



# Submarine Volcanism

Adam Soule, WHOI

**Acknowledgement and thanks to: NSF, NOAA OER, WHOI, Meghan Jones, Dan Fornari, Rebecca Carey, Michael Manga, Ken Rubin, James Gardner, Helge Gonnermann, James White, Claire Pontbriand, Sam Mitchell, Kristen Fauria, Alison Fundis, Mike Perfit, Tushar Mittal, Anna Michel, Einat Lev, Hannah Dietterich, and many more.**



**Your face here!**

## Outline

### 1. Global submarine volcanism

- Significance
- Relative volumes to subaerial
- Accessing the deep ocean

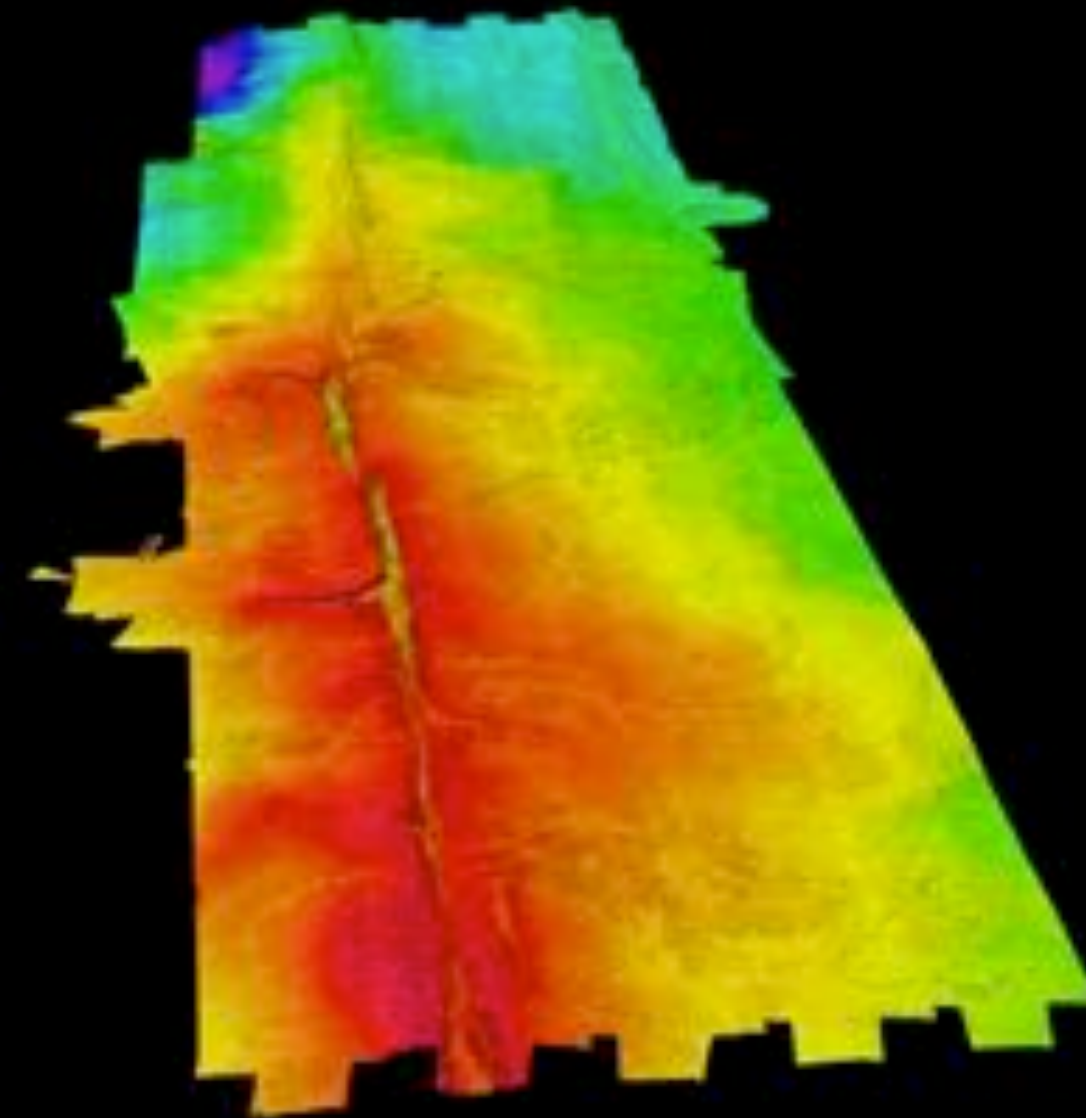
### 2. Mid-ocean ridges

- Magma supply
- Eruption style/recurrence
- Constraining dynamics

### 3. Submarine Arcs

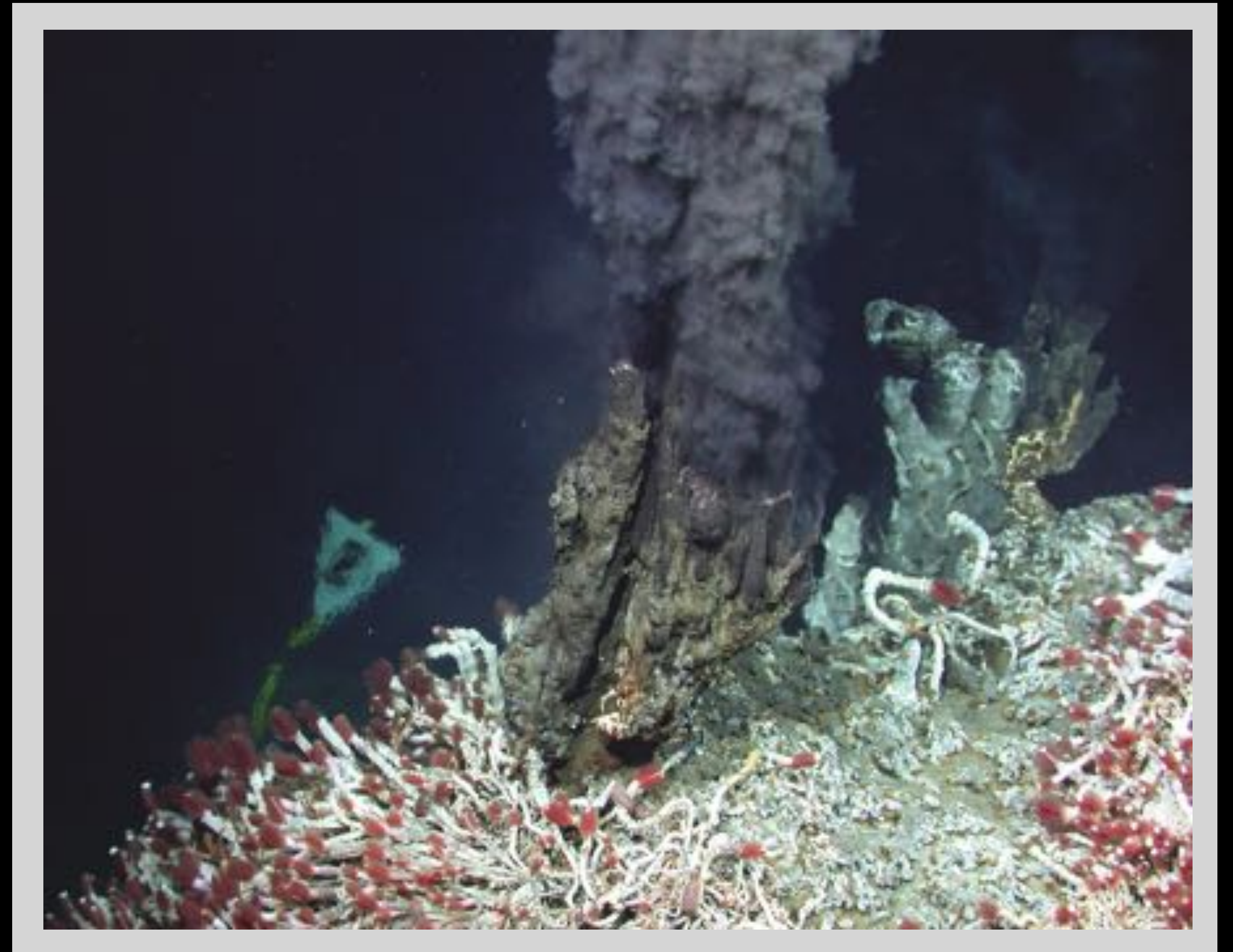
- Explosive? processes
- Dispersal and deposition

East Pacific Rise Axis, 2500 mbsl



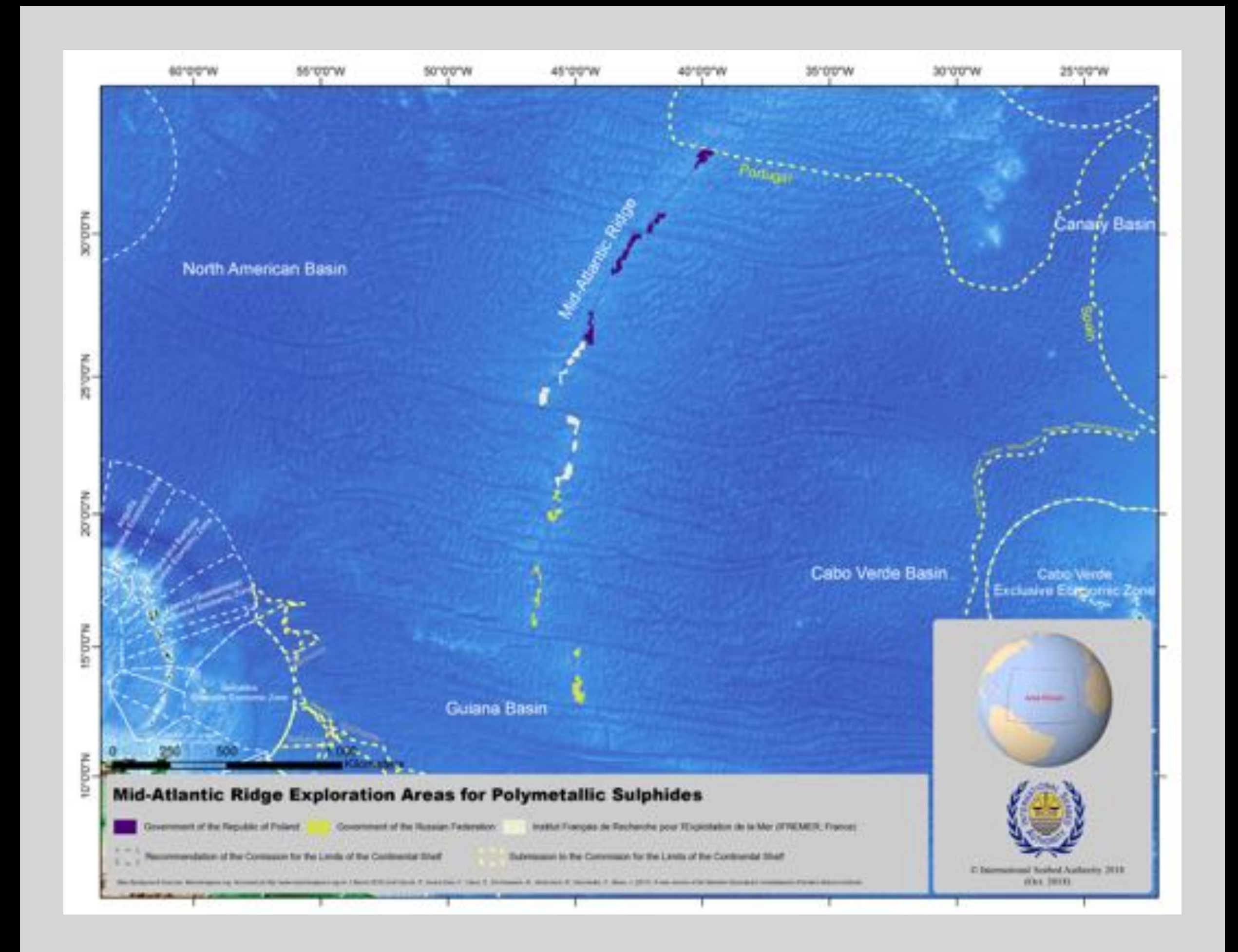
# Significance of Submarine Volcanism (associated processes):

- Biological diversity, origins of life, extra-terrestrial life, pharmaceuticals.
- Mineral resources - VHMS, Cobalt crusts
- Global-scale chemical cycling and biogeochemical processes: fertilization of photic zone, flux from hydrothermal systems
- Model systems that can reveal how volcanoes work - a) in some cases simpler, b) can isolate behavior under unique conditions (e.g., thin crust, hydrostatic pressure, eruption into water).



