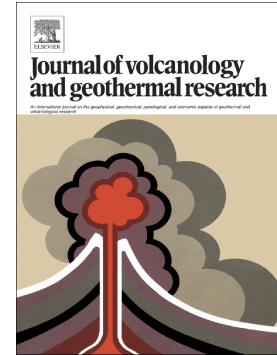


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Seismicity during the recent activity (2009–2020) of Turrialba volcano, Costa Rica

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- Turrialba volcano slowly transitioned from a closed- (2010) to an open-system (2017)
- Seismic tremor decreases precedes eruptive phases at Turrialba volcano
- Pre-eruptive tremor abatement is accompanied with SO₂ flux decrease
- Chromatic signals are common seismic precursors (e.g. tornillos, harmonic tremor)
- Magnitude 5.5 earthquake correlates with the transition to an open-vent system

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Declaration of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

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Seismicity during the recent activity (2009-2020)
of Turrialba volcano, Costa Rica - Author
Statement

August 15, 2022

Author contributions

Leonardo van der Laat: Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Writing - Original Draft, Visualization; **Mauricio Mora:** Supervision, Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Writing - Original Draft, Resources, Funding acquisition, Visualization; **Javier Fco. Pacheco:** Supervision, Conceptualization, Resources, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Funding acquisition; **Philippe Lesage:** Formal Analysis, Writing - Review & Editing; **Esteban Meneses:** Writing - Review & Editing, Funding acquisition.

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Supplementary Material

[Turrialba_Seismicity__Supplementary_Materials.pdf](#)

Seismicity during the recent activity (2009-2020) of Turrialba volcano, Costa Rica

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Abstract

Turrialba is a stratovolcano located at the easternmost part of the Costa Rican volcanic front. After remaining quiescent for more than a century, in 1996 it started to show signs of unrest, until a first phreatomagmatic explosion occurred on January, 2010. Since then, the activity evolved from phreatic to magmatic, in a series of distinct eruptive phases. In this paper, we investigate the seismic records that span the whole eruptive process (2010-present), in order to identify precursory signals and characterize the volcanic evolution. A long-term analysis was carried out based on the continuous records, as well as seismic catalogs (volcano-tectonic seismicity, harmonic tremor, etc.). In addition, the gradual character of the evolution of this eruption allowed for the analysis of independent precursory stages. Thus, we inspected in detail the most important of those periods, particularly, prior to the first 2010 phreatomagmatic eruption, and prior to the 2016 transition to an open vent system. Temporary tremor amplitude decreases were found to precede most of the eruptive phases. In total, 5 pre-eruptive tremor abatement periods were identified spanning several days (5-44), which often concurred with a decrease in the SO₂ flux. The analysis of the volcano-tectonic seismicity highlights the migration of magma from a deep (6-10 km) reservoir beneath the neighboring Irazú volcano towards Turrialba volcano, especially between the years 2015 and 2016. This activity peaked on December 2016 when a Mw 5.5 earthquake took place between both volcanoes. Harmonic tremor episodes thrived in the later phase when the system finally opened (2017-2018). In the short-term, compounded tonal seismic signals were identified as precursor events, such as long-period events followed by harmonic tremor or by a multichromatic coda similar to tornillo-type events. The co-occurrence of tremor amplitude decreases and tonal seismic signals is interpreted to be caused by a sealing of the hydrothermal system, which blocked the circulation of fluids and permitted the resonances in the inner cavities. This process led to pressure accumulation and the consequent eruptions. Thus, through a series of cycles of sealing and rupture the system of conduits gradually opened. The seismic characterization of this eruption constitutes insightful knowledge useful for monitoring and risk assessment purposes.

Keywords: tremor, precursor, volcano, seismology, LP, tornillo

1. Introduction

Turrialba volcano is a (3,340 m a.s.l.) basaltic–andesitic stratovolcano located at the eastern edge of the Central Volcanic Range (CVR) of Costa Rica, 35 km east-northeast of San José, the capital and socioeconomic center of the

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country. It is one of the five active volcanoes in Costa Rica and it has erupted with significance at least 10 times during the last 7,000 years (Reagan et al., 2006; Alvarado et al., 2020). The last major eruption took place between 1864 and 1866 and the volcano then remained quiescent for more than a century. In 1996, the volcano started to show signs of unrest that turned conspicuous in 2007 evidenced by geochemical changes in fumarole gas composition and increased seismicity (Hilton et al., 2010; Martini et al., 2010; Vaselli et al., 2010). The first phreatic eruptive phase occurred in January 5, 2010. Since then, the activity evolved from phreatic to magmatic, in a slow process of opening of conduits.

Understanding precursory seismicity at short and long terms is globally one of the major tasks in order to reduce volcanic risk. At Turrialba volcano, we were able to record part of the initial unrest before the first eruption in 2010 and all of the eruptive evolution towards the open-vent phase, this offers an important opportunity to understand seismic source processes at different stages of the volcanic activity of Turrialba.

In this work we focus on the precursory activity of the main eruptive stages at Turrialba volcano since 2010 up to 2020 by means of close inspection of seismic records with different time-frequency analysis, in order to understand the evolution of the eruption dynamics. We also carry out a detailed description and classification of Turrialba volcano seismicity. This is the first time that overall seismicity of Turrialba volcano is presented together with an interpretative model of the evolution of the system over the 11 years of activity.

1.1. Geological setting

Turrialba volcano, Costa Rica, is located in a complex geotectonic background where the Cocos, Caribbean, Nazca plates and the Panama microplate interact (Figure 1). The Cocos plate subducts beneath the Caribbean plate and the Panama microplate at an approximate rate of 90 mm/year (Callegmina et al., 2009). Subduction beneath Costa Rica is highly complex due to variations on the Cocos plate slab morphology and its petrological characteristics, but also because of its double interaction with the Caribbean plate and Panama microplate (Von Huene et al., 1995; Gazel et al., 2021). The southeastern portion of the Central American Volcanic Front (CAVF) in Costa Rica and Panama, developed on top of oceanic crust terranes, including the western edge of the Caribbean Large Igneous Province (CLIP) (Gazel et al., 2021). The oceanic crust subducting along northwestern Costa Rica was produced at the East Pacific Rise, while that beneath central Costa Rica and Panama was formed at the Cocos-Nazca spreading center and includes the 13.0–14.5 Ma Galapagos hot spot track (Von Huene et al., 1995; Werner et al., 1999; O'Connor et al., 2007). The subduction of the Cocos plate under the Caribbean plate generates profuse volcanism, resulting in the modern Costa Rica volcanic front (CRVF), that is oriented NW-SE and partitioned in three segments: at the NW the Guanacaste volcanic range (GVR), the Tenorio volcanic range (TVR) and to the SE the Central volcanic range (CVR). From NW to SE, the CVR comprises Platanar, Poás, Barva and Irazú-Turrialba volcanoes. Turrialba, in particular, is the only volcano that is shifted 10 km towards the NE from the CVR main axis.

Turrialba volcano lies on sedimentary deposits of the Limón Basin and its origin dates back to the Middle to Upper Pleistocene. Ruiz et al. (2010) and Soto (2012) consider three construction phases: 1) Proto-Turrialba that began around 1 Ma; 2) Paleo-Turrialba whose last phase corresponds to the Finca Liebres volcano (250 ka); and 3) Neo-Turrialba, the current phase. The lava and pyroclast compositions vary from basalt to dacite, being andesite and dacite the most important compositions (Ruiz et al., 2010; Soto, 2012). DeVitre et al. (2019) proposed that a multi-stage magma mixing occurred at Turrialba, starting at deep mid-crust reservoirs with a mingling between high-Nb decompression melt induced by corner-flow from the backarc and a low-Nb volcanic front component. A second stage resulted from the chaotic mixing at shallow reservoirs between the resulting basaltic andesite and the rhyolitic end-member, delivering the presumably differentiated residual magma from previous events such as that of 1864–1866.

Geophysical evidence suggests that the feeding system beneath Turrialba volcano is made up of two magma reservoirs. Conde et al. (2014) deduced two levels of magma storage from the clustering of localised seismic events, one probably at 4–6 km depth and the shallow one at roughly 1 km below the summit. de Moor et al. (2016), Müller (2018) and Badilla and Taylor (2019) proposed a mid-crust reservoir located in the range between 5–10 km, which is located beneath Irazú volcano according to Lücke et al. (2010) and Müller (2018). Di Piazza et al. (2019) also interpreted a deep magma reservoir (~13 km deep) for the andesitic magma involved in the ~2 ka sub-Plinian El Retiro eruption. A second, shallower and smaller, reservoir could be in the range 1–2 km (de Moor et al., 2016; Badilla and Taylor, 2019).

Tectonic faults cutting Turrialba volcanic structure are characterized by left (NE-SW) and right-lateral (SW-NE) strike-slip systems (Soto, 1988; Montero et al., 2013; Calvo et al., 2019) (Figure 2). Turrialba volcano has three

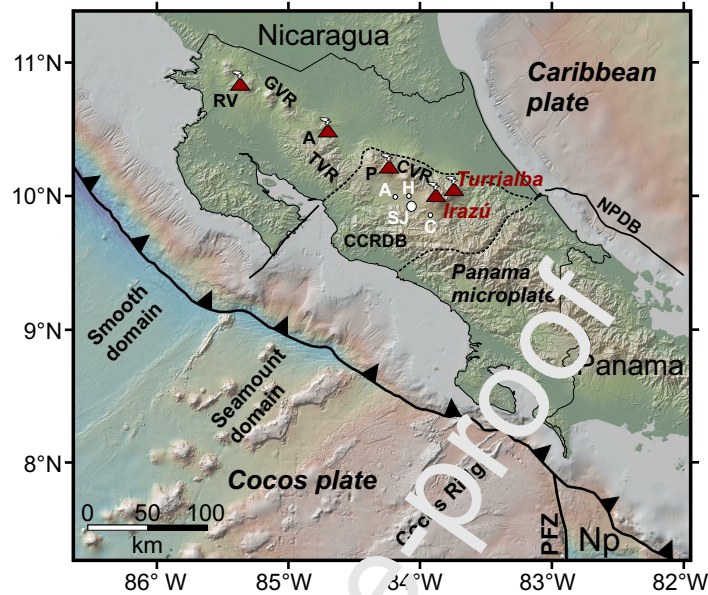


Figure 1: Simplified tectonic setting of Costa Rica and location of Turrialba volcano. Abbreviations are: Guanacaste volcanic range (GVR), Tilarán volcanic range (TVR), Central volcanic range (CVR), the Central Costa Rica Deformed Belt (CCRDB) and North Panama Deformed Belt (NPDB), Panama Fracture Zone (PFZ) and Nazca plate (Np) (Denyer et al., 2014). Black continuous and dashed lines represent faults. Triangles denote reverse faulting and point towards the overriding plate. Bathymetry and topography from Ryan et al. (2009). Active volcanoes are denoted by red triangles: Rincón de la Vieja (RV), Arenal (A), Poás (P). Main cities are indicated with white letters: SJ: San José, Alajuela (A), Heredia (H) and Cartago (C).

88 summit craters: the Southwest, which is the active one, the Central and the Northeast. They follow a NE-SW direction
 89 together with the pyroclastic cones Alvarado and Tiendilla to SW and the avalanche amphitheater to NE, which is the
 90 result of an structural control by the Elia and Ariete faults which are part of the NE system (Soto, 1988; Linkimer,
 91 2003; Calvo et al., 2019) (Figure 2). On the other hand, the NW fault system, contains the Río Sucio fault and the
 92 Liebres faults. The Río Sucio fault is presumed to be the source of a Ms 5.9 historical earthquake that occurred
 93 on December 30, 1952, 7 km NE from the crater of Irazú volcano, known as the Patillos earthquake (Montero and
 94 Alvarado, 1995). More recently, another important Mw 5.5 earthquake took place on December 1st, 2016 at 00:25
 95 UTC, 7 km SE from the crater of Irazú volcano. This event, known as the Capellades earthquake, might have ruptured
 96 part of the Liebres fault (Linkimer et al., 2018) (Figure 2).

97 1.2. The 2010-present eruption

98 Tephrostratigraphic studies evidence at least 10 eruptions at Turrialba volcano during the last 7,000 years (Reagan
 99 et al., 2006; Alvarado et al., 2020). Since 1450 B.C. eruptions occurred with a period of around 230 years (Alvarado
 100 et al., 2020). The last and only known historical eruption, prior to recent activity, took place from September 1864 to
 101 February 1866, producing ash plumes that spread west, passing through most of the central valley and reaching the
 102 Pacific coast (Reagan et al., 2006; Alvarado et al., 2021).

103 The first signs of unrest related to the most recent eruption could possibly be traced back to the year 1982 when
 104 two seismic swarms occurred in the Irazú-Turrialba region (Güendel, 1984). Those were interpreted as tectonic by
 105 Alvarado et al. (1986), Barquero and Alvarado (1989) and Fernández et al. (1998). In 1987 there was still no sign of
 106 activity (Figure 4A). However during the second half of the 1990s Turrialba volcano showed physical, geochemical and
 107 geophysical signs of unrest (Tassi et al., 2004; Martini et al., 2010). The seismic activity increased slowly and
 108 progressively from several isolated swarms during the 1990s and early 2000s to a more abundant and varied seismicity
 109 since 2005 (Martini et al., 2010). The increase of volcanic activity became more visible in 2007 (Figure 4B), when
 110 the composition of fumarolic gases changed from a hydrothermal to a magmatic signature and seismicity increased

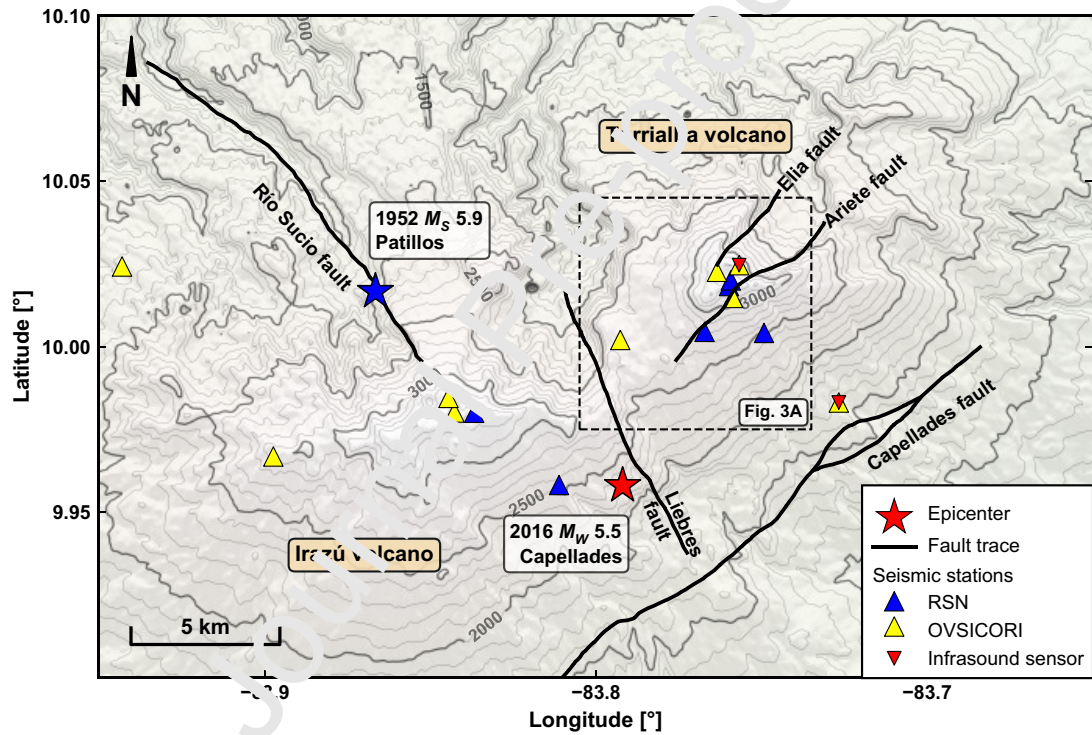


Figure 2: Irazú-Turrialba volcanic complex. Black lines are the main active faults [Montero and Alvarado \(1995\)](#); [Montero et al. \(2013\)](#); [Linkimer et al. \(2018\)](#). The 1952 Patillos earthquake 2016 Capellades earthquake (M_w 5.5) are shown with stars. The RSN and OVSICORI seismic stations are indicated with blue and yellow triangles, respectively. The rectangle indicate the zoom area showed in [Figure 3](#). Topographic contour levels are shown every 100 and 500 m with thin and thick lines, respectively.

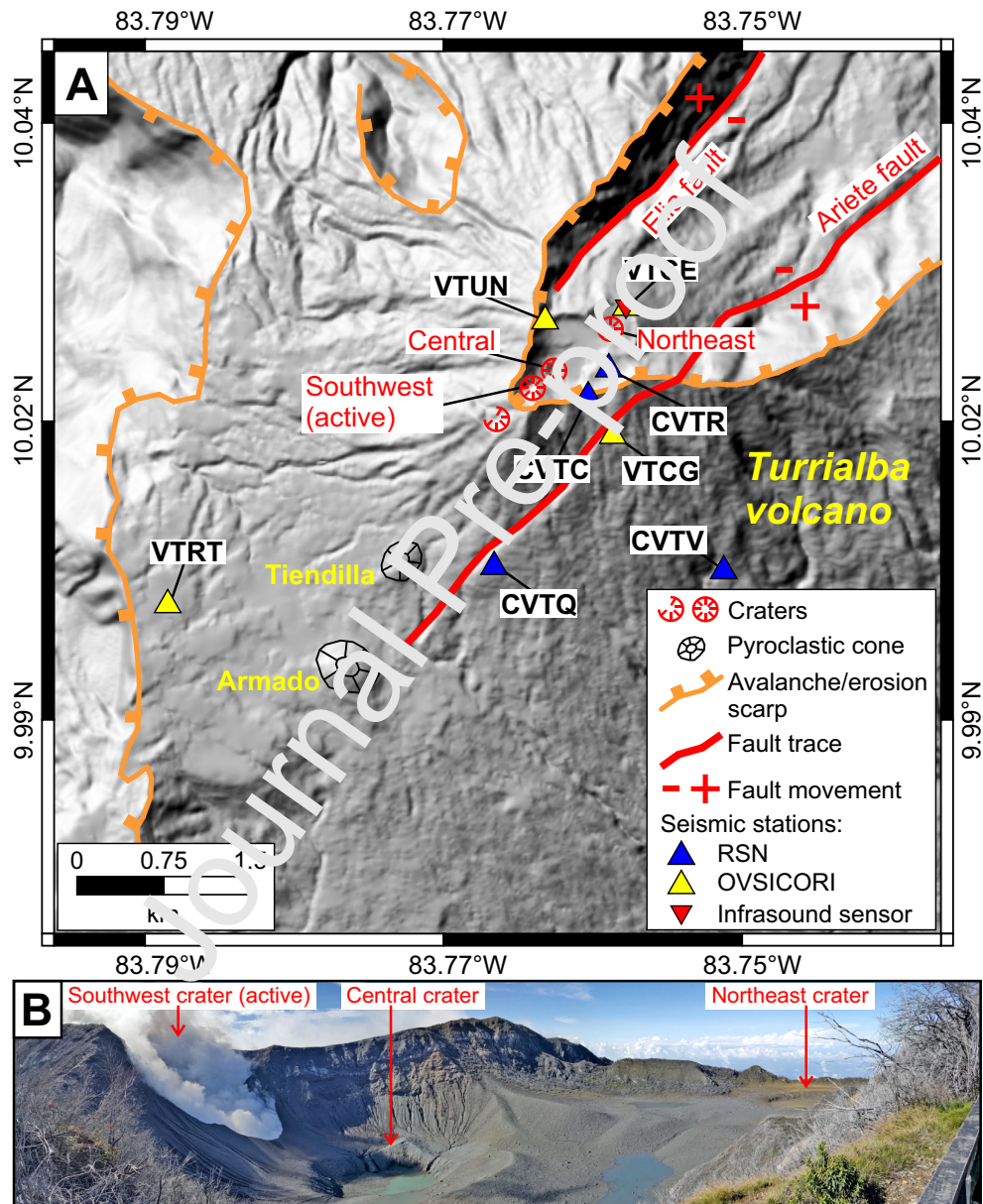


Figure 3: (A): Digital elevation model of Turrialba volcano with volcano-tectonic geomorphic features and seismic stations (triangles). Summit craters and Tiendilla and Armado pyroclastic cones, Elia and Ariete faults show a NE-SW trend. (B): Panoramic view of Turrialba volcano summit taken by Mauricio M. Mora on November 26, 2015, showing the Southwest (active), Central and Northeast craters.

