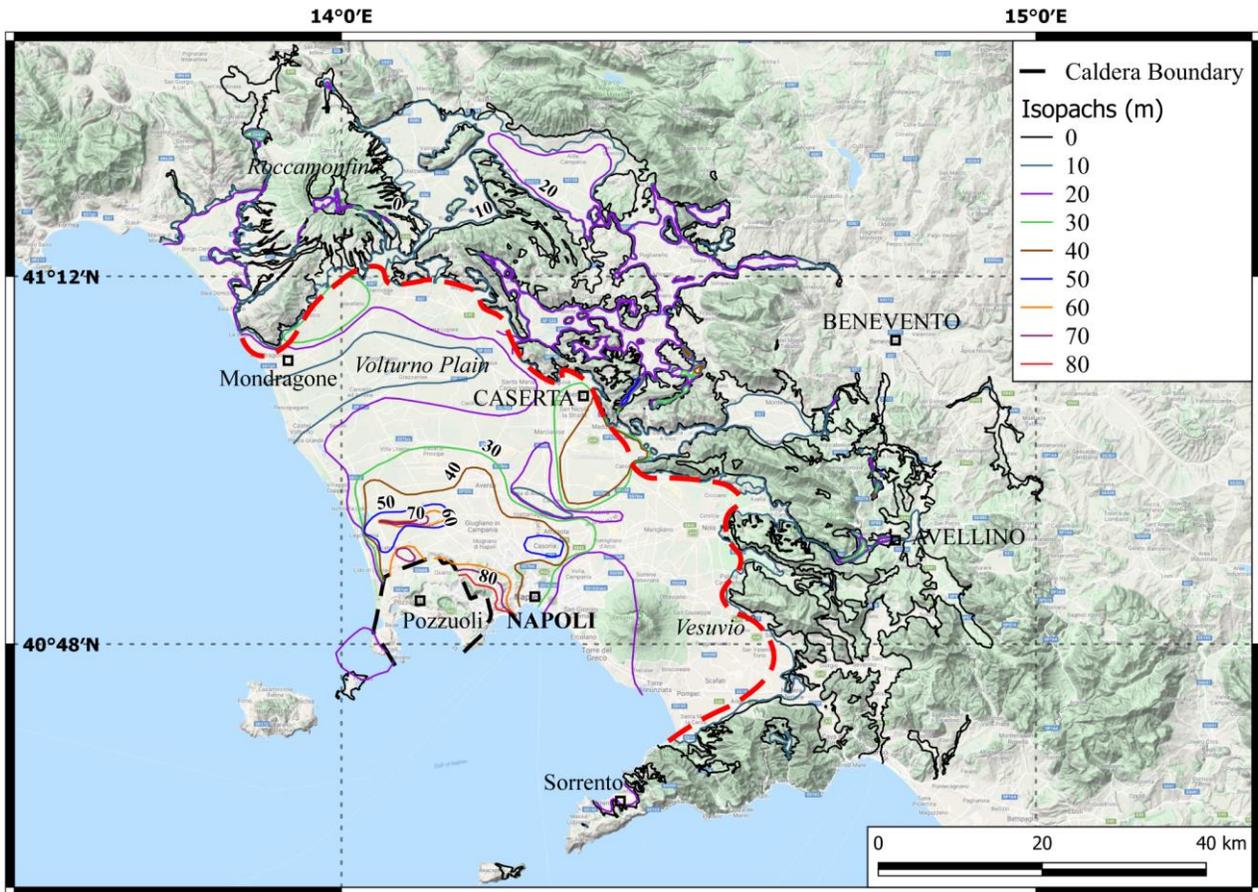


660
 661 **Figure 3.** Frequency of the slope of the upper surface of the CI. At least 80% of the exposed CI upper
 662 surface slopes less than 10°.