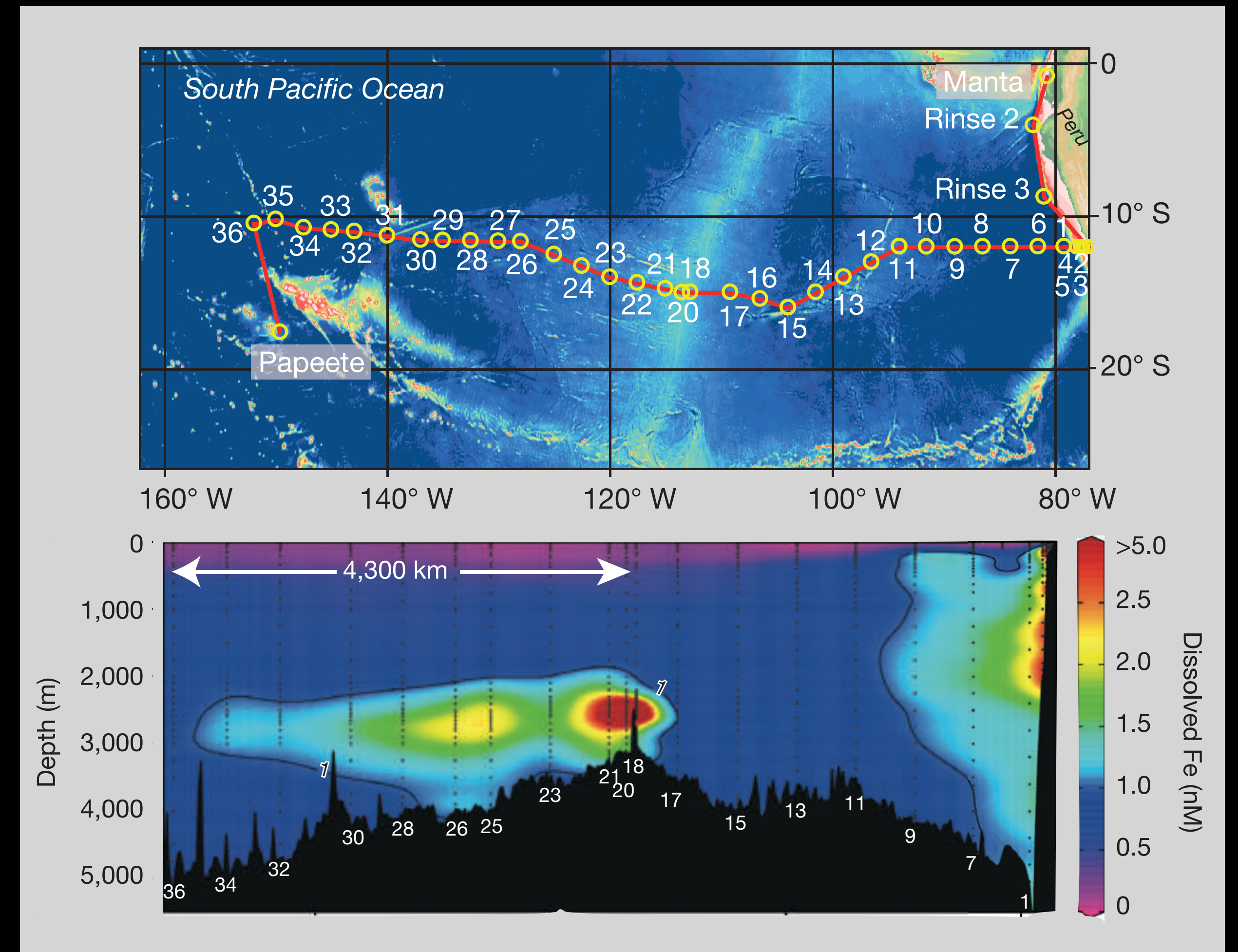
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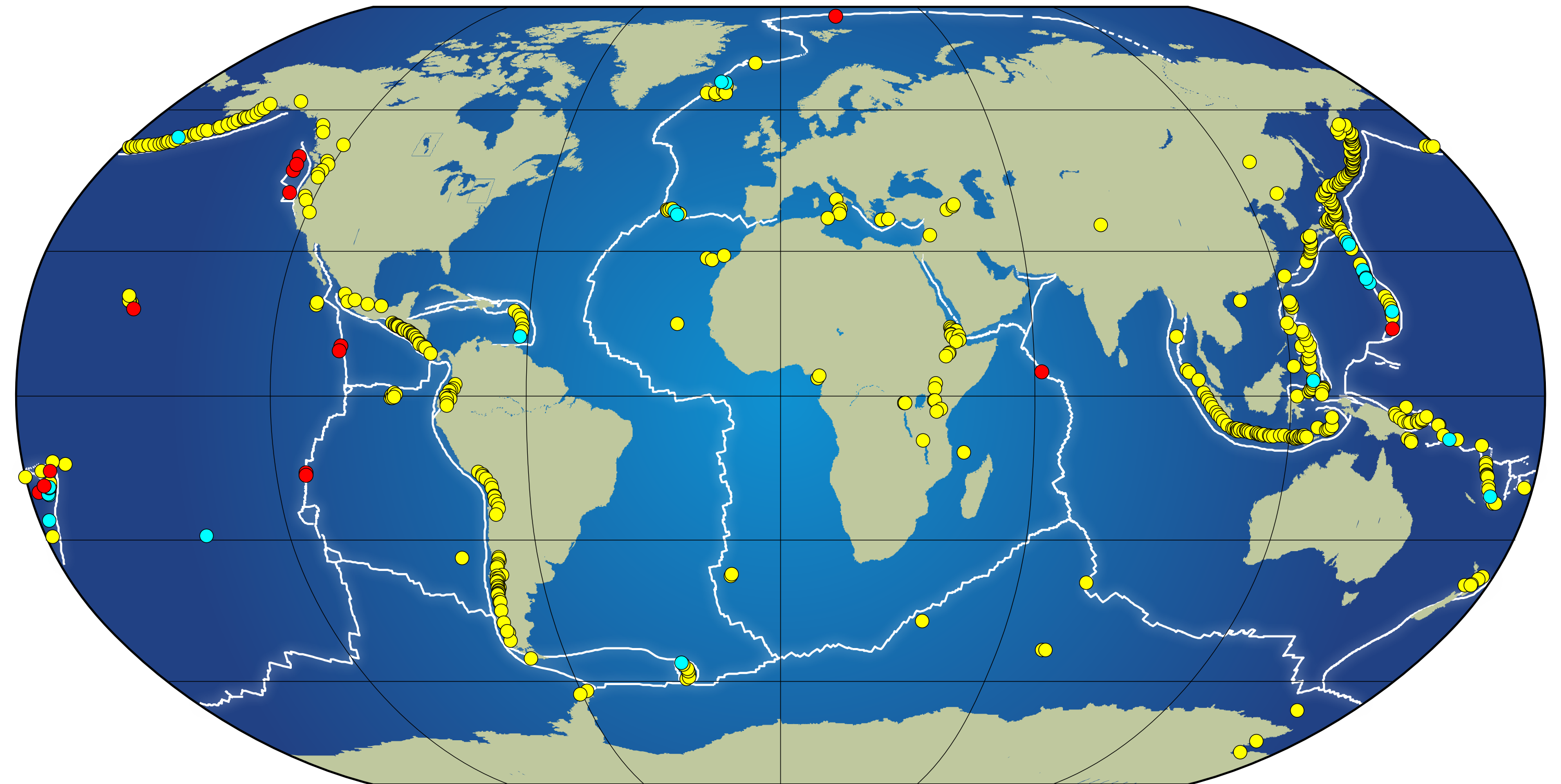
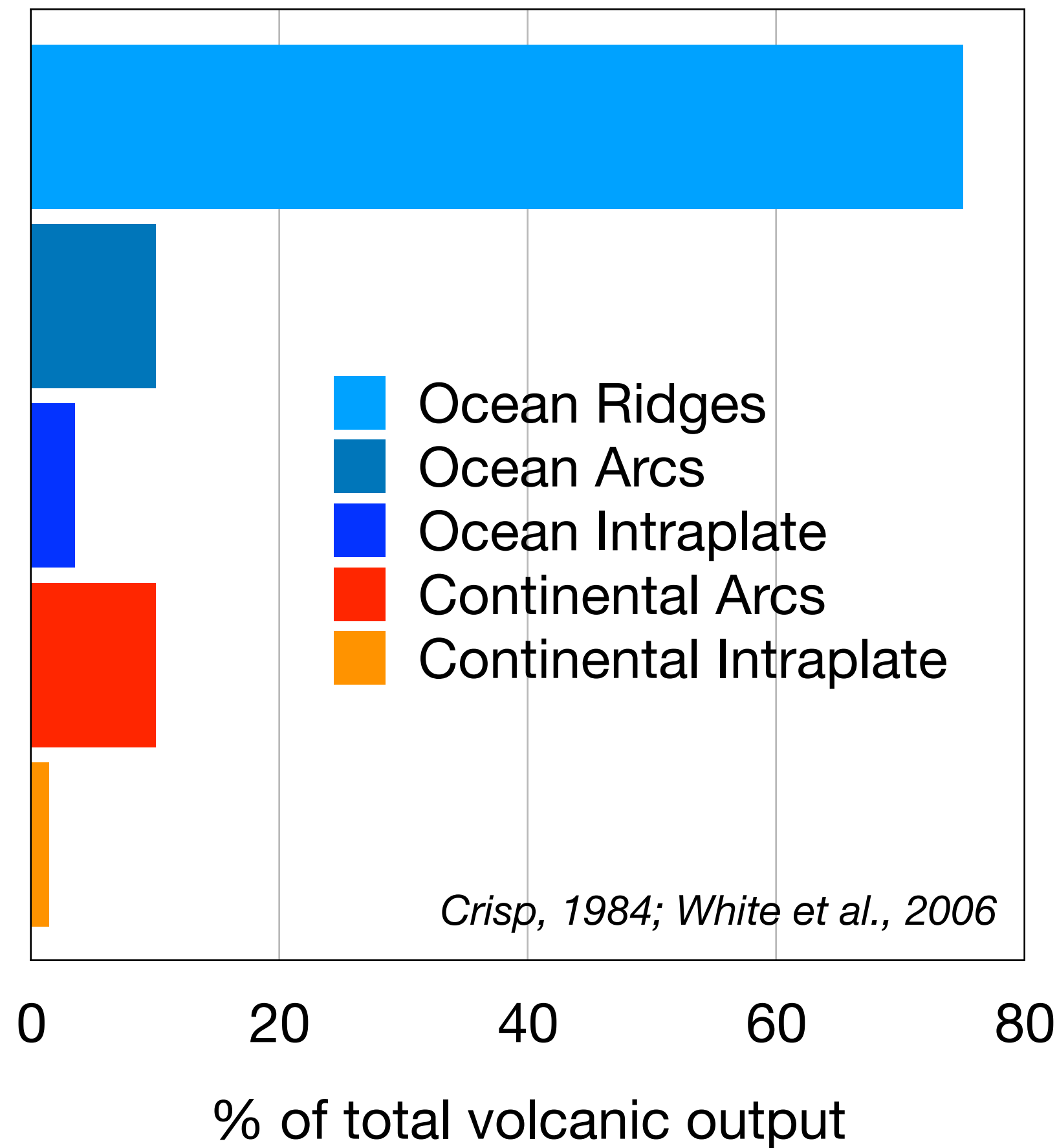
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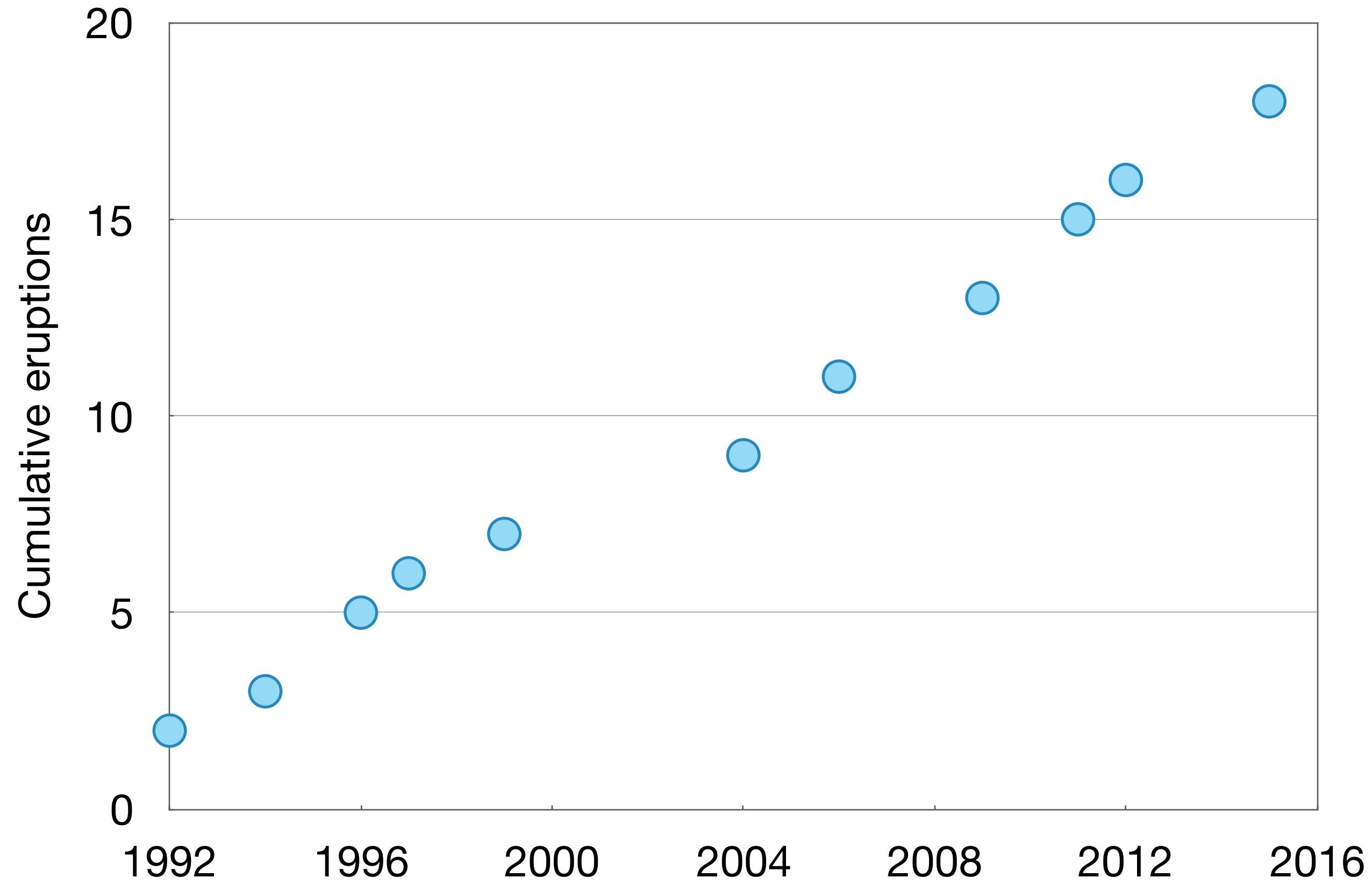
# Oceanic vs. Continental Magmatism

● SUBAERIAL ● SHALLOW SUBMARINE ● DEEP SUBMARINE



Over 75% of the Earth's volcanism occurs within the oceans, but only 0.2% of the confirmed eruptions of the last 50 (N = 1776) years are submarine.