(Hilton et al., 2010; Vaselli et al., 2010; Martini et al., 2010).

The first phreatomagmatic eruption occurred on January 5, 2010 (10:57 local time). It opened two vents in the SW inner wall of the active crater that became one on January 8, 2010 (Alvarado et al., 2016a), as it is observed in figures 4F and 5A. Minor ash emissions occurred on June, 12 and July, 13 later that same year (Soto and Mora, 2012).

On January 14, 2011, residents of a neighboring town (2.3 km from the active crater) informed about an ash fall and the presence of a strong smell of sulfur. However, no seismic activity was found that could indicate the occurrence of an explosion or volcanic eruption (Martínez and Pacheco, 2011). Later that year, on July, a new vent was observed on the W wall of the active crater. Another vent opened on January 12, 2012, on the SE external flank of the West crater. This event was accompanied by ash emission for a few hours. It was followed by a second ash emission from the same vent on January 18, 2012 (Figures 4F and 5C). On May 21, 2013 occurred a new ash emission that lasted 2 hours (Avard et al., 2012, 2013; Alvarado et al., 2016a). The ash came out simultaneously through the 2010 and 2012 vents (Figure 5D). For the 2012 and 2013 eruptions it was concluded based on geophysical and geochemical records, that the events were caused by an excessive accumulation of gas at shallow depth (Avard et al., 2012, 2013).

On October 29, 2014, the volcano emitted ash for almost 13 hours in a sustained manner and ended with a 25-minute high-energy explosion that destroyed most of the eastern wall of the West Crater (Alvarado et al., 2016a) (Figures 4C and 5D, left). The explosion was followed by a practically continuous emission of ash that lasted about 3 days. The right image on Figure 5D shows the deposits scattered by the eruption towards the east. This eruption established a breaking point in the eruptive dynamics of Turrialba volcano, which shifted from annual isolated eruptive events to well-defined eruptive phases (Figure 5 right panel).

The first eruptive cycle lasted from October to December 2014, the second from March to June 2015 (an eruption on March 13, 2015 at 11:07 local time is shown in Figure 3E), and the third from October, 16 to October, 31, 2015. The last two cycles were separated by an eruptive quiescence on August 15, 2015. After the last cycle in 2015, some eruptions occurred between November and December 2015 in a context of low seismicity and expanded the area of the active crater as it is shown in Figure 4D. Subsequently, there were a few ash emissions and small isolated explosions between January and early April 2016.

A new eruptive stage began on 2016, with intense seismicity since April 27 and followed by a long-lasting ash emission on April 30. Finally, the explosive eruptive activity started on May 1, 2016 continuing until August 1 (Mora, 2016). After a short period of relative quiescence from August 1 until November 2016 a new explosive eruptive phase took place, with eruption columns reaching up to 4 km high (Mora and Soto, 2016). An example of this activity can be observed on Figure 5F.

On December 2016 a new open-vent eruptive phase started and waned on the first semester of 2019. It was characterized by frequent phreatomagmatic explosions, sustained ash emissions and Strombolian activity. Between July 2017 and May 2018 a lava flow was observed at the bottom of the active crater (Ruiz et al., 2017; Alvarado et al., 2020). The activity decreased during the first semester of 2019. A minor eruptive phase occurred between June and August 2020. Since then and until 2021 some infrequent eruptions have been observed, some of them explosive, that reached from 500 to 1600 m height. During this last eruptive period the active crater reached its current shape (Figure 4E and g). During 2021 infrequent phreatic explosions have occurred.

Based on the relative significance of each of the eruptive phases described above and their seismological characteristics that we will develop later, we selected four specific pre-eruptive stages (PES) to be analysed in more detail, in order to identify and characterize the precursory seismicity. The selected pre-eruptive stages will be referred from now on as PES and a roman number as follows:

- PES-I: from December, 2009 to January, 2010, which preceded the eruption of January 5, 2010.
- PES-II May, 2013, that preceded the May 21, 2013 eruption.
- PES-III from March to April, 2016, that preceded the open vent transition starting on April 30.
- PES-IV September, 2016, that preceded the definitive step towards an open vent system.

1.3. Previous seismological observations

Here we provide a brief overview of the seismological research conducted at Turrialba volcano. Mora et al. (2001) carried out a short campaign on March 12-14, 2001. They recorded 30 LP events with impulsive onsets and dominant

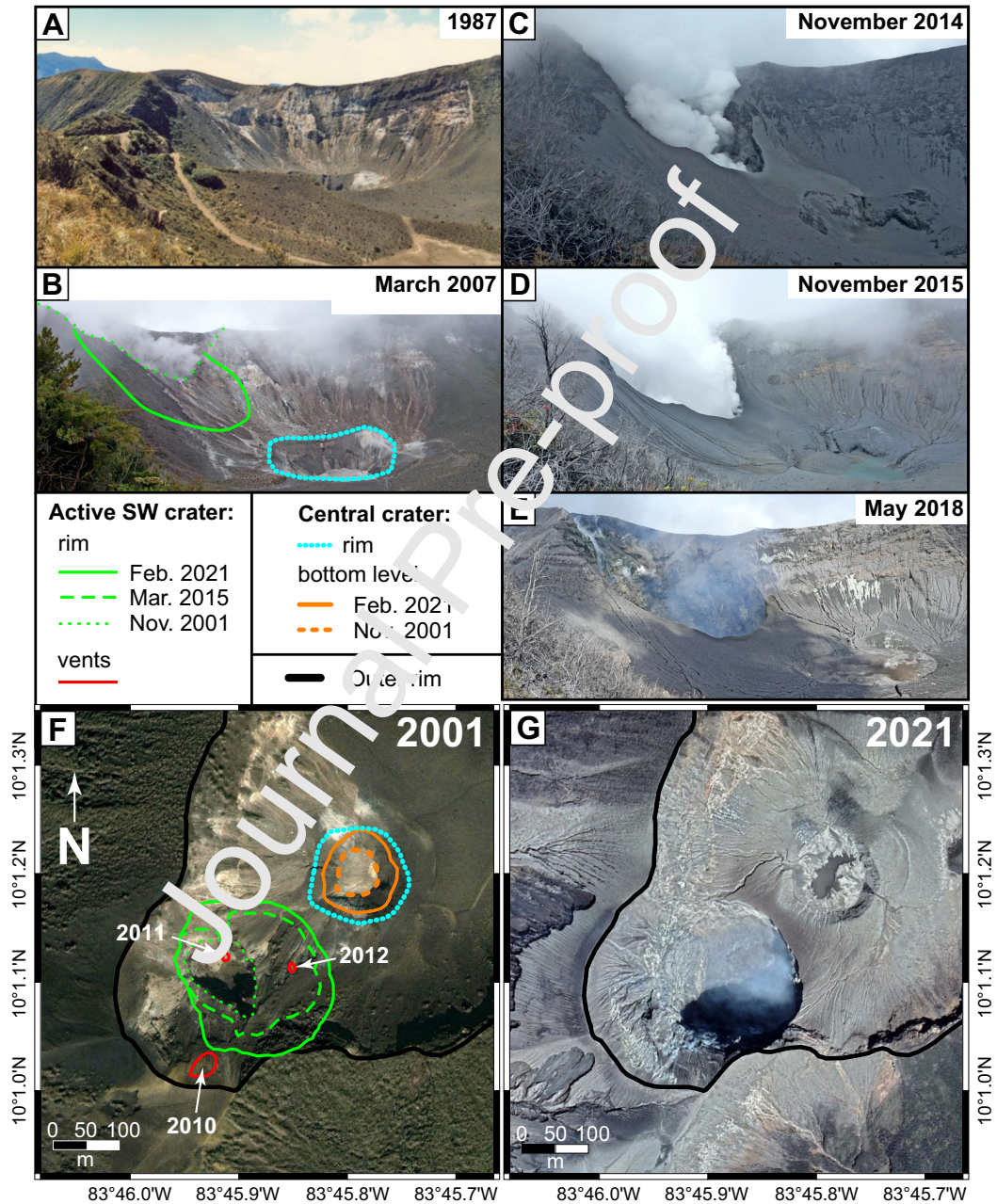


Figure 4: Temporal evolution of the active crater at Turrialba volcano from 1987 to 2021. (A-E): Photographs of the SW active crater and the central crater between 1987 and 2018. (F-G): Google Earth satellite images provided by Maxar Technologies and CNES/Airbus, respectively. The growing rim of the active crater is shown in (B) and (F). The progressive filling of the Central crater with pyroclastic material is indicated by the bottom level shown in (F). Photos in (A) and (B) are courtesy of Gerardo J. Soto. Photos from (C) to (E) were taken by Mauricio M. Mora.

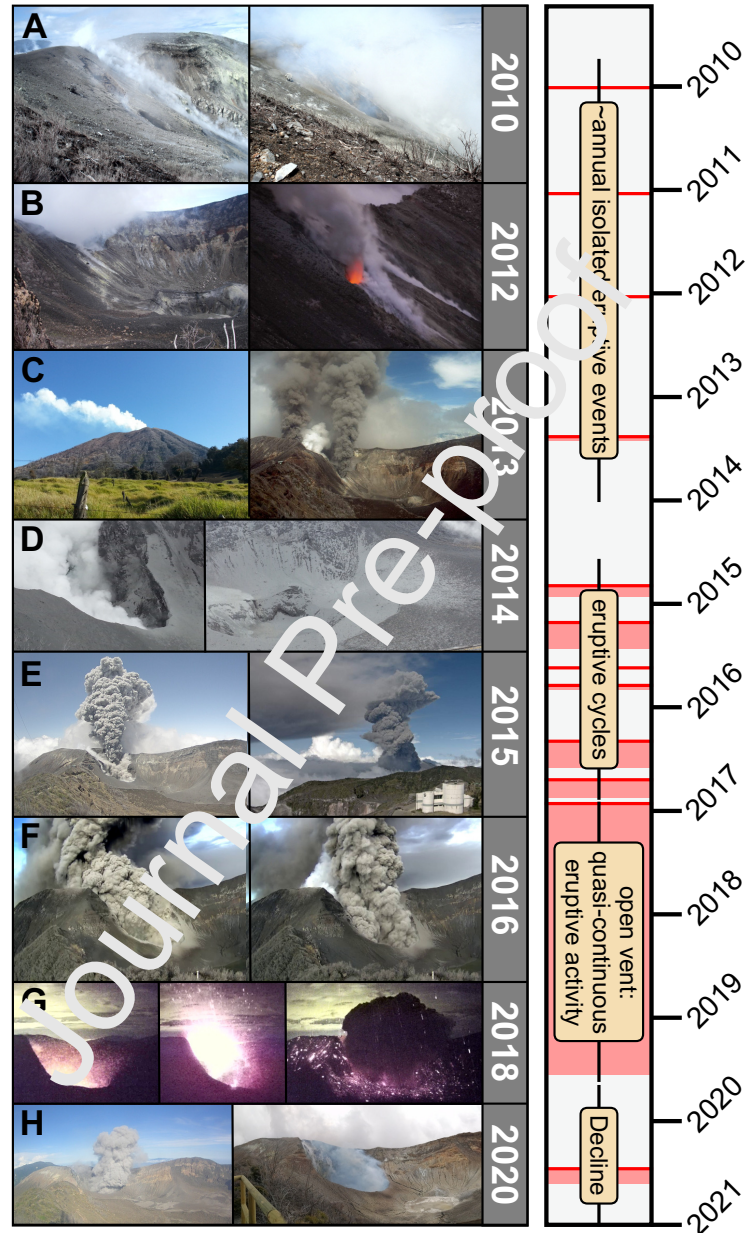


Figure 5: Left panel: Photograph examples of the activity. (A) Left, new vents formed by the eruption on January 4, 2010 and right: the vents joined. (Photographs by Mauricio M. Mora on April 13, 2011). (B) New vent formed in January 2012. (Left photo by Mauricio M. Mora and right by Javier F. Pacheco). (C) Left: Turrialba volcano degassing on January 31, 2013 (Photograph by Mauricio M. Mora) and right: eruption of May 21, 09:02 local time, taken by OVSICORI webcam. (D) Images obtained on November 1, 2014 after the explosion occurred on October 29, 2014. (Photographs by: Mauricio M. Mora). (E) Eruption on March 13, 2015 at 11:07 local time obtained by OVSICORI webcams at Turrialba (left) and Irazú (right) volcanoes. (F) Sequence of photographs from the RSN webcam, during an eruption on September 27, 2016 at 07:22 local time. (G) Sequence of photographs from the RSN webcam of an eruption on October 5, 2018 at 19:47 local time. (H) Left: Eruption on August 1 at 07:47 local time by OVSICORI webcam. Right: Image of the active crater degassing obtained on May 13, 2020 (Photo by Mauricio M. Mora). Right panel: Phases of the recent eruption (2010-2021) at Turrialba volcano. Solid red lines and pink areas show the start and span of each eruptive phase respectively.

159 frequency in the range 2-4 Hz, that were grouped in 3 families, denoting non destructive sources acting at that time.
 160 Tassi et al. (2004) provided a first classification and description of seismicity at Turrialba. They observed hybrid
 161 events with dominant frequency in the range 2.1-3.5 Hz and LP events with dominant frequency <1.8 Hz that were
 162 located 4-6 km beneath a 4 km elongated area comprising the summit craters and the northern flank. Martini et al.
 163 (2010) observed LP (0.8–1.8 Hz), tremor (2.4–3.1 Hz) and tornillo-type events. They also described two main VT
 164 swarms in April-May 2007 and September 2007.

165 A temporary installation of a broadband seismic network of 13 stations was carried out between March and
 166 September 2013 (Eyre et al., 2013). LP events recorded during that time period have been analysed in several papers.
 167 Eyre et al. (2013) and Zecevic et al. (2016) located those events through joint location-moment tensor inversion. They
 168 both found an elongated epicentral distribution oriented NE-SW at the summit, located southeastward of the West and
 169 Central craters. Thun et al. (2015) observed step-like ground deformation near the summit in LP event recordings.
 170 Different models for the source mechanism of these events have been proposed. While Bean et al. (2014) suggested
 171 that LP events are caused by slow, quasi-brittle failure, Chouet and Dawson (2016) favored a fluid-driven crack model.

172 In 2018 Jiwani-Brown et al. (2020) installed 20 temporary broadband seismic stations around the Irazú-Turrialba
 173 volcanic complex. Their network was supplemented with 45 permanent stations from the regional networks (OVSI-
 174 CORI and RSN) and was utilized to produce an ambient noise tomography.

175 Since 2009 the RSN and OVSICORI observatories started to develop a network of broadband instruments at
 176 Turrialba volcano for monitoring purposes. In this paper we provide an overview of the seismological observations of
 177 the recordings of this network.

178 2. Data and methods

179 2.1. Seismic monitoring systems

180 The seismic surveillance at Turrialba volcano began in 1990, when the *Observatorio Vulcanológico y Sismológico*
 181 *de Costa Rica* (OVSICORI-UNA) installed a 1 Hz Ranger SS1 seismometer in the summit. In 1996, three short-period
 182 vertical L4C Mark Products seismometers were added. The first permanent broadband station, CIMA, was installed
 183 by RSN on September 2009, and it was equipped with a 30 s CMG-6TD. On September, 2011 it was replaced with a
 184 Guralp CMG-3T 120 s seismometer and the code changed to CVTR (Figure 3). This recording site became the RSN's
 185 reference station until the present. On the other side, OVSICORI set up VTUN as its reference station since April
 186 2010 (Figure 3). It was equipped with a 120 s Nanometrics Trillium Compact and a Nanometrics Taurus recorder. In
 187 the following years, both observatories consolidated a broadband seismic network which is currently made up of more
 188 than a dozen stations (Figure 2). The seismic observations are complemented with visual monitoring from permanent
 189 webcams deployed by OVSICORI in 2010 and RSN since 2014 and infrasound instruments (Chaparral Physics 25
 190 Vx) deployed in March, 2017 by OVSICORI.

191 2.2. Seismic events at Turrialba volcano

192 The seismicity at Turrialba volcano exhibit a wide variety of signals, the most significant ones can be described as
 193 follows (Figure 6):

- 194 • Volcano-tectonic (VT): typical high frequency events (1-30 Hz) generated by brittle fracture and movement
 195 along faults within the volcano. Those are divided in distal (dVT) and proximal (pVT), according to the distance
 196 to the active crater, and in shallow (<2 km) and deep (>2 km). dVT and deep events usually exhibit clear P and
 197 S phases, while pVT are shallow and have emergent onsets, non-detectable S phase and lower frequency (<5
 198 Hz) contents than dVT.
- 199 • Long-period (LP): These signals have an emergent onset and a clear central pulse. The frequency content is
 200 generally restricted in a band between 0.5 and 4 Hz and the duration is of a few seconds (<5s).
- 201 • LP and tremor: This family is characterized by an LP event followed by a short tremor (a few minutes long).
 202 The tremor can have a broad-spectrum (1-20 Hz), hence it is called LP-T or a harmonic one (LP-HT) (van der
 203 Laet and Mora, 2017; van der Laet et al., 2018). The tremor may have also high-energy pulses (spasmodic
 204 character). The harmonic tremor coda exhibit a characteristic frequency gliding, very similar to the whooshes
 205 events observed at Arenal volcano (Benoit and McNutt, 1997; Mora, 2003; Lesage et al., 2006).