663

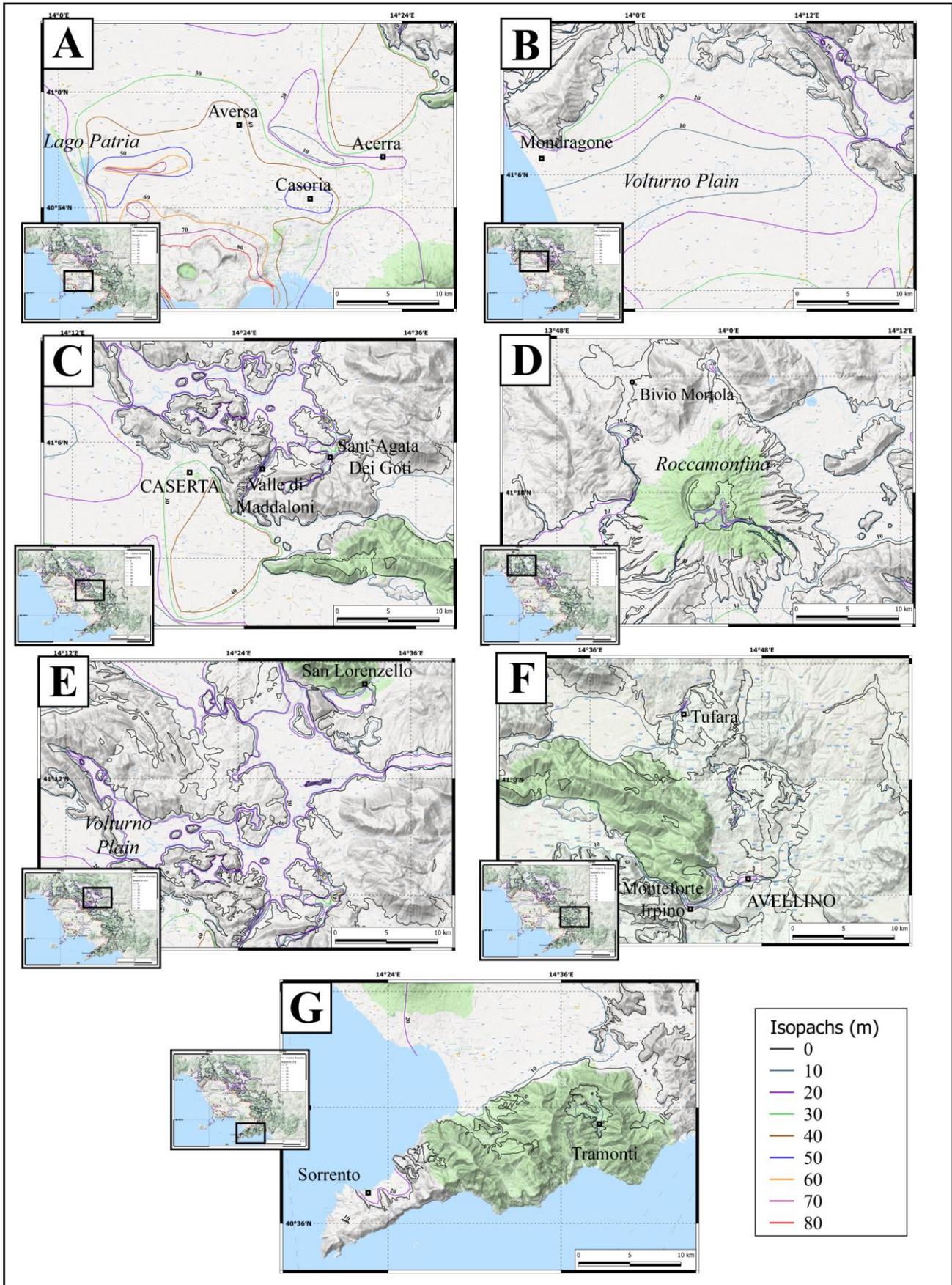
664 **Figure 4.** The areal extent of the CI, enclosed within the isopach 0 m is shown in orange. The total
665 area covered by the preserved deposits of CI is 3216 km², the envelopment with a shape is equal to
666 7547 km².



