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# First tephrostratigraphic results of the DEEP site record from Lake Ohrid (Macedonia and Albania)

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# **Abstract**

A tephrostratigraphic record covering the Marine Isotope Stages (MIS) 1-15 was established for the DEEP site record of Lake Ohrid (Macedonia and Albania). Major element analyses (energy dispersive spectroscopy (EDS) and wavelength-dispersive spectroscopy (WDS)) were carried out on juvenile fragments extracted from 12 tephra layers (OH-DP-0115 to OH-DP-2060). The geochemical analyses of the glass shards of all of these layers suggest an origin in the Italian volcanic provinces. They include the Y-3 (OH-DP-0115, 26.68-29.42 ka cal BP), the Campanian Ignimbrite-Y-5 (OH-DP-0169, 39.6 ± 0.1 ka), and the X-6 (OH-DP-0404, 109  $\pm$  2 ka) from the Campanian volcanoes, the P-11 of Pantelleria (OH-DP-0499, 133.5  $\pm$  2 ka), the Vico B (OH-DP-0617, 162  $\pm$  6 ka) from the Vico volcano, the Pozzolane Rosse (OH-DP-1817, 457  $\pm$  2 ka) and the Tufo di Bagni Albule (OH-DP-2060, 527 ± 2 ka) from the Colli Albani volcanic district, and the Fall A (OH-DP-2010, 496 ± 3 ka) from the Sabatini volcanic field. Furthermore, a comparison of the Ohrid record with tephrostratigraphic records of mid-distal archives related to the Mediterranean area allowed the recognition of the equivalents of other less known tephra layers, such as the TM24a-POP2 (OH-DP-0404, 102 ± 2 ka) recognized in the Lago Grande di Monticchio and the Sulmona Basin, the CF-V5-PRAD3225 (OH-DP-0624, ca. 163  $\pm$  22 ka) identified in the Campo Felice Basin and the Adriatic Sea, the SC5 (OH-DP-1955, 493.1  $\pm$  10.9 ka) recognized in the Mercure Basin, and the A11/12 (OH-DP-2017, 511  $\pm$  6 ka) sampled at the Acerno Basin, whose specific volcanic sources are still poorly constrained. Additionally, one cryptotephra (OH-DP-0027) was identified by correlation of the potassium X-ray flourescence (XRF) intensities from the DEEP site with those from a short core of a previous study from Lake Ohrid. In these cores, a maximum in potassium is caused by glass shards, which were correlated with the Mercato tephra (8.43-8.63 ka cal BP) from Somma-Vesuvius. The tephrostratigraphic work presented here allows, for the first time, the extension of a consistent part of the Middle Pleistocene tephrostratigraphy of Italian volcanoes as far as the Balkans. The establishment of the tephrostratigraphic framework for the Lake Ohrid record provides important, independent tie points for the age-depth model of the DEEP site sequence, which is a prerequisite for palaeoclimatic and palaeoenvironmental reconstructions. Furthermore, this age-depth model will help to improve and re-evaluate the chronology of other, both undated and dated tephra layers from other records. Thus, the Lake Ohrid record may potentially become the template for the central Mediterranean tephrostratigraphy, especially for the hitherto poorly known and explored lower Middle Pleistocene period.

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# **First tephrostratigraphic results of the DEEP site record from Lake Ohrid (Macedonia and Albania)**

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<span id="page-2-0"></span>**Abstract.** A tephrostratigraphic record covering the Marine Isotope Stages (MIS) 1–15 was established for the DEEP site record of Lake Ohrid (Macedonia and Albania). Major element analyses (energy dispersive spectroscopy (EDS) and wavelength-dispersive spectroscopy (WDS)) were carried out on juvenile fragments extracted from 12 tephra layers (OH-DP-0115 to OH-DP-2060). The geochemical analyses of the glass shards of all of these layers suggest an origin in the Italian volcanic provinces. They include the Y-3 (OH-DP-0115, 26.68–29.42 ka cal BP), the Campanian Ignimbrite–Y-5 (OH-DP-0169,  $39.6 \pm 0.1$  ka), and the X-6 (OH-DP-0404,  $109 \pm 2$  ka) from the Campanian volcanoes, the P-11 of Pantelleria (OH-DP-0499,  $133.5 \pm 2$  ka), the Vico B (OH-DP-0617,  $162 \pm 6$  ka) from the Vico volcano, the Pozzolane Rosse (OH-DP-1817,  $457 \pm 2$  ka) and the Tufo di Bagni Albule (OH-DP-2060,  $527 \pm 2$  ka) from the Colli Albani volcanic district, and the Fall A (OH-DP-2010,  $496 \pm 3$  ka) from the Sabatini volcanic field. Furthermore, a comparison of the Ohrid record with tephrostratigraphic records of mid-distal archives related to the Mediterranean area allowed the recognition of the equivalents of other less known tephra layers, such as the TM24a–POP2 (OH-DP-0404,  $102 \pm 2$  ka) recognized in the Lago Grande di Monticchio and the Sulmona Basin, the CF-V5–PRAD3225 (OH-DP-0624, ca.  $163 \pm 22$  ka) identified in the Campo Felice Basin and the Adriatic Sea, the SC5 (OH-DP-1955,  $493.1 \pm 10.9$  ka) recognized in the Mercure Basin, and the A11/12 (OH-DP-2017,  $511 \pm 6$  ka) sampled at the Acerno Basin, whose specific volcanic sources are still poorly constrained. Additionally, one cryptotephra (OH-DP-0027) was identified by correlation of the potassium X-ray flourescence (XRF) intensities from the DEEP site with those from a short core of a previous study from Lake Ohrid. In these cores, a maximum in potassium is caused by glass shards, which were correlated with the Mercato tephra (8.43–8.63 ka cal BP) from Somma–Vesuvius. The tephrostratigraphic work presented here allows, for the first time, the extension of a consistent part of the Middle Pleistocene tephrostratigraphy of Italian volcanoes as far as the Balkans. The establishment of the tephrostratigraphic framework for the Lake Ohrid record provides important, independent tie points for the age–depth model of the DEEP site sequence, which is a prerequisite for palaeoclimatic and palaeoenvironmental reconstructions. Furthermore, this age–depth model will help to improve and re-evaluate the chronology of other, both undated and dated tephra layers from other records. Thus, the Lake Ohrid record may potentially become the template for the central Mediterranean tephrostratigraphy, especially for the hitherto poorly known and explored lower Middle Pleistocene period.

# **1 Introduction**

Volcanic explosive eruptions produce pyroclastic material, called tephra (Gr.  $\tau \varepsilon \varphi \rho \alpha$ , "ash"), which is ejected into the atmosphere and distributed by the prevailing wind systems. Tephra settles down from the atmosphere in a relatively short time (days–weeks) as isochronous event marker horizons into all kind of geological archives downwind of the volcano. By determining the unique geochemical and physical fingerprint of such a tephra horizon, tephra layers (from different archives) can be identified, characterized, and correlated with each other in order to obtain a tephrostratigraphic framework. If tephra horizons can be dated directly (e.g.  ${}^{40}Ar/{}^{39}Ar$ ) or indirectly (e.g.  $^{14}$ C dating on overlying or underlying sediments, varve counting, age modelling) and correlated with tephra horizons in other archives, the ages can also be transferred to these other archives.

Italian volcanism was characterized by an intense explosive activity during the entire Quaternary (Peccerillo, 2005). Consequently, the surrounding Mediterranean region became an ideal setting for tephrochronological studies (tephrostratigraphy and tephrochronometry; cf. Sarna-Wojcicki, 2013), which represents a key tool for a wide spectrum of Quaternary science subjects (e.g. Lowe, 2011). After Keller et al. (1978) set up the first tephrostratigraphic scheme for the central Mediterranean region, numerous studies on marine and terrestrial archives have spatially and temporally extended and improved this initial stratigraphy for the Holocene and Late Pleistocene (Paterne et al., 1986, 1988, 2008; Vezzoli, 1991; Calanchi et al., 1998; Narcisi and Vezzoli, 1999; Siani et al., 2004; Calanchi and Dinelli, 2008; Zanchetta et al., 2011; Tamburrino et al., 2012; Insinga et al., 2014; Satow et al., 2015; Tomlinson et al., 2015). Despite this noticeable progress over the last decades, tephrochronological work in the period before 200 ka is still challenging due to incomplete knowledge of the eruption history and limited geochemical analysis. Some records from the Italian Peninsula cover specific intervals of the Early to Middle Pleistocene and can be used as proximal (Karner et al., 2001; Rouchon et al., 2008; Marra et al., 2009, 2014; Palladino et al., 2010; Giaccio et al., 2013a) or relatively distal (Karner et al., 1999; Munno and Petrosino, 2007; Roulleau et al., 2009; Russo Ermolli et al., 2010; Giaccio et al., 2013b, 2014, 2015; Petrosino et al., 2014a, b, 2015; Sagnotti et al., 2014) archives of deposits from volcanic complexes. Sediment records continuously spanning more than 200 kyr are extremely rare in the Mediterranean region. To date, there are only two continuous records covering the entire Middle and parts of the early Pleistocene of the Mediterranean region, which are the Calabrian Ridge core KC01B (Lourens, 2004; Insinga et al., 2014) and the peat record from Tenaghi Philippon, Greece (Tzedakis, 1993; St. Seymour et al., 2004; Pross et al., 2007). However, both records are limited in the tephrostratigraphy to the Holocene and upper Middle Pleistocene.

Lake Ohrid is located on the Balkan Peninsula and is one of the oldest lakes of Europe (Wagner et al., 2014). Over 1.2 Myr of continuous sediments were recovered from Lake Ohrid during the ICDP (International Continental Scientific Drilling Program) deep drilling campaign SCOPSCO (Scientific Collaboration on Past Speciation Conditions in Lake Ohrid). Previous tephrochronological studies on sediment cores from Lake Ohrid covered the last 135 kyr and revealed the lake's unique potential as a distal tephra archive of Italian volcanoes (e.g. Sulpizio et al., 2010).

Here, we present first tephrostratigraphic and tephrochronological results of the uppermost 247.8 m composite depth (mcd) of the main drill site (DEEP site) in the central part of the lake, which covers the last 637 kyr continuously (Francke et al., 2016). The correlation of the discovered tephra layers to known and dated equivalent tephra horizons from proximal and distal archives enables dating of the Lake Ohrid succession. The transfer of these ages to the Lake Ohrid record provides important, independent tie points for an age–depth model complemented by orbital tuning (Francke et al., 2016), which is a precondition for environmental and climate reconstructions. The correlation of tephra layers between different geographical archives, both terrestrial and marine, is crucial for a synchronization of palaeoclimatic and palaeoenvironmental changes on a regional and global scale.

# **2 Regional setting**

Lake Ohrid (40°54′–41°10′ N, 20°38′–20°48′ E) is located in the Balkan Peninsula (cf. Fig. 1a) and shared between Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The lake is 30 km long and 15 km wide, covers an area of  $358 \text{ km}^2$ , and is situated at an altitude of 693 m above sea level (m a.s.l.). The lake basin has a simple tublike shape with a volume of  $55.4 \text{ km}^3$  and a maximum water depth of 293 m (Lindhorst et al., 2015). The lake is oligotrophic today due to the large water volume and the low nutrient availability (Wagner et al., 2010) and has a specific conductivity of ca. 200  $\mu$ S cm<sup>-1</sup> and a pH of around 8.4 (Matter et al., 2010) in the surface waters. The hydrological characteristics are mainly controlled by a relatively low water input of 37.9 m<sup>3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, of which ~50% derives from karst aquifers (Matzinger et al., 2006a, b). The natural catchment area is relatively small with 1042 km<sup>2</sup> (Matzinger et al., 2006b; Wagner et al., 2008). Lake Ohrid is situated within the Lake Ohrid basin, which is a 40 km long N–S trending graben structure in the Dinarides–Albanides–Hellenides mountain belt. The basin formation was initiated during a late phase of Alpine orogeny in the Miocene as a pull-apart basin in a short transtensional phase and consequently widened by an E–W extensional phase since the Pliocene (Lindhorst et al., 2015). The exact age of the formation of the lake is still unknown and the subject of several studies within the SCOP-SCO project.