- 206 • Very long period (VLP): Pulses in the range from 2 and 100 seconds. A high frequency phase is usually
207 superimposed.
- 208 • Tornillo (TOR): This is a variety of seismic-volcanic signals that are distinguished by a tonal or multitonal coda
209 whose frequencies are stationary along the duration of the event and whose amplitude decays exponentially
210 (van der Laet, 2020).
- 211 • Compounded tornillo (cTOR): They are characterized by an initial broad-spectrum event that often includes a
212 VLP phase, followed by a multitonal coda typical of tornillo events (van der Laet, 2020). The frequency peaks
213 of the coda are usually very numerous (up to 25) compared to typical tornillos. The first phase is impulsive and
214 more energetic than the coda.
- 215 • Double phase (DP): These signals are characterized by an emergent first low-amplitude phase followed by
216 a high amplitude one, variable duration, a characteristic frequency range of 2-12 Hz with peak frequencies
217 between 5 and 9 Hz, and are followed by an acoustic phase (Pacheco, 2018). These events started in 2015 and
218 often accompanied visually confirmed eruptive activity. For the most part, the associated eruptive activity were
219 ash emissions (Figure S1), although some strombolian explosions were accompanied by a similar two-phase
220 signal (Figure S2). Pacheco (2018) found very low values of volcano acoustic-seismic ratio (VASR) indicating
221 a greater seismic than acoustic coupling of the explosions.
- 222 • Drumbeats (DB): Repetitive LP events with characteristic frequencies between 2-14 Hz and inter-event intervals
223 in the range of 6 - 10s. Sequences of drumbeat events were observed in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2017 and 2018.
224 Lesage et al. (2018) analyzed the sequence recorded in 2017. According to them, the clearest episode occurred
225 on 27 January, 2017 from 03:00 to 05:45 UTC and it was composed of about 600 small earthquakes with
226 remarkably similar waveforms but with varying amplitudes.
- 227 • Tremor: It is a ground vibration that lasts tens of minutes to several hours. Its spectrum can be broad band
228 (1-5 Hz) and non-harmonic (T) or more narrow-band and be harmonic, with one and sometimes two sets of
229 evenly spaced dominant peaks. Mora and Pacheco (2018) and Mora et al. (2019) performed a detailed spectral
230 analysis from a catalog of 2044 episodes of harmonic tremor that covers the period between 2009 and 2019.
231 In the long-term, they observed a progressive increase in the number of episodes of harmonic tremor with time
232 as well as significant variations in the fundamental frequency (range of 0.4 and 3.5 Hz) and in the number of
233 overtones.

234 2.3. Analysis of continuous recordings

235 For the long-term analysis we use the real-time seismic energy measurement (RSEM) (De la Cruz-Reyna and
236 Reyes-Dávila, 2001) computed from seismic records obtained at CVTR (previously CIMA) and complemented with
237 those obtained at VTUN to fill the gaps (~5%). Records were first corrected for instrument response and then band
238 pass filtered between 1 and 24 Hz. The RSEM was calculated using 1-minute segments. The results were decimated
239 by taking the daily median value. Finally, the data were displayed using a 5-day moving median. To correct the
240 RSEM amplitudes due to different stations used, a correction factor was obtained to compensate for site and trajectory
241 differences.

242 We complemented the seismic observations with SO₂ measurements obtained by Conde et al. (2014) and fur-
243 ther completed by OVSICORI-UNA using a scanning dual-beam Mini-DOAS (Conde et al., 2014). We also used
244 petrographic ash analysis measurements obtained from OVSICORI databases (Supplementary Figure S12), partially
245 published in Alvarado et al. (2016a).

246 2.4. Analysis of discrete events

247 In order to seek for significant precursory events of the eruptive phases, a close inspection of the time domain
248 records and detailed time-frequency analysis were carried out. We also used the REDpy algorithm (Hotovec-Ellis and
249 Jeffries, 2016) to group the events and obtain specific catalogs.

250 We focused on TOR, LP-HT, DP, HT and VT events since each of those types of signals carries significant informa-
251 tion about the volcanic system. We implemented specific analysis for each type to better constrain their characteristics:

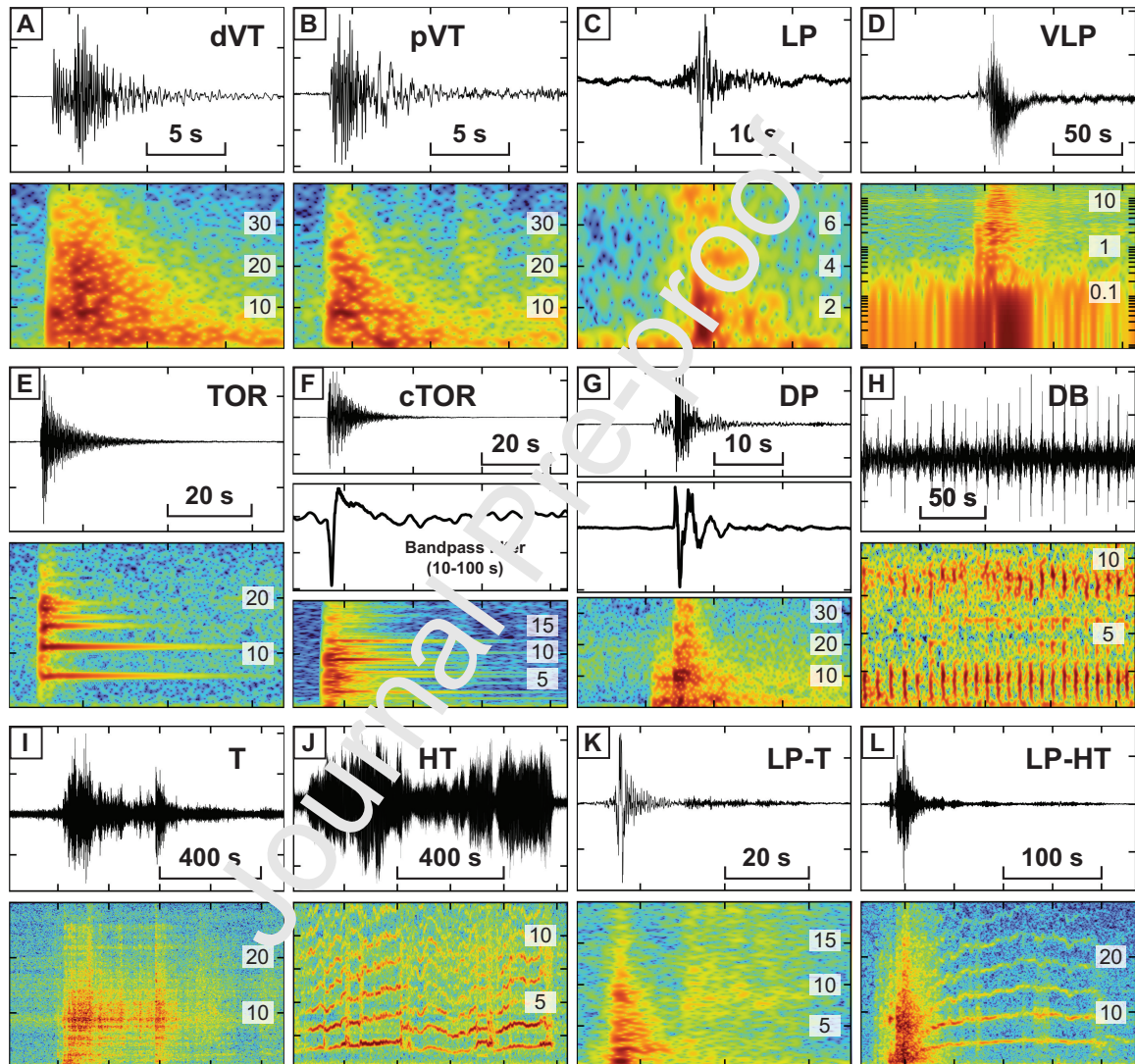


Figure 6: Typical seismicity of Turrialba volcano. For each type of event the velocity trace (above) and the corresponding spectrogram (below) is depicted. For the cTOR event in (F) an additional bandpass-filtered trace (middle) is provided. For the double phase event (DP) both seismic (above) and infrasonic (middle) traces are shown in (G). All events, except the DP event, were recorded by RSN's CVTR station. The DP's seismic and infrasonic records come from OVSICORI's VTCE station. Abbreviations are as follows: dVT: distal volcano-tectonic, pVT: proximal volcano-tectonic, LP: long period, DB: drumbeat, VLP: very long period, TOR: tornillo; cTOR: long period event with tonal coda; T: tremor; HT: harmonic tremor; LP-T: long period event with tremor; LP-HT: long period event with harmonic tremor.

- 252 • TOR and cTOR events analysis: As these signals share a multitonal coda with stationary non-regularly spaced
253 spectral peaks, we analyzed each peak independently. For each event, the signal was first bandpass filtered in
254 the 1-30 Hz range. To extract the peaks from the Fourier spectrum, a threshold was obtained by smoothing
255 the spectrum with a Savitzky-Golay filter (Savitzky and Golay, 1964) of order 1 and a 3 Hz window. Only the
256 peaks whose amplitude exceeded twice the corresponding value in the smoothed spectrum were extracted. In
257 addition, the search for peaks was restricted to a minimum distance of 0.3 Hz between peaks and a minimum
258 amplitude of 0.04 (value normalized by the maximum amplitude).
- 259 • Location of VLP phases of cTOR events: Because very low frequency waves are not affected by site effects,
260 particle motion analysis was used to locate the VLP phase of cTOR events (Caudron et al., 2018). The signal
261 was first bandpass filtered between 8 s and 16 s and then we used a 20 s window around the pulse. The
262 azimuth and angle of incidence of wave propagation were obtained from the orthogonal regression adjustment
263 of the movement in the horizontal plane and in the radial vertical plane using the algorithm implemented in
264 the ObsPy package (Beyreuther et al., 2010). The final solution was retrieved from the intersection of the
265 propagation vectors obtained at several stations. The mean square error in each dimension is reported.
- 266 • DP events analysis: We also carried out an specific overview of these events in order to determine which were
267 associated with eruptive activity. We used the images from the permanent webcams. The events were classified
268 in three types: 1) uncertain, due to adverse atmospheric conditions or the presence of a constant gas and/or ash
269 plume from the active crater; 2) not eruptive; and 3) eruptive. Types 2 and 3 are certain because clear images
270 were available.
- 271 • LP-HT events: A semi-automatic processing based on the cepstrum (Noll, 1967) was implemented to seek for
272 the fundamental frequency f_1 of the harmonic tremor associated to these events. f_1 corresponds to the dominant
273 cepstrum frequency. The analysis is performed in a moving window of 5 s with a step of 1 s. For each event we
274 recorded the initial, final, minimum, maximum, average and standard deviation of f_1 . In addition, the number
275 of harmonic overtones were manually counted.
- 276 • Harmonic tremor: We first built a catalogue with the extracted traces by manual inspection. We used the spec-
277 trogram to obtain the fundamental frequency f_1 at each window in order to account for the gliding. We then
278 obtained the average, median and mode of the fundamental frequency, and the number of overtones.
- 279 • VT seismicity was obtained from a joint catalogue compiled from OVSICORI and RSN data from 2010 on-
280 wards. For this period the locations are good enough to be analyzed. From 2010 backwards we do not have
281 good station coverage as the seismic monitoring systems at Irazú and Turrialba were incipient as we mentioned
282 in subsection 2.1. The VT catalogue comprise the locations, depth, magnitude (MI) and uncertainties coming
283 from routine processing. The velocity model used for the location comes from Quintero and Kissling (2001)
284 and was modified to include a layer between 0 and 4 km of elevation above sea level with a P and S-wave
285 velocities of 3.2 km/s and km/s, respectively.

286 3. Results

287 This research was developed using two time scales. We first analyzed the seismicity in a long-term basis to
288 characterize the evolution of the activity between 2009 and 2020 (Section 3.1). Secondly, we carried out a detailed
289 analysis focusing on the precursory seismicity of the main eruptive stages (Section 3.2).

290 3.1. Long-term analysis

291 3.1.1. RSEM and pre-eruptive tremor abatement (PETA)

292 To obtain a long-term overview of the seismic activity at Turrialba volcano we used the RSEM (Section 2.3)
293 and compared it with the SO₂ measurements (Figure 7). In general, the highest RSEM values occurred prior and
294 immediately after the first eruption on January 2010 and during the period between May 2016-May 2017. In between
295 those periods (years 2011-2015) the RSEM remained in lower levels. After May 2017 the RSEM decreased gradually.

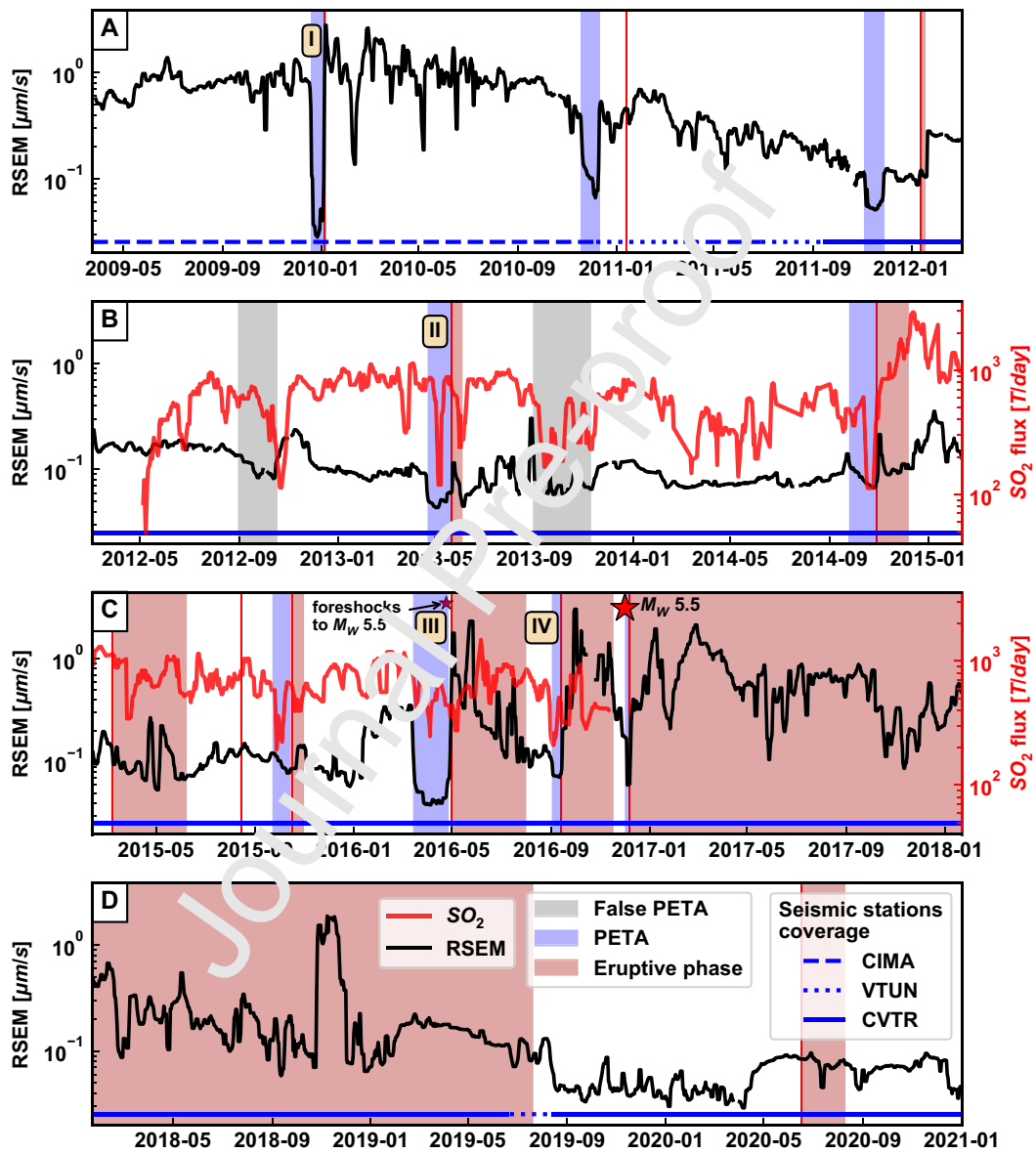


Figure 7: RSEM and SO₂ flux between 2009 and 2020. Vertical red lines and bands indicate the eruptive phases onset and time-span, respectively. Vertical blue bands indicate pre-eruptive tremor abatement (PETA). Vertical gray bands indicate periods of tremor and SO₂ flux abatement that do not precede an eruptive event or phase. The horizontal line in the lower part of the plot indicates the station used for the RSEM computation as in the legend. The roman numbered labels indicate the pre-eruptive stages (PES) analysed in detail in this work. The Mw 5.5 Capellades earthquake and its April foreshock swarm are indicated by a large and a small red star, respectively.

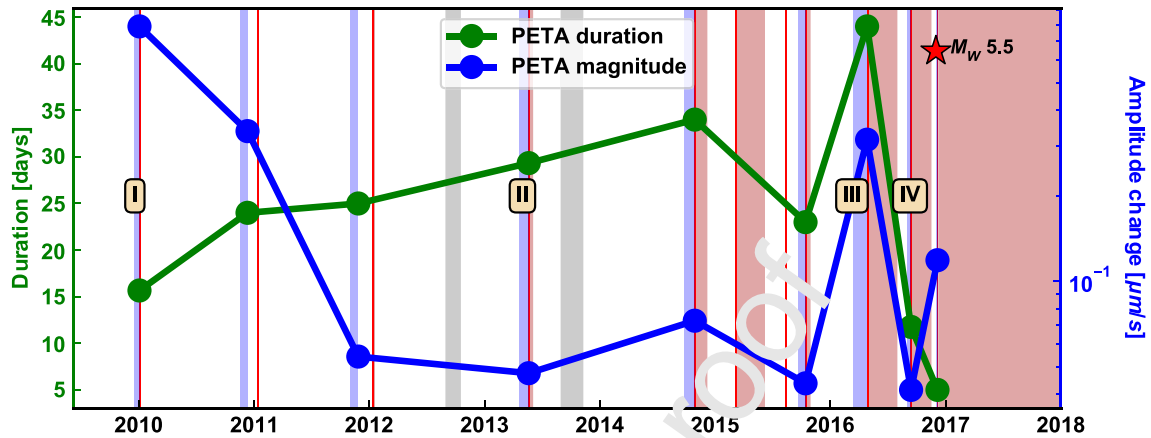


Figure 8: Evolution of the characteristics of the PETA periods. The abatement magnitude was computed as the difference between the maximum RSEM amplitude during the 7 days prior the PETA period and minimum amplitude during the PETA period. The M_w 5.5 Capellades earthquake is indicated by a red star. Roman number labels, vertical red dot lines and colored bands are the same as in Figure 7.