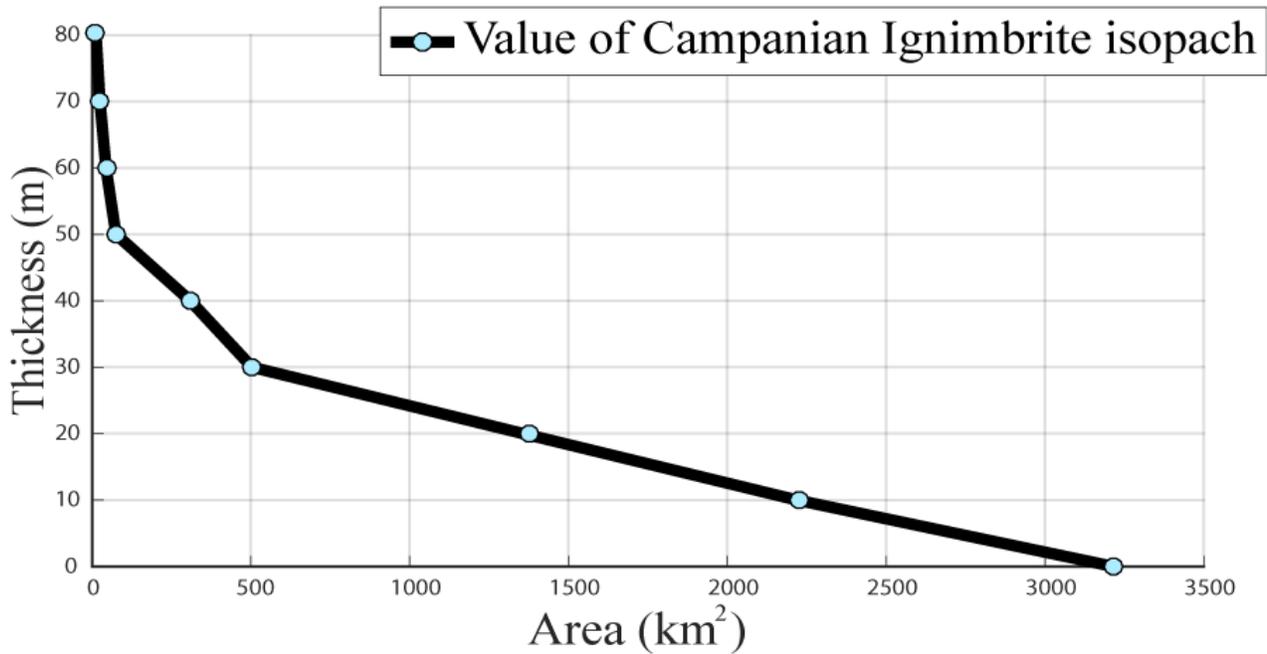
667

668 **Figure 5.** Isopach map of the preserved extra-caldera deposits of the Campanian Ignimbrite. This
 669 map refers only to the pyroclastic density current deposits; it excludes the Plinian fallout and the co-
 670 ignimbrite ash. The different colors for each isopach are reported in the map key. The red dashed
 671 line divides the proximal and the distal area.