**Figure 1.** Panel **(a)**: location of Lake Ohrid in the Mediterranean region, the Italian volcanoes, and the locations of archives mentioned in the text (1 – Ficoncella Site; 2 – Carsoli Basin; 3 – Paganica–San Demetrio–Castelnuovo Basin; 4 – Campo Felice; 5 – Fucino Basin; 6 – Sulmona Basin; 7 – PRAD1–2; 8 – CM92-42; 9 – RF93-77; 10 – RF95-11; 11 – Veliko Jezero, island of Mljet; 12 – KET8022; 13 – KET8003; 14 – KET8011; 15 – C-45; 16 – KET8004–DED8708; 17 – C1202; 18 – Cilento coast; 19 – C106; 20 – SMP1e (CE1/CD1/SMP1); 21 – Acerno Basin; 22 – San Gregorio Magno Basin; 23 – Lago Grande di Monticchio; 24 – Mercure Basin; 25 – Montalbano Jonico succession; 26 – MD90-917; 27 – KET8218; 28 – IN68-9; 29 – IN68-5; 30 – AD91-17; 31 – MD90-918; 32 – RC9 191; 33 – M25/4-12; 34 – KET8222; 35 – V10 69; 36 – ODP 963A; 37 – 22M-60; 38 – KC01B; 39 – RC9 183; 40 – RC9 181; 41-LC01; 42 – V10 58; 43 – Lesvos; 44 – Tenaghi Philippon; 45 – Theopetra Cave; 46 – Lake Prespa). Panel **(b)**: geological map of the Lake Ohrid catchment modified after Lindhorst et al. (2015) and the core locations from previous studies (Lz1120, Co1200–1201–1202–1262, and JO2004) and the ICDP main drilling site DEEP.

In the N and NE of the basin, Palaeozoic metamorphic rocks crop out, on which Triassic to Early Jurassic karstified platform carbonates are superimposed (cf. Fig. 1b) in the E, NW and, in the SE, at the Galičica Mountains, up to 2300 m a.s.l. high (Robertson and Shallo, 2000). Jurassic ophiolites and Tertiary conglomerates form the Mocra Mountains of the SW part of the graben shoulder (Robertson and Shallo, 2000). Mesozoic intrusions of rhyolites and diabases are locally preserved in between the limestones and dolomites in the NE (Hoffmann et al., 2010). The plains in the N and S of Lake Ohrid are covered with lacustrine and alluvial plain sediments of Quaternary age (Watzin et al., 2002). The occurrence of a hydrothermal field near Kosel in the north of the Lake Ohrid basin is most likely fault-related since no indications of volcanic activity in younger times have been found during detailed field mapping (Reicherter et al., 2011).

# **3 Materials and methods**

During the ICDP deep drilling campaign at Lake Ohrid in spring 2013, six parallel holes were drilled at the main drill site, the DEEP site (cf. Fig. 1b), down to a maximum sediment depth of 569 m below lake floor (m b.l.f.). The coring location (40 m distance between the individual holes) can be averaged to 41°02′57″ N and 20°42′54″ E with a water depth of 243 m.

The cores of the DEEP site sequence were opened lengthwise, described visually, and subsequently scanned by Xray fluorescence (XRF) with an ITRAX core scanner (Cr tube, 30 mA 30 kV; COX Ltd, Sweden) at the University of Cologne. Based on the core description and the XRF data, the uppermost 247.8 mcd of the DEEP site sequence was correlated to a composite profile (Francke et al., 2016). The core halves were visually screened for conspicuous horizons showing changes in macroscopic grain size or colour to identify potential tephra layers. Smear slides of these horizons were then checked for the occurrence of glass shards and micro-pumices using a Leitz DM EP polarization microscope. Once a tephra layer was identified, bulk samples were taken from the respective horizon and embedded in epoxy resin. The epoxy pucks were polished to avoid compositional variations due to topographic effects and carbon-coated to enable conductivity during the following scanning electron microscope (SEM) and energy dispersive spectroscopy (EDS) and wavelength dispersive spectroscopy (WDS) analysis. A first screening of major element compositions of single glass shards and micro-pumice was done using an SEM Philips XL30 equipped with an EDAX DX4 EDS system at the University of Pisa. Operating conditions were adjusted to 20 kV accelerating energy, 200–500 nm beam diameter, 9–10 A beam current, 100 s live time with 2100–2400 shots per second, and ZAF correction (Z: atomic number; A: absorption; F: fluorescence). The initial calibration, using four reference standards (albite, olivine, and the glasses CFA47 and KE12), and the performance of the machine are described in detail by Marianelli and Sbrana (1998). In order to obtain more accurate quantitative analysis and to enlarge the comparability or reproducibility with existing data sets, a second screening of the samples was performed using the more common WDS technique at the Istituto di Geologia

Ambientale e Geoingegneria of the Italian National Research Council (IGAG-CNR, Rome). A Cameca SX50 electron microprobe equipped with a five-wavelength dispersive spectrometer was set to the following operating conditions: accelerating voltage, 15 kV; beam current, 15 nA; beam diameter, 10–15 µm; and counting time 20 s per element. Wollastonite (Si and Ca), corundum (Al), diopside (Mg), andradite (Fe), rutile (Ti), orthoclase (K), jadeite (Na), phlogopite (F), potassium chloride (Cl), baritina (S), and metals (Mn) were used as standards (respective elements are given in brackets). Titanium contents were corrected for the overlap of the Ti and K peaks. Two international secondary standards (Kanui augite and rhyolite RLS132 glasses, from the United States Geological Survey) were analysed prior to sample measurements to evaluate the accuracy of the analyses. The mean analytical precision was  $< 1 %$  for SiO<sub>2</sub> and up to 1, 5, 15, 30, and > 50 % for all the elements in concentration ranges of 15–30, 5–15, 1–5, 1–0.3, and < 0.3 wt.%, respectively. All geochemical compositions were recalculated as being 100 % waterfree. The geochemical classification of the composition of shards and micro-pumice was done with a total alkali vs. silica (TAS) diagram (Le Bas et al., 1986). Identified tephra layers are clearly labelled with the site name (OH-DP for Ohrid-DEEP) and the correlated bottom depth of each layer (e.g. "OH-DP-corr. [depth in dm]").

#### **4 Results and discussion**

The uppermost 247.8 mcd of sediments from the DEEP site sequence mainly consists of fine-grained hemipelagic sediments with some intercalated coarse-grained beds, which were classified as event layers such as tephra and mass movement deposits. A detailed lithological description and the discussion of sedimentological processes and palaeoenvironmental information is given by Francke et al. (2016). Interglacial sediments indicate high amounts of calcite and organic matter, whereas glacial sediments are dominated by clastic, terrigenous components.

In total, 34 macroscopic tephra layers were recognized in the upper 247.8 mcd of the DEEP site sequence (Fig. 2). Twelve of the 34 macroscopic tephra and 1 cryptotephra horizon have been unambiguously correlated with known eruptions of Italian volcanoes and represent the focus of the present paper. A detailed geochemical description and interpretation of the remaining tephra layers, which are not all analysed yet, and a discussion of potential ages and origins will be given elsewhere, as it is beyond the scope of this paper.

A local origin of the tephra layers from the direct surroundings of Lake Ohrid is highly unlikely, as there is no volcanic activity recorded for the Quaternary (cf. Fig. 1b). Potential volcanic sources within the Mediterranean area are the Italian provinces, the Hellenic Arc, or the Anatolian provinces. Pyroclastic deposits from the Hellenic Arc and the Anatolian provinces, mainly high-silica calc-alkaline tephra, were primarily dispersed in eastern directions (Druitt et al., 1995, 1999; Aksu et al., 2008; Hamann et al., 2010; Sulpizio et al., 2013; Sumita and Schmincke, 2013; Keller et al., 2014; Tomlinson et al., 2015) and so far have not been found in the sediment records of Lake Ohrid (Sulpizio et al., 2010) and nearby Lake Prespa (Damaschke et al., 2013). Furthermore, they were not found in the numerous studied tephrochronological successions from the Tyrrhenian, Adriatic, or western Ionian Sea.

A mainly eastern distribution is also assumed for Italian tephra layers, and some of them have even been found in the eastern Mediterranean and Aegean Sea (Margari et al., 2007; Sulpizio et al., 2010; Karkanas et al., 2015; Satow et al., 2015). All tephra layers discussed here show an alkaline affinity, which, in the Mediterranean region, is only known from the Italian volcanic provinces (Peccerillo, 2005). The existing records from lakes Ohrid and Prespa only contain tephra from Italian volcanoes, which was transported by the prevailing westerlies with E–SE directions in the upperatmospheric wind system. The Quaternary Italian volcanism is divided into several magmatic provinces (Washington, 1906; Peccerillo, 2005), which are mainly located along the Tyrrhenian coast of the Italian Peninsula, in the Tyrrhenian Sea, and in the Sicilian Channel, between 500 and 1000 km away from Lake Ohrid (Fig. 1a). In the studied succession (< 637 kyr) explosive volcanic activity of Italian volcanoes is known so far from Roman province (Vulsini, Vico, Sabatini, Colli Albani), the Ernici–Roccamonfina province (Monti Ernici, Roccamonfina), the Campania province (Somma– Vesuvius, Campi Flegrei, Procida, Ischia), the Pontine Islands (Ventotene, Santo Stefano), the Monte Vulture, the Aeolian Arc (Alicudi, Filicudi, Salina, Lipari, Vulcano, Panarea, Stromboli), and the Sicily province (Mt. Etna, Ustica, Pantelleria; cf. Fig. 1a; Peccerillo, 2005). The products of these Italian volcanoes span a wide compositional field ranging from subalkaline to alkaline and from mafic to silicic, depending on their geodynamic setting or mantle source (Lustrino et al., 2011). Most of them have a potassium or a high potassium affinity (Rome, Roccamonfina, Campania, and Pontine Islands), and their large chemical similarity or overlap in composition makes tephrostratigraphic work very challenging (Sulpizio et al., 2010). An origin in one of these provinces is suggested by the (high) alkaline phonolitic and trachytic compositions of most of the tephra layers found in the DEEP site sequence. However, some of the tephra layers in the DEEP site succession show more specific and unique compositions, which allow more straightforward correlations to Pantelleria and Somma–Vesuvius (Peccerillo, 2005) or the silica-undersaturated, poorly evolved pyroclastic products of the Colli Albani (Giaccio et al., 2013a).

#### **4.1 OH-DP-0027–Mercato**

Cryptotephra OH-DP-0027 was recognized by correlating the patterns of the XRF potassium curve of the DEEP site



**Figure 2.** (Litho-) Stratigraphy of the uppermost 247.8 mcd of the DEEP site sequence and the position of recognized tephra layers. Tephra layers coloured in yellow and labelled are discussed in this paper. The thickness of tephra layers is not to scale and more detailed information about tephra thickness and appearance is provided in the text.

record with those of the nearby core Co1262 (cf. Fig. 1; Wagner et al., 2012). In both cores, a potassium peak is observed in the same stratigraphic position, which in core Co1262 is caused by the presence of glass shards of cryptotephra Co1262-709. In the DEEP site sequence, the corresponding peak culminates at about 2.775 mcd. A microscopic inspection of the interval 2.770–2.780 mcd revealed the occurrence of glass shards. Since cryptotephra is dispersed in the sediment and does not form a continuous distinct horizon, the exact depth of the tephra isochron was set to the maximum of the  $K$  peak (2.775 mcd), most likely representing the maximum shard concentration.