296 A relevant precursory feature identified in this analysis is a decrease in the seismic energy prior to most of the
 297 eruptive phases. For clarity, we will refer to this feature as a *pre-eruptive tremor abatement*, hereinafter abbreviated as
 298 PETA. Each PETA period is indicated with a vertical blue band in Figure 7 and following time series representations.
 299 This behaviour was observed in 9 occasions, being more conspicuous for the January, 2010 and April, 2016 eruptive
 300 phases. In general, we observe a decrease in the abatement magnitude, i.e. the amplitude difference between the
 301 maximum RSEM amplitude during the 7 days prior the PETA period and the minimum amplitude during the PETA
 302 period (Figure 8). On the contrary, the duration of the PETA increased up until the April, 2016 period, and drastically
 303 dropped later that year (Figure 8).

304 In some PETA period cases the decrease was drastic and the low amplitudes were sustained prior to the eruptive
 305 phase onset (*inverse plateau*), while in others, the decrease in amplitude was progressive and constant (Figure S3 in
 306 Supplementary Material). Two of the PETA periods identified occurred with a considerable temporal separation (\sim 1
 307 month) before the corresponding eruptions in early 2011 and early 2012 (Figure 7A).

308 Since a correlation between the seismic activity and the magmatic gas flux has been established in other studies
 309 (Conde et al., 2014; Chiodini et al., 2017) we broadly compare the RSEM to the SO_2 flux (in red in Figure 7). For
 310 example, for the 2014 eruptive phase, de Moor et al. (2016) reported the concomitant decrease of SO_2 flux and seismic
 311 amplitude. In this work, we observe this behavior in all PETA periods occurring during the period with available data.

312 Furthermore, we observe two other periods when RSEM and SO_2 decrease, in September, 2012 and September,
 313 2013, but that were not followed by an eruption. These periods are indicated by the vertical gray bands (Figure 7).
 314 Although, by the end of these periods no eruptive activity took place, some interesting seismic activity is noted. For
 315 the September, 2012 period, the RSEM increase was associated with a drumbeat sequence of LP events (Figure S4 in
 316 Supplementary Material). For the September, 2013 period, a sharp increase of TOR events was observed (Figure 10).

317 3.1.2. Volcano-tectonic seismicity

318 The VT seismicity beneath the Irazú-Turrialba volcanic complex was distributed in two zones: 1) a broad (\sim 12
 319 km) zone beneath the Irazú edifice between 0 and 4 km below sea level (dVT); and 2) a tighter cluster at Turrialba
 320 volcano between 0 and 3 km above sea level (pVT, Figure 9). Additionally, we observe that from 2015 to 2017 the VT
 321 seismicity progressively moved from Irazú (dVT) to Turrialba volcano (pVT) (Figure S5 in Supplementary Material).

322 The temporal distribution shows two periods of major activity. The first occurred from 2012 to 2014 with a sharp
 323 increase in October, 2012, after the M_w 7.6 Nicoya earthquake (September 5, 2012) (Lupi et al., 2014). The second
 324 occurred from mid 2014 to 2017. During this period occurred the Capellades seismic sequence (main shock depicted
 325 as a red star in figures 2 and 9), the climax of volcano-tectonic seismicity between 2009 and 2021 (Figure 9C and D).

326 This sequence started with some foreshocks on April 24, 2016 (Linkimer et al., 2018), during a PETA prior to the
 327 May 2016 eruptive cycle.

328 We used the relationship between the cumulative seismic moment of the VT events and the geodetic estimation
 329 of the intruded magma volume found by White and McCausland (2016). Based on the VT seismicity, we estimated
 330 a volume equal to 0.016 km³. This result is consistent with the estimation based on geodetic data carried out by
 331 Müller (2018) who modeled a magma reservoir beneath the Irazú volcano at 8 km depth where an intrusion of 16
 332 Mm³/year occurred during 2015 and 2016 (Battaglia et al., 2019). If we accumulate this rate of intrusion in the course
 333 of two years, it yields a total volume change of 0.032 km³, which is in the same order of magnitude of our results.
 334 Furthermore, this match is in the variability range of the data collected by White and McCausland (2016) and Meyer
 335 et al. (2021) (Figure S6 in Supplementary Material). As those authors explain, the cumulative seismic moment is
 336 dominated by the few larger events. Thus, the Capellades earthquake must be related to the magma intrusion in order
 337 to account for the geodetic estimation by Müller (2018).

338 3.1.3. Long-term evolution of discrete TOR, DP and HT events

339 TOR events were first observed in 2012 and their number had a significant increase during the second half of 2013,
 340 after the May eruption (Figure 10A). This was coincident with the PSiM and SO₂ decrease period that occurred in
 341 September 2013 (gray vertical band in Figure 10). In the following 2014 and 2015 years the number of events
 342 decreased, although an important increase was observed in October 2015 (Figure 10A). Between 2012 and 2013, the
 343 frequency of the first spectral peak decreased from 10 to 2 Hz (Figure 10B). Then, in 2014 this frequency went up
 344 suddenly up to 12-18 Hz. Finally during 2015 it diminished again down to 2 Hz. In 2016 cTOR became dominant
 345 showing lower frequencies down to 0.6 Hz by September 2016. Preliminary estimations of the coda attenuation
 346 quality factor of representative TOR and cTOR events (Mesage, 2008, 2009) indicate that TOR events could have
 347 been related to the resonance of a suspension of ash in gas ($Q \sim 600$), while cTOR events could have been related to
 348 bubbly water or bubbly basalt ($Q \sim 60-80$), following Kumagai and Chouet (2000) (Supplementary Tables S1 and S2).

349 DP events started in 2015 (Pacheco, 2018) and reached a maximum number in November 2015 (Figure 10C).
 350 Afterwards, a progressive but fluctuating decrease in the number of events can be observed (Figure 10C). Several DP
 351 events accompanied eruptions, becoming more usual since 2017 (Figure 10C).

352 Harmonic tremor (HT) has been observed in Turrialba volcano since 2007 (Martini et al., 2010). However, our
 353 catalog extends from 2009 to 2018. Between 2009 and 2013 HT episodes were rare, but as of 2014 they became more
 354 conspicuous, particularly in 2018 when they reached a maximum (Figure 10D). In parallel, the number of overtones
 355 also showed a slight increase (Figure 10F). The fundamental frequency (f_1), however, fluctuated between 0.5 to 3 Hz.
 356 The lowest frequencies were reached during 2015 (Figure 10E).

357 3.2. Short-term analysis of the studied pre-eruptive stages (PES)

358 In section 1.2 we defined 4 pre-eruptive stages to be studied in detail from the seismological point of view. Each
 359 PES was dominated by a different type of seismic-volcanic event, but some families were present in several stages
 360 (Table 1). LP-HT events were observed in PES I-III, but mostly in PES-I. LP-T events were only observed in PES-II.
 361 The cTOR events were observed mainly in PES-III and PES-IV. Finally, DP events were only recorded on PES-III and
 362 PES-IV. We highlight that the most important family in number is the LP-HT, which has the highest average rate and
 363 is present in all stages. Also, in all of the stages a swarm of pVT events was observed towards the end of the stage.

Table 1: Average rate (events per day) of type of event at each pre-eruptive stage

PES	Start date	End date	Duration [days]	LP-HT	LP-T	TOR/cTOR	DP
PES-I	2009-12-19	2010-01-03	16	66	0	0	0
PES-II	2013-04-21	2013-05-21	29	3	42	0.2	0
PES-III	2016-03-14	2016-04-27	44	9	0	21	0.6
PES-IV	2016-09-02	2016-09-12	11	0	0	4	0.6

364 LP-HT events were more frequent during the PES-I. In this 16-day period a total of 1054 events occurred, with
 365 a maximum rate of 8 events per hour. On the other hand, PES-II and III were longer (29 and 44 days, respectively),
 366 but presented fewer LP-HT events (71 and 429, respectively). No LP-HT were detected on PES-IV. We statistically
 367 compared their characteristics per PES (Figure 11). The amplitude and the mean fundamental frequency (Mean f_1)

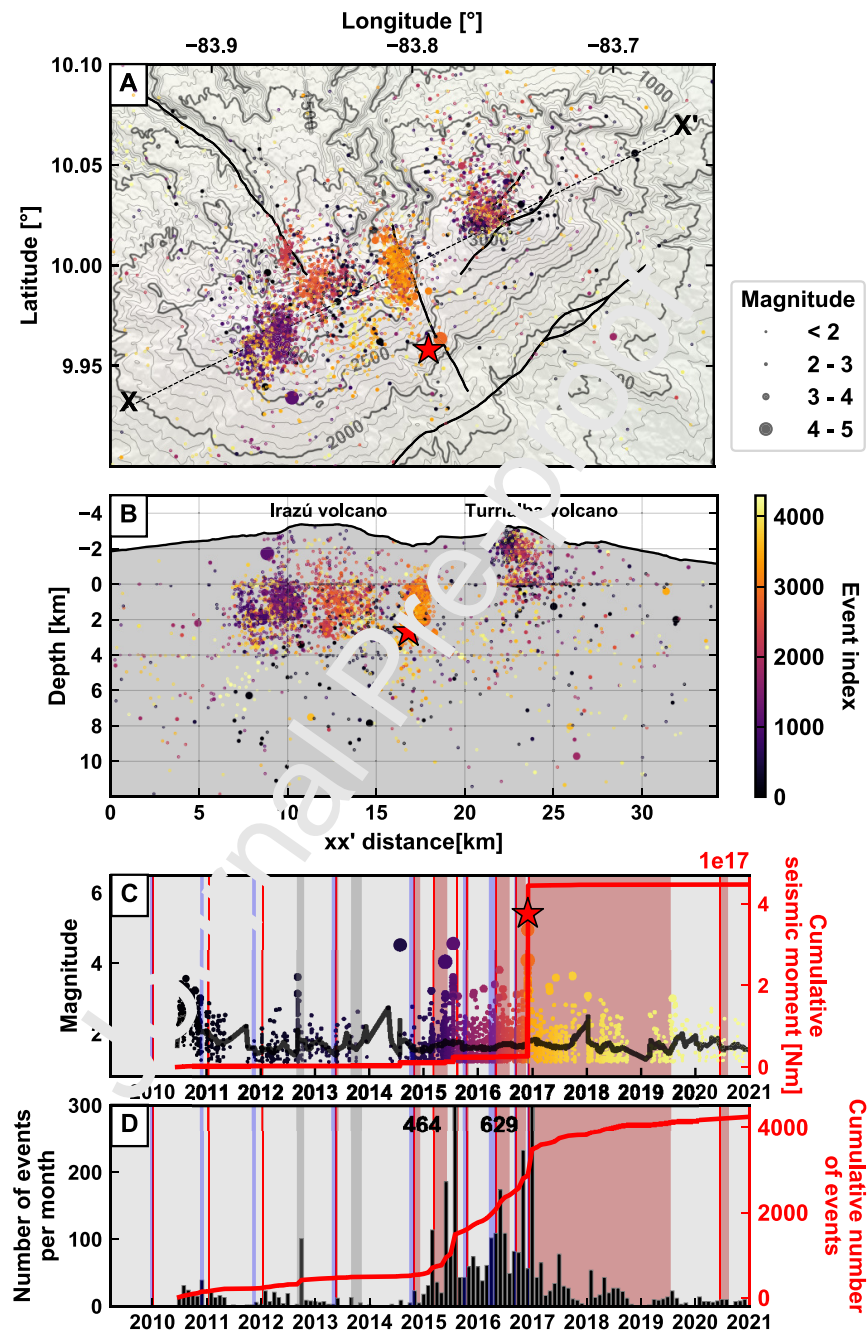


Figure 9: Volcano-tectonic (VT) seismicity in the Irazú and Turrialba volcanic complex. (A): Map: Black lines are the main active faults [Montero and Alvarado \(1995\)](#); [Montero et al. \(2013\)](#); [Linkimer et al. \(2018\)](#). The XX' dashed line indicates the trend of the profile in (B); (B): XX' profile; (C): magnitude time series and cumulative seismic moment of VT events; (D): Number of VT events per month, the number of events in August 2015 and December 2016 is indicated next to each bar, in order to provide a vertical scale adjusted to the minor variations. The color of each point is dependent on the order of occurrence as shown in the colorbar. The red star in (A) to (C) indicates the Mw 5.5 Capellades main shock. The Liebres fault is indicated with a dashed line in (A) and (C). Color coding for vertical lines and bands as in [Figure 7](#). We use a minimum magnitude cut-off of 1.2 based on the analysis of the Gutenberg-Richter Law.

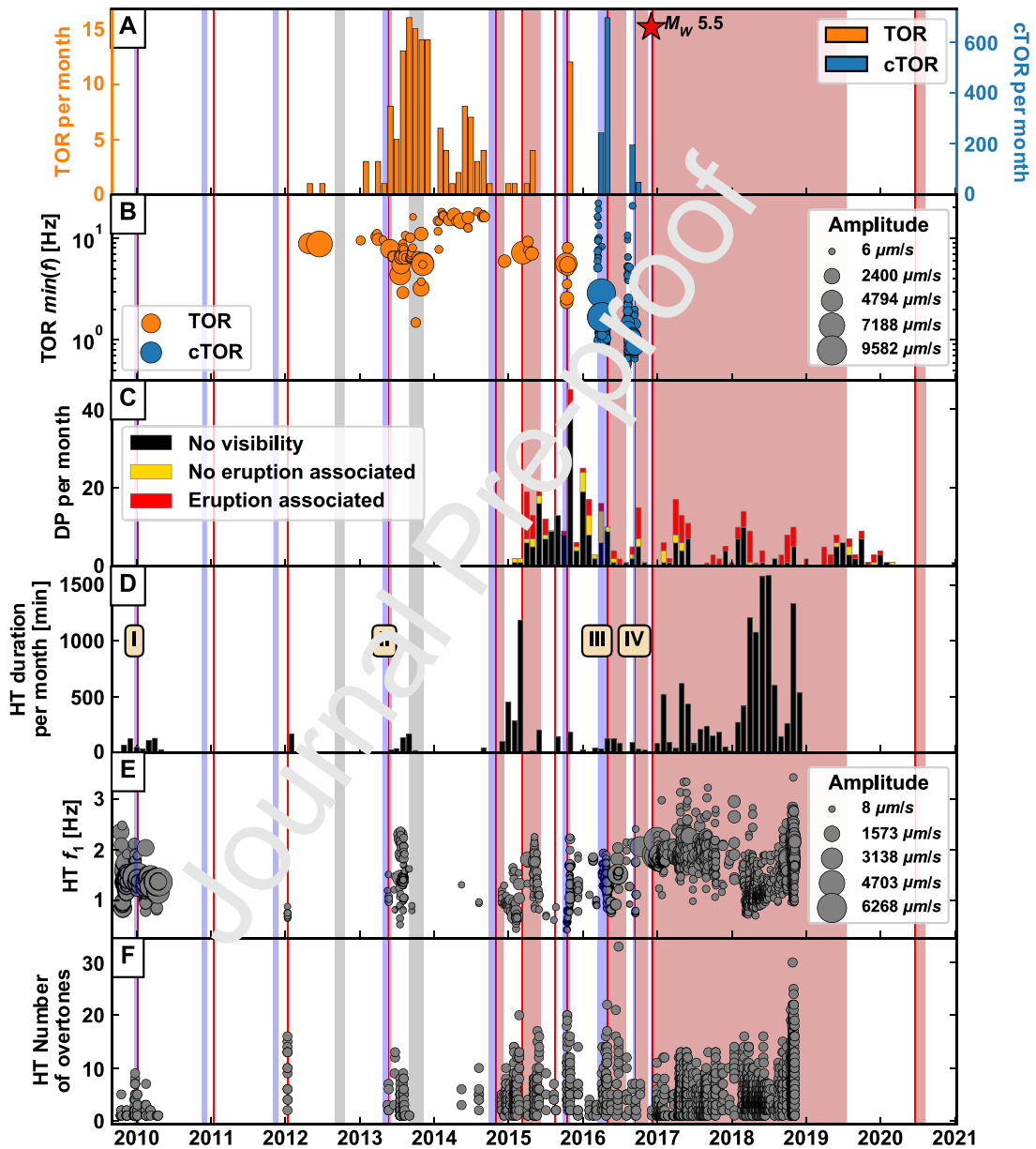


Figure 10: Evolution of the tornillo-type (TOR), double-phase (DP) and harmonic tremor (HT) events. (A): Number of TOR and cTOR events per month. (B): Frequency of the first spectral peak of TOR and cTOR events. (C): Number of DP events per month. (D): HT duration per month. (E): HT fundamental frequency (f_1). (F): HT number of harmonic overtones. Roman number labels, vertical red dot lines and color bands are the same as in Figure 7. The M_w 5.5 Capellades earthquake is indicated by a red star.

368 showed a progressive decrease along each PES, while the number of harmonic overtones remained the same for PES-I
 369 and II, but increased in PES-III. In two instances of LP-HT events we observe intermittence of the odd harmonics
 370 (Supplementary Figure S13) which can be understood as period doubling (Julian, 1994; Rust et al., 2008; Hagerty
 371 et al., 2000).

372 LP-T events occurred only during PES-II. LP-TH and LP-T share some similarities on the LP part, with a dominant
 373 frequency of 1.5 Hz and typical duration of 20 s. Remarkably, LP-HT occurred in the second half of the PES, when
 374 the RSEM started to increase prior to the May 21, 2013 eruption (Figure S7 in Supplementary Material).

375 cTOR events were important precursors during PES-III and IV, when 943 and 245 events occurred, respectively.
 376 For PES-III, cTOR events were grouped by cross-correlation, using the REDPy algorithm (Hotovec-Ellis and Jeffries,
 377 2016). We first filtered the signals using a Butterworth bandpass filter between 1-10 Hz and order 4. Then, we set
 378 minimum correlation coefficient of 0.7 to group the events. From the 943 manually detected events, 72% (678 events)
 379 were grouped into 66 families. Of the grouped events, 537 events (80%) belong to six families made up of more than
 380 14 events each. Using a stacked waveform per cluster, the particle motion analysis yields towards a consistent source
 381 location beneath the central crater ~500 m deep (Figure S8 in Supplementary material).

382 We also extracted each spectral peak for the cTOR events for detailed time-frequency analysis (Figure 12). In
 383 contrast to the typical proportional shifting of all spectral peaks (gliding) of the HT spectral peaks, we can observe
 384 that those of cTOR and TOR events varied independently. Due to the narrow frequency range of variation of the
 385 spectral peaks (<1 Hz), the scale in Figure 12 was adjusted for each peak. The same data is displayed in a common
 386 frequency and amplitude scale in Supplementary Figure S9 for direct comparison between peaks. During PES-III, a
 387 general pattern of frequency variation can be established: a prolonged decline followed by two cycles of rise and fall.