**Number of confirmed eruptions**



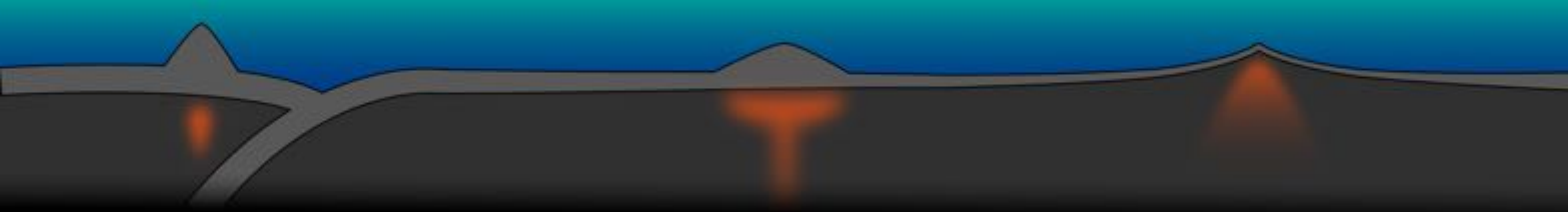
**West Mata Eruption (1100 mbsl)**



*Resing et al., 2011*

Despite tremendous advances in technology, *most* detected seafloor eruptions are discovered by serendipity rather than via monitoring.



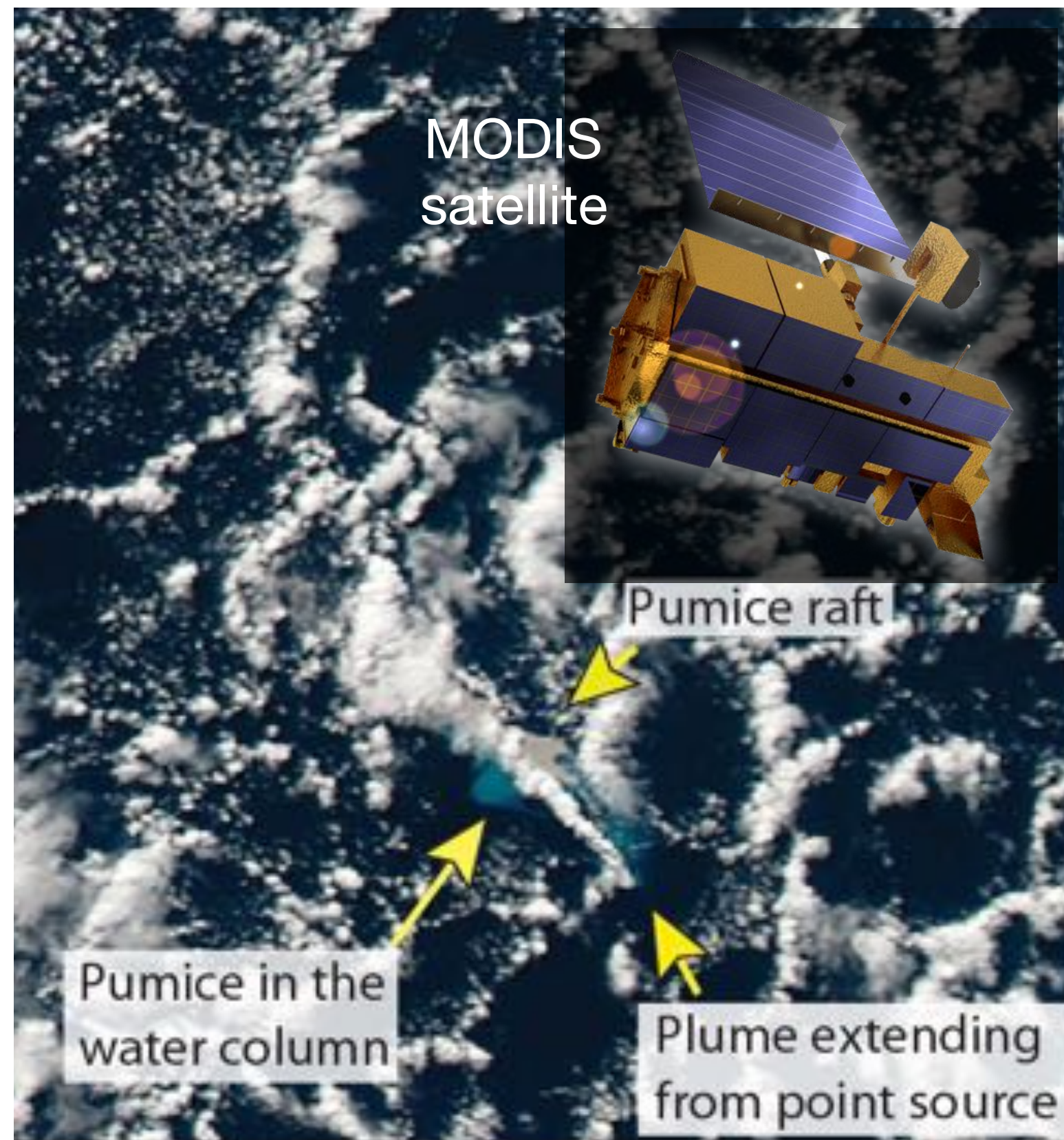


## Deep thought #1

Is our assessment of the relative proportions of subaerial and submarine volcanism correct, and can we better monitor the oceans at a global scale to identify the location, timing, and size of submarine eruptions.

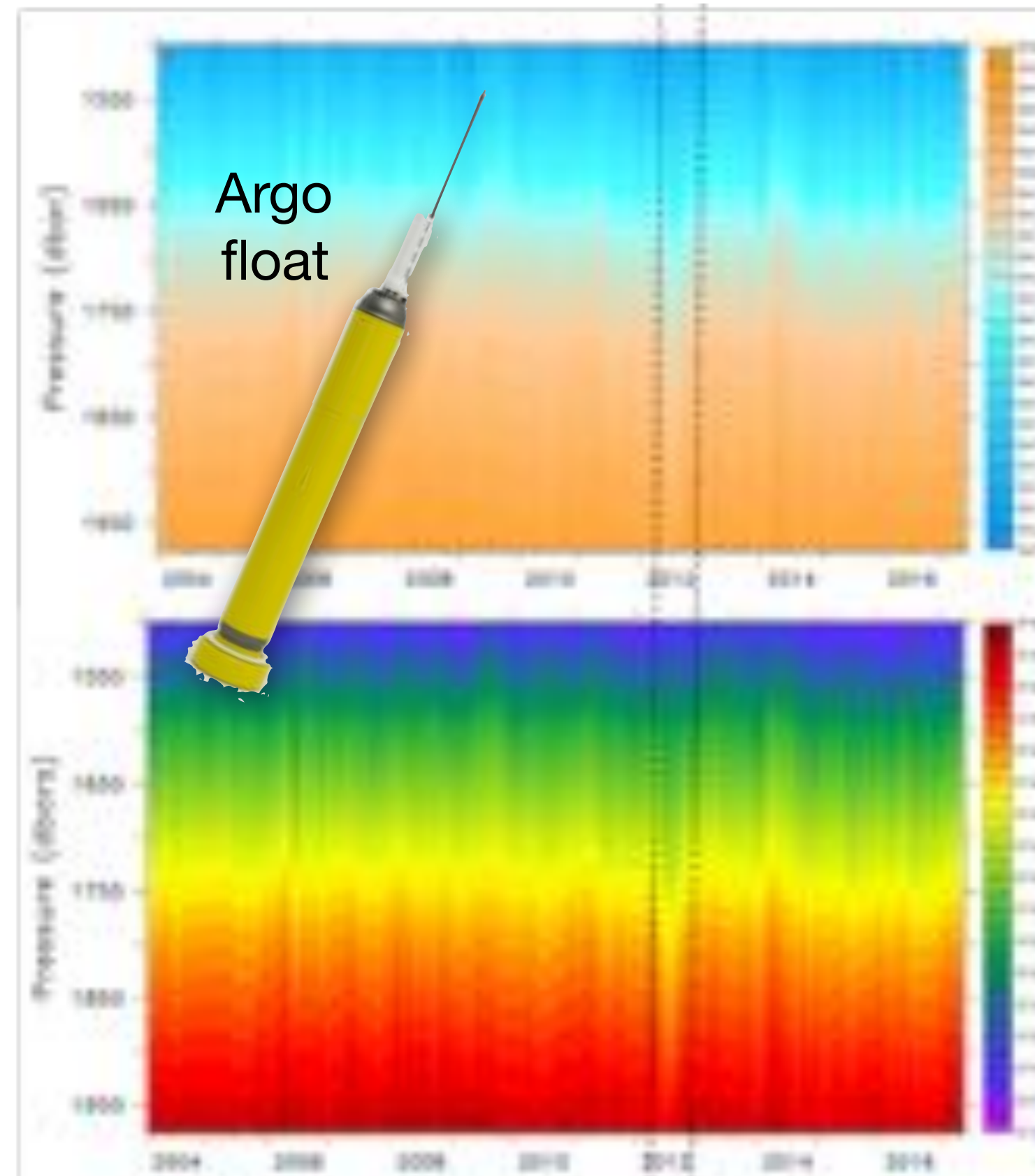
# Can we monitor the ocean's volcanoes?