The discovered volcanic particles of OH-DP-0027 are highly vesicular micro-pumices with spherical or elongated vesicles and glass shards with thick septa or a platy shape. The composition of OH-DP-0027 is Na-phonolitic (Table 1, Fig. 2a) and thus similar to cryptotephra Co1262-709 (Wagner et al., 2012) and the associated cryptotephra horizons

**Table 1.** Average major element glass composition (normalized to 100 %) of investigated tephra layers OH-DP-0027 to OH-DP-2060 of the DEEP site sequence, the correlations discussed, and the standards used for evaluation of the accuracy of the analyses. All data of the Ohrid tephra layers were obtained using an electron microprobe outfitted with WDS. The total is given as analytical total, and the tephra layers printed in italics are not correlated with the respective Ohrid tephra and are discussed only. The full data set of OH-DP-0027 to OH-DP-2060 is given in Table S1 in the Supplement, and a list of all references used can be found in Table A1 in the Appendix.  $\bar{x}$ : mean; SD: standard deviation; NA: not available; TBA: Tufo di Bagni Albule.

		SiO <sub>2</sub>	TiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	$FeO$ <sub>TOT</sub>	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	$K_2O$	$P_2O_5$	F	Cl	SO <sub>3</sub>	Total	Tot. alkali	Alk. ratio
OH-DP-0027	$\bar{x}$	59.29	0.17	20.70	2.19	0.18	0.19	2.33	8.10	6.81	0.03	0.67	0.59	0.06	97.49	14.91	0.84
$n = 15$	SD	1.12	0.06	0.88	0.94	0.07	0.37	1.31	0.38	0.63	0.02	0.13	0.06	0.03	1.75	0.91	0.06
OT0702-3	$\bar{x}$	59.10	0.17	21.58	1.95	0.17	0.16	1.76	7.56	7.02	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.52	$\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	100.00	14.58	0.93
$n = 9$	SD	0.51	0.08	0.12	0.11	0.06	0.09	0.13	0.53	0.26	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.03	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.66	0.07
Co1262-709	$\bar{x}$	58.59	0.17	21.81	1.84	0.16	0.12	1.67	8.20	6.94	0.00	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.51	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	100	15.14	0.85
$n = 12$ PT0915-2	SD $\bar{x}$	0.39 58.34	0.08 0.18	0.49 21.59	0.12 1.92	0.06 0.15	0.08 0.24	0.22 1.97	0.50 7.93	0.29 6.85	0.00 0.09	$\overline{a}$ $\qquad \qquad -$	0.03 0.73	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	100.00	0.36 14.79	0.08 0.87
$n = 10$	SD	0.30	0.05	0.38	0.12	0.06	0.10	0.42	0.24	0.18	0.18	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.06	$\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	$\qquad \qquad -$	0.33	0.03
ТМба	$\bar{x}$	59.98	0.30	20.61	2.24	0.13	0.16	2.42	5.58	8.02	0.08	0.08	0.51	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	97.67	13.60	1.51
$n = 13$	SD	0.93	0.09	0.51	0.46	0.04	0.07	0.39	1.03	0.82	0.12	0.00	0.15	$\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	0.91	0.57	0.38
TM6b	$\bar{x}$	58.71	0.16	21.10	1.99	0.19	0.15	2.11	8.14	6.82	0.13	0.10	0.49	÷	98.21	14.96	0.88
$n = 12$	SD	1.53	0.09	0.83	1.00	0.07	0.26	1.19	1.11	0.88	0.20	0.09	0.18	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	1.27	0.97	0.31
$MJ1-VJ1$	$\bar{x}$	58.76	0.21	21.03	1.85	0.19	0.12	2.41	7.38	7.12	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	0.30	0.57	0.06	98.12	14.51	0.96
$n = 27$	SD	1.42	0.11	0.81	0.81	0.08	0.21	1.24	0.73	0.85	$\qquad \qquad -$	0.18	0.21	0.04	0.88	1.51	0.07
<b>KET8218 V1</b>	$\bar{x}$	60.04	0.10	21.49	1.74	0.00	0.00	1.82	7.72	7.05	$\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$			99.96	14.77	0.91
$n = NA$	SD	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	-	$\qquad \qquad -$	$\sim$	۰	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	
IN68-9 125 cm	$\bar{x}$	59.50	0.09	21.26	1.71	0.11	0.14	1.81	7.72	7.14	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.52	$\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	93.40	14.86	0.92
$n = 20$	SD	0.78	0.02	0.34	0.17	0.06	0.12	0.43	0.57	0.62	$\qquad \qquad -$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.08	$\qquad \qquad -$	3.53	0.80	0.11
IN68-5 259 cm	$\bar{\textbf{x}}$	58.81	0.09	21.21	1.79	0.12	0.10	1.75	8.18	7.40	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.55	$\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	95.54	15.58	0.91
$n = 15$ RF95-11 320 cm	SD $\bar{x}$	0.36 59.10	0.03 0.11	0.15 20.60	0.10 1.89	0.06 0.13	0.07 0.08	0.09 1.88	0.37 7.58	0.13 8.13	۳ $\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$ $\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.04 0.50	$\qquad \qquad -$ $\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	1.82 95.94	0.33 15.71	0.05 1.08
$n = 21$	SD	0.76	0.05	0.26	0.30	0.06	0.05	0.36	0.67	0.45	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.12	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	1.64	0.84	0.11
RF95-11 320 cm	$\bar{x}$	61.43	0.27	18.46	2.95	0.12	0.32	1.97	5.29	8.52	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\qquad \qquad -$	0.67	$\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	94.95	13.81	1.65
$n = 3$	SD	0.56	0.06	0.09	0.24	0.07	0.28	0.19	0.83	0.94	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.21	$\qquad \qquad -$	1.18	0.40	0.24
MD90-918 210 cm	$\bar{\textbf{x}}$	58.71	0.14	21.82	1.78	0.17	0.17	1.74	8.06	6.80	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.60	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	14.86	0.85
$n = 9$	SD	0.47	0.08	0.23	0.11	0.10	0.06	0.16	0.35	0.15	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.11	$\qquad \qquad -$	$\overline{a}$	0.38	0.04
MD90-918 223 cm	$\bar{x}$	58.82	0.12	21.88	1.72	0.13	0.11	1.81	8.27	6.60	۳	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.53	÷	100.00	14.88	0.80
$n = 12$	SD	0.61	0.10	0.28	0.15	0.12	0.06	0.53	0.37	0.81	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	0.09	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$		1.00	0.10
AD94-17 190-191 cm	$\bar{x}$	58.69	0.14	21.97	1.70	0.14	0.26	1.72	8.17	6.73	$\qquad \qquad -$	$\overline{a}$	0.49	$\qquad \qquad -$	100.00	14.90	0.82
$n = 14$	SD	0.74	0.11	0.21	0.16	0.09	0.09	0.34	0.43	0.47	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	L.	0.09	۳	۰	0.79	0.05
AD94-17 195-196 cm	$\bar{x}$	58.51	0.13	22.13	1.73	0.15	0.43	1.68	8.13	6.65	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{a}$	0.51		100.00	14.78	0.83
$n=10$	SD	0.31	0.07	0.32	0.15	0.09	0.09	0.21	0.79	0.45	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	÷	0.06	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$		0.38	0.15
OH-DP-0115	$\bar{x}$	61.60	0.38	18.24	3.43	0.12	0.70	2.67	3.43	9.32	0.10	0.14	0.46	0.11	95.49	12.76	2.77
$n = 16$	SD	0.89	0.03	0.17	0.32	0.05	0.16	0.32	0.44	0.44	0.04	0.09	0.10	0.06	1.98	0.15	0.45
OT0702-4	$\bar{\textbf{x}}$	61.27	0.39	18.70	3.11	0.11	0.67	2.35	3.73	9.22	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.46	÷	100.00	12.96	2.52
$n = 12$	SD	0.61	0.05	0.12	0.20	0.06	0.17	0.24	0.44	0.46	$\qquad \qquad -$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.10	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$		0.11	0.42
OT0520-2 $n = 12$	$\bar{x}$ SD	61.88 0.50	0.29 0.08	18.63	2.92 0.22	0.03 0.06	0.50 0.15	2.20 0.18	4.18 0.45	8.82 0.49	۳	L.	0.54 0.13	÷	100.00	12.99 0.09	2.15 0.35
JO187	$\bar{x}$	60.99	0.40	0.18 18.74	3.26	0.11	0.68	2.38	3.59	9.43	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$ $\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$ $\overline{a}$	0.42	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$ $\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	100.00	13.02	2.68
$n = 10$	SD	0.71	0.10	0.10	0.26	0.07	0.15	0.25	0.48	0.41	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.09	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$		0.28	0.46
OT0700-1	$\bar{\textbf{x}}$	61.60	0.38	18.74	3.03	0.10	0.67	2.30	3.74	8.94	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\qquad \qquad -$	0.50	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	100.00	12.68	2.44
$n = 12$	SD	0.75	0.10	0.15	0.34	0.09	0.16	0.30	0.44	0.43	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.13	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	0.24	0.39
PT0915-5	$\bar{\textbf{x}}$	60.85	0.40	18.92	3.40	0.11	0.79	2.37	3.60	8.94	0.01	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	0.62	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	100.00	12.54	2.57
$n = 12$	SD	0.87	0.08	0.27	0.37	0.07	0.19	0.30	0.58	0.56	0.03	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.19	$\qquad \qquad -$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.27	0.56
M25/4-12 Y-3	$\bar{x}$	61.32	0.37	18.27	3.23	0.12	0.62	2.42	3.64	9.41	0.11	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.50	$\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	96.22	13.04	2.69
$n = 33$	SD	0.89	0.03	0.26	0.34	0.05	0.19	0.26	0.62	0.69	0.04	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.18	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	1.35	0.17	0.61
RC9 191 Y-3	$\bar{x}$	62.76	0.36	18.21	2.98	0.17	0.25	2.07	4.44	8.75	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\qquad \qquad$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$
$n = NA$	SD	0.36	0.03	0.16	0.21	0.12	0.12	0.15	0.19	0.26	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$
TM15	$\bar{x}$	62.22	0.38	18.36	3.27	0.13	0.61	2.19	3.85	8.36	0.12	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	0.52	$\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$	96.32	12.21	2.21
$n = 20$ TP-9.70	SD $\bar{x}$	0.76 61.79	0.03 0.37	0.20 18.28	0.29 3.17	0.04 0.10	0.14 0.59	0.22 2.40	0.43 3.78	0.54 9.19	0.06 0.12	$\qquad \qquad -$	0.10 0.54	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	0.46 96.46	0.21 12.97	0.36 2.48
$n = 42$	<b>SD</b>	0.78	0.04	0.17	0.31	0.04	0.14	0.22	0.47	0.47	0.04	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$ ۳	0.12	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	1.42	0.19	0.41
S19	$\bar{x}$	62.17	0.31	18.77	2.96	0.08	0.49	2.13	4.20	8.90					100.01	13.10	2.12
$n = NA$	SD	1.15	0.07	0.14	0.47	0.04	0.26	0.29	0.38	0.50				۰		$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	
C106 A2	$\bar{x}$	62.63	0.34	18.24	3.15	0.15	0.47	2.12	4.15	8.75					100.00	12.90	2.11
$n=12$	<b>SD</b>	0.20	0.06	0.12	0.12	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.19	0.14				$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$		
C <sub>45</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	$\bar{\mathbf{x}}$	62.41	0.33	18.30	3.17	0.15	0.50	2.13	4.30	8.71				$\qquad \qquad -$	100.00	13.01	2.03
$n=11$	<b>SD</b>	0.32	0.10	0.29	0.10	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.15	0.08			$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{m}}$			
MD90-917 920-17	$\bar{x}$	61.41	0.37	18.72	3.17	0.08	0.70	2.44	3.52	9.14			0.44	$\qquad \qquad -$	100.00	12.66	2.60
$n = NA$	SD	0.86	0.10	0.17	0.38	0.08	0.21	0.33	0.40	0.40	÷	L.	0.09	$\hspace{1.0cm} - \hspace{1.0cm}$		÷	
KET8004 C-7	$\bar{x}$	63.12	0.25	18.53	3.03	0.00	0.14	2.17	3.86	8.86				$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	99.96	12.72	2.30
$n = NA$	<b>SD</b>	0.90	0.08	0.21	0.39	0.00	0.13	0.33	0.52	0.42			۰	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	
KET8011 C-7	$\bar{x}$	61.90	0.33	19.14	2.95	0.00	0.49	2.75	3.62	8.79				$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	99.97	12.41	2.43
$n = NA$	SD	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{a}$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\qquad \qquad -$	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$					$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	$\overline{a}$	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$

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# **Table 1.** Continued.