388 Mora and Alvarado (2016) reported three VT swarms that occurred on April 15, April 24, and April 26 2016,
 389 respectively (vertical blue lines in Figure 12). These were concomitant with each minimum frequency of the cTOR
 390 peaks. For each VT swarm, RSN located at least 1 event. Although, the rest of the events were not located due
 391 to a poor signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and/or network coverage, the catalog was completed using the REDPy routine
 392 (van der Laat and Linkimer, 2019) (Figure S10 in Supplementary material). The April 15 dVT swarm was located in
 393 the north flank of Turrialba volcano. The April 24 dVT swarm, was located between Irazú and Turrialba volcanoes
 394 and it is a foreshock swarm of the Mw 5.5 Craters (Linkimer et al., 2018). Finally, the April 26 pVT swarm, was
 395 located near the active crater of Turrialba volcano at shallow depths (<1 km).

396 During PES-IV, the frequency of cTOR spectral peaks continued to decrease (>0.75 Hz), especially during the last
 397 24h before the September 13, 2016 eruption onset (Figure S11 in Supplementary material).

398 4. Discussion

399 4.1. Interpretation of the pre-eruptive tremor abatement (PETA) periods

400 Although not termed PETA, similar behaviour (i.e. a decrease in seismic amplitude previous to eruptive activity)
 401 has been reported in other volcanoes and in a variety of time-scales. For example, at Redoubt volcano, a short-lived
 402 (seconds to minutes) seismic pause was observed prior to some Vulcanian explosions following gliding harmonic
 403 tremor (Dmitrieva et al., 2013; Hotovec et al., 2013). Similarly, at the Suwanosejima volcano, some Vulcanian explo-
 404 sions have been preceded by a sudden cessation of tremor on a short-term scale (minutes) (Nishimura et al., 2013). In
 405 Telica volcano, Roman et al. (2016) showed that episodes of seismic inactivity on a medium-term scale (minutes to
 406 hours) systematically preceded the explosions in May 2011. In the same volcano, Geirsson et al. (2014) and Rodgers
 407 et al. (2015) reported a decrease in tremor amplitude and in the number of discrete seismo-volcanic events over a
 408 long-term period (weeks), between March and April prior to the May 2011 eruption. This last example is similar to
 409 Turrialba volcano, in which the PETA periods last for several days to over a month.

410 In other volcanoes this tremor quiescence has been interpreted as a pause in the circulation of fluids and/or ash
 411 in the shallow part of the volcanic edifice due to the sealing or blockage in the conduits. The resulting overpressure
 412 would eventually provoke rock failure and, consequently, the eruptive activity (Nishimura et al., 2013; Geirsson et al.,
 413 2014; Rodgers et al., 2015; Roman et al., 2016). Particularly, for Turrialba volcano, the concomitant decrease in
 414 SO₂ flux with PETA periods suggests the blockage in the system. The cause of this sealing can be related to the
 415 precipitation of minerals from rising magmatic gases (de Moor et al., 2016; Stix and de Moor, 2018). For Turrialba
 416 volcano, this hypothesis is supported by the collection of blocks of highly indurated hydrothermal breccia that were

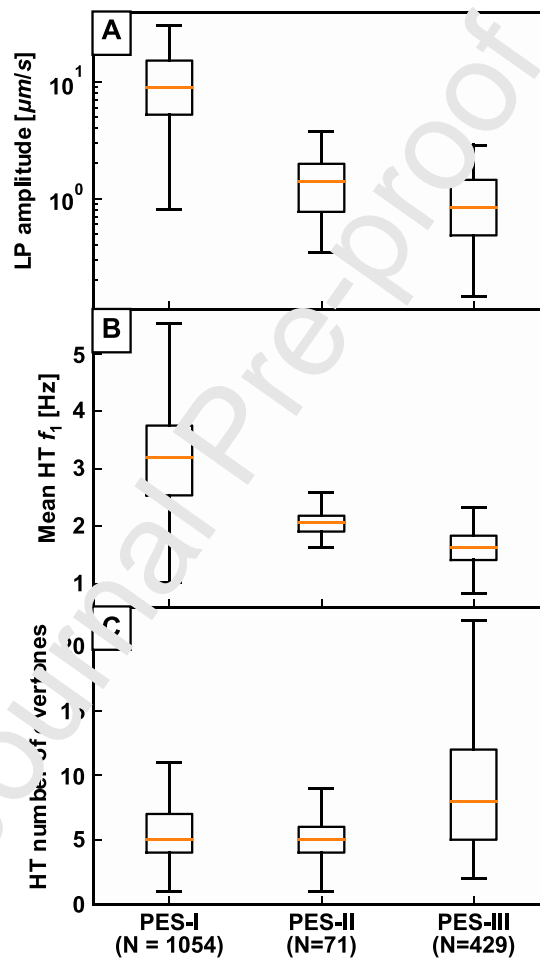


Figure 11: LP-HT events characteristics at each pre-eruptive stage (PES). (A) Amplitude of the LP event part; (B): mean fundamental frequency f_1 of the harmonic part; (C): number of overtones of the harmonic tremor part. In each case, the box extends from the lower to upper quartile values of the data, with an orange line at the median. The whiskers extend from the box to show the range of the data.

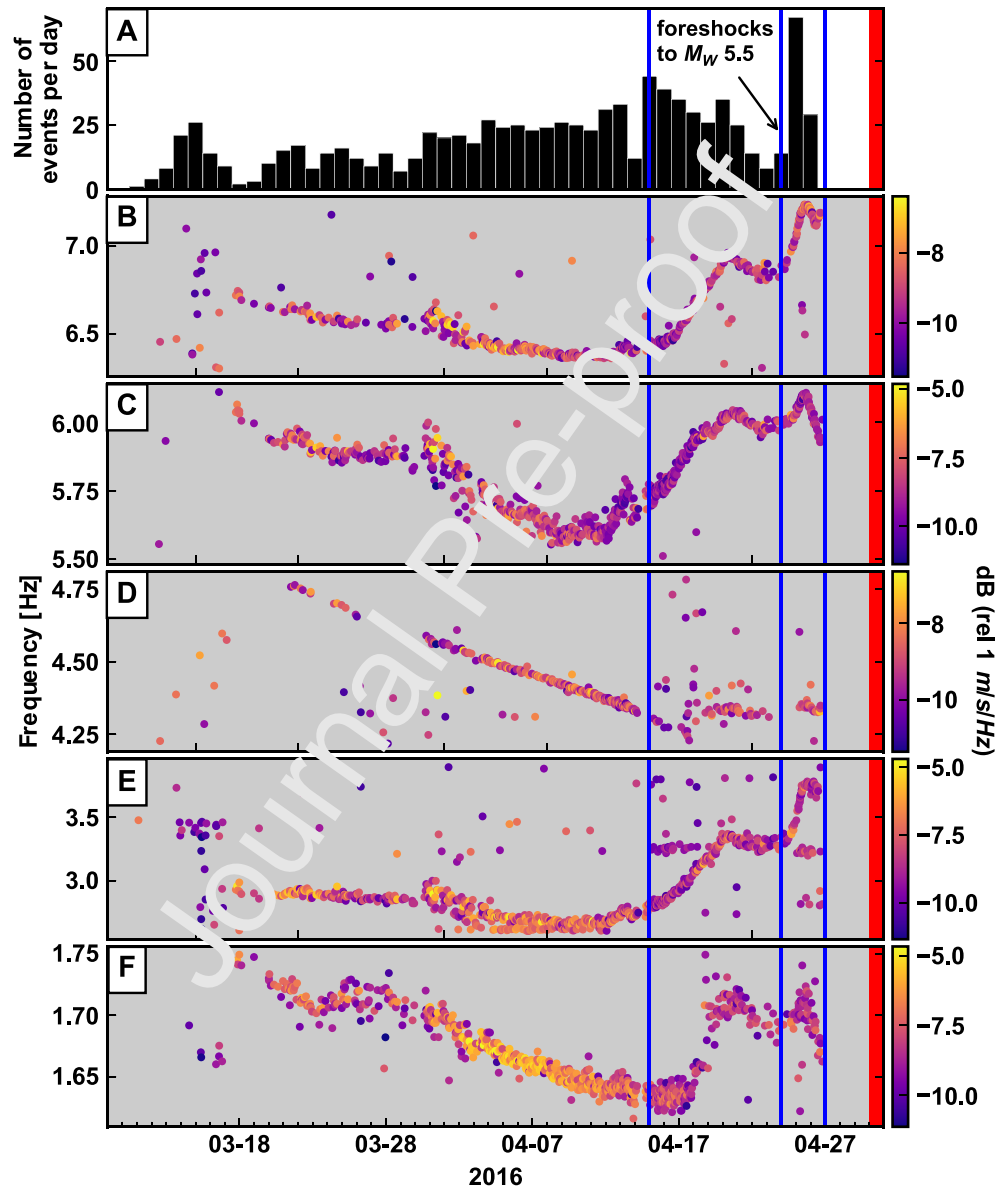


Figure 12: Evolution of the c TOR events spectral peaks during PES III. (A): Number of events per day. (B-F): frequency variation of the first 5 spectral peaks of the coda. Each point represents a peak of each event. The spectral amplitudes of the peaks are represented by a color scale. The solid blue lines indicate VT swarms. The first two are distal swarms (April 15 and 24), while the third one is a proximal swarm (April 27). The vertical red band indicates the eruption phase that began in April 29.

417 ejected during the violent explosion on October 29, 2014 (de Moor et al., 2016), which was preceded by a PETA
 418 period of 34 days.

419 The observations here provided suggest that the sealing of the hydrothermal system was a recurrent process that
 420 led to most of the eruptive phases prior to the open-conduit stage. We observe that PETA periods became in-
 421 creasingly longer in duration (Figure 8) which could reflect the progressive opening of the system, since a more open
 422 system would require longer duration to over-pressurize. Also, we observe that the magnitude of the PETA tended
 423 to decrease, which could mean that required pressure difference to generate the eruption was decreasing due to the
 424 progressive opening of the system.

425 4.2. Precursory seismo-volcanic events: cTOR, LP-HT and LP-T

426 For the generation of the multitone resonance typical of cTOR events a closed cavity is required where a high
 427 pressure gradient is generated due to a high flow rate (Konstantinou, 2015; Fazio et al., 2019). According to Kumagai
 428 and Chouet (2000), the estimated quality factor of 60–80 for a representative cTOR event would correspond to bubbly
 429 water or bubbly basalt. We propose that the VLP pulse of cTOR is generated by a slow fluid movement in the shallow
 430 magma body. The downward polarity of this pulse could be associated with the rise of a gas pocket in the magmatic
 431 column, which causes a downward acceleration of the surrounding fluid. If the fluid is massive enough, it can generate
 432 a force that couples to the rock walls during a momentary deflation (Inai, 1983; Waite, 2015). The escaping mixture
 433 of magma and gas from the magma body then produces pressure transients that excite the oscillation of the cavities.

434 cTOR frequency decrease was the general trend in both PES-III and PES-IV, as observed in other volcanoes
 435 (Torres et al., 1996; Molina et al., 2004). This could be due to a variety of factors, such as increase in the fluid
 436 density and/or a growth of the cavities or the increase of gas fraction in magma (Kumagai and Chouet, 2001; Molina
 437 et al., 2004; Konstantinou, 2015). Despite this general trend, during the two final weeks of PES-III we observe two
 438 cycles of frequency increase and decrease. We have already seen that the beginning of each cycle coincides with a
 439 VT swarm. In particular, the VT swarm occurring on April 26, 2016 is proximal and no more cTOR were detected
 440 after that swarm. Hence, we propose that the first two dVT swarms (April 15 and April 24, 2016, Figure 12) may
 441 indicate magma injection events, which in turn could increase degassing and gas temperature in the shallow magma
 442 column and, therefore, the acoustic velocity and the frequency of oscillation would also increase. Conversely, the last
 443 pVT swarm might be related to the rupture of the hydrothermal system seal, which previously conditioned the cTOR
 444 resonances.

445 Unlike for cTOR events, it was not possible to obtain a source location for LP-HT. However, high attenuation
 446 observed at distant stations (VTEA and VTCV) indicate a shallow source. A possibility is that the LP phase is
 447 the result of an internal explosion due to the accumulation of gases in the sealed zone of the hydrothermal system
 448 (Figure 13B). The consequent HT could be generated by one of multiple processes: acoustic resonance of a fluid-
 449 filled fracture (Chouet, 1987); thermoacoustic oscillations (Busse et al., 2005; Montegrossi et al., 2019); Dirac comb
 450 effect by sustained repetition of a pressure pulse (Lesage et al., 2006); flow-induced vibrations to the walls of a conduit
 451 (Julian, 1994); the excitation of standing waves in a reservoir by flow in a coupled channel (analogous to the clarinet)
 452 (Rust et al., 2008); gas flow through a permeable medium (Girona et al., 2019), among others. The observation
 453 of period doubling in some LP-HT events (Supplementary Figure S13) points to the flow-induced vibration model
 454 (Julian, 1994). Notice that these observations cannot be explained by the shift from matched end (open-open or closed-
 455 closed) to mismatched end (open-closed) conditions, or vice versa, in a 1-D resonator since only odd overtones would
 456 be observed in the mismatched case. Rust et al. (2008) observed period doubling in a laboratory experiment where
 457 air flows up a vertical slit in a gelatin block. Thus, we prefer the interpretation in which the HT phase results from the
 458 high-speed flow of the gases in a narrow conduit after being released during the internal explosion (LP phase).

459 During PES-II (2013) the most important precursor class was the LP-T, which share similarities with LP-HT. We
 460 suggest that these two type of event could share the same source but under different conditions. During this stage,
 461 the mean RMS amplitude of the tremor phase was $0.19 \mu\text{m/s}$ for the LP-T and $0.33 \mu\text{m/s}$ for the LP-HT events. The
 462 fact that the amplitudes of the LP-HT were greater than those of the LP-T could indicate that there was an increase
 463 in pressure and/or flow velocity that generated the tremor phase, reaching the critical pressure necessary to generate
 464 the harmonic signal (Rust et al., 2008). Additionally, the RSEM increased at the same time that the LP-HT events
 465 occurred, this could further support the idea of a general pressure increase in the system.

4.3. Interpretation the evolution of the 2010-present eruption

We propose a conceptual model for the 2010-present eruption in Figure 13. This model was derived from the results of this work and the geological and vulcanological information known up to this moment. We will address each stage of the eruption according to this model in next subsections.

4.3.1. Slow reactivation from 1996 to 2009

As we previously mentioned in section 1.2, Turrialba volcano featured signs of unrest possibly dating back to 1980s, but surely since 1996. Inflation of the volcano and VT swarms reflect the early magma intrusion processes (Martini et al., 2010; Soto, 2012). Furthermore, significant increases in low-frequency seismicity were observed during this period (Tassi et al., 2004; Mora et al., 2001; Martini et al., 2010). Finally, the surface conditions also underwent changes such as the increase in the flow and decrease in pH of the magmatic gases (SO₂), as well as the opening of fissures in the walls of the West Crater (Martini et al., 2010) (Figure 3A).

4.3.2. Annual eruptive behaviour from 2010 to 2013

The first five years of eruptive activity at Turrialba volcano comprise 4 main eruptions that occurred at almost annual intervals (Figure 5).

Our seismic records start only a few months prior to the first eruption on January 5, 2010. In this period we observe relatively high RSEM amplitudes (Figure 7A). Among other explanations, the first PETA could reflect the formation of a seal in the hydrothermal system due to mineral precipitation. In this context, a high number of LP-HT signals were generated (Table 1). When the pressure in the seal exceeds the resistance of the rock, an internal explosion occurs (LP phase) and the gas accumulated is released at high speed into a narrow conduit or fissure (HT phase). The late stage of this PETA period was accompanied by p/T events that reflect brittle rupture in the hydrothermal system (Figure 13B). The process culminated with the opening of the 2010 vent. During this first eruption, the volcano emitted a low content of fresh ash (~5%) (Alvarado et al., 2016a,b), indicating the destruction of pre-existing rock to form the new conduit and the interaction of the shallow magmatic body with the hydrothermal system.

Other minor ash emissions occurred in June, July 2010 and January 2011 (Section 1.2). Before the last one we can observe a PETA (Figure 7A) between November and December 2010. After the first eruption we observe a gradual decrease of the RSEM amplitude, probably related to a relative stabilization of the system after that eruption.

The January 2012 eruption also took place after a PETA (Figure 7A). After this eruption we observe the first few TOR events (Figure 10) indicating the formation of a cavity that can host the oscillation of a fluid at high pressure (Figure 13C). Also, after this eruption we note an small increase in the number of low-magnitude VT events prior, and thus not induced by the Mw 7.61 Nicoya earthquake (September 5, 2012, Figure 9D).

The PETA periods observed previous to the small eruptions of January 2011 and January 2012 show ~1 month temporal separations with their corresponding eruptions Figure 7. This could be interpreted as a delay between the actual seal rupture at depth and the superficial eruptive process.

Additionally, in September 2012 we observe a joint RSEM and SO₂ flux pattern similar to the PETA but that did not result in an eruption (Figure 7B). Instead, at the end of this process, when the amplitude of the RSEM increased in October 2012, we note the earliest observed LP drumbeat sequence (Supplementary Figure S5) which could suggest the repetitive movement of an intruding magma body (Figure 13C) as has been interpreted in the literature (Matoza and Chouet, 2010; Kendrick et al., 2014; Bell et al., 2017).

The May 2013 eruption precursory seismicity was characterized by: a) an overall context of low seismicity (Figure 7B); b) a second drumbeat sequence in March 2013 (Lesage et al., 2018); c) a PETA longer in duration and smaller in magnitude than the prior (Figure 8), and; d) the dominance of LP-T events and only a small proportion of LP-HT. These observations suggest that, among different possible processes, in this case the seal in the hydrothermal system was not very effective, resulting in internal explosions that weren't energetic enough to pressurize the gas that circulates the shallow conduits and was therefore unable to generate the harmonic resonance.