*Sea surface signals  
(e.g., pumice rafts, plankton blooms)*



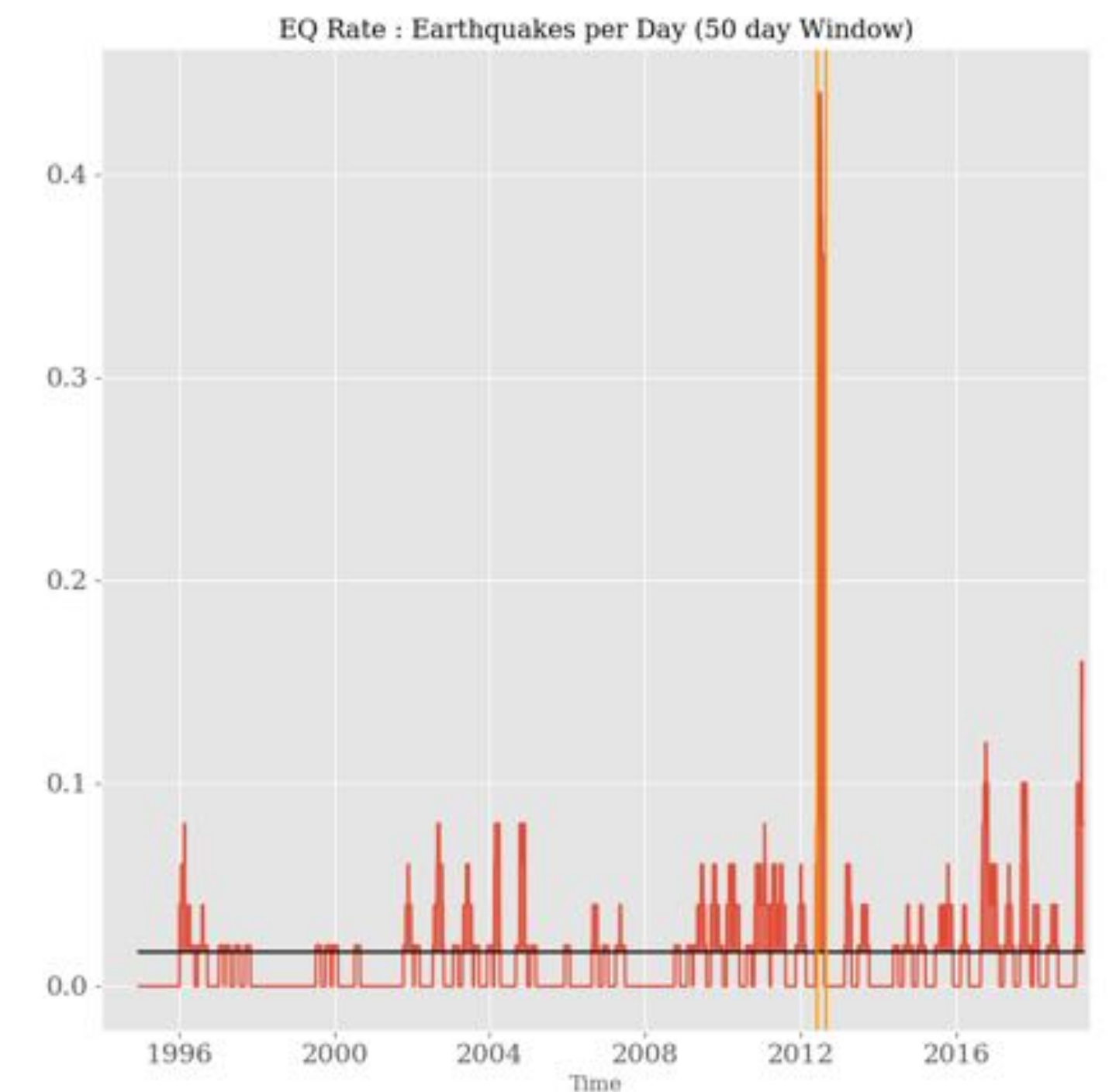
Jutzeler et al., 2014

*Water column signals  
(e.g., hydrothermal discharge)*



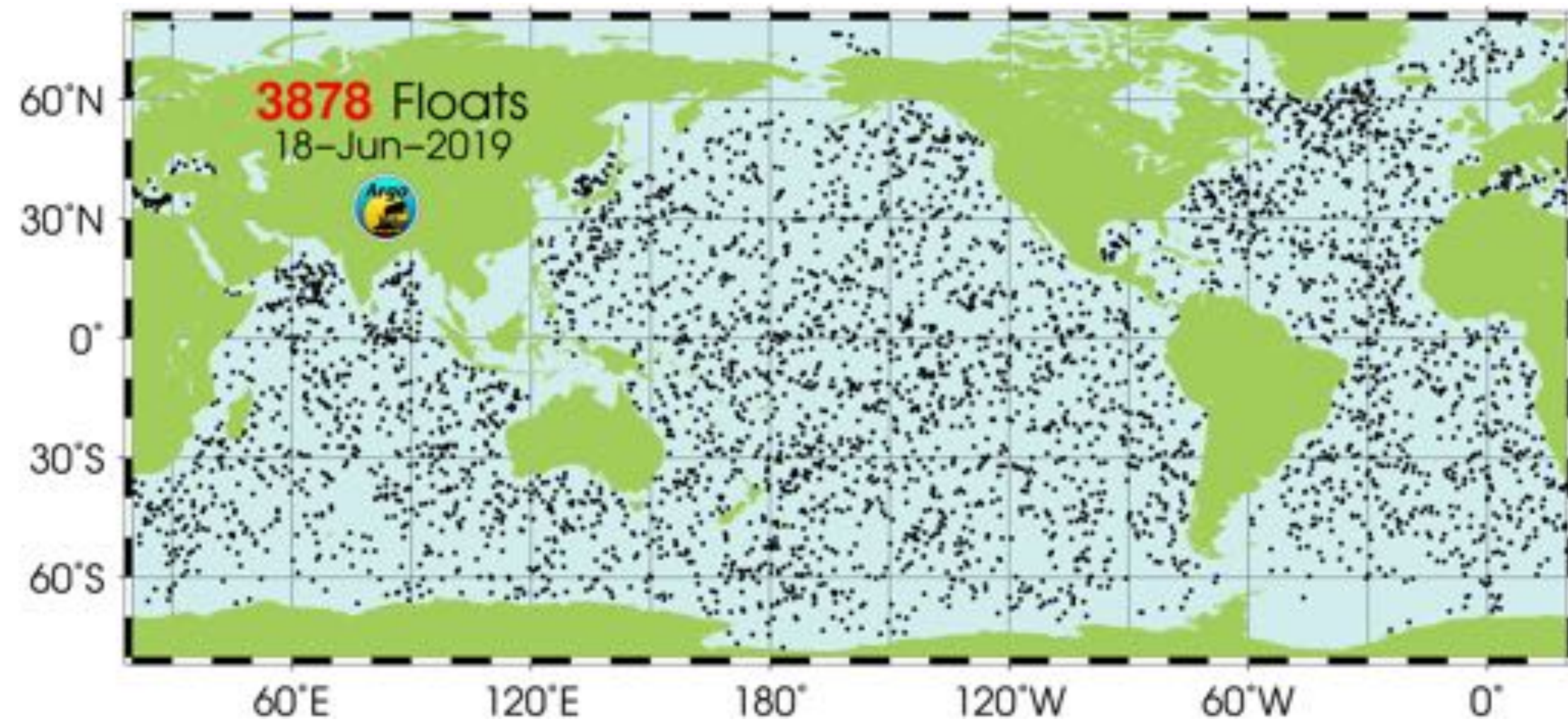
Mittal & Delbridge, 2019 - EPSL

*Ocean crust signals  
(e.g., volcano seismicity)*



Mittal & Delbridge, 2019 - EPSL

### ARGO Network



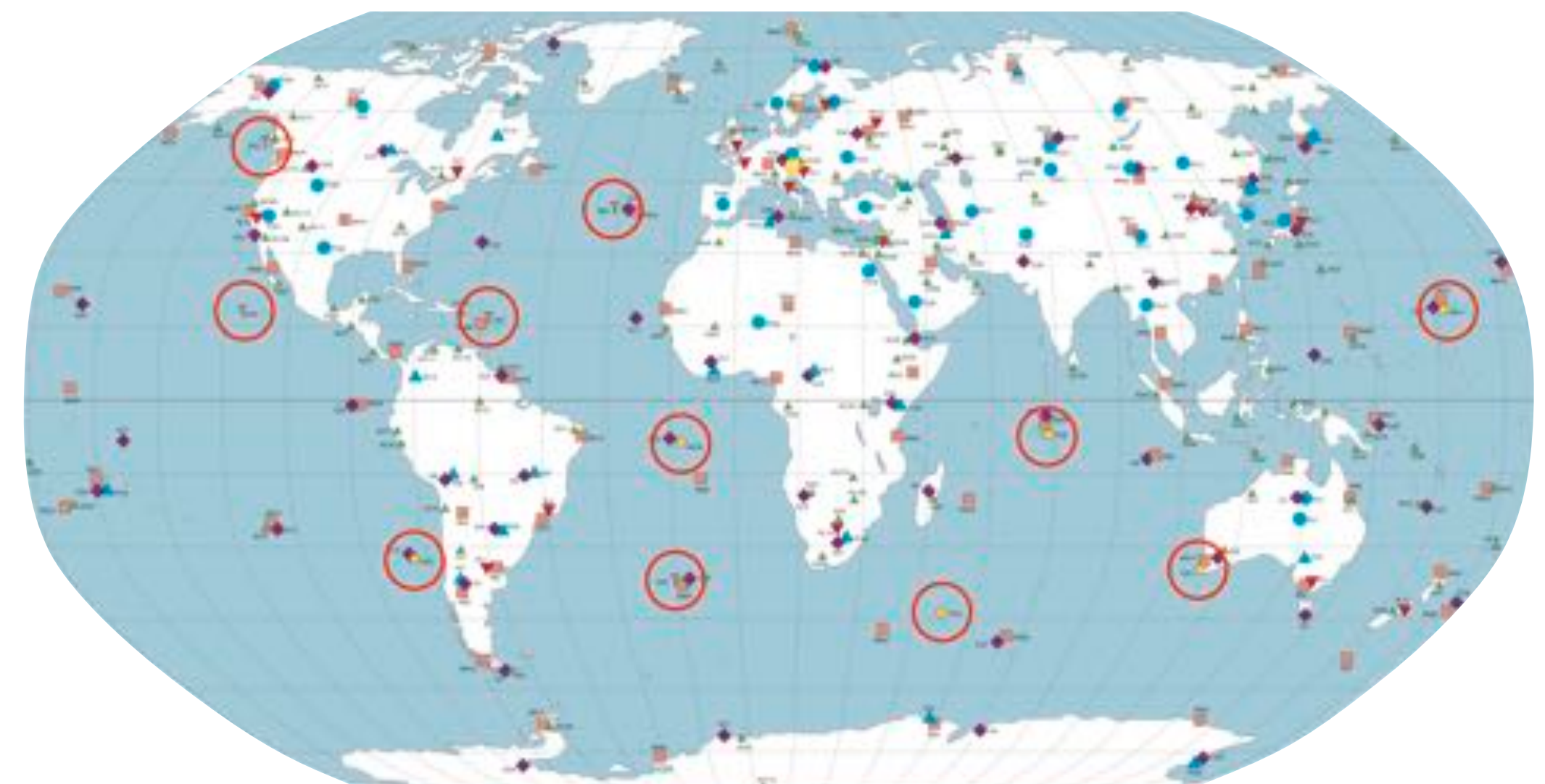
### Global Seismic Network



### Global Satellite Coverage



### Global Hydrophone Array (CTBT)





## Data/Sample Repositories

<http://marine-geo.org> (Marine Geological & Geophysical Data)

<http://www-udc.ig.utexas.edu/sdc/> (Academic Seismic Portal)

<https://www.earthchem.org/petdb> (Petrological Database)

<https://www2.who.edu/site/seafloorsampleslab/> (WHOI physical samples)

<https://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/core-repository> (LDEO physical samples)

<http://osu-mgr.org> (Oregon State Physical Samples)

<https://www.bco-dmo.org> (Biological & Chemical Oceanography Data)

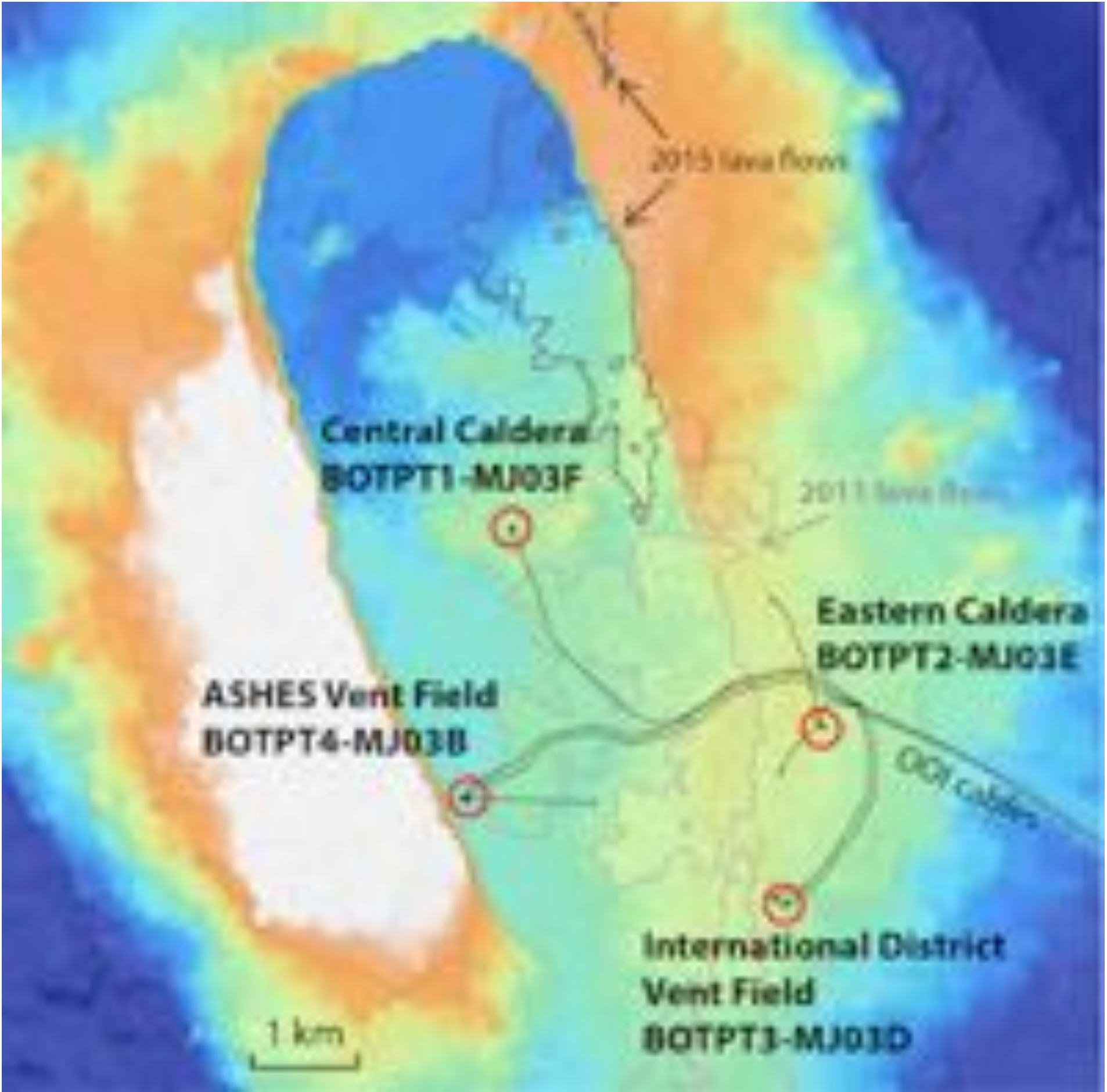
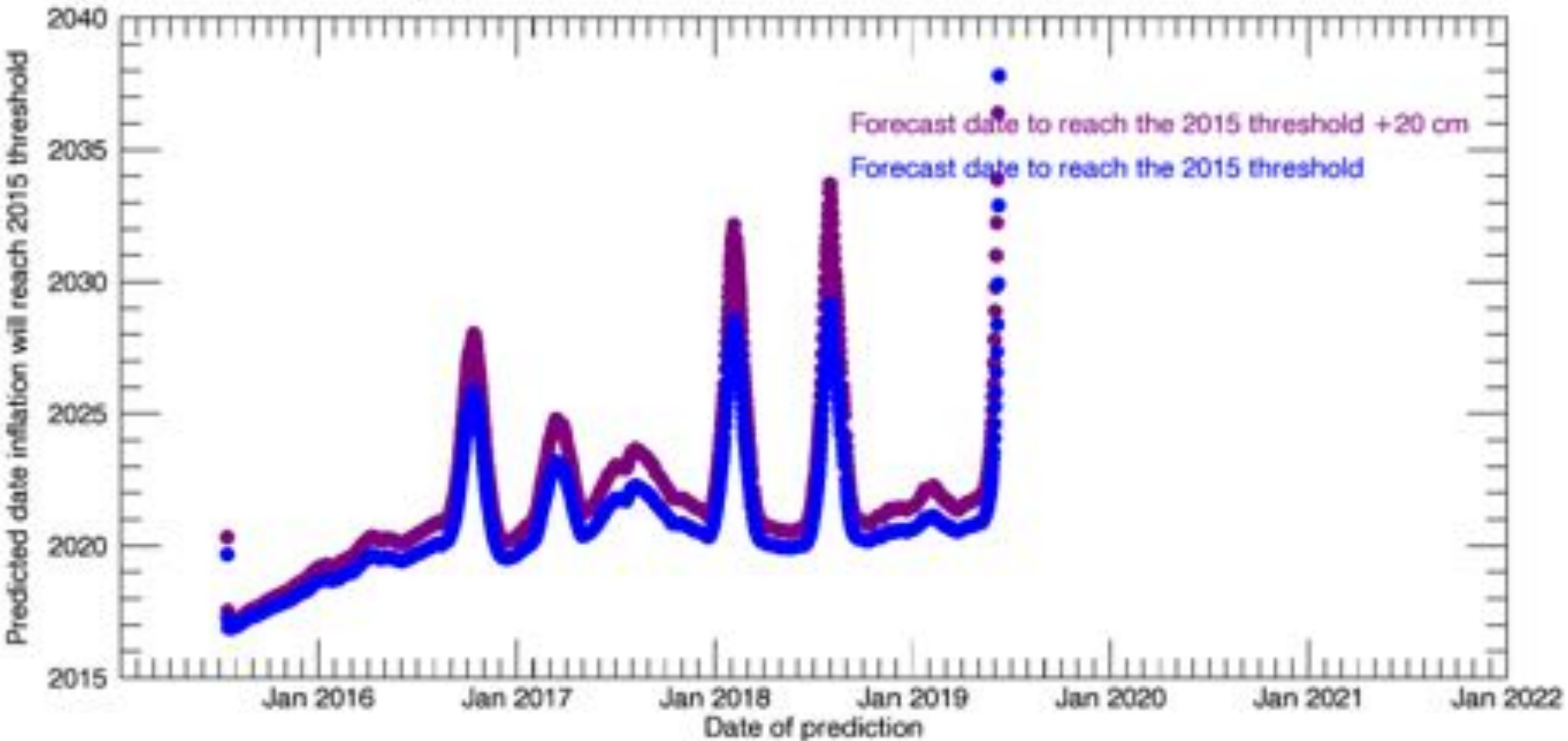
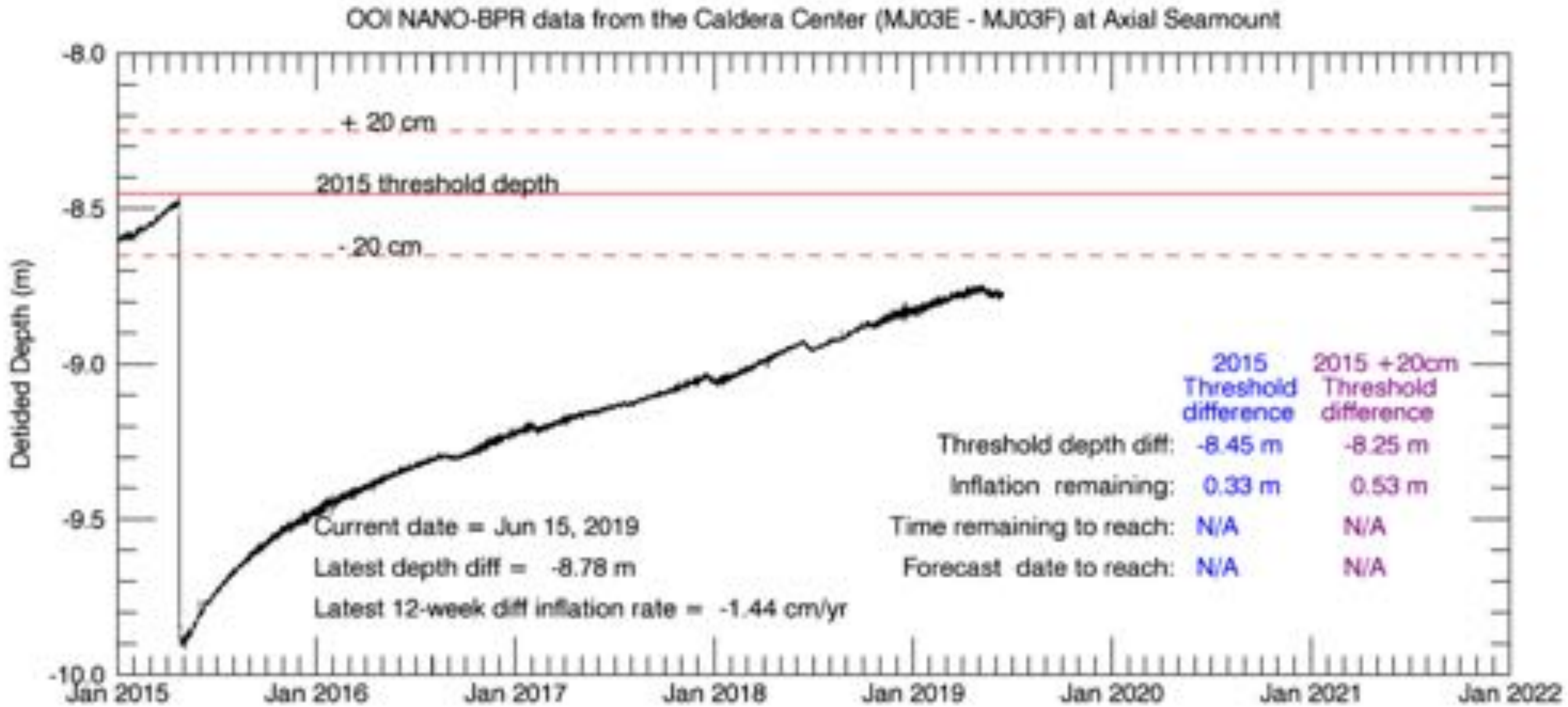
<http://4dgeo.who.edu/alvin> or [/jason](http://4dgeo.who.edu/jason) (Alvin & Jason seafloor imagery)