# **Table 1.** Continued.







OT0702-3 from Lake Ohrid (Vogel et al., 2010) and PT0915- 2 from Lake Prespa (Damaschke et al., 2013). The geochemical composition (cf. Table 1, Fig. S1a in the Supplement) and the stratigraphic position of OH-DP-0027 suggest a correlation with the aforementioned cryptotephra horizons and their supposed origin, the Pomici di Mercato (PdM) eruption of the Somma–Vesuvius volcano. The PdM eruption is the only known eruption in the Late Pleistocene and early Holocene with such a composition in the central Mediterranean region (Mele et al., 2011; Santacroce et al., 2008).

The products of the PdM eruption are found as two distinct layers TM6a and TM6b in the Lago Grande di Monticchio record (Wulf et al., 2004). The double layers were interpreted as being due to briefly interrupted eruptive phases of the eruption (Mele et al., 2011). OH-DP-0027 and the associated Ohrid cryptotephra horizons match better with TM6b (Table 1), which represents the main Plinian and the initial phase of the eruption (Wulf et al., 2004). A correlation with the PdM eruption is also established for tephra found in the Veliko Jezero on the island of Mljet (Croatia), where even more than two eruptive phases are indicated (Jahns and van den Bogaard, 1998). Tephra layers were correlated with the PdM eruption (cf. Fig. S1a) also in sediment cores from the Adriatic Sea, such as KET8218 (V1; Paterne et al., 1988), IN68-9, IN68-5, and RF95-11 (125, 259, 320 cm, respectively; Calanchi and Dinelli, 2008), AD91-17 (190– 191, 195–196 cm; Marchini et al., 2014), or from MD90-918 (210–223 cm; Caron et al., 2012).

Santacroce et al. (2008) reviewed several existing <sup>14</sup>C ages on proximal deposits of the Mercato eruption and suggested a maximum age of 9010–8750 yr cal BP. This age is somewhat younger than the varve age obtained from the Lago Grande di Monticchio record for TM6b (9680  $\pm$  480 years BP; Wulf et al., 2004). The most reliable age of 8630–8430 yr cal BP comes probably from <sup>14</sup>C dating of charcoals collected at the basal part of the proximal fallout deposit (Zanchetta et al., 2011).

# **4.2 OH-DP-0115–Y-3**

Tephra layer OH-DP-0115 (11.492–11.507 mcd) is 1.5 cm thick, is brownish-greyish in colour, and has sharp upper and lower boundaries. OH-DP-0115 comprises both highly vesicular micro-pumices with elongated vesicles and bubble-wall and bubble-junction glass shards. The glass composition is mainly trachytic tending towards the phonolitic field in the TAS diagram (Fig. 3b, Table 1), which suggests a correlation with the prominent marine tephra layer Y-3 from the Campanian area (cf. Table 1, Fig. S1b; Keller et al., 1978; Albert et al., 2015). The slightly heterogeneous major element composition, with a low-silica( $< 62$  wt.% SiO<sub>2</sub>) and a high-silica ( $> 62$  wt.% SiO<sub>2</sub>) endmember is defined by Albert et al. (2015) as the diagnostic characteristic of the Y-3 tephra and perfectly matches the OH-DP-0115 tephra (cf. Fig. 3b, Table 1, Fig. S1b). The most probable source of the Y-3 tephra is the Campi Flegrei (CF) caldera (Di Vito et al., 2008; Zanchetta et al., 2008; Albert et al., 2015), but to date none of the suggested proximal counterparts of different eruptions could be unambiguously assigned as its origin (Albert et al., 2015). Furthermore, the previously most accepted correlation of the Y-3 tephra with the intracaldera VRa and the mid-distal SMP1e/CE1 deposits (Sulpizio et al., 2003; Di Vito et al., 2008) is rejected because new geochemical data gained on the Y-3 type locality (marine cores M25/4-12, RC9 191) separate the Y-3 from other CF eruptions of the Tufi Biancastri/NYT series (Tomlinson et al., 2012; Albert et al., 2015).

The Y-3 tephra is known as a widespread stratigraphic marker found in different archives in the central and eastern Mediterranean region, such as the Lago Grande di Monticchio (TM15; Wulf et al., 2004; Tomlinson et al., 2012), the southern Adriatic Sea core MD90-917 (920-17; Zanchetta et al., 2008), Lake Ohrid (OT0520-2; OT0700-1; OT0702- 4; JO 187; summarized in Sulpizio et al., 2010), Lake Prespa (PT0915-5; Damaschke et al., 2013), and the Tenaghi Philippon peat record in Greece (TP 9.70; Albert et al., 2015). These correlations are validated by the low- and high-silica endmember (Albert et al., 2015). The correlations of the marine tephra layers C-7 (Tyrrhenian and Adriatic Sea; Paterne et al., 1988) and A2–B2 (C106–C45; Munno and Petrosino, 2004) and the terrestrial S-19 layer (Munno and Petrosino, 2007) with the Y-3 tephra were not revaluated by Albert et al. (2015) due to restricted data sets but seem to be likely.

Since no proximal equivalents could be unambiguously identified so far, the ages from these proximal correlations (e.g. 31–30 ka cal BP; Zanchetta et al., 2008) have to be rejected (Albert et al., 2015). However, a Bayesian age–depth model based on multiple radiocarbon ages above and below the TP 9.70 tephra of the Tenaghi Philippon record provides an age of 28.68–29.42 ka cal BP (Albert et al., 2015). This is probably the best age estimate, which is supported by radiocarbon ages from other distal archives, for example the  ${}^{14}C$ age of 28.78–29.98 ka cal BP obtained at the top of the Ohrid tephra OT07042-4–Y-3 (Vogel et al., 2010). The Y-3 tephra represents an important marker in the Mediterranean area, linking marine and terrestrial archives close to the Marine Isotope Stage 3–2 transition and the North Atlantic Heinrich Stadial 3 (HS3).

# **4.3 OH-DP-0169–Y-5 CI**

Tephra OH-DP-0169 (16.783–16.933 mcd) has a thickness of 15 cm, which is the thickest tephra layer found within this part of the DEEP site sequence and can be visually separated into two units. The lower unit (OH-DP-0169a) has a sharp boundary at the bottom and is 2 cm thick and pale yellow in colour, whereas the upper unit (OH-DP-0169b) is 13 cm of pale brown, coarser material. The uppermost centimetres of the upper unit are mixed with lacustrine sediments and have an uneven top boundary, which is probably due to difficult penetration during coring. Both units comprise elongated vesicle-bearing micro-pumices and bubble-wall and bubblejunction shards with thick septa, and have the same trachytic to phonotrachytic glass composition (Fig. 3c, Table 1). The characteristic trachytic to phonotrachytic alkaline composition of OH-DP-0169 (cf. Figs. 3c and S1c) and its remarkable thickness allow an unambiguous correlation with the Campanian Ignimbrite (CI) eruption (Orsi et al., 1996; Civetta et al., 1997; Pappalardo et al., 2002) and the marine tephra layer Y-5 (Keller et al., 1978; Thunell et al., 1979). The comparison of major element oxides such as  $Al_2O_3$ , FeO<sub>TOT</sub>, and CaO strongly support the correlation with the Y-5-CI deposits and exclude other possible correlation with pre-CI deposits described in Tomlinson et al., 2012 (cf. Fig. S1c). Additionally, the CI–Y-5 was also recognized in previous studies at lakes Ohrid and Prespa (OT0520-3; OT0700-2; OT0701-1; OT0702-6; JO-244; PT0704-3 summarized in Sulpizio et al., 2010).

The proximal deposits of the CI are described to have a trimodal composition, which resulted from the different timing and dynamic of extraction and mingling of two layered, compositionally different magmas (Civetta et al., 1997; Pappalardo et al., 2002; Marianelli et al., 2006). According to Civetta et al. (1997), OH-DP-0169 belongs to the most



**Figure 3.** Total alkali–silica diagram after Le Bas et al. (1986) to classify and correlate the DEEP site tephra layers OH-DP-0027–OH-DP-2060 **(a–j)**. The full data set of the DEEP site record is given in Table 1 and in the Supplement. Abbreviations and references used are found in Table A1 in the Apppendix.

evolved composition  $(K_2O/N_2O \ 1.1-1.35)$  and only some shards can be assigned to the intermediate group  $(K_2O/N_2O)$ 1.37–1.42; cf. Table S1 in the Supplement). The third, least evolved group  $(K_2O/Na_2O > 2)$  was not found in OH-DP-0169, most likely due to its relatively low abundance in distal settings and the limited number of analyses of OH-DP-0169. Indeed, the least evolved group is associated with the less energetic phase of the eruption of the late caldera collapse that generated more dense pyroclastic flows that did not reach a great distance from the vent (Civetta et al., 1997). Thus, they are likely less representative in very distal settings, also because the intermediate and most evolved group form more than 85 % of the eruptive volume (Civetta et al., 1997).

As the two optical units of OH-DP-0169 (a and b) cannot be geochemically discriminated based on major elements, the initial Plinian phase (cf. Marianelli et al., 2006) may correspond with the lower, pale yellow and more fine-grained part (OH-DP-0169a), while the main ignimbrite phase probably corresponds with the upper, pale brown and coarser part (OH-DP-0169b).

The CI–Y-5 tephra layer, originating from the Campi Flegrei (e.g. Pappalardo et al., 2002), is the most widely dispersed tephra marker in the Mediterranean region. It was found, for example, in sediment cores from the Lago Grande di Monticchio (TM18; Wulf et al., 2004), the San Gregorio Magno Basin (S17; Munno and Petrosino, 2007), the Greek island of Lesvos (ML 2; Margari et al., 2007), and the Tenaghi Philippon peat record (TP CI; Lowe et al., 2012). Furthermore, it was identified in the Tyrrhenian Sea cores KET8022, KET8004, KET8003, KET8011 (C-13; Paterne et al., 1988; Ton-That et al., 2001), in the Adriatic Sea cores PRAD1–2 (PRAD1653; Bourne et al., 2010) and KET8218 (C-13; Paterne et al., 1988), in the Ionian Sea cores KC01B (I-3; Insinga et al., 2014), RC9 191, and V110 69 (Y-5; Keller et al., 1978), and in the Levantine and Aegean Sea cores (RC 9 183, -181, V10 58 (Y-5) – Keller et al., 1978; LC21 (4.925) – Lowe et al., 2012, Satow et al., 2015). To date, the most distal finding is in the Russian Plain, 2500 km away from its source (Pyle et al., 2006; Giaccio et al., 2008).