In general, from 2010 to 2013, we can highlight the following facts: a) the RSEM progressively decreased after the first eruption and remained low after 2012; b) the PETA magnitude decreased with each new eruption while its duration became longer (Figure 8); and c) the VT seismic moment decreased until the first half of 2013. These observations reflect, during the first 4 years of activity, how the system progressively decompressed while losing the ability to build up a significant amount of pressure each time it opened a new vent. At the same time, the small magma

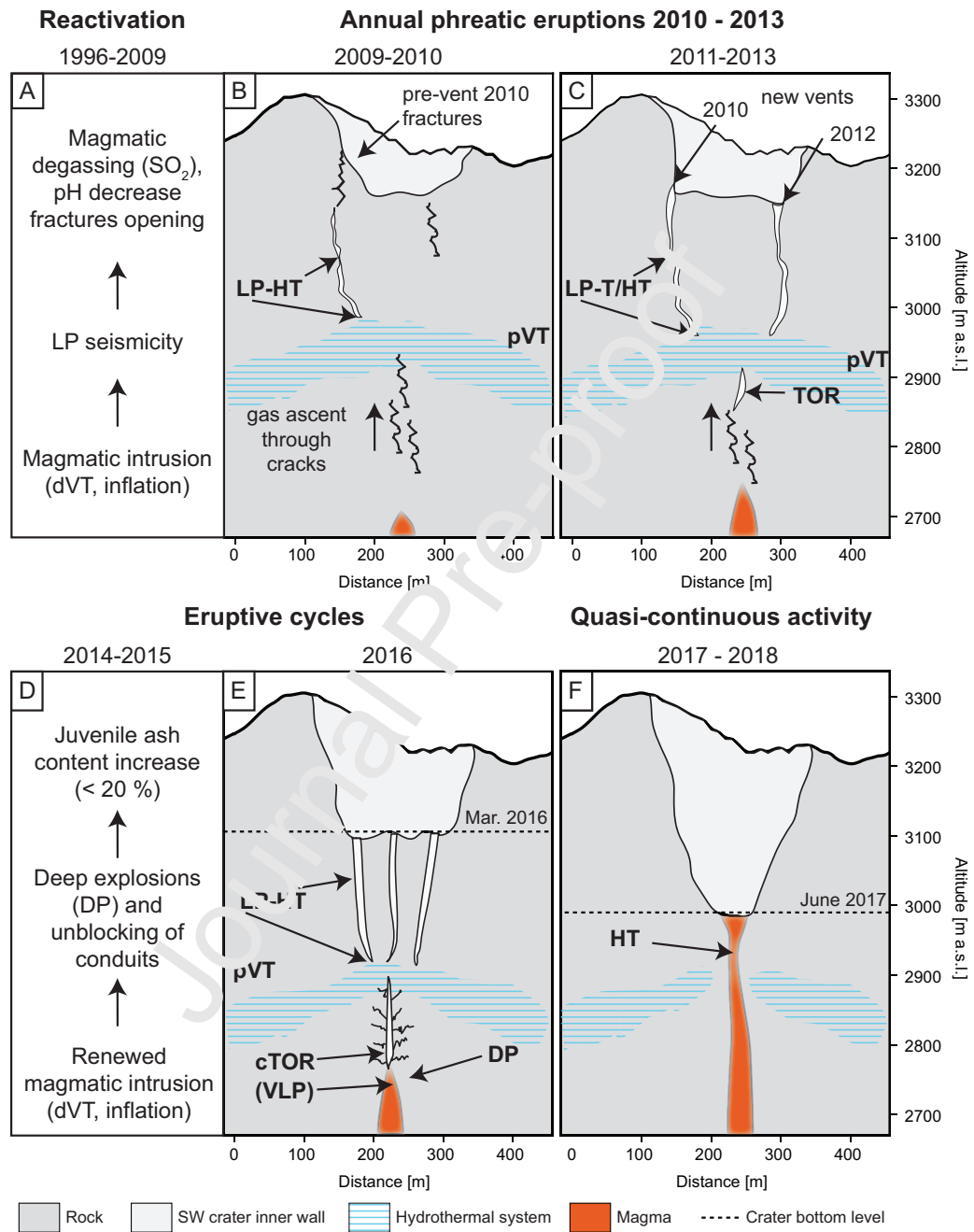


Figure 13: Conceptual model of the evolution of the Turrialba volcano shallow system. The model was conceptualized based on the observations made in this research, together with contributions from other authors mentioned in the text. Each sketch represents a SW-NE cross-section of the southwest active crater. The positions of the crater bottom (horizontal dashed lines in E and F) were obtained by Ruiz et al. (2017) and the date of each measurement is indicated. The positions of both the hydrothermal system and the magma body are approximate. Note that only for pVT and the VLP phase of cTOR events the source locations could be obtained by seismic methods. For LP-T/HT and DP events we speculate about their position based on their characteristics discussed in the text. Acronyms: DP: double-phase event; HT: harmonic tremor; LP-HT: long-period event with harmonic tremor; LP-T: long-period event with tremor; TOR: tornillo-type event; cTOR: compounded tornillo-event; pVT: proximal volcano-tectonic event.

515 body continued to decompress and rise as reflected by the drumbeat swarm observed in March 2013. Additionally, the
 516 decrease of VT seismic moment could reflect the end of the first intrusion that reactivated Turrialba volcano (Figure 9C
 517 and D).

518 4.3.3. Eruptive cycles behaviour from 2014 to 2016

519 After the 2013 eruption the RSEM level remained low until the end of 2014 (Figure 7B). VT seismicity began to
 520 increase progressively since late 2014 (Figure 9D, Figure 13D). Concomitantly, the frequencies of the TOR events
 521 increased up to ~10.5 Hz (Figure 10B). During October 2014 a subtle PETA is observed together with a notable
 522 decrease on SO₂ flux and a few low amplitude HT episodes (Figure 10). These observations can be interpreted as a
 523 greater blocking or sealing of the system, which finally led to the violent eruption on October 29, 2014 as mentioned
 524 in section 1.2 (Figure 5D). These observations are in agreement with de Moor et al. (2016) who collected breccia-type
 525 ejecta bearing a matrix of hydrothermal minerals (e.g. silica, clays, zeolite) that support the hypothesis of a seal in the
 526 hydrothermal system leading to explosive eruptions. The eruptive activity lasted until mid-December, followed by a
 527 significant but short increase of VT seismicity (number and magnitude of HT and SO₂ (Figure 7B and Figure 10D-F).
 528 This suggests a more open system at the same time that the injection of magma continued.

529 After the last eruptions in December 2014, a relative calm of around 3 months followed during which RSEM
 530 remained low (Figure 7C). Eruptive activity resumed on March 8, 2015, right after the VT events and HT episodes
 531 increased (Figure 9D and Figure 10D). The fundamental frequencies (f_1) of the HT episodes were below 1 Hz while
 532 TOR events frequencies dropped from 11 to 5 Hz (Figure 10A, B and E). DP events appeared, some of them, associ-
 533 ated to eruptions (Figure 13D). The next cycle started on October 16, 2015. In contrast to the previous cycle, it was
 534 preceded by a PETA and a notable decrease of the SO₂ emission (Figure 7C). HT episodes had fundamental frequen-
 535 cies (f_1) below 1 Hz (Figure 10D-F). Between the two 2015 cycles seismicity remained relatively low, with only few
 536 TOR events and HT episodes. Furthermore, an isolated eruptive event took place on August 15, 2015, preceded by a
 537 notable peak of VT seismicity (Figure 9D).

538 In October occurred the highest number of DP and an increase in the number of TOR events, which had ceased
 539 since May of that year (Figure 10). For the latter, the frequencies decreased down to 2 Hz, (Figure 10B) which could
 540 indicate, among other explanations, the growth of the resonant cavities and opening of conduits due to the intense
 541 interaction between the magmatic gases and the hydrothermal system during the 2014 and 2015 eruptive phases.
 542 We interpret that DP events, which commonly accompanied discrete eruptions, were part of this process of opening
 543 of the conduits which began at the margin of the rising magma body in interaction with the hydrothermal system
 544 (Figure 13E).

545 Subsequently, during the March to April 2016 PES III, there was an increase in DP events, a high number of
 546 cTOR and LP-HT events, and some episodes of harmonic tremor, but in less quantity than in 2015. In this case, the
 547 amplitudes, fundamental frequencies and frequency gliding of LP-HT events were lower than in 2009. During PES-I
 548 the mean f_1 was 3.2 Hz, while during PES-III it was 1.6 Hz. Assuming the same resonator, this difference could be
 549 due to changes in various factors (fluid velocity, resonator geometry, velocity changes in the cavity, etc.). In 2010
 550 the first vent was barely opened (Alvarado et al., 2016a; Elizondo et al., 2019), while in 2016 there were already
 551 multiple widened vents. Thus, the frequency decrease could be explained by an increase of the length of the resonator.
 552 Similarly, the much lower frequencies of the cTOR (1.6 Hz) than the preceding TOR events (>5 Hz) (Figure 10)
 553 could reflect the formation of a larger cavity (Figure 13E). The PETA period associated with this eruption reached
 554 the longest duration (Figure 8), suggesting that the system needed a longer time to pressurize because it was almost open.
 555 Once the pressure exceeded the resistance of the rocks in the hydrothermal system due to the accumulation of gases,
 556 the seal broke releasing the accumulated material (April 27 pVT swarm). The eruptive phase began on April, 29, and
 557 continued intermittently until August, 1.

558 After a pause, a short PETA is observed between September 1 and 13. A new sequence of cTOR occurred
 559 during this stage, with frequencies lower than before (~1 Hz, Figure 10) which continued to decrease down to the
 560 observed overall minimum (~0.8 Hz) prior to the September 13 eruptive phase onset (Supplementary Figure S11).
 561 During the eruptive phase, the RSEM showed relatively high values, comparable to those in 2010 (Figure 7). This
 562 activity continued until the end of November when a new short pause occurred. It was precisely during this relative
 563 quiescence that the M 5.5 Capellades mainshock occurred, on December, 1st 2016 (Linkimer et al., 2018). This
 564 sequence represents the climax of the VT activity, both in number and in magnitude (Figure 9).

565 The moment tensor inversion of the Capellades main shock indicates that the dextral strike-slip double couple
 566 component represents 84.5% of the total seismic moment (Linkimer et al., 2018). Although, this observation makes it
 567 possible to rule out the significant influence of fluids on the rupture mechanism (Linkimer et al., 2018), fluids can still
 568 trigger the rupture via changes in pore pressure or local static stress change. Here we provide several observations
 569 reflecting a relationship between the sequence and the volcanic activity that support the idea that this sequence was
 570 triggered by the magmatic or hydrothermal fluids:

- 571 1. The volume change in the deep magmatic reservoir modeled from deformation data (Müller, 2018; Battaglia
 572 et al., 2019) coincides with the one estimated from the seismic moment (Supplementary Figure S6) based on
 573 the relationships found by White and McCausland (2016) and Meyer et al. (2021).
- 574 2. The position of the deep magma reservoir (Müller, 2018; Battaglia et al., 2019) is aligned in a SW-NE trend
 575 with the centroid of the Liebres fault activity (Linkimer et al., 2018) and the active crater of Turrialba volcano.
- 576 3. The Liebres fault (Figure 2) (Linkimer et al., 2018) is located between the deep reservoir (5-10 km deep)
 577 (Müller, 2018) and the intermediate reservoir (1.65-3.95 km deep) (Ballalá and Taylor, 2019), at depths similar
 578 to that of the intermediate reservoir.
- 579 4. A migration of distal seismicity in the SW-NE direction occurred between 2015 and 2017 (Supplementary
 580 Figure S5).
- 581 5. An increase in cTOR frequencies just after the Capellades foreshock swarm on April, 24.
- 582 6. Changes in eruptive activity after the main shock:
 - 583 (a) An abrupt increase in fresh content in erupted material (Supplementary Figure S12).
 - 584 (b) Quasi-continuous character of the eruptive activity.
 - 585 (c) Frequent strombolian activity (Alvarado et al., 2020).
- 586 7. Change in tremor amplitude trend (RSEM, Figure 7). The climatic point occurred during the preceding pre-
 587 eruptive period (September to November, 2017). On the other hand, the Capellades main sequence coincides
 588 with a PETA, after which a downward trend was sustained until the second half of 2019.
- 589 8. An increase in the amount of harmonic tremor, a pronounced increase in its frequencies and sudden decrease in
 590 the number of harmonics just after the Capellades mainshock (Figure 10).

591 These observations support the hypothesis that the Capellades sequence (Linkimer et al., 2018) occurred, at least
 592 partially, in response to the stress applied by the magmatic injection. However, the geometry of the Liebres fault might
 593 be conditioned by the NNE regional compressive stress in accordance with the dextral fault systems proposed in the
 594 literature (Montero and Alvarado, 1995; Montero et al., 2013; Calvo et al., 2019).

595 4.3.4. Open system and quasi-continuous eruption: 2017 - 2019

596 The changes detailed above, that occurred in relation to the Capellades sequence, indicate the complete opening
 597 of the system. This was confirmed by the observation of an undermining of ~120 m of the active crater, an open
 598 conduit evidenced by a magma body at the bottom of the crater from July 2017 to probably May 2018 (Ruiz et al.,
 599 2017; Alvarado et al., 2020) and by strombolian activity. The seismo-acoustic signal of the strombolian explosions
 600 were DP events (Figure S2), although with lower frequencies the typical values (5-9 Hz), and shorter delays between
 601 the seismic and acoustic signal indicating a shallower magma source.

602 Another VT swarm occurred in December 2017 (Figure 9) and was located SW of the Turrialba cone at sea level
 603 depth. This swarm culminated with the migration of dVT seismicity that was observed since 2015 with a SW-NE trend
 604 (Supplementary Figure S5). At the same time, the amount of harmonic tremor attained a minimum (Figure 10D), after
 605 which it increased until reaching its maximum between May and June 2018.

606 Fundamental frequency changes during this phase could be associated to the magma column level or with vari-
 607 ations of the level of exsolution in the magma column (Figure 13F). During 2017, the HT displays its highest fun-
 608 damental frequency values (Figure 10). This could mean a decrease in the length of the conduit. Then, in April
 609 2018 started a decrease in the fundamental frequency. Inversely, this could indicate that as the magma level descends,
 610 the resonator grows and therefore the generation of harmonic tremor increases and its frequency decreases. Also, a
 611 change in the gas fraction could be the cause of the frequency changes observed.

612 4.3.5. Activity decline

613 During the first semester of 2019, the eruptive activity began to wane and in 2020 only isolated small eruptions
 614 occurred between June and July (OVSICORI-UNA, 2021). In addition, between 2019 and the date of writing this
 615 paper, a deflation of the Irazú-Turrialba volcanic complex was observed (OVSICORI-UNA, 2021).

616 5. Conclusions

617 In this paper we provided the first seismological overview of the recent activity of Turrialba volcano, as early as a
 618 few months prior to the first eruptive phase and until its decline in recent years (2019-2020). We analysed more than
 619 11 years of records in order to provide a general description of the opening process of the system after ~150 years of
 620 dormancy. The main focus of this work was the identification of precursory signals that could enhance the anticipation
 621 of eruptive processes in a surveillance context, as well as the understanding of the geological processes involved.

622 Our analysis of VT seismicity on the Irazú-Turrialba volcanic complex supports the idea that the main magma
 623 reservoir associated with the Turrialba activity is located beneath Irazú volcano. Furthermore, we conclude that,
 624 although the Liebres fault geometry might be conditioned by regional tectonic stresses, its triggering resulting in the
 625 largest earthquake (M 5.5) in the volcanic complex may have been due to magma dynamics.

626 The recent eruption (2010-present) of Turrialba volcano has been a long-term process that evolved through dif-
 627 ferent eruptive phases. The pauses between those phases allowed for in-depth observation of different precursory
 628 processes for each phase. In the long term, volcanic tremor amplitude decrease was identified as an eruption precu-
 629 sory signal. In total, 9 pre-eruptive tremor abatement (PETA) periods were identified, ranging from 5 to 44 days in
 630 duration. Often, PETA periods concurred with a decrease in the SO₂ flux. We interpret these observations a result
 631 of the sealing of the hydrothermal system, most probably due to the formation of hydrothermal minerals. Once the
 632 system was over-pressurized the seal was breached and the eruption occurred. This process accompanied most of the
 633 eruptions previous to the open-conduit phase, and the variations of the PETA features (duration and magnitude) reflect
 634 the progressive opening of the system.

635 In order to better understand the processes ongoing during these periods and to identify short-term precursor signals,
 636 we analysed in detail four pre-eruptive stages (PES I-IV). In the short term, the main precursor seismic classes were
 637 the LP and tremor events, both harmonic and broadband spectrum (LP-HT and LP-T), compounded tornillo-type
 638 events (cTOR) and distal and proximal volcano-tectonic events (dVT and pVT). LP-HT events were observed in three
 639 PES (I-III) and the overall evolution of their characteristics reflect the opening of the system. cTOR events were
 640 dominant in PES-III and IV.

641 DP events played an important role in the process of opening the conduits through internal explosions. At first,
 642 these explosions showed minor surface expression, probably because the magma was still at depth (e.g. Tameguri
 643 et al. (2002) determined initial sources for explosions at Sakurajima volcano to be 2 km deep). Once the system was
 644 definitely open in 2017, these explosions showed a Strombolian character. It was during this open-conduit stage that
 645 harmonic tremor thrived due to the formation of a resonant conduit fully developed and influenced by the shallow
 646 magma body.

647 Several lines of investigation can be taken in the future to expand our understanding of Turrialba volcano. For
 648 example, VT seismicity can be further relocated using double-difference techniques. Quality factor attenuation for
 649 TOR and cTOR events must be obtained systematically for each event in the catalog in order to track variations in the
 650 fluid involved.

651 To conclude, we consider that this study contributes to understand the general process of the recent eruption (2010-
 652 2021) at Turrialba volcano. Our decadal analysis informs about the slow transition from a closed- to an open-conduit
 653 system. Furthermore, our in-depth analysis of pre-eruptive stages provides insights into eruption precursor processes.
 654 This new knowledge constitutes valuable information for the volcano monitoring community.

655 Author contributions

656 **Leonardo van der Laet:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Writing
 657 - Original Draft, Visualization; **Mauricio Mora:** Supervision, Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Formal
 658 Analysis, Investigation, Writing - Original Draft, Resources, Funding acquisition, Visualization **Javier Fco. Pacheco:**

659 Supervision, Conceptualization, Resources, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Funding acquisition, **Philippe Lesage:**
 660 Formal Analysis, Writing - Review & Editing; **Esteban Meneses:** Writing - Review & Editing, Funding acquisition.