<http://app.iedadata.org/ndsf/dives/> (NDSF dive metadata)

# CABLED AXIAL SEAMOUNT PN3B



# Axial Volcano Monitoring



[https://www.pmel.noaa.gov/eoi/axial\\_blog.html](https://www.pmel.noaa.gov/eoi/axial_blog.html)

# Participate Remotely

The screenshot shows the Nautilus Live website interface. At the top, the title "NAUTILUS LIVE" is displayed in large white and gold letters, with the subtitle "Explore the ocean LIVE with Dr. Robert Ballard and the Corps of Exploration" below it. A navigation menu includes "THE EXPEDITION", "PHOTOS & VIDEOS", "THE TECH", "THE SCIENCE", "THE TEAM", "LATEST NEWS", "EDUCATION", "ABOUT", and "DONATE". A search icon is also present. Below the navigation, there are sections for "COMMENT SYSTEM" (with a "Sonar Mapping" post from 08:28 am on Sun Jul 16), "SHIP STATUS" (with a profile picture and text about multibeam sonar mapping), and "SHIP LOCATION" (showing "E Pacific Ocean" and a "WATCH LIVE" button). The main content area features a large sonar mapping window with a 3D topographic view and a 2D depth profile. To the right of the sonar window are three smaller video feeds labeled "Channel 1", "Channel 2", and "Quad". At the bottom, there are data readouts for "WIND SPEED" (16.8 knots) and "Data may be delayed".

[www.nautiluslive.org/](http://www.nautiluslive.org/)

[schmidtocean.org](http://schmidtocean.org)



[oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/livestreams/](http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/livestreams/)





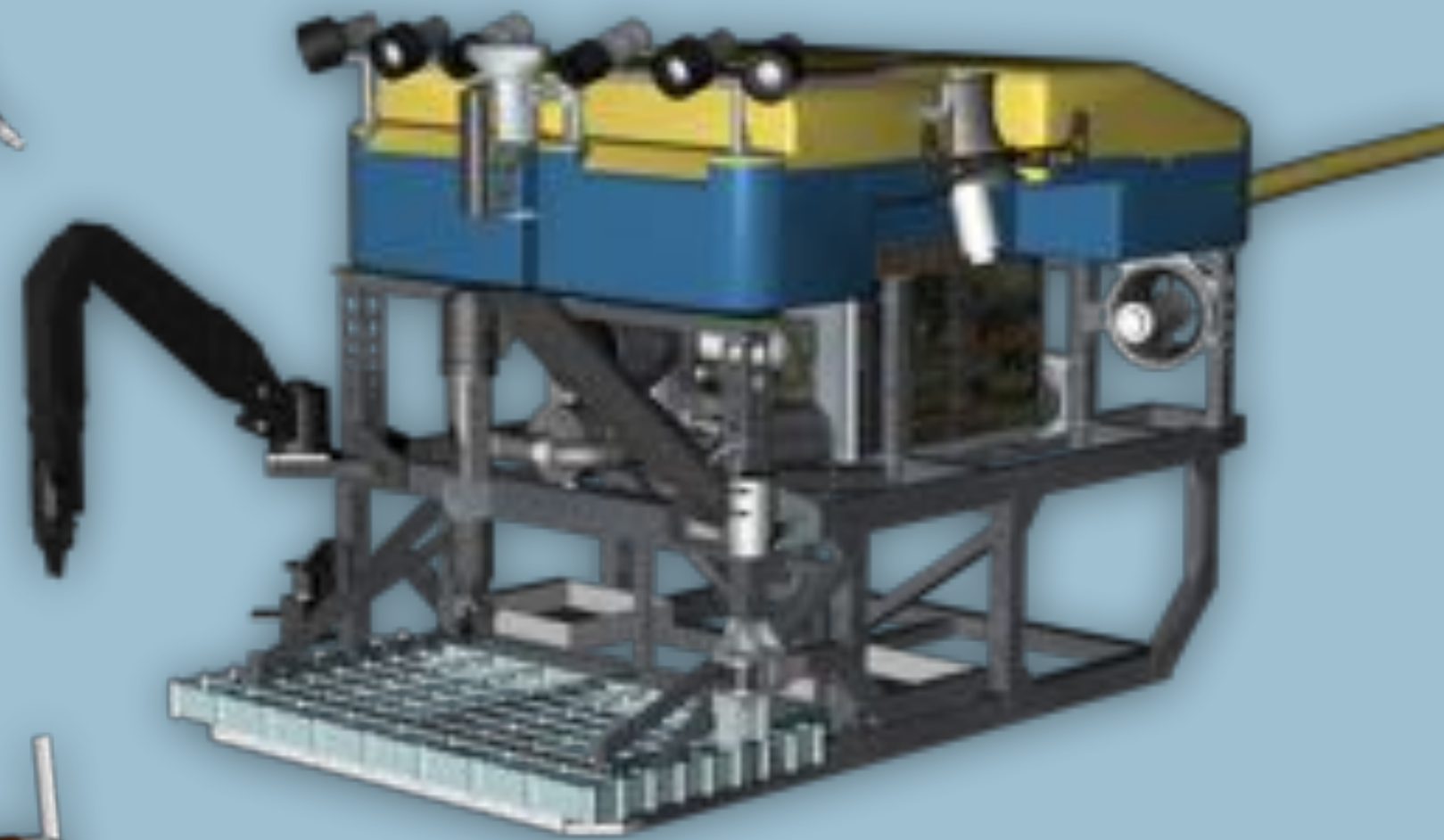
# NDSF NATIONAL DEEP SUBMERGENCE FACILITY



HOV Alvin



ROV Jason



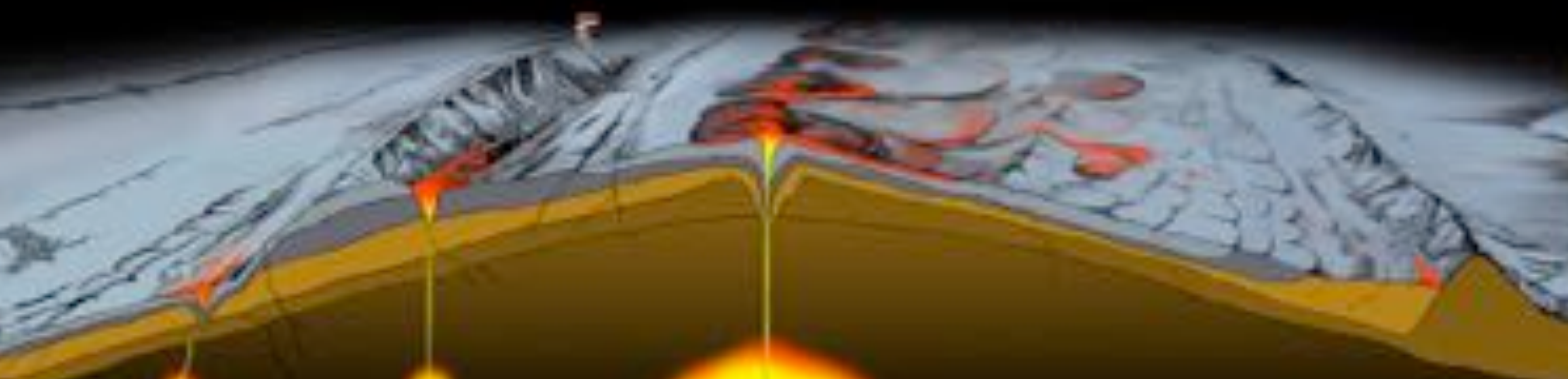
AUV Sentry

The National Deep Submergence Facility provides access to vehicles that take scientists beneath the ocean's surface to observe, sample, and conduct experiments.