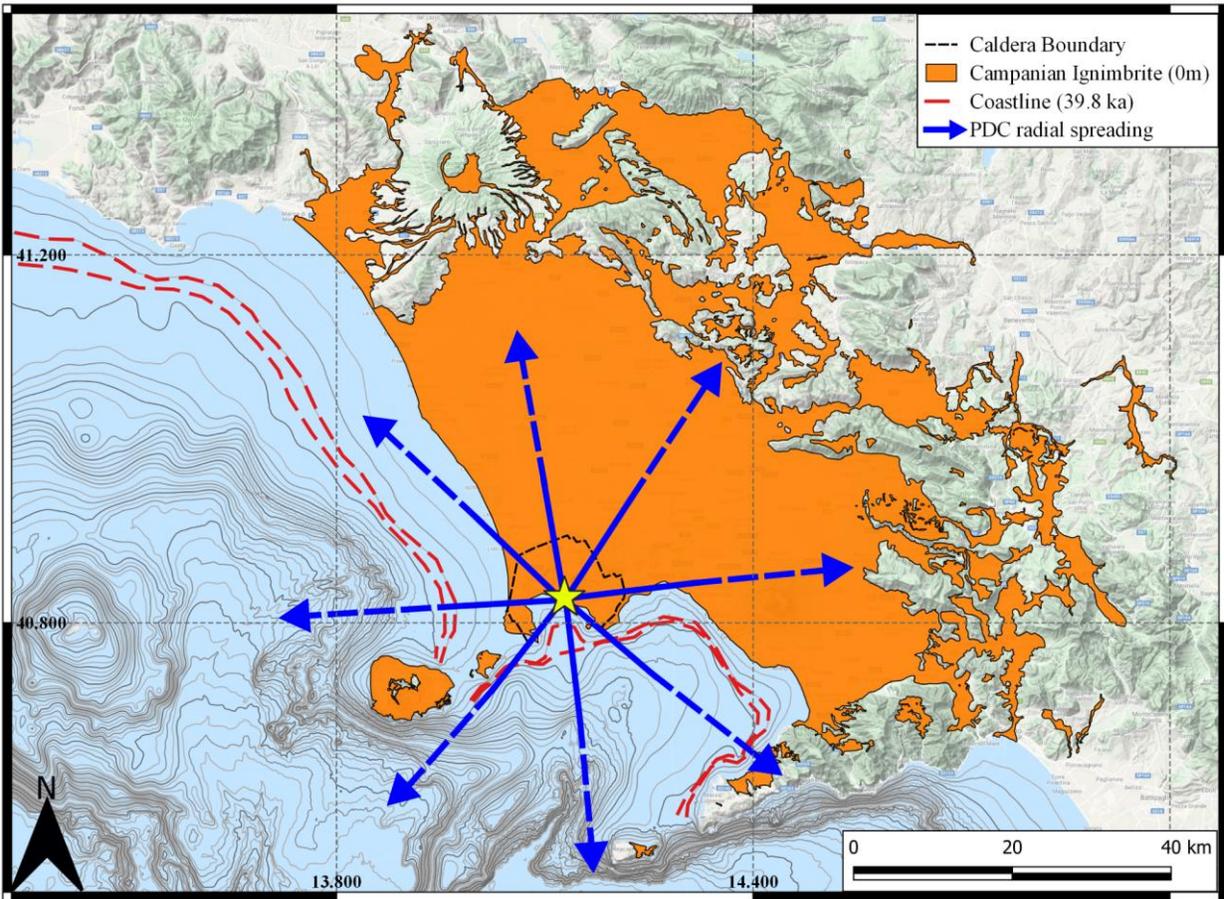
Magnitude of the Campanian Ignimbrite



673 **Figure 6.** Detailed isopach maps of selected areas of the Campanian Ignimbrite (excludes fallout):
 674 (A) north of the caldera, between Lago Patria and Acerra; (B) northern part of the Campanian
 675 Plain; (C) Apennine ridges east of the Campi Flegrei caldera and the Valley of Maddaloni; (D)
 676 Roccamonfina and Mortola, in the north of the studied area; (E) Volturno plain and San Lorenzello
 677 area, northeast of the caldera; (F) distal area of Avellino, southeast of the caldera; (G) Sorrento
 678 peninsula, in the southern part of the studied area.



679
 680 **Figure 7.** The thickness (m) plotted against the area (km²) of each isopach of the preserved deposits
 681 of the CI PDC. The volume is the subtended area of this plot.



682

683 **Figure 8.** Bathymetry of the submerged area of the Campi Flegrei Caldera. The red line is the 40 ka
 684 coastline, equivalent to -75 – -87 m of the present one. The blue arrows indicate the possible radial
 685 spreading of the PDC based on outcrops disposed radially from the center of the Caldera (yellow
 686 star) and turbidity currents in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Accumulation of volume south of the caldera is
 687 credible, due to the large submarine depressions and valleys.

688 **3.2 Tables**

Authors	Plinian fallout	Co-plinian ash	Volume calculations (km ³)			Total
			PDC	Co-ignimbrite ash	Y-5	
Thunell et al., 1979			30-40*		30-40*	60-80*
Cornell et al., 1983					73	>150
Fisher et al., 1993			500			
Civetta et al., 1997	25*		120*			145*
Rosi et al., 1999	15					
Fedele et al., 2003						200*

Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003	4	16		100 (42*)		
Rolandi et al., 2003			180	140		320 (200*)
			385			
Giaccio, 2006	10 (3*)		(215*)	180 (86*)		575 (300*)
Marianelli et al., 2006	20*		130*			150*
Pyle et al., 2006				72-120 (31-50*)		105-210*
Pappalardo et al., 2008	20*		180*			200*
					250-300 (104-125*)	430-680 (180-280*)
Costa et al., 2012						
Scarpati et al., 2014			54 (25*)	100 (42*)		
						207.9 (84.2*)
Marti et al., 2016	54 (22.6*)			153.9 (61.6*)		
Scarpati and Perrotta, 2016	5.33 (0.88*)	14.67 (6.88*)				

689 **Table 1.** Bulk and DRE (*) volume calculations proposed for the CI by different authors, in
 690 approximate chronological order. Y-5 refers to those studies that did not identify the co-plinian and
 691 co-ignimbrite contribution. The methods are described in the text.