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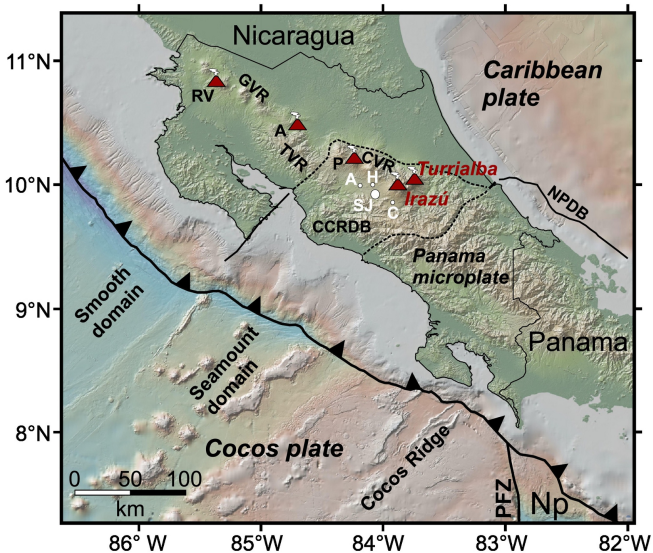


Figure 1

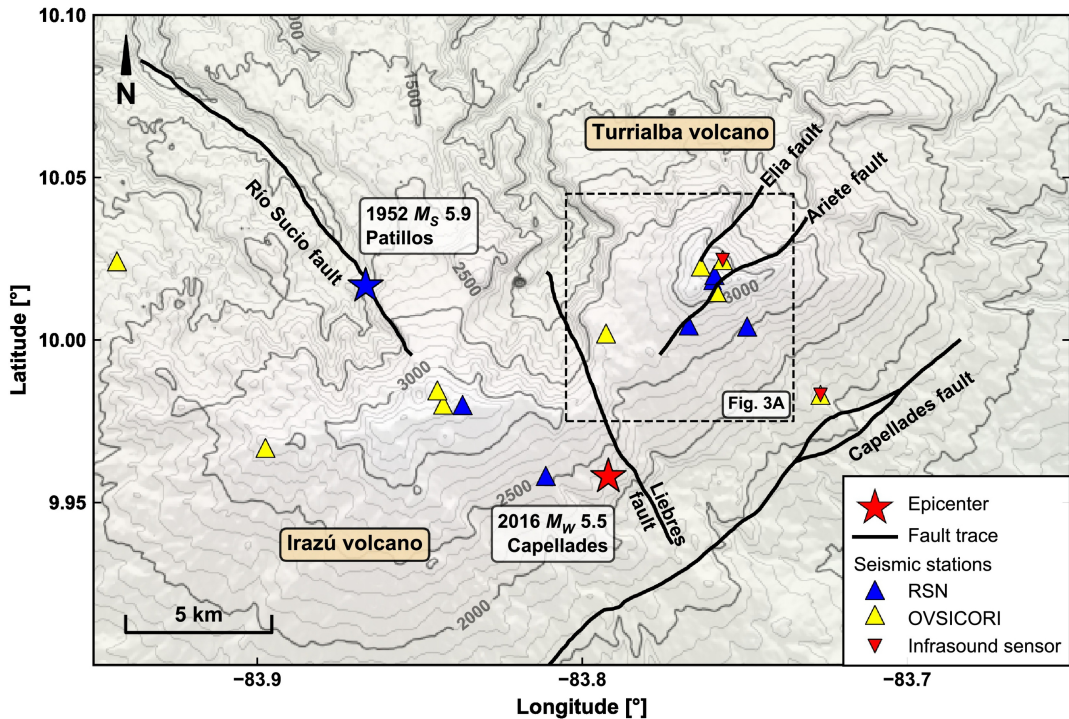
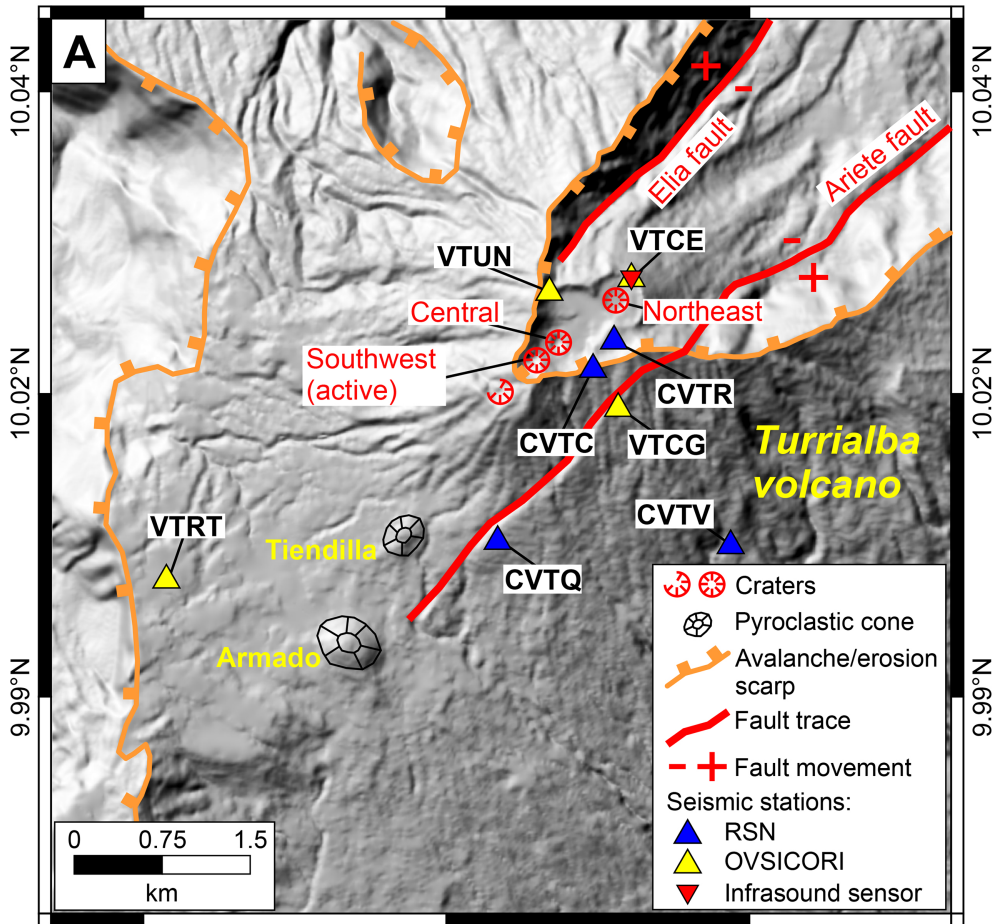