The ages for the CI cluster around 40 ka BP. The varve chronology of Lago Grande di Monticchio yielded an age of 36.77 ka BP (Wulf et al., 2006).  $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$  dating on single sanidine crystals revealed ages of  $37.1 \pm 0.4$  ka (Deino et al., 1994),  $41.1 \pm 2.1$  ka (Ton-That et al. (2001), and  $39.28 \pm 0.11$  ka (De Vivo et al., 2001), with the latter regarded as the best age, as it derives from proximal deposits.

#### **4.4 OH-DP-0404–TM24a POP2**

Tephra layer OH-DP-0404 (40.456–40.486 mcd) is a 3 cm thick dark reddish brown horizon with sharp stratigraphic contacts at the top and bottom. The layer comprises elongated vesicular micro-pumices and thick walled bubble-wall shards. Glass composition analyses reveal a mainly phonolitic composition with some shards scattering around the intersection of tephriphonolitic, trachyandesitic, and trachytic fields in the TAS diagram (Fig. 3d, Table 1). The geochemical signature is similar, even if somewhat more variable, to tephra OT-0702-8 (cf. Fig. 3d and S1d), found in Ohrid core Co1202 (Vogel et al., 2010), which is correlated with the Monticchio tephra TM24a (Wulf et al., 2004, 2012). The TM24a tephra was first correlated with the prominent marine X-5 layer (Keller et al., 1978), but this correlation was later revised and the older Monticchio tephra TM25 was correlated with the X-5 layer (Wulf et al., 2012). The proximal or the marine tephra counterparts of TM24a remain unknown so far. Based on major element compositions, OH-DP-0404 can be further correlated with the recently found POP2 tephra in the Popoli section from the Sulmona Basin (Regattieri et al., 2015), which is also correlated with the TM24a tephra (cf. Table 1, Fig. S1d). A correlation of OH-DP-0404 with marine tephra layers from core CM92-42 (710 cm) and core RF93-77 (797 cm), which were also correlated with TM24 (Calanchi and Dinelli, 2008), is likely; however, there is no differentiation between the bifurcation of tephra TM24  $(a + b)$  in these marine tephra layers. According to the Monticchio varve record, TM24a has an age of  $101.8 \pm 5$  ka BP (Wulf et al., 2012), which matches the age of  $102.0 \pm 2.4$  ka obtained from the age model of the Sulmona Basin section (Regattieri et al., 2015).

#### **4.5 OH-DP-0435–X-6**

Tephra OH-DP-0435 (43.498–43.513 mcd) is a 1.5 cm thick, greyish brown layer with sharp top and bottom contacts. The horizon comprises highly vesicular micro-pumices and bubble-wall shards with thick septa having a low alkali ratio (LAR) trachytic glass composition with only few shards plotting in the phonolitic field. This geochemical composition and the position below OH-DP-0404–TM24a–POP2 suggest a correlation of OH-DP-0435 with the marine tephra layer X-6 (core 22M-60; Keller et al., 1978). The correlation is supported by the geochemical similarity of OH-DP-0435 with the Ohrid tephra layers OT0702-9 (Vogel et al., 2010) and JO-575 (Caron et al., 2010), which were also correlated with the X-6 layer (cf. Figs. 3e and S1e). Equivalents of the X-6 tephra are also found in marine cores KET8004 and KET8022 of the Tyrrhenian Sea (C-31; Paterne et al., 2008), the Adriatic Sea cores PRAD1–2 (PRAD2812; Bourne et al., 2015), and the Ionian Sea cores KC01B (I-9; Insinga et al., 2014) and KET82-22 (C-31; Paterne et al., 2008). Furthermore, the X-6 is known from the terrestrial records of the Lago Grande di Monticchio (TM27; Wulf et al., 2012), the San Gregorio Magno Basin (S10; Munno and Petrosino, 2007), the Cilento coastline (SM1-SM2–SA – Marciano et al., 2008; CIL2 – Giaccio et al., 2012), and the Popoli section of the Sulmona Basin (POP4; Regattieri et al., 2015). The origin of the X-6 is assigned to an unknown eruption of the Campanian area (Keller et al., 1978; Paterne et al., 2008; Wulf et al., 2012).

Based on  ${}^{40}Ar/{}^{39}Ar$  dating, the age of tephra layer X-6 is  $107 \pm 2$  ka (Kraml, 1997), which fits in with the varvebased age of ca.  $108.3 \pm 5.4$  ka BP of the TM27 layer in Lago Grande di Monticchio (Wulf et al., 2012) and the interpolated age of 107 ka of the C-31 tephra layer (Paterne et al., 2008). More recently, an <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar age of  $108.9 \pm 1.8$  ka was obtained on X-6 equivalent deposits of the Cilento offshore area (t1 tephra; Iorio et al., 2014), which matches the interpolated age of the Popoli section well  $(109.0 \pm 1.5 \text{ k}a)$ ; Regattieri et al., 2015).

#### **4.6 OH-DP-0499–P-11**

The OH-DP-0499 (49.937–49.947 mcd) tephra layer is 1 cm thick, olive brown, and characterized by a sharp bottom and a diffuse top boundary. It comprises elongated vesicular micropumices and larger platy bubble-wall shards. OH-DP-0499 has a distinct bimodal glass chemical composition, with a clearly separated trachytic and a rhyolitic group (Fig. 3f, Table 1). The shards can be classified as comendites and pantellerites (cf.  $Al_2O_3$ -FeO<sub>TOT</sub> diagram; Fig.4), which unambiguously assign them to an origin in Pantelleria, the only source of these type of magmas in the central Mediterranean region (Peccerillo, 2005). The 2-fold composition is explained by a chemically zoned magma chamber, in which peralkaline rocks originating from mantle-derived parental magma and trachytic magma are differentiated in a low-pressure magma chamber by crystal–liquid fractionation (Civetta et al., 1984).

The stratigraphic position of OH-DP-0499, below the X-6 tephra (OH-DP-0435), infers a definite correlation with the P-11 tephra (cf. Fig. 3f) found in the Ionian Sea core KET82- 22 (Paterne et al., 2008), since other widespread eruptions of Pantelleria are much younger (ca. 77 ka; P-10; Paterne et al., 2008; 45.7 ka, Green Tuff, Scaillet et al., 2013). Furthermore, the geochemical fingerprint of OH-DP-0499 is identical to those of the two cryptotephra layers OT0702-10 (Vogel et al., 2010) and JO-941 (Caron et al., 2010), which were found previously in Lake Ohrid sediments and correlated with P-11 (cf. Fig. S1f). A more proximal core from the Sicilian Channel (ODP 963A) comprises three pantelleritic layers (ODP2-4) in a similar stratigraphic position (Tamburrino et al., 2012). ODP2 shows a somewhat different geochemical composition (benmoritic part) compared to OH-DP-0499–P-11 (cf. Table 1, Fig. S1f). ODP3 and ODP4 indicate a very similar composition, but ODP3 is formed as a distinct horizon, whereas ODP4 is a cryptotephra (Tamburrino et al., 2012). Due to chronological concerns, Tamburrino et al. (2012) correlated ODP3 with P-11, which is supported by their climastratographic position at the transition from MIS 6 to 5 (cf. Zanchetta et al., 2015). As only one pantelleritic layer is found in distal archives, ODP2 was precluded due to chemical considerations, and ODP4 is a cryptotephra, the most likely correlation is of ODP3 with the P-11 layer, being therefore the most widespread tephra.



**Figure 4.** Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> – FeO<sub>TOT</sub> diagram for classification of comendites and pantellerites according to MacDonald (1974). Tephra OH-DP-0499 and most of the other P-11 equivalents show the typical bimodal chemical composition of P-11, except for the very distal equivalents LC21 10.345 and THP-TII5, which only have a pantelleritic part (see text for data references).

OH-DP-0499 can be further correlated with the ML5 tephra found on Lesvos (Margari et al., 2007), as already suggested by Vogel et al. (2010) for the OT0702-10 tephra. The ML5 tephra was previously correlated with the younger Green Tuff–Y-6, but the geochemical data support a correlation with the older P-11 tephra. In more recent studies, Karkanas et al. (2015) correlated a pantelleritic cryptotephra (THP-TII5) found in the Theopetra cave in central Greece with P-11 and its equivalents. Satow et al. (2015) found a cryptotephra (LC21 10.345) in the Aegean Sea core LC21, which he ascribed to one of the ODP2-4 tephra layers. The position of LC21 10.345 in the *G. ruber*  $\delta^{18}$ O record of LC21 implies a correlation with ODP3 and P-11 based on the position in the respective isotope records. Nevertheless, it has to be stated that only the rhyolitic endmember of P-11 was found in the records from LC21 and Theopetra. The typical comenditic trachytic part is not found in these archives, which is probably due to a different dispersal of the 2-fold zonation of the magma chamber (rhyolitic– trachytic part) tapped at different phases of the eruption. This is also indicated by an internal zonation of the OPD3 layer. Whereas the bottom of ODP3 has a pantelleritic composition, its top shows comenditic trachytic compositions (Tamburrino et al., 2012). This suggests that the rhyolitic pantelleritic part was erupted first and dispersed over a larger area, while the comenditic trachytic part is distributed only in a smaller, northern sector. Changes in the plume direction and dispersal during an eruption are likely due to changes in the aerodynamic characteristics of the erupted material or in the

high- and low-atmosphere dynamics (Sulpizio et al., 2008, 2013).

Proximal counterparts of P-11 are the ignimbrite deposits of the P unit on Pantelleria (Mahood and Hildreth, 1986; Paterne et al., 2008; Tamburrino et al., 2012). These proximal P unit deposits provide inhomogeneous  ${}^{40}Ar/{}^{39}Ar$  ages between  $123 \pm 1.6$  ka and  $135 \pm 1.2$  ka, with large internal age variations suggesting xenocrystic contamination (Rotolo et al., 2013). The mean age of the P unit  $(129 \pm 5.9 \text{ ka})$  is in broad accordance with the non-radiometric ages from the distal deposits. The age–depth model of core KET82-22, based on orbital tuning of the oxygen isotope and sapropel stratigraphy, provided an age of  $130.6 \pm 5$  ka for the P-11 tephra (Paterne et al., 2008). This age matches the age of 128.1 ka of ODP3 well, which is inferred from the correlation of benthic and planktonic foraminifera  $\delta^{18}$ O curves of core ODP-963A with the SPECMAP stack curve (Incarbona et al., 2008; Tamburrino et al., 2012). The correlation of LC21 10.345 with P-11 provides an age of  $133.5 \pm 2$  ka, based on the correlation of the surface-water foraminiferal  $\delta^{18}$ O record of LC21 with the high-resolution U-Th-dated Soreq Cave  $\delta^{18}O$  record (Grant et al., 2012, Satow et al., 2015).