Thickness (km)	Area (m ²)	Area (km ²)	Cumulative area (km ²)	Volume (km ³)	Cumulative Volume (km ³)	Volume (%)
0.08	12613584.05	12.61	12.61	0.19	0.19	0.33
0.07	12329142.98	12.33	24.94	0.16	0.35	0.28
0.06	19116655.52	19.12	44.06	0.25	0.60	0.44
0.05	31312007.72	31.31	75.37	1.33	1.92	2.34
0.04	234023868.7	234.02	309.40	2.14	4.07	3.78
0.03	194514229.9	194.51	503.91	5.24	9.31	9.24
0.02	853977772.9	853.98	1357.89	8.58	17.89	15.13
0.01	862025846	862.03	2219.91	9.29	27.18	16.38
0-0.009		995.70	3215.61	34.32	61.50	60.52

692 **Table 2.** The values of thickness (m), area (km²), volume (km³), cumulative volume (km³) and the
 693 percentage of volume for each isopach.

	Bulk Volume (km ³)	DRE Volume (km ³)
Preserved extra-caldera ignimbrite volume	56 – 67	22.0 – 26.4

Marine volume	56 – 67	22.0 – 26.4
Intracaldera volume	16 – 43.2	7.9 – 21.4
Areal erosion	9.6	3.7
Co-ignimbrite ash volume	273.4 – 364.7	107.6 – 143.5
Total PDC volume	411 – 561.1	163.2 – 225.1
Fallout volume (Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Marti et al., 2016)	4 – 54	1.7 – 22.6
Total CI volume	415 – 615.1	164.9 – 247.7

694 **Table 3.** *The volume of the CI eruption. The various parts of the PDC volume estimate are explained*
 695 *in the text. The fallout volume considered in this work is the maximum and the minimum proposed in*
 696 *literature by Perrotta and Scarpati (2003) and Marti et al. (2016).*

697 **4 Nomenclature**

698 **Abbreviations and acronyms**

699 a.s.l.: above sea level; BU: Breccia Unit; CCDB: Collapse Caldera Database; CE: Common Era; CF:
 700 Campi Flegrei; CI: Campanian Ignimbrite; CPF: Coarse Pumice Flow; DEM: Digital Elevation
 701 Model; DRE: Dense Rock Equivalent; ka: Thousands of years ago; LAMEVE: Large Magnitude
 702 Explosive Volcanic Eruptions; LPFU: Lower Pumice Flow Unit; LYT: Lithified Yellow Tuff; M:
 703 Magnitude; NYT: Neapolitan Yellow Tuff; PDC: Pyroclastic Density Current; PPF: Plinian Pumice
 704 Fallout; SU: Spatter Unit; UPFU: Upper Pumice Flow Unit; USAF: Unconsolidated Stratified Ash
 705 Flow; V: total volume; V_{ci} : co-ignimbrite ash fall volume; V_{cpf} : co-plinian fall volume; V_e : areal
 706 erosion volume; VEI: Volcanic Explosivity Index; V_g : geometric volume; V_i : ignimbrite volume;
 707 V_{intr} : intracaldera volume; V_m : marine volume; V_{mx} : matrix volume; V_{pdc} : pyroclastic density current
 708 volume; V_{pf} : mass ejected during the phases that produced Plinian columns; V_{ppf} : plinian fallout
 709 volume; V_{pr} : preserved extra-caldera bulk volume; WGI: Welded Gray Ignimbrite; ρ : bulk density;
 710 ϕ_t : total porosity.

711 **5 Conflict of Interest**

712 *The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial*
 713 *relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.*

714 **6 Author Contributions**

715 AS conducted field work, analysis, wrote the draft of this manuscript and made the figures. GG
 716 designed the research and helped in the development of the method. RI contributed to data collection.
 717 All the authors contributed to the field work, reviewed and edited the draft.

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1178 **10 Data Availability Statement**

1179 The datasets generated and analyzed for this study can be found in the Data Repository
1180 <https://mfr.osf.io/render?url=https%3A%2F%2Fosf.io%2F3a6bz%2Fdownload>. QGIS data are
1181 available on request to the corresponding author.