Figure 2

83.79°W

83.77°W

83.75°W



83.79°W

83.77°W

83.75°W

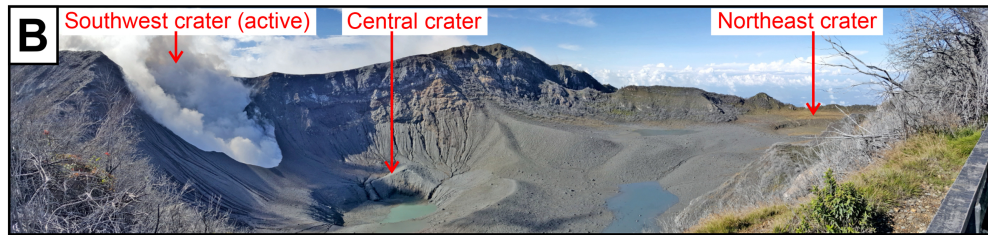


Figure 3

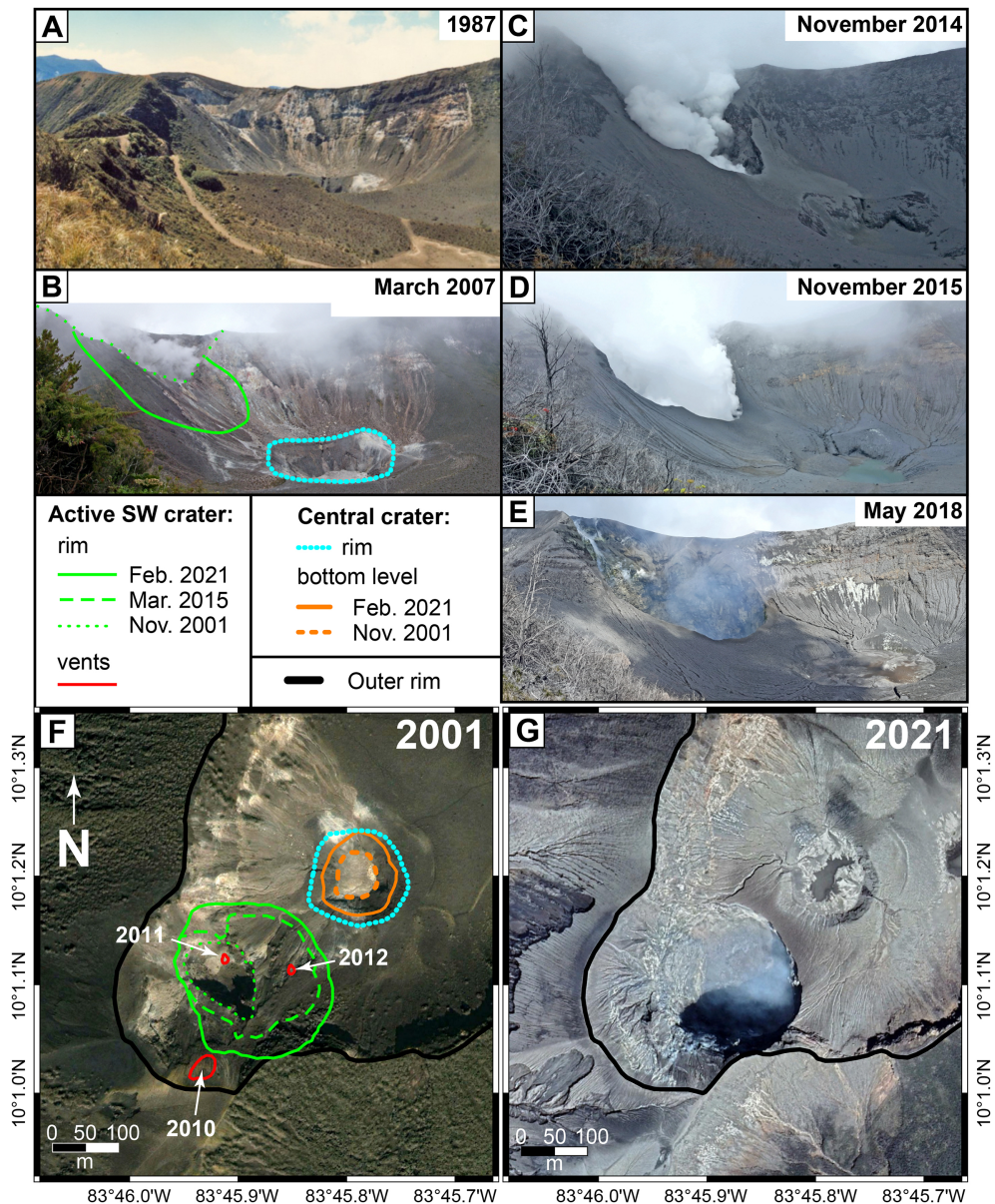


Figure 4

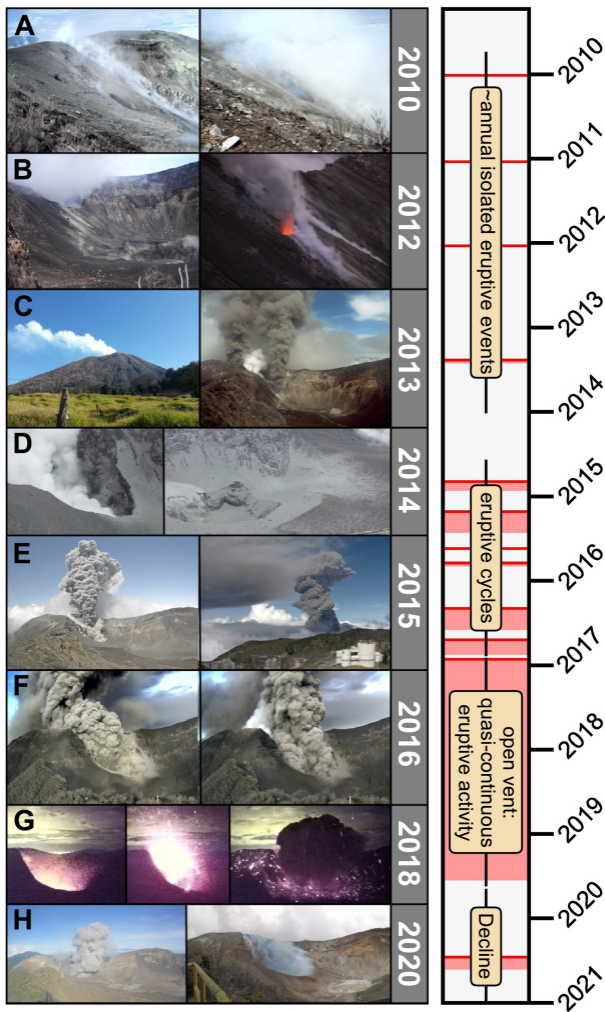


Figure 5

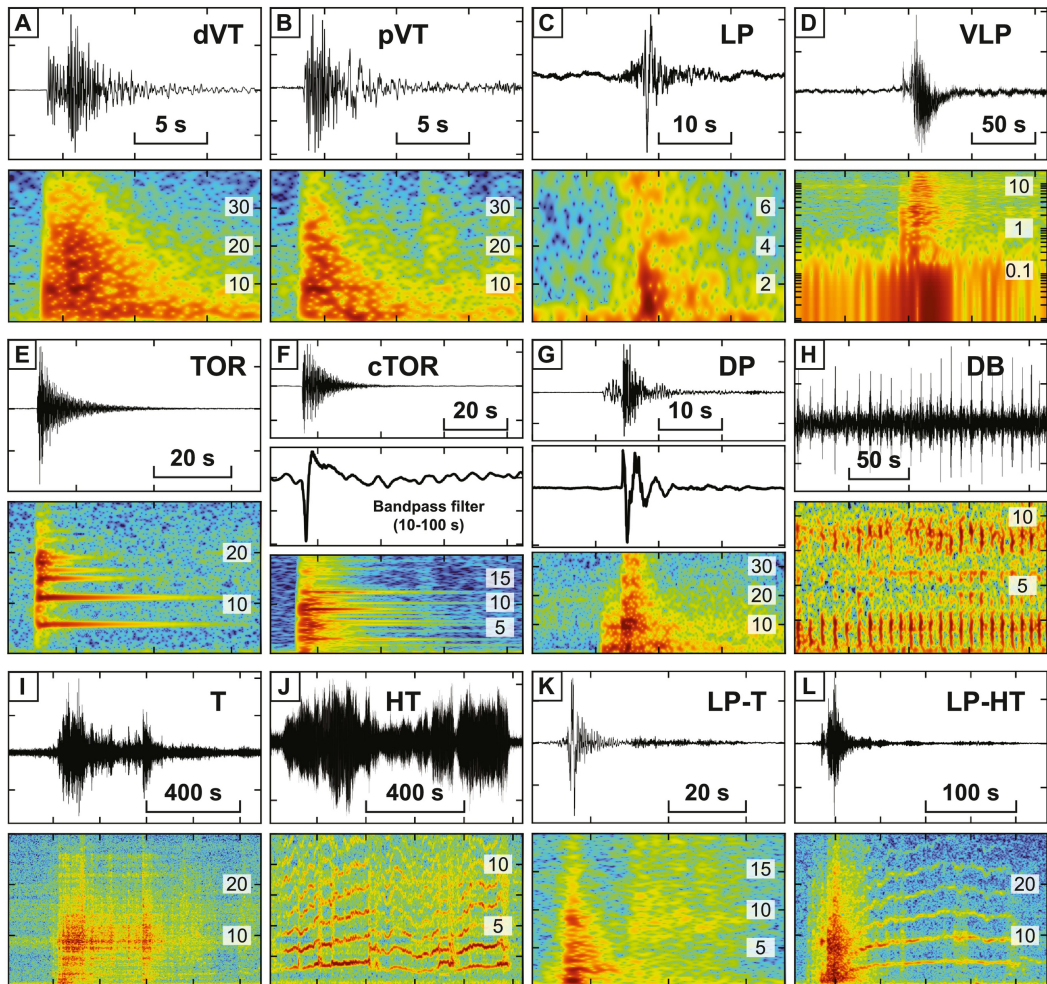


Figure 6

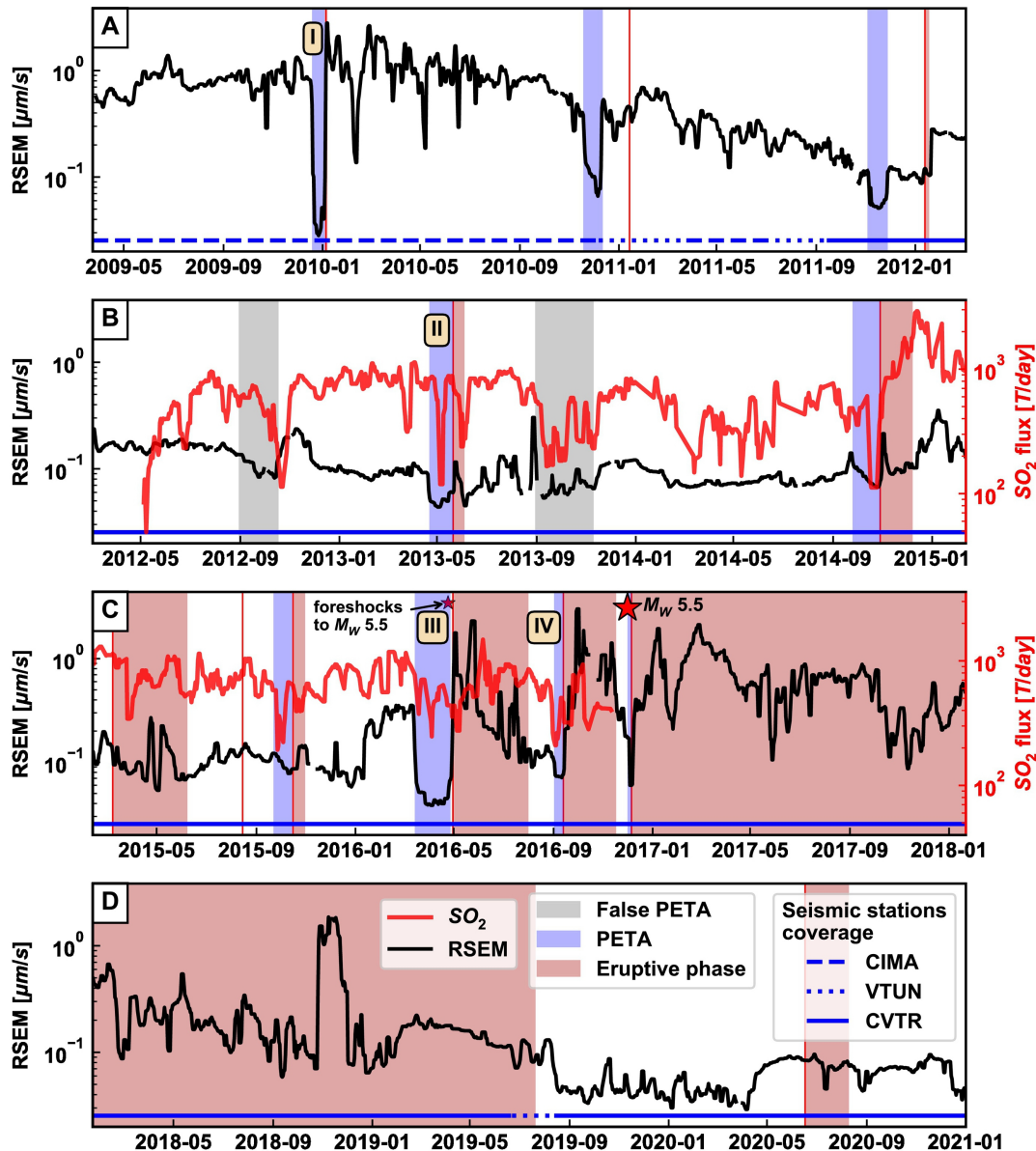


Figure 7

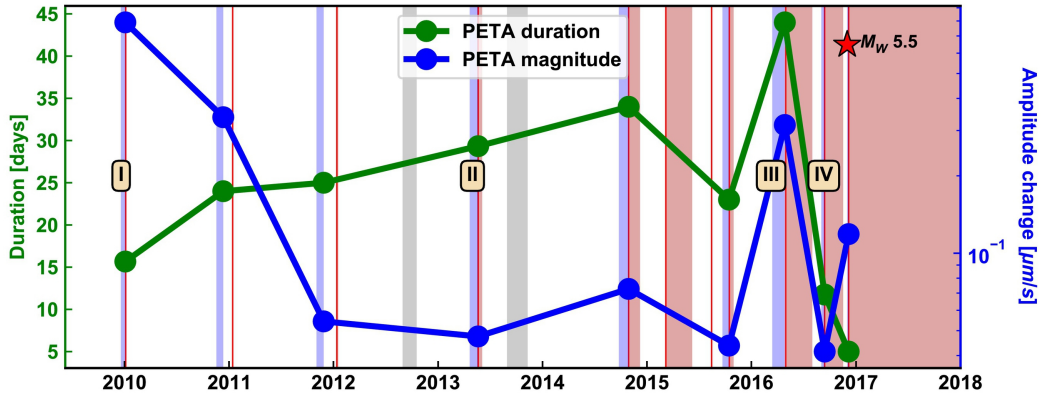
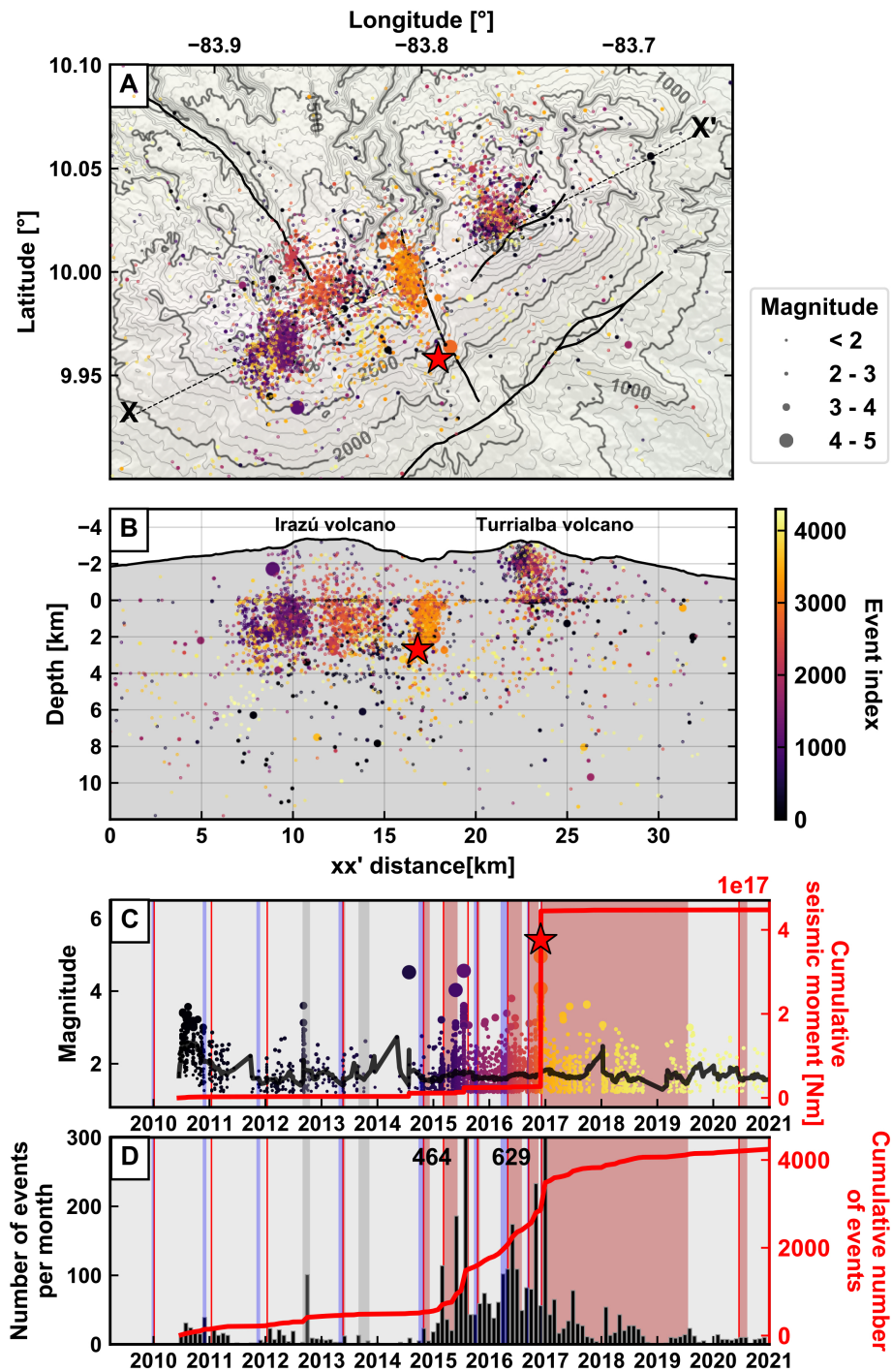


Figure 8



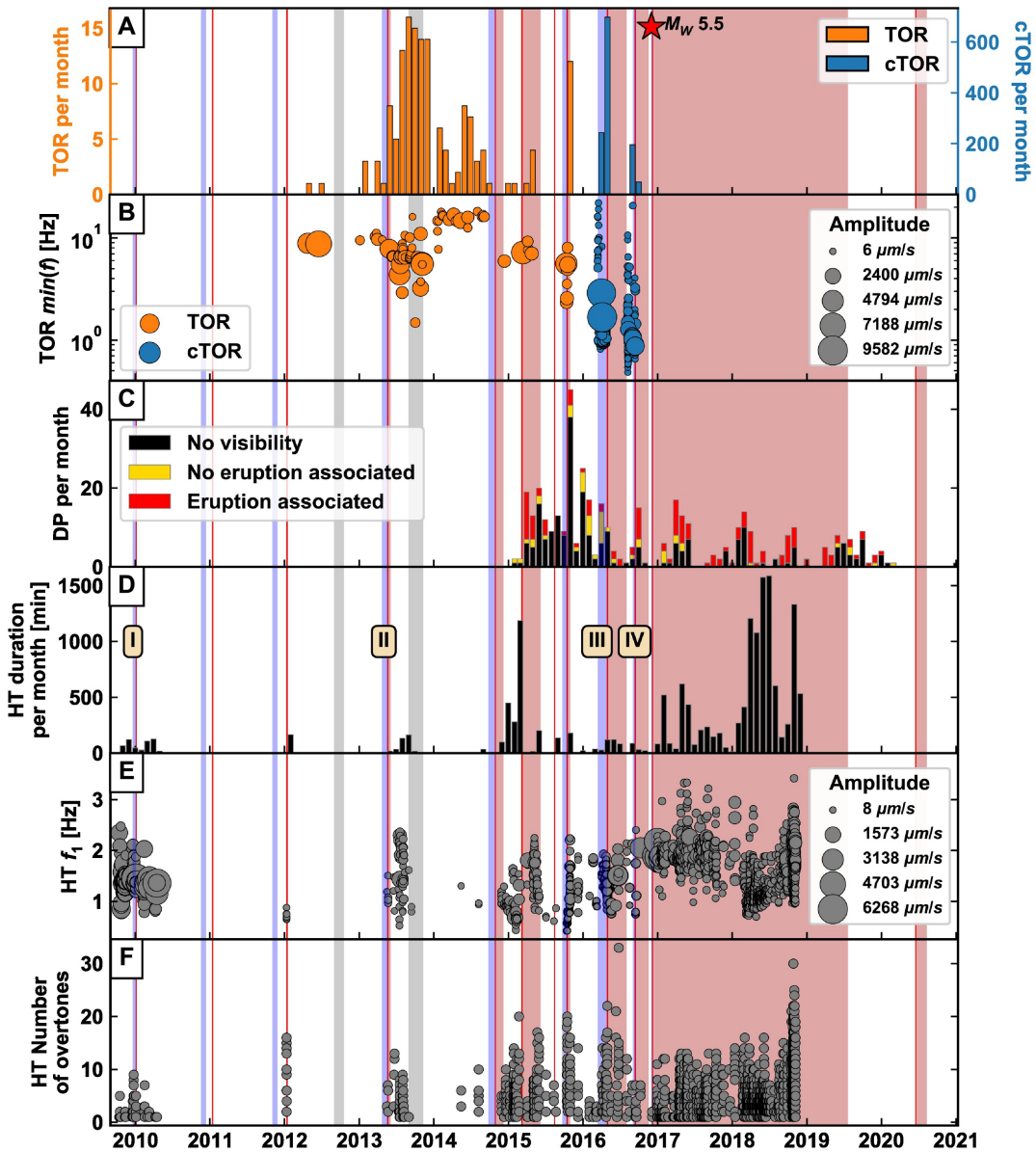


Figure 10

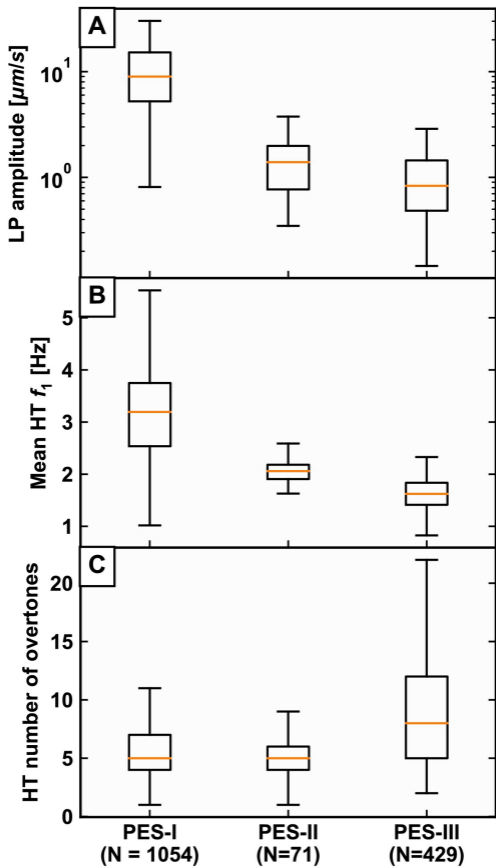


Figure 11

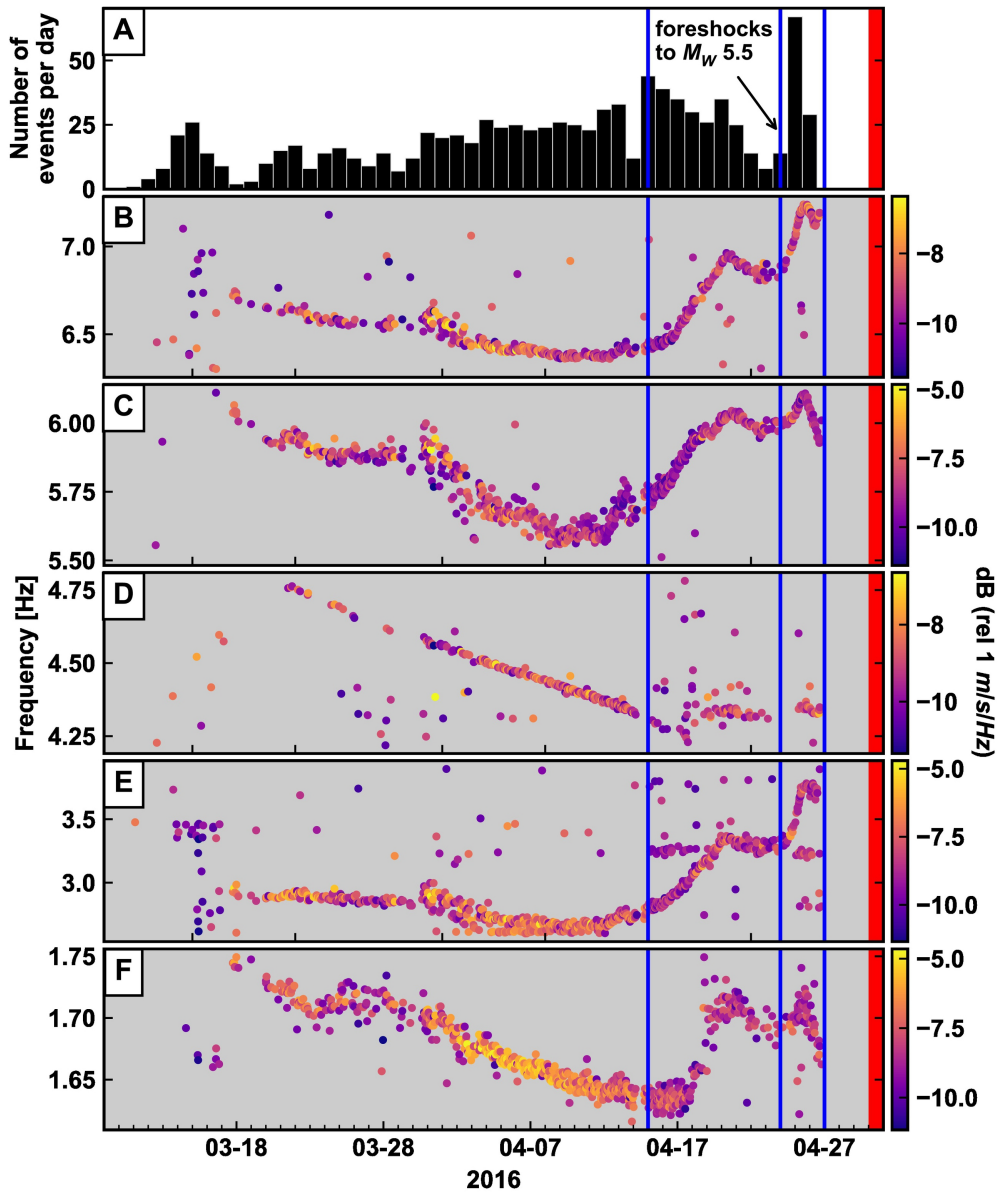


Figure 12

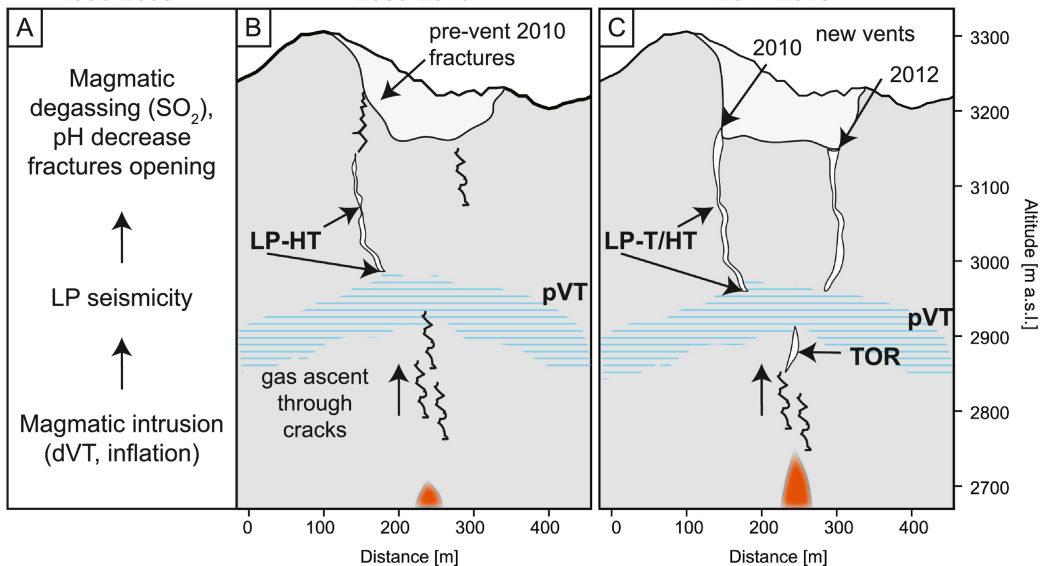
Reactivation

Annual phreatic eruptions 2010 - 2013

1996-2009

2009-2010

2011-2013



Eruptive cycles

Quasi-continuous activity

2014-2015

2016

2017 - 2018

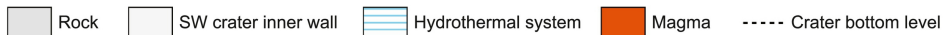
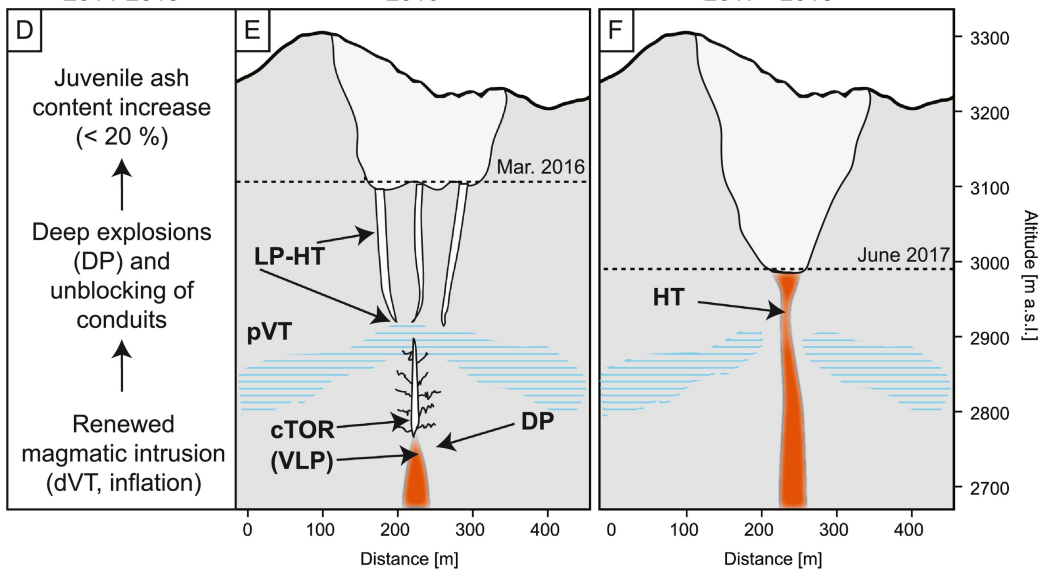


Figure 13