# **4.7 OH-DP-0617–Vico Ignimbrite B**

The tephra layer OH-DP-0617 (61.701–61.726 mcd) is a yellowish brown, 2.5 cm thick deposit with sharp bottom and top contacts. The very fine-grained glass shards have various forms, being highly vesicular with circular and oval bubbles. Micro-pumices with elongated vesicles are rare. The characteristic homogenous phonolitic composition of OH-DP-0617 (Fig. 3f, Table 1) is very similar to the composition of tephra OT0701-6 (cf. Fig. 5a), which was found in the Ohrid core Co1201 (Sulpizio et al., 2010). OT0701-6 was previously correlated with the marine tephra C-20 and the proximal deposits of the SA3-b eruption from the Campanian area (Sulpizio et al., 2010). However, the stratigraphic position of OH-DP-0617 below the X-6–C-31–OH-DP-0435 and P-11–OH-DP-0499 tephra suggests that and OH-DP-0617 and OT0706-1 instead correlate with the CF-V4 tephra from the Campo Felice Basin (Giraudi et al., 2011). The CF-V4 tephra is correlated with the "Ignimbrite B" of the Vico volcano (Vico B, Ronciglione Formation; Bear et al., 2009), which also has a large geochemical similarity with the Ohrid tephra layers OH-DP-0617–OT0701-6 (cf. Table 1, Fig. 5a). So far, the equivalents of this Vico eruption were not found in other archives. Laurenzi and Villa (1987)  $\frac{40}{\text{Ar}}\frac{39}{3}$ Ar dated the Ignimbrite B in a proximal setting to  $157 \pm 3$  ka.

# **4.8 OH-DP-0624–CF-V5–PRAD3225**

Tephra OH-DP-0624 (62.367–62.413 mcd) is 4.6 cm thick, is of olive brown colour, and has a sharp bottom and more diffuse top transition. It comprises micro-pumices with elongated vesicles, cuspate glass shards, and non-vesicular, blocky, porphyritic particles, bearing prismatic microlites and phenocrysts. In the uppermost diffuse part, volcanic fragments are mixed with authigenic siderite crystals. The glass composition spans the phonotephritic and the phonolitic field of the TAS diagram (Fig. 3g, Table 1). This characteristic is also observed for tephra OT0701-7 in core Co1201 from Lake Ohrid (Sulpizio et al., 2010). OT0701-7 was first subdivided into three different chemical groups (a-b-c), of which OT0701-7b was tentatively correlated with the tephra layer OT0702-8–TM24a–X-5 (Sulpizio et al., 2010). However, this correlation is not supported by the stratigraphic position of OT0701-7 below OT0701-6, as the latter correlates well with OH-DP-0617. Furthermore, OT0702-8–TM24a is correlated with OH-DP-0404, which is embedded by sediments of interglacial MIS 5, whereas glacial sediments encompass OT0701-7 (Sulpizio et al., 2010). The glass composition of OT0701-7, showing a linear geochemical trend rather than two different geochemical populations, also makes a correlation with OH-DP-0624 more likely (Fig. 5b).

The peculiar geochemical trend of OH-DP-0624 (cf. Figs. 3g and 5b) matches the marine tephra PRAD3225 from the Adriatic Sea (Bourne et al., 2015), which is tentatively correlated with the tephra 322 from core RF95-7 and with the TM38 tephra from the Lago Grande di Monticchio record (Wulf et al., 2012). Tephra 322 was assigned to the Vico D eruption (Calanchi and Dinelli, 2008), which is dated to ca. 138 ka (Laurenzi and Villa, 1987). TM38 has an age of  $125.6 \pm 6.3$  ka according to the varve chronology of the Lago Grande di Monticchio record (Wulf et al., 2012). However, the ages of TM38 and 322–Vico D are significantly too young for the stratigraphic position of OH-DP-0624 below the OH-DP-0617–Vico B and dated to ca.  $157 \pm 3$  ka. Another marine counterpart of OH-DP-0624 could be tephra C-42 with its phonotephritic composition (core DED8708; Paterne et al., 2008), but the published average values do not allow a robust correlation.

The most reliable equivalent of OH-DP-6024–OT0701-7– PRAD3225 is probably found in the Campo Felice Basin in the Apennine chain. The geochemical composition and the stratigraphic position of the CF-V5 tephra, which was found in this basin directly below the CF-V4 tephra (Giraudi and Giaccio, 2015) correlates well with the composition and stratigraphic position of the OH-DP-6024 directly below the OH-DP-0617 tephra. Giraudi and Giaccio (2015) tentatively suggest that the CF-V5 tephra is an equivalent of the Pitigliano Tuff from the Latera caldera in the Vulsini volcanic complex (Turbeville, 1992a). Although the geochemical data set is limited, a similar characteristic trend is observed in CF-V5 and OH-DP-0624–OT071-7–PRAD3225 (cf. Fig. 5b).  $^{40}$ Ar $/$ <sup>39</sup>Ar dating on proximal deposits of the Pitigliano Tuff provided ages of  $158 \pm 11$  ka and  $155 \pm 11$  ka (Turbeville, 1992a, b) and the overlying Vico Ignimbrite B tephra limits the minimum age to  $157 \pm 3$  ka.



**Figure 5.** Harker diagrams of tephra layers OH-DP-0617 to OH-DP-1817 and their discussed equivalents. For references of correlated tephra layers, see text; additional Harker diagrams for OH-DP-1817 can be found in Fig. S1g.

#### **4.9 OH-DP-1817–Pozzolane Rosse**

Tephra layer OH-DP-1817 (181.744–181.769 mcd) is a dark brownish layer with a thickness of 2.5 cm and sharp bottom and top contacts. The layer contains mostly non-vesicular, blocky porphyritic shards with a high content of microlites and phenocrysts, mostly leucite. Vesicular cuspate shards are rare and are also porphyritic. OH-DP-1817 has a poorly evolved K-foiditic composition (Fig. 3h, Table 1), which is only known from the Italian volcanoes of the Colli Albani volcanic district and more sporadically in the Monte Vulture volcano (Peccerillo, 2005). However, as the activity of the Monte Vulture volcano clustered between ∼ 740 and 610 ka and around 140 ka (Villa and Buettner, 2009), the most relevant source of foiditic tephra is the Colli Albani caldera, the Middle Pleistocene explosive activity of which was characterized by very high-energetic events (e.g. Marra et al., 2009). The most widespread Colli Albani tephra is from the Pozzolane Rosse eruption (Giaccio et al., 2013a) of the Tuscalano-Artemisio phase (∼ 560–360 ka; Marra et al., 2011).

A direct chemical correlation of OH-DP-1817 with proximal Pozzolane Rosse pyroclasts is difficult because of the lack of a comprehensive geochemical data set. Marra et al. (2009) describe the proximal type localities (within the Colli Albani volcanic district) of the Pozzolane Rosse pyroclastic products, but only the mean value of one geochemical analysis is published (AH-20-PRa). Another, more comprehensive data set for the composition of the proximal Pozzolane Rosse pyroclastics was provided by Freda et al. (2010), who, however, only reported the composition of the basal sub-Plinian fallout. Therefore, the correlation OH-DP-1817–Pozzolane Rosse (cf. Figs. 3h, 5c and S1g) is mainly based on the major element data of the  ${}^{40}Ar/{}^{39}Ar$ dated distal equivalents of the Pozzolane Rosse units, which occur diffusely in the fluvial–lacustrine successions of the Apennine intermountain basins of Paganica–San Demetrio– Castelnuovo and Sulmona, east of the Colli Albani (Galli et al., 2010; Giaccio et al., 2013a). Giaccio et al. (2013a) separate the Pozzolane Rosse distal equivalents into two sublayers, which differ chemically and morphologically. OH-DP-1817 matches both compositions of the less evolved composition (group a) of the lower layer and the more evolved composition (group b) of the upper sublayer (cf. Fig. 3h). Besides the geochemical correlation, microtextural features, such as the scoria character (dense, few vesicles) of the shards and the huge number of juvenile crystals, suggest that the components of the lower sublayer prevail in OH-DP-1817. Giaccio et al. (2013a) correlate the lower sublayer (group a) to the proximal Pozzolane Rosse basal fallout and the upper sublayer to the phoenix cloud of the main pyroclastic flowforming phase. According to Freda et al. (2011), the Pozzolane Rosse eruption sequence encompasses from bottom to top the Vallerano lava flow, the main Pozzolane Rosse pyroclastic units (basal fallout and main pyroclastic flow unit), and the scoria lapilli fallout deposits. Recently, the products of the Pozzolane Rosse eruption were also found in the Campo Felice Basin (layer CF-V11), where it marks the local glacier advancement of the MIS 12 glacial (Giraudi and Giaccio, 2015). Pronounced glacial conditions are also recorded in the lacustrine sediments across the Pozzolane Rosse of the Sulmona Basin (Regattieri et al., 2016).

The age of the Pozzolane Rosse eruption is well constrained by several  ${}^{40}Ar/{}^{39}Ar$  ages. The pyroclastic products are dated to  $457 \pm 4$  ka at a proximal site (Karner et al., 2001), which is confirmed by the distal equivalent found in the Sulmona Basin (457  $\pm$  2 ka, Giaccio et al., 2013a). These ages are further supported by  ${}^{40}Ar/{}^{39}Ar$  ages of  $457 \pm 5$  ka from a lava flow below and of  $442 \pm 2$  ka from a relatively thin succession of fallout deposits on top (Marra et al., 2009).

#### **4.10 OH-DP-1955–SC5**

The tephra layer OH-DP-1955 (195.536–195.566 mcd) is 3 cm thick and has a sharp bottom and a diffuse top boundary. The greyish layer comprises blocky, non-vesicular glass shards and porphyritic micro-pumices containing leucite crystals. The composition is mainly phonolitic to trachyandesitic with some shards plotting in the tephriphonolitic field (Fig. 3h, Table 1). According to the stratigraphic position, OH-DP-1955 was deposited prior to ca. 460 ka, since it is

found below OH-DP-1817–Pozzolane Rosse  $(457 \pm 2 \text{ ka})$ . Proximal deposits of the active volcanoes in Italy older than 450 ka have only been explored to a limited extent. From the more distal archives, the tephra layer SC5 from the Mercure Basin (Giaccio et al., 2014) shows a trachytic–andesitic to phonolitic trend similar to that of OH-DP-1955 (cf. Fig. 3h). Oxide plots (cf. Figs. 6a and S1h) of major elements show that this composition shows a linear magmatic trend and the occurrence of two different populations of tephra can be ruled out. Investigated sources for OH-DP-1955 and its potential equivalent SC5 are very limited. Sr-isotope ratios of tephra layer SC5 reveal an origin in the Roccamonfina volcano (Giaccio et al., 2014). <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar dating provided an age of  $493.1 \pm 10.9$  ka for the SC5 tephra (Giaccio et al., 2014), which thus represents a poorly known eruption from the Roccamonfina volcano attributable to the Rio Rava stage dated between ∼ 600 and 439 ka (Rouchon et al., 2008). Despite a similar age, a potential correlation of OH-DP-1955 with Fall B (490  $\pm$  4 ka) from the Tufi Terrosi con Pomici Bianche eruptive cycle (TTPB;  $499 \pm 3 - 490 \pm 4$  ka) of the Sabatini volcanic field (Sottili et al., 2004; Marra et al., 2014) is unlikely. The composition of the Fall B deposits is somehow different, having e.g. lower FeO<sub>TOT</sub> ( $\sim$  1.1 wt.%) and CaO  $(1.5 \text{ wt.}\%)$  but higher K<sub>2</sub>O  $(3.4 \text{ wt.}\%)$  contents (cf. Fig. 6a, Table 1).