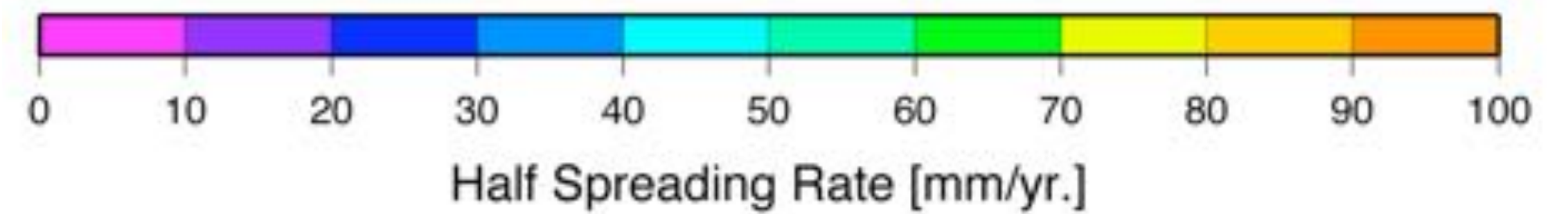
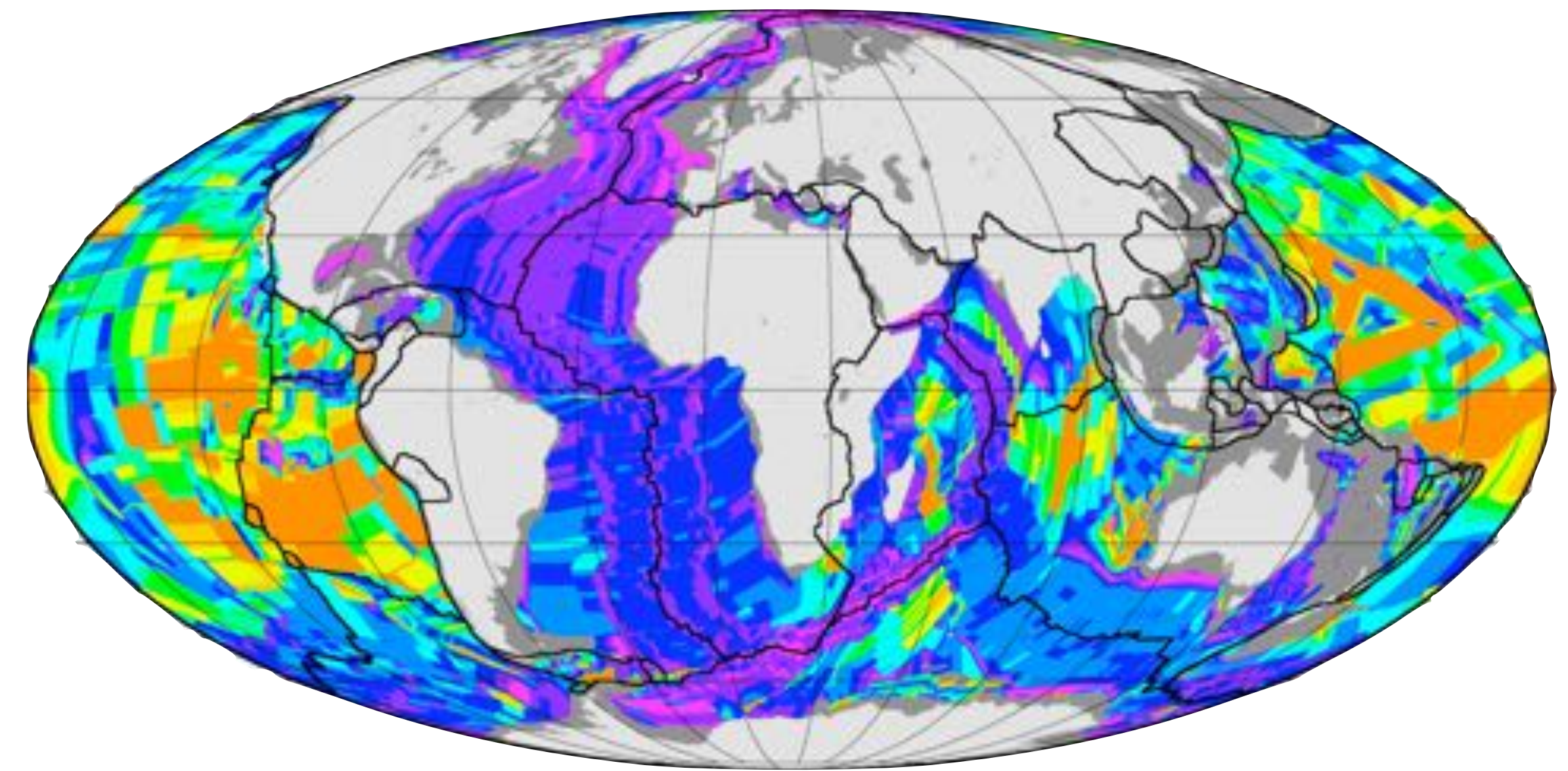
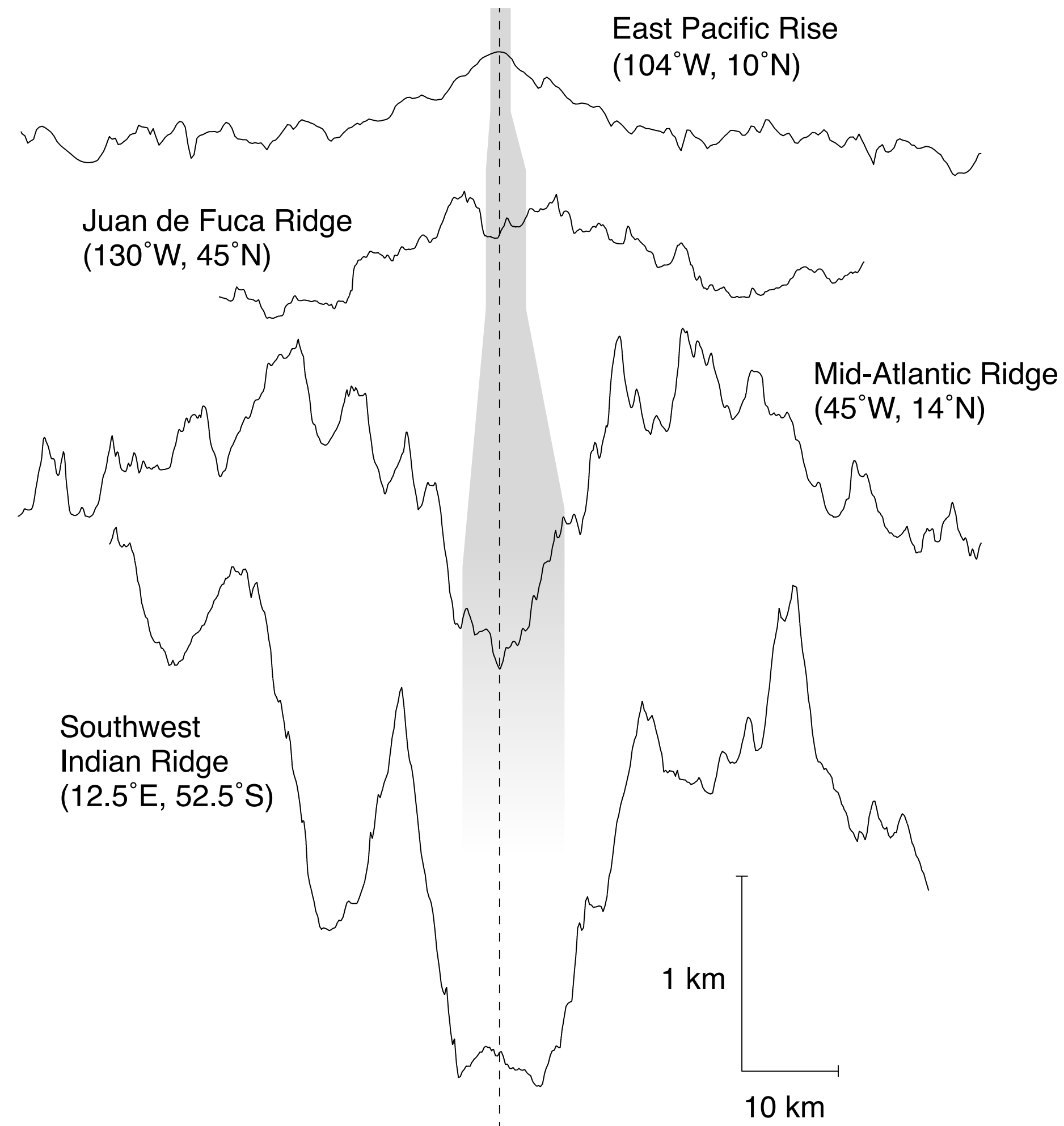
***UNOLS and DeSSC runs a pre-AGU workshop every year to introduce new users to these and other deep submergence vehicles. Go to [www.unols.org](http://www.unols.org) for more info.***



# Mid-Ocean Ridges



# Mid-Ocean Ridge Volcanism

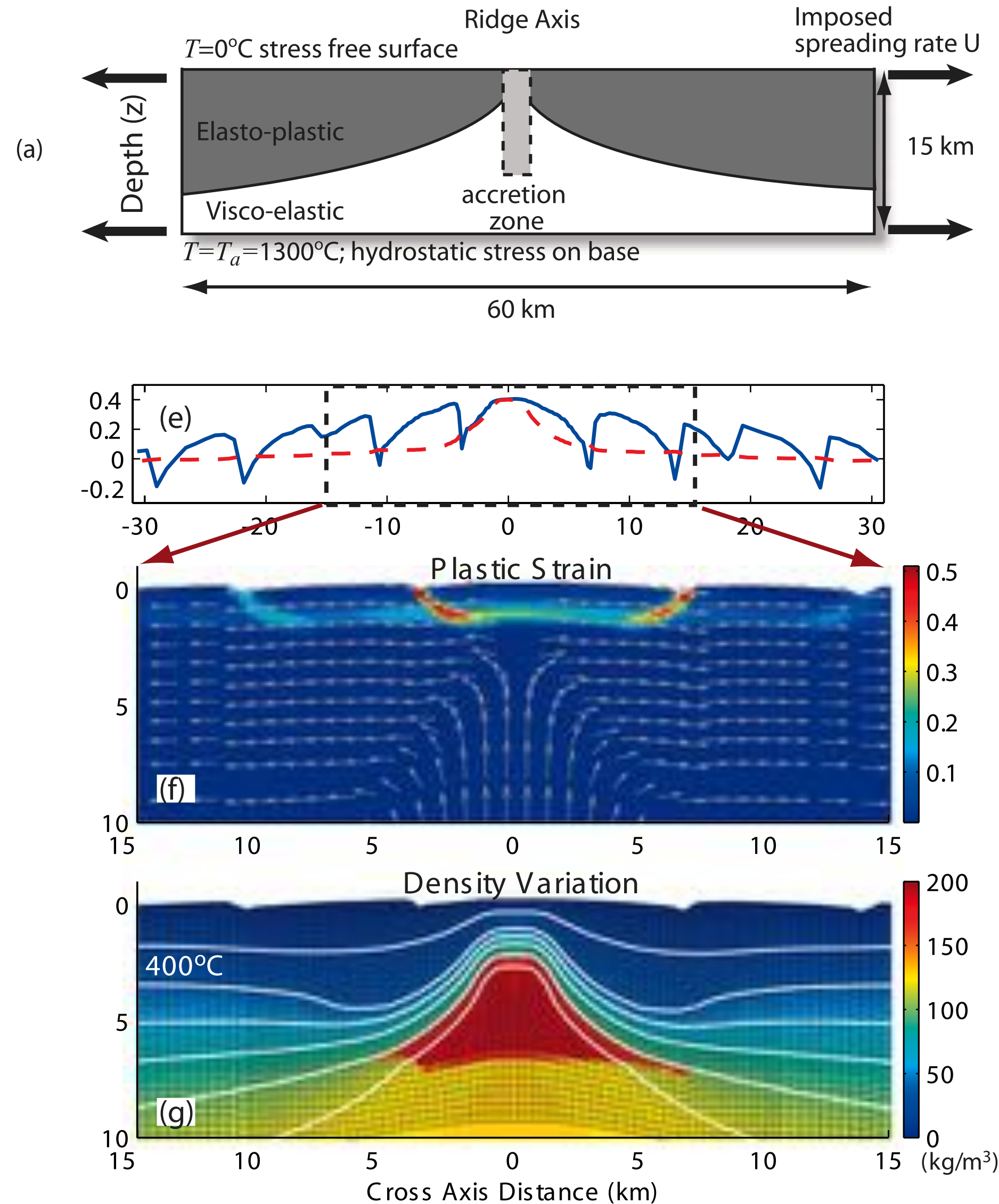
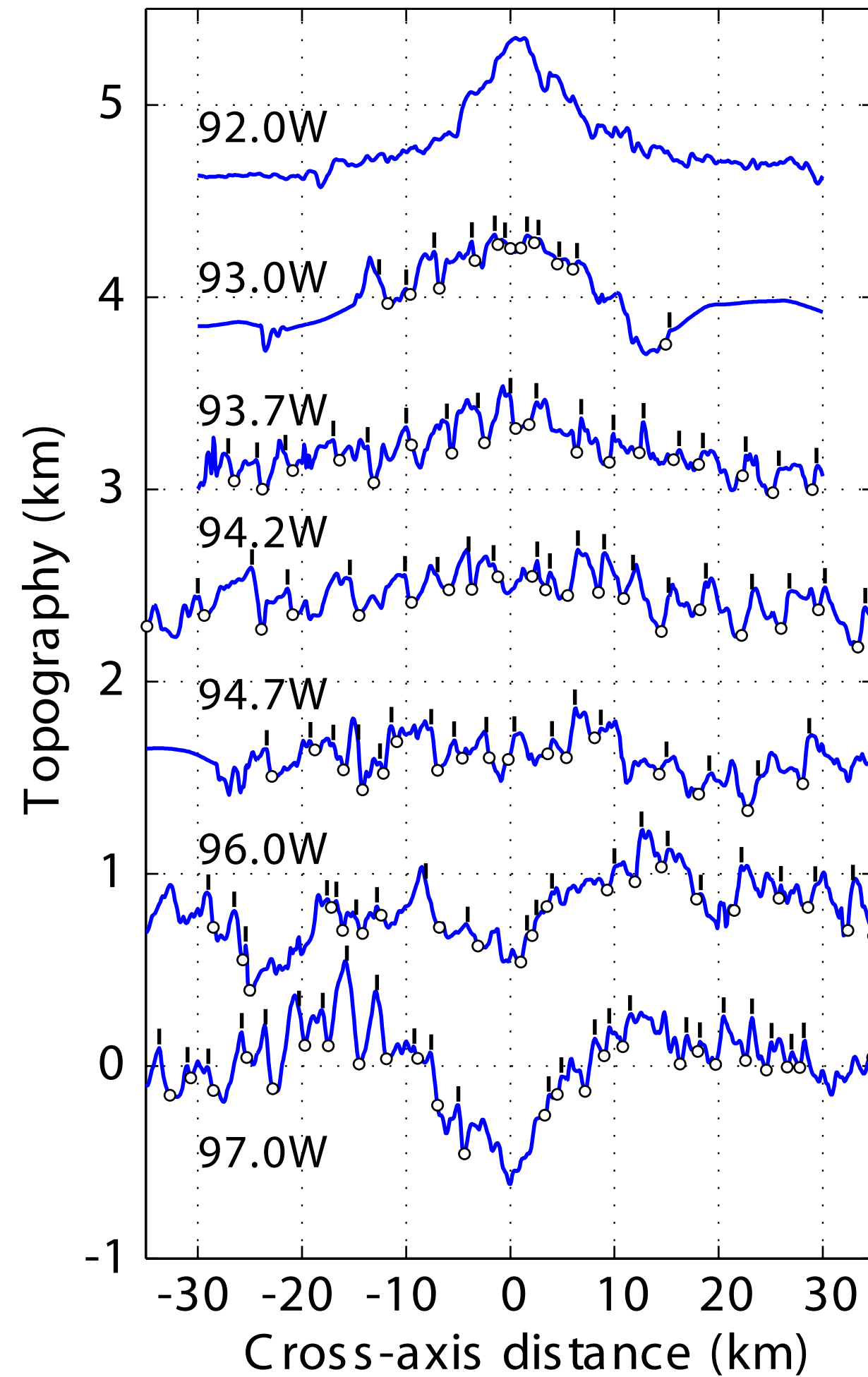


Soule, 2016

The global mid-ocean ridge can be categorized by spreading rate, which loosely predicts a number of ridge characteristics: morphology, magma lens depth, hydroxyl plume incidence.

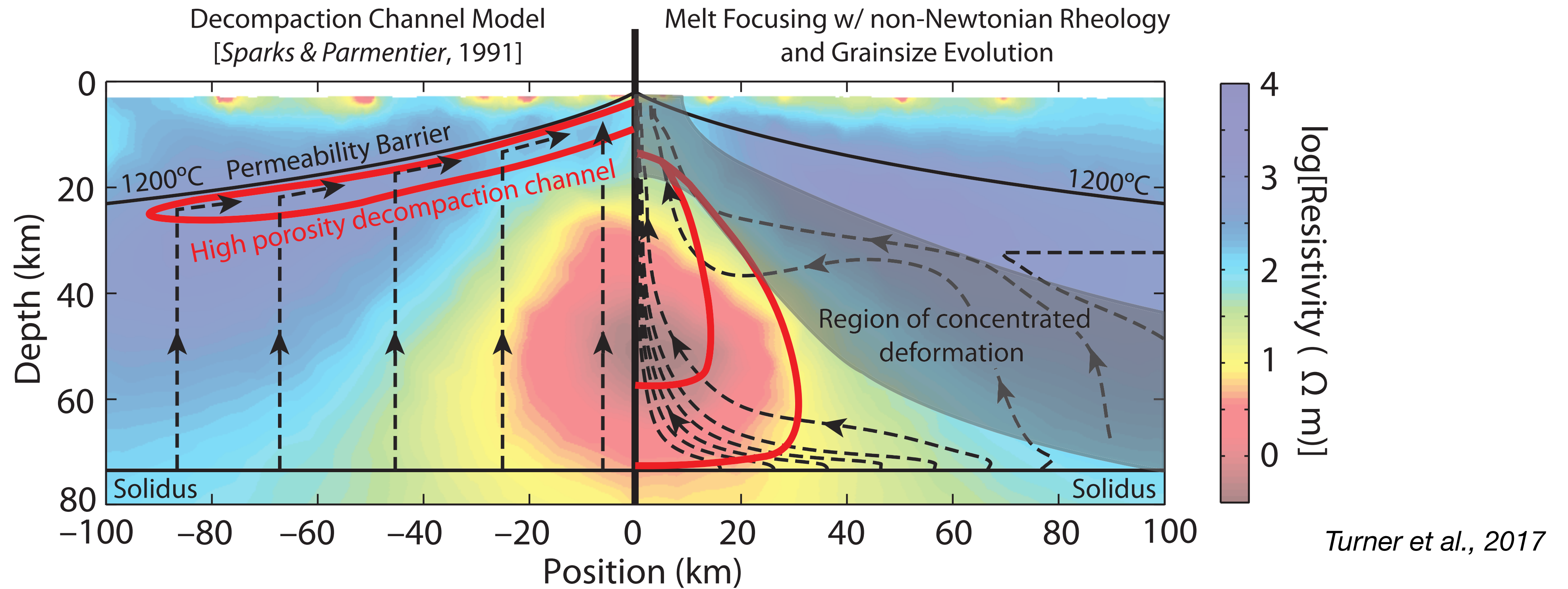
# Magmatic and Tectonic Extension: M

## Galápagos Spreading Center



- Differences in ridge morphology can be attributed to the fraction of spreading accommodated by magmatic intrusion relative to tectonic extension ( $M$ ).
- High magmatism ( $M > 0.75$ ) yields symmetric spreading with an axial high.
- Moderate magmatism ( $0.75 > M > 0.5$ ) yields symmetric spreading and an axial valley.
- Low magmatism ( $M < 0.5$ ) yields asymmetric spreading - i.e., low-angle detachment faults.

# MOR Magma Generation

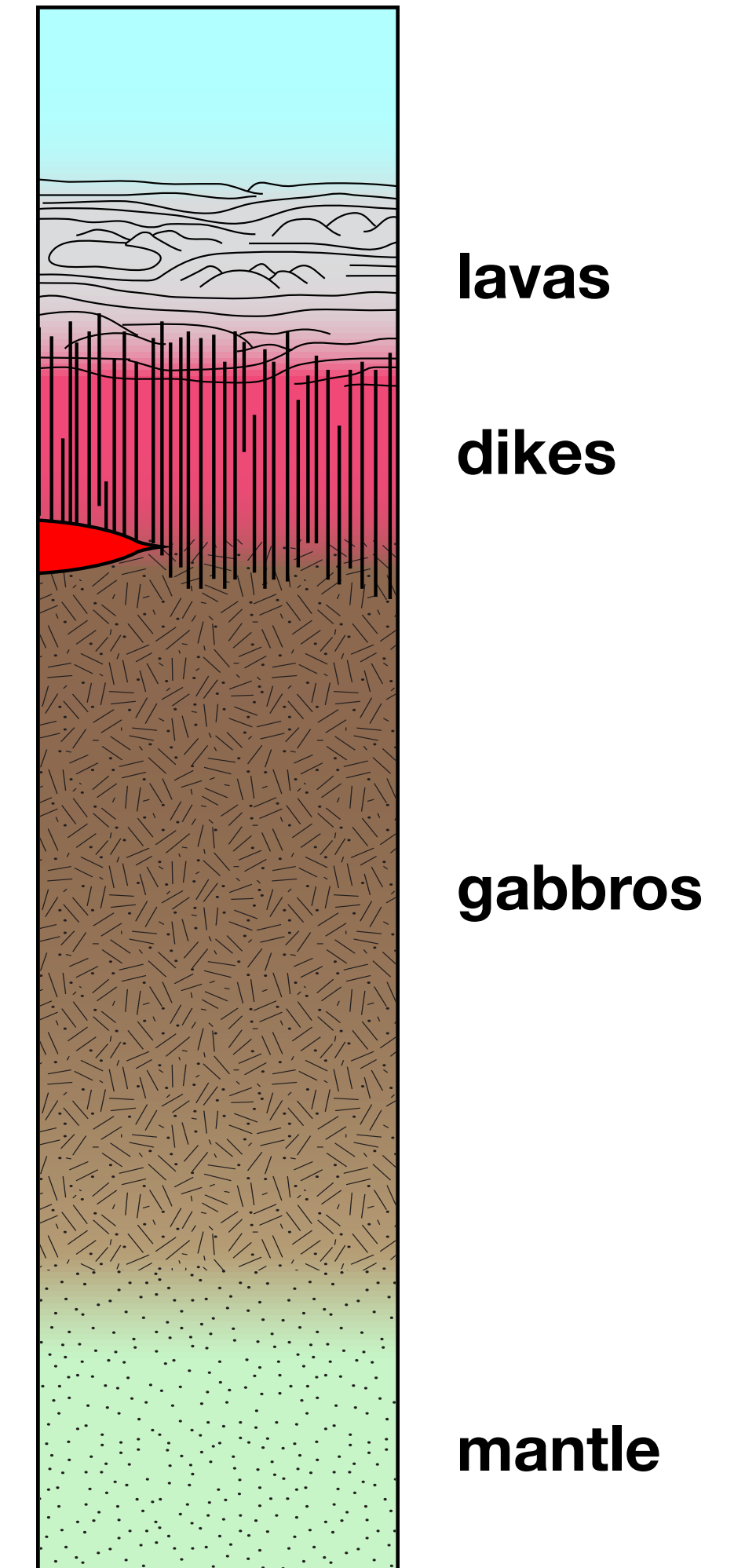
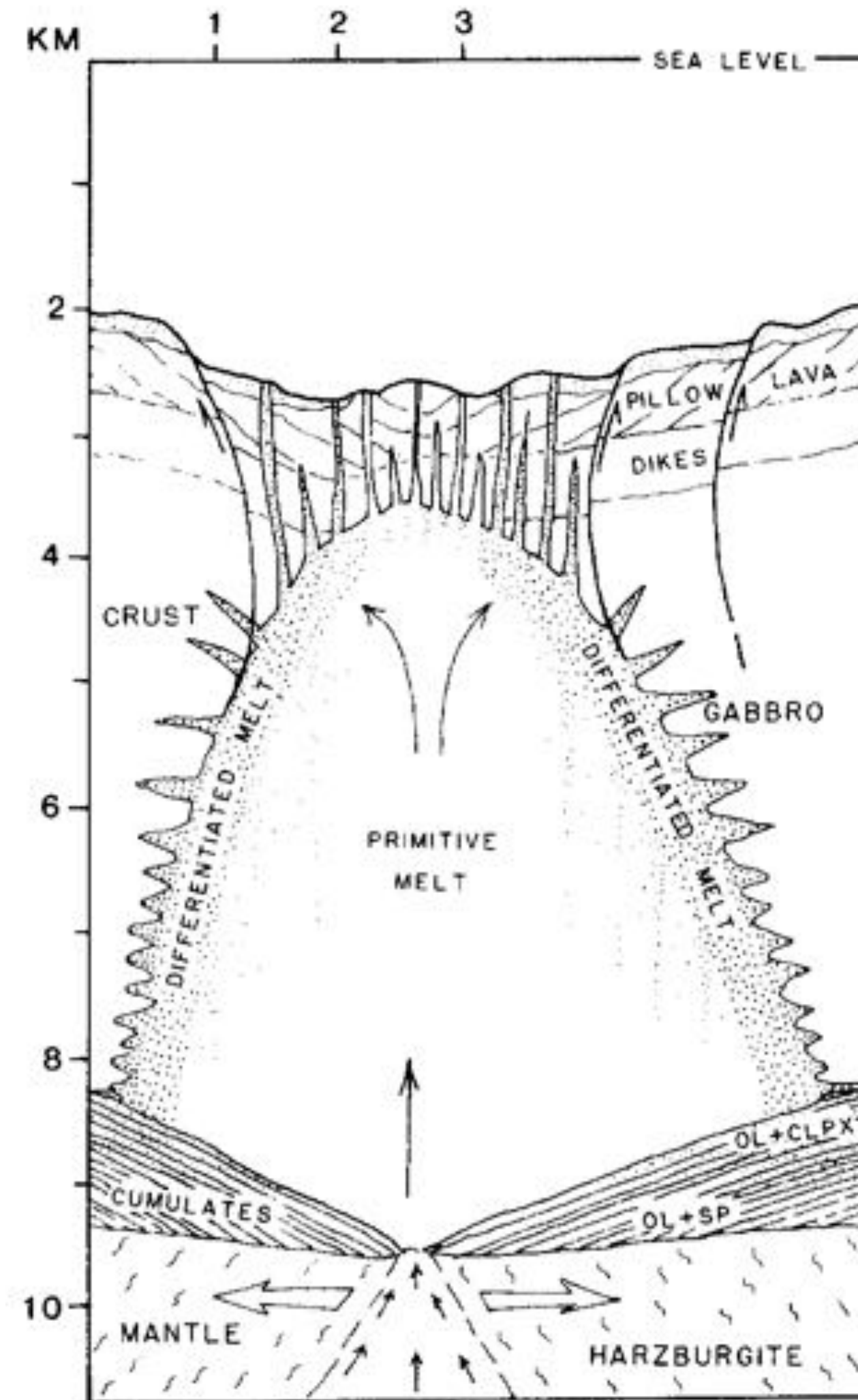


Magma supply is related to spreading rate, which sets the vertical flux through the melting region.

1. Fairly remarkable that a 100-200 km wide melting region is ultimately focused to a narrow (1-5 km wide) zone of volcanism.
2. Samples a large region of presumably well-mixed mantle that helps define length-scales of heterogeneity.