#### **4.11 OH-DP-2010–Fall A**

OH-DP-2010 (201.034–201.049 mcd) is a reddish-brown, 1.5 cm thick layer with a sharp lower and an undulating upper boundary. It comprises morphologically different volcanic fragments, which range from non-vesicular, microlitebearing blocky glass shards to medium vesicular cuspate glass shards and elongated vesicular micro-pumices. The tephriphonolitic to phonolitic composition of tephra OH-DP-2010 (Fig. 3i, Table 1) and its characteristic high potassium content suggest an origin in the Roman province. The low Cl content of OH-DP-2010 (cf. Table 1) is typical for Middle Pleistocene Sabatini products (Giaccio et al., 2014; Palladino et al., 2014) and supports an origin in the TTPB eruptive cycle of the Sabatini volcanic district (Sottili et al., 2004; Marra et al., 2014). The major element composition and the stratigraphic position suggest that OH-DP-2010 correlates with the proximal and distal products of the oldest eruptive unit Fall A (cf. Figs. 3i and 6b). The reddish colour of OH-DP-2010 can be attributed to the reddish, terracotta-like, thermally metamorphosed clay lithics, which are a diagnostic characteristic of the proximal Fall A deposits (Sottili et al., 2004). However, the proximal deposits of Fall A apparently show a smaller compositional range (cf. Marra et al., 2014) than OH-DP-2010 and other distal archives, such as the Mercure Basin (SC3) and the Sulmona Basin (SUL 5-1c), whose correlation is corroborated by Sr-isotope analyses (Giaccio et al., 2014). Similar major element compositions (cf. Table 1, Fig. 6b) also suppose a correlation of OH-DP-2010–Fall A



**Figure 6.** Harker diagrams of tephra layers OH-DP-1955 to OH-DP-2060 and their discussed equivalents. For references of correlated tephra layers, see text; additional Harker diagrams for OH-DP-1955 can be found in Fig. S1h.

with the Acerno tephra A9 (Petrosino et al., 2014b) and FIC-12.9 from Ficoncella site (Aureli et al., 2015).

Sottili et al. (2004) describe a bifurcation of Fall A at the type section Isola Farnese in the Sabatini volcanic district with a lower sublayer A1 and an upper sublayer A2, both comprising alternating layers of white pumice and grey scoria clasts. Whereas the white pumices of these eruptive units are more evolved and trachyphonolitic, the grey scoria clasts have a phonotephritic to tephriphonolitic composition (Marra et al., 2014). The reason for the wider compositional spectrum of distal Fall A deposits (e.g. OH-DP-2010, SC3) could be the lack of data for the less evolved, upper grey pumices of the proximal zoned Fall A. A correlation of the older Grottarossa Pyroclastic Sequence (GRPS; Karner et al., 2001) of the Sabatini volcano (Marra et al., 2014) with the chemically similar and less evolved part of OH-DP-2010 can be excluded, since the GRPS and Fall A are temporally clearly distinct events, as shown by field (Sottili et al., 2004) and  $^{40}$ Ar $/^{39}$ Ar chronological evidence (Marra et al., 2014).

According to  ${}^{40}Ar/{}^{39}Ar$  dating, the lower Fall A1 has an age of  $499 \pm 3$  ka and the upper Fall A2 has an age of  $496 \pm 3$  ka (Marra et al., 2014). However, unpublished agedepth interpolations from distal equivalents reveal slightly older ages, with  $510 \pm 3$  ka for SC3 at the Mercure Basin, and with  $502 \pm 4$  ka for A9 at the Acerno Basin.

# **4.12 OH-DP-2017–A11/A12**

Tephra layer OH-DP-2017 (201.747–201.782 mcd) is whitish to yellowish, is 3.5 cm thick, and has sharp bottom and top boundaries. The horizon contains highly vesicular cuspate glass shards with a varying morphology and septa thickness. The homogenous trachytic composition of OH-DP-2017 (Fig. 3j, Table 1) excludes an origin in Roman and Roccamonfina provinces, which mainly produced phonolites and tephrophonolites during the Middle Pleistocene (cf. Giaccio et al., 2014). However, two very similar trachytic layers (A11/A12) are found in the Acerno Basin sequence (Petrosino et al., 2014b). They have a similar stratigraphic position and a similar glass chemical composition (cf. Figs. 3j and 6c, Table 1) compared with OH-DP-2017 (Petrosino et al., 2014b). An unambiguous correlation of OH-DP-2017 with one of the both layers is not possible due to their indistinguishable major element composition (Table 1). Tephra SC2 from the Sulmona Basin was tentatively also correlated based on chemical affinities and its stratigraphic position with A11/A12 (Giaccio et al., 2014). However, differences in the composition (higher  $FeO<sub>TOT</sub>$ , SiO2) do not support an unambiguous correlation of SC2 with OH-DP-2017 or A11/12 (cf. Fig. 6c) and suggest that they may derive from the same source but from different eruptions.

According to the geochemical characteristics, an origin of A11/12 from the Campanian area was proposed (Petrosino et al., 2014b). Proximal products of the Campanian area date back to ca. 290 ka only (Seiano Ignimbrite; Rolandi et al., 2003). Distal deposits, such as found those in the Montalbano Jonico succession (around 720 ka; V5, V7; Petrosino et al., 2014c) and the Sulmona Basin (ca. 723 ka; SC1- 35.30/SUL2-1; Giaccio et al., 2013b), also suggest earlier activity of the Campanian area, which may have produced OH-DP-2017–A11/A12. Although Sr-isotope ratios indicate that tephra layer SC2 originates from Ponza Island, the lack of Middle Pleistocene pyroclastic rocks on Ponza Island contradicts this correlation and an origin of SC2 from the Campanian area appears more likely (Giaccio et al., 2014).

Sanidine crystals of the Acerno tephra A11 yielded an  $^{40}$ Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar age of 514 ± 5.6 ka (Petrosino et al., 2014b). As A12 is located only 12 cm below A11, which amounts to an age difference of a few hundred years according to the sedimentation rate between the two tephra (Petrosino et al., 2014b), the difference in age is negligible and the age of  $514 \pm 5.6$  ka can be transferred from the A11 to OH-DP-2017 tephra.

#### **4.13 OH-DP-2060–Tufo di Bagni Albule**

Tephra OH-DP-2060 (206.060–206.080 mcd) is a 2 cm thick, brownish-greyish tephra layer with a sharp bottom and a more diffuse upper boundary. The layer comprises mainly non-vesicular, porphyritic (leucite and sanidine), blocky glass shards. Furthermore, numerous diatoms and weathered calcite were found during microscope analysis. The characteristic K-foiditic composition (Fig. 3j, Table 1) suggests an origin in the Colli Albani volcanic district. According to the stratigraphic position of OH-DP-2060 with a presumed age older than 510 ka, it can be assigned to the Tufo del Palatino–Tufo di Bagni Albule eruptive cycle of the Colli Albani volcanic district (Karner et al., 2001; Giaccio et al., 2013a). Glass composition data are only published for the upper pyroclastic flow Tufo di Bagni Albule (TBA or Tufo di Acque Albule), which is separated by a palaeosol from the lower Tufo del Palatino (TP) ignimbrite (Marra et al., 2009). A geochemical comparison of the TBA with the proximal data of the Via Tiburtina section AH-23 (within the Colli Albani volcanic district; Marra et al., 2009) and the distal equivalent found in the Sulmona Basin (SUL1-6 site 2; Giaccio et al., 2013a) reveals a good correlation with OH-DP-2060 (cf. Table 1, Fig. 6d). A relatively thick, foiditic tephra with Tufo del Palatino–Tufo di Bagni Albule products was also found in a core from the Fucino Basin in the Apennine chain (Giaccio et al., 2013a). In the intra-Apennine Carsoli Basin, a chemically very similar deposit, the so-called the Oricola tuff was found (Stoppa et al., 2005) and later correlated with TBA from the Colli Albani volcanic district based on chronological, isotopic, and major element composition affinities (Giaccio et al., 2013a). The carbonate content of the Oricola tuff (Peccerillo, 2005; Stoppa et al., 2005), which is also found in OH-DP-2060, is typical for Colli Albani products because the magma chambers are situated in Mesozoic limestones (Giordano et al., 2006). TP and TBA in proximal deposits indicate geochronologically indistinguishable ages of  $530 \pm 2$  and  $527 \pm 2$  ka (Marra et al., 2009), which are in a good agreement with the age obtained for the Oricola tuff (ca. 531 ka, Bosi et al., 1991). As long as no compositional glass data are available for the TP, the TBA is the most likely equivalent of OH-DP-2060 and an age of  $527 \pm 2$  ka can be assumed for this tephra.

#### **4.14 Reassessing and homogenizing the age of the DEEP site tephra layers**

The tephrochronological information obtained from the dated equivalents of the DEEP site tephra layers were used to develop a robust chronology for the DEEP site proxy series, for both the sediment core and the borehole successions (cf. Baumgarten et al., 2015; Francke et al., 2016). For this purpose, 11 of the 13 tephra layers presented were selected based on the strength of correlation and their geochronological reliability. Except for the Y-3, TM24a–POP2, and P-11 tephra, all ages are radiometric ages, whereas the ages of these three tephra layers were taken from the respective age– depth models. The high number of  ${}^{14}C$  ages above and below the Y-3 equivalent of the Tenaghi Philippon record (Albert et al., 2015) allows a reliable age interpolation, similar to the POP2 tephra from the Sulmona Basin, where tephra layers above and below are dated precisely based on  ${}^{40}Ar/{}^{39}Ar$  (Regattieri et al., 2015). The only available  ${}^{40}Ar/{}^{39}Ar$  ages of the P-11 tephra scatter between  $123 \pm 1.6$  ka and  $135 \pm 1.2$  ka. Currently, the most reliable age of P-11 is likely that obtained from the age–depth model of core LC21, which is tuned to the extensively U–Th-dated Soreq Cave speleothem record (Satow et al., 2015; Zanchetta et al., 2015).

In order to achieve a homogenous set of ages, all  $^{40}$ Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar ages have been recalculated relative to the same flux standard and the total  ${}^{40}$ K decay constant of Steiger and Jäger (1977). Since the flux standards Fish Canyon sanidine (FCs) and Alder Creek sanidine (ACs-2) are intercalibrated, all ages were recalculated to an age of 1.194 Ma for ACs, which corresponds to FCs at 28.02 Ma (Nomade et al., 2005). This choice was made because most of the published ages were calculated using these two flux standards. However, several calibrations of the  ${}^{40}Ar/{}^{39}Ar$  chronometer are currently in use, which yield ages that can vary by  $\sim$  1 % in the time range of the Pleistocene (e.g. Kuiper et al., 2008; Renne et al., 2010; Phillips and Matchan, 2013). As long as it is not the purpose of this work to decipher which calibration is the more accurate and as long as the implied difference in calibrated age is within the current reported fully propagated uncertainties at  $2\sigma$  level, we decided to keep ages as they were published without necessarily endorsing the flux standard values used. The results are indicated in Table 2.

The age obtained from the suggested correlation OH-DP-0624–CF-V5 with the Pitigliano Tuff was recalculated, but not included in the age model, as the tephrostratigraphical correlation is not very robust (cf. discussion OH-DP-0624) and the  $2\sigma$  error bar is relatively large (Table 2). Furthermore, the age of the directly overlying tephra OH-DP-0617– Vico B represents a more reliable tie point in this part of the sequence. The original (recalculated) age of Fall A, 499  $(496) \pm 3$  ka, was not selected as a first-order tie point for the age–depth model shown in Francke et al. (2016) because of the age–depth interpolations of the Acerno Basin and the Mercure Basin: they suggest an older age for distal Fall A, making the published age for the proximal Fall A questionable.

In order to obtain a first overview of the chronology of the DEEP site sequence, an age–depth plot (Fig. 7) with all tephrochronological information was created. The homogenous distribution of ages vs. depth suggests a relatively constant sedimentation rate of the DEEP site succession for the upper 247.8 m. As shown in Fig. 7, the unreliability of the  $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$  age of Fall A at  $496 \pm 3$  ka becomes more obvious. The tephra OH-DP-1955–SC5 dated to  $493 \pm 11$  ka is located 5.48 m above OH-DP-2010–Fall A, whilst the OH-DP-2017–A11 dated to  $514 \pm 6$  ka is located only 0.73 m below this layer. Accepting an age of  $496 \pm 3$  ka for Fall A would imply a distinct change in the sedimentation rates, with interpolated sedimentation rates of  $1.8 \text{ m} \text{ ka}^{-1}$  above and  $0.04 \text{ m} \text{ ka}^{-1}$  below, which differ substantially from a mean sedimentation rate of  $0.39$  m ka<sup>-1</sup> for the entire sequence. However, there is no lithological evidence justifying such a conspicuous change in sedimentation rate. The radiometric dating of Fall A was done on deposits from Cava Rinaldi, which were correlated with Fall A using only trace element ratios (Zr/Y vs. Nb/Y plot) and chronological constraints because the deposits have been altered too much to use major element compositions (Marra et al., 2014). Although this method is helpful to distinguish between the different Italian provinces and between the different volcanic districts (Marra et al., 2011, 2014), it may be not suitable for distinguishing between single eruptions with similar composition. Moreover, the intense alteration of the deposits makes an unequivocal correlation difficult and the age obtained for Fall A is probably too young. Following the correlation of OH-DP-2010 with distal deposits of the SC3 in Mercure and A9 in the Acerno Basin, an age of between 502 and 510 ka seems to be more likely and would be consistent with more constant sedimentation rates in the DEEP site record.

# **4.15 Resulting tephrostratigraphy of the Lake Ohrid record**

The Middle Pleistocene Italian tephrostratigraphic framework was extended for the first time beyond Italy to the Balkan region. The 13 identified tephra layers (OH-DP-0027-2060) of the DEEP sequence link the Lake Ohrid record with numerous terrestrial and marine records of the Mediterranean region (Fig. 8) at least back to MIS 13. Since the last 160 kyr are recorded in many archives, tephra layers found in Lake Ohrid of this period were also found in numerous other records and give a dense framework of tie points for this period. However, for the period between MIS 7 and MIS 11, no correlations could be established for the Lake Ohrid sequence so far, but at least 13 tephra layers between OH-DP-0624 (earlier than 160 ka) and OH-DP-1817 (later than 450 ka) indicate activity and widespread eruptions of Italian volcanoes. On the other hand, Lake Ohrid provides a very long and continuous record of stratigraphi-

**Table 2.** Depths and ages of tephra layers in the DEEP site succession.<sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar ages with  $2\sigma$  uncertainties (last column) recalculated to ACs at 1.194 Ma, which corresponds to FCs at 28.02 Ma (Nomade et al., 2005) and the total decay constant of Steiger and Jäger (1977). Tephra layers in bold are not considered for the age–depth modelling (Francke et al., 2016). n/a: not applicable.

Tephra DEEP site	Depth (mcd)	Eruption/ tephra	Age (ka)	References	Recalculated $40$ Ar/ $39$ Ar ages
OH-DP-0027	2.773	Mercato	$8.43 - 8.63$	Zanchetta et al. (2011)	n/a
OH-DP-0115	11.507	$Y-3$	28.68-29.42	Albert et al. $(2015)$	n/a
OH-DP-0169	16.933	Campanian Ignimbrite or Y-5	$39.28 \pm 0.1$	De Vivo et al. $(2001)$	$39.6 \pm 0.1$
OH-DP-0404	40.486	POP <sub>2</sub>	$102 \pm 2.4$	Regattieri et al. (2015)	n/a
OH-DP-0435	43.513	$X-6$	$109 \pm 2$	Iori et al. $(2014)$	$109 \pm 2$
OH-DP-0499	49.947	$P-11$	$133.5 \pm 2$	Satow et al. $(2015)$	n/a
OH-DP-0617	61.726	Vico Ignimbrite B	$157 \pm 3$	Laurenzi and Villa (1987)	$162 \pm 6$
<b>OH-DP-0624</b>	62.413	<b>Pitigliano Tuff</b>	$158 \pm 22$	Turbeville (1992a)	$163 \pm 22$
OH-DP-1817	181.769	Pozzolane Rosse	$457 \pm 4$	Karner et al. (2001)	$457 \pm 4$
			$457 \pm 2$	Giaccio et al. (2013)	$457 \pm 2$
OH-DP-1955	195.566	SC <sub>5</sub>	$493.1 \pm 10.9$	Giaccio et al. (2014)	$493.1 \pm 10.9$
<b>OH-DP-2010</b>	201.049	Sabatini Fall A	$499 \pm 3$	Marra et al. $(2014)$	$496 \pm 3$
OH-DP-2017	201.782	Acerno A $11-12$	$514 \pm 6$	Petrosino et al. (2014)	$511 \pm 6$
OH-DP-2060	206.080	Tufo di Bagni Albule	$527 \pm 2$	Marra et al. (2009)	$527 \pm 2$



Figure 7. Age–depth plot for the selected DEEP site tephra layers. The ages of the tephra layers are based on recalculation of existing  $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$  ages (Table 2) or are according to published data for non- $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$  ages. Chronological tie points were interpolated on a linear basis (blue line). The dashed lines in the insert indicate a noteworthy change in the sedimentation rate for a different age of the Fall A tephra.



**Figure 8.** Tephrostratigraphic framework of Lake Ohrid and selected archives of the last 637 kyr corresponding to MIS 16. The dashed parts of the archive columns indicate the part of the existing record where no tephrostratigraphic information is available at present. The following archives and tephra layers are presented. Lago Grande di Monticchio (LgdM; Wulf et al., 2004, 2012). Sicilian Channel: ODP963 (Tamburino et al., 2012). Tyrrhenian Sea: KET8004–DED8708, KET8003, KET8011, KET8022 (C-7, C-13, C-31, C-42; Paterne et al., 1988, 2008); C1202 (t1; Iorio et al., 2014); C45–106 (A2–B2; Munno and Petrosino, 2004). Adriatic Sea: KET8218 (V-1; Paterne et al., 1988); IN68-9, IN68-5, RF95-11, CM92-42, RF93-77 (\*125–259–320 cm, 710–797 cm; Calanchi and Dinelli, 2008); AD91-17 ("190–191 to 195–196 cm; Marchini et al., 2014); MD90-917 (920-17; Zanchetta et al., 2008); MD90-918 (#210–223 cm; Caron et al., 2012); PRAD1–2 (PRAD1653, 2812, 3225; Bourne et al., 2010, 2015). Ionian Sea: MD25/4-12 (Y-3; Albert et al., 2015); RC9-191, 22M-60, V10 69 (Y-3, Y-5, X-6; Keller et al., 1978); KET8222 (C-31, P-11; Paterne et al., 2008); KC01B (I-3, I-9; Insinga et al., 2014). Levantine Sea: RC9- 183, RC9-181 (Y-5; Keller et al., 1978). Aegean Sea: V10-58 (Y-5; Keller et al., 1978); LC01 (4.925, 10.345; Satow et al., 2015). Tenaghi Philippon (TP9.70, Albert et al., 2015; TP CI, Lowe et al., 2012). San Gregorio Magno Basin (Munno and Petrosino, 2007). Campo Felice Basin (Giraudi et al., 2011, 2015). Sulmona Basin (Giaccio et al., 2013b, Regattieri et al., 2015). Acerno Basin (Petrosino et al., 2013b). Mercure Basin (Giaccio et al., 2014).

cally ordered Middle Pleistocene tephra, which represents a reference section for other discontinuous and short successions in which the stratigraphic order of tephra is unknown or not well constrained. In spite of this potential, tephrostratigraphic and volcanologic implications based on the lower part of the record below P-11 are premature because the succession is not fully analysed and more detailed investigations are needed to complete and improve the tephrostratigraphic framework. Even at this preliminary stage of the study, the recognition of tephra layers from volcanic provinces which were thought to be poorly active or even inactive at the time of tephra deposition, such as the ca. 490 ka old OH-DP-1955–SC5 tephra from the Roccamonfina volcano or the ca. 510 ka old OH-DP-2017–A11/12 tephra from the Campanian Volcanic Zone, provides insights for exploring and improving our knowledge about the volcanic activity of the different provinces. Furthermore, their widespread distribution as far as the Balkans suggests that some of them were comparatively large-magnitude eruptions and represent widespread marker horizons.

The connection to different records within the Mediterranean region also reveals the possibility to review different distribution patterns of specific eruptions, which probably will change substantially in the light of the Lake Ohrid data (e.g. OH-DP-0499–P-11–THP-TII-5). Moreover, this established tephrostratigraphic framework can be used as a powerful tool for the synchronization of different archives in order to address relevant palaeoclimate and palaeoenvironmental issues at very fine temporal and stratigraphic resolution (cf. Zanchetta et al., 2015).

# **5 Conclusions**

The results of the first tephrostratigraphic study of the DEEP site succession from Lake Ohrid allowed us to recognize 34 macroscopic tephra, of which 12 and 1 cryptotephra were correlated with their proximal or distal counterparts; all originate from Italian volcanism. Tephra layers found in the previous studies have been reidentified and were utilized as helpful markers for setting up the uppermost part of the new tephrostratigraphy of the DEEP site record. In the light of the longer tephra succession presented in this paper, the previously established correlations have been either confirmed or, in some cases, revised (e.g. OH-DP-0617–OT0701-6 and OH-DP-0624–OT0701- 7). Furthermore, tephrostratigraphy was successfully applied for the succession older than the already inspected

135 kyr of Lake Ohrid's history. On the whole, the following correlations are proposed here: OH-DP-0027–Mercato tephra (8.43–8.63 ka cal BP), OH-DP-0115–Y-3 (28.68– 29.42 ka cal BP), OH-DP-0169-Y-5  $(39.6 \pm 0.1 \text{ ka})$ , OH-DP-0404–TM24a–POP2 (102 ± 2.4 ka), OH-DP-0435–X-6  $(109 \pm 2 \text{ ka})$ , OH-DP-0499-P-11  $(133.5 \pm 2 \text{ ka})$ , OH-DP-0617–Vico Ignimbrite B (162 $\pm$ 6 ka), OH-DP-0624–CF-V5–Pitigliano Tuff (163 $\pm$ 22 ka), OH-DP-1817–Pozzolane Rosse  $(457 \pm 2 \text{ ka})$ , OH-DP-1955–SC5  $(493.1 \pm 10.9 \text{ ka})$ , OH-DP-2010–Fall A (496 ± 3 ka), OH-DP-2017–A11/12  $(511 \pm 6 \text{ ka})$ , and OH-DP-2060–Tufo di Bagni Albule  $(527 \pm 2 \text{ ka})$ .

The ages of 11 of the correlated tephra layers were used to contribute first-order tie points to develop a robust age– depth model of the uppermost 247.8 mcd of the DEEP succession, which is fundamental to the development of the different multi-proxy palaeoclimatic–environmental and evolutionary studies which are in progress. Furthermore, this age– depth model has the potential to refine our chronological knowledge of some relevant marker tephra found in the Lake Ohrid succession (e.g. Fall A) and to provide a first chronological framework for a number of currently poorly known tephra, which, however, can be potentially found elsewhere and thus indirectly dated by simple geochemical fingerprinting. In this context, the data presented in this paper provide a further important step forward for extending a robust and reliable Middle Pleistocene tephrostratigraphy in the central Mediterranean area back in time and well beyond the current chronological limit.

# **Appendix A**

**Table A1.** List of the data set references used for the established correlations of the Ohrid tephra layers OH-DP-0027–OH-DP-2060.



# **The Supplement related to this article is available online at [doi:10.5194/bg-13-2151-2016-supplement.](http://dx.doi.org/10.5194/bg-13-2151-2016-supplement)**

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