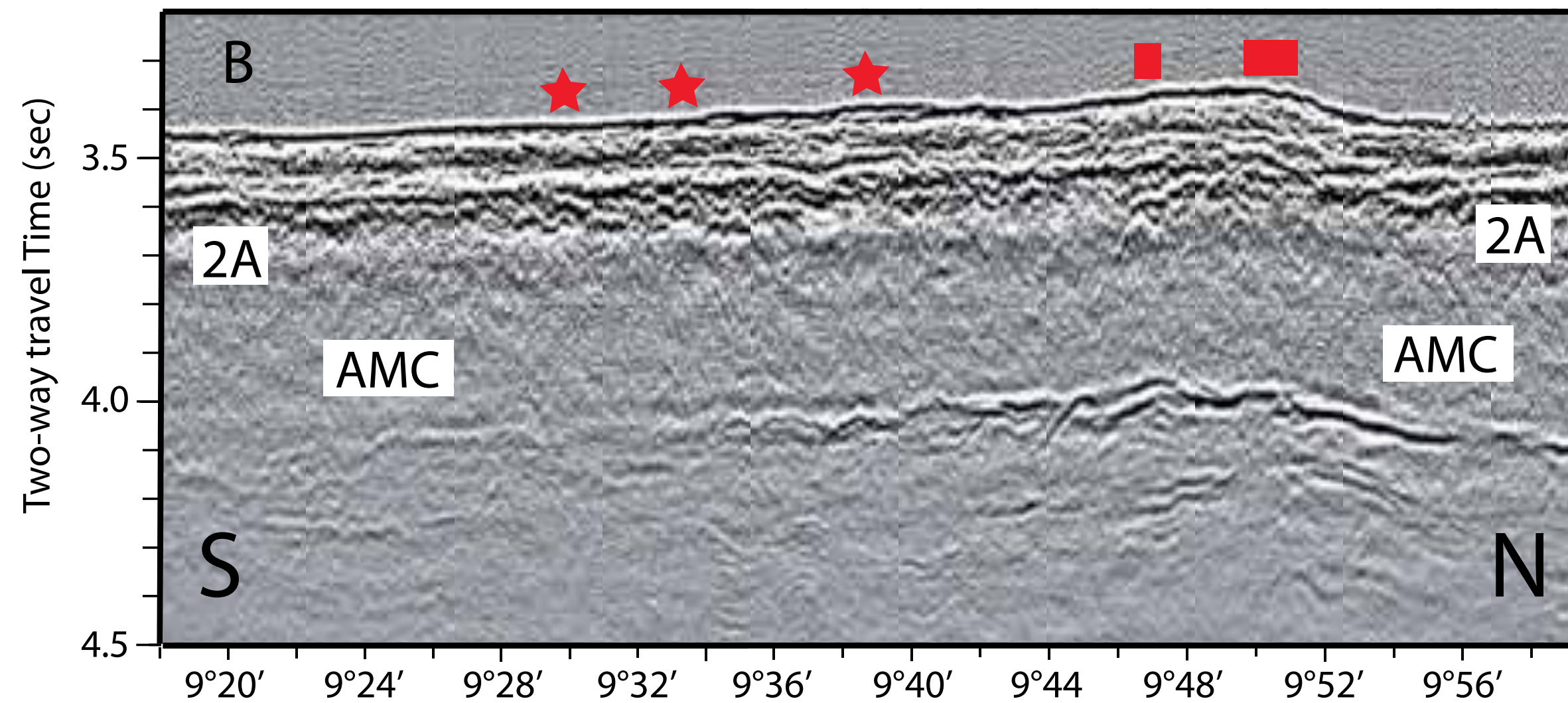
# MOR magma chambers

- Semi-permanent
- MORB magmas reflect homogenization of melts and fractional crystallization within the chamber.
- Periodic reinjection of fresh, primitive MORB
- Dikes upward through extending/faulting roof
- Crystallization at top and sides → successive layers of gabbro (layer 3) “infinite onion”
- Dense olivine and pyroxene crystals → ultramafic cumulates (layer 4)

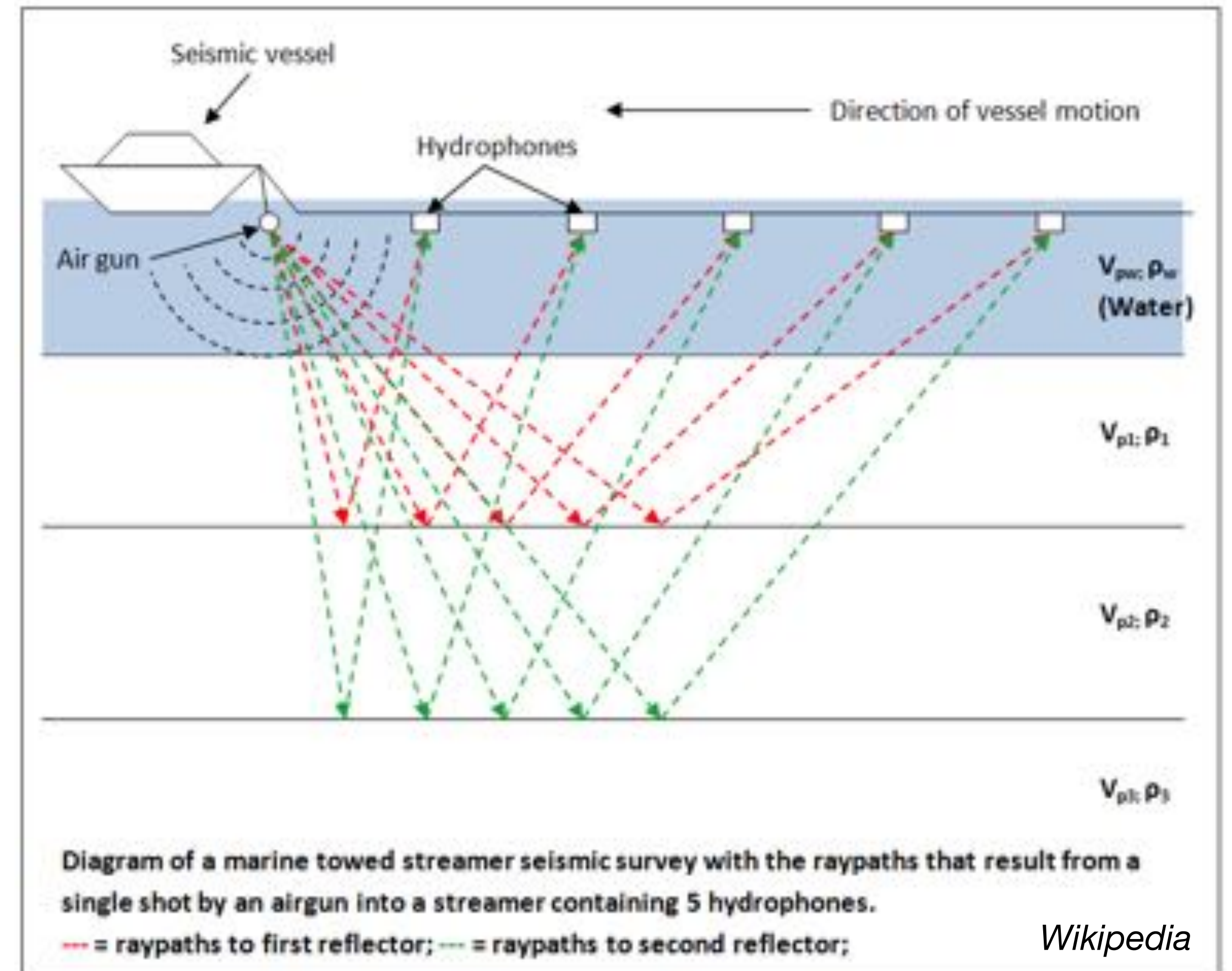


*Byran and Moore (1977)*

# Seismic Reflection Imaging at Mid-Ocean Ridges



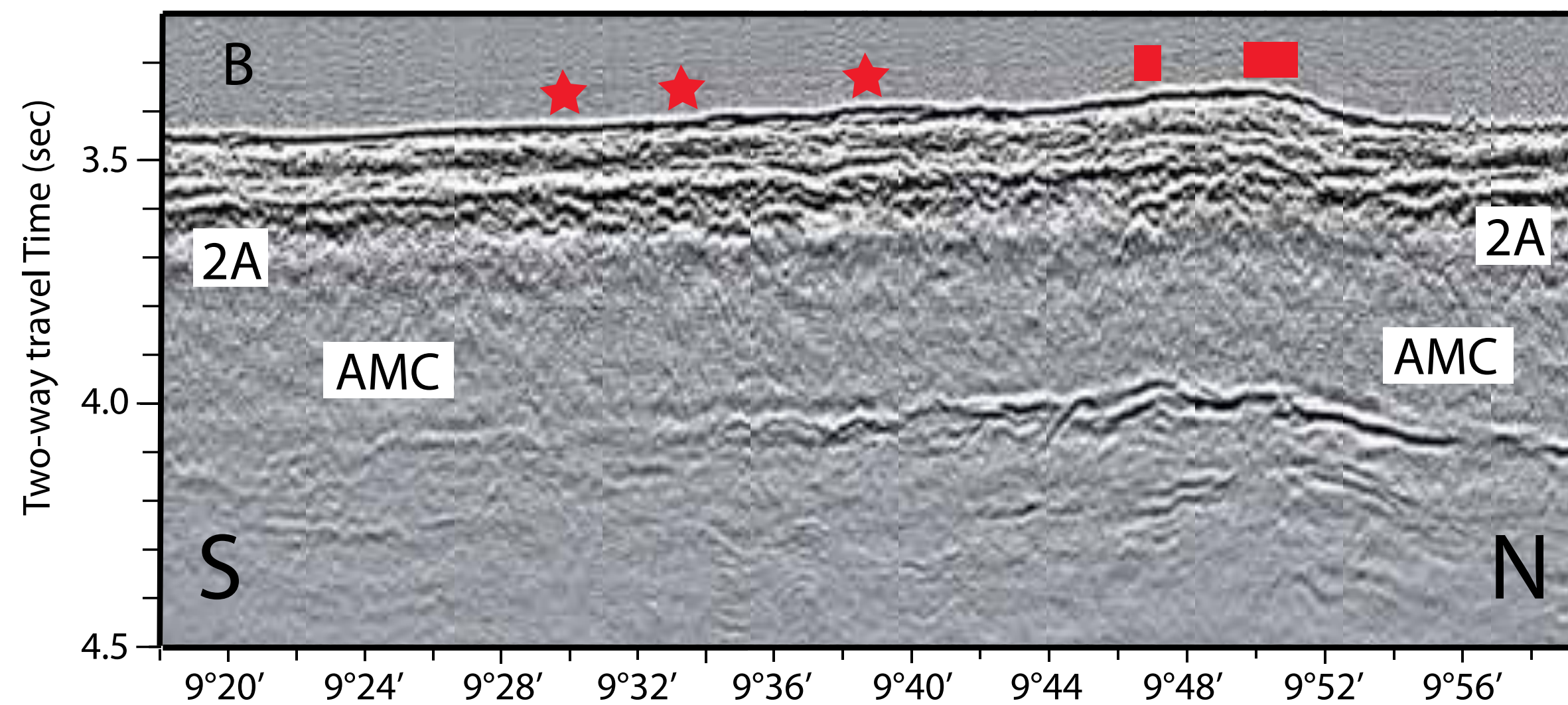
Van Ark et al., 2007



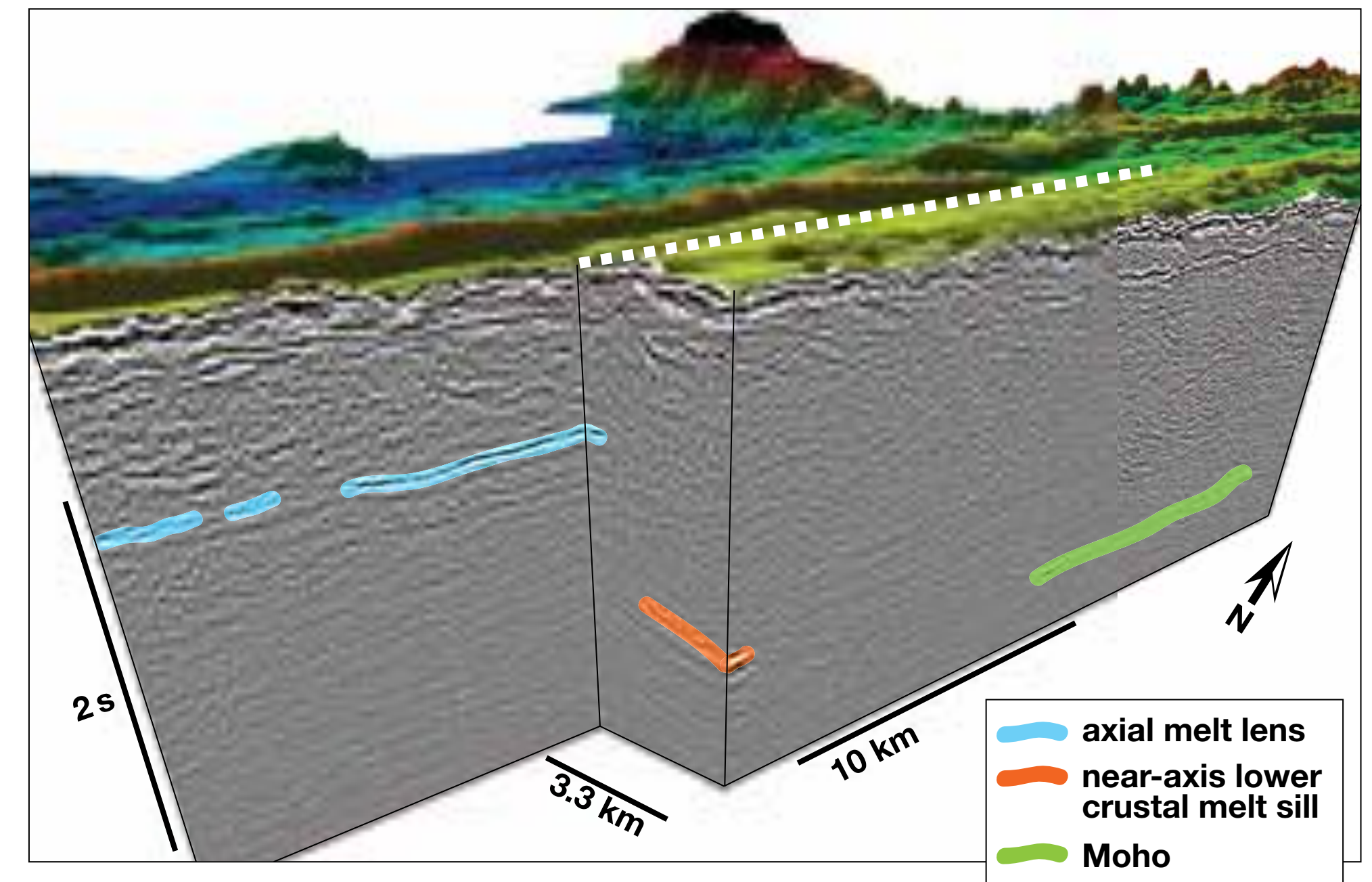
Wikipedia

Multi-channel seismic reflection have significantly improved our conception of the extent and complexity of mid-ocean ridge melt distribution and revealed connections to hydrothermal circulation and eruption processes.

# Seismic Reflection Imaging at Mid-Ocean Ridges



*Van Ark et al., 2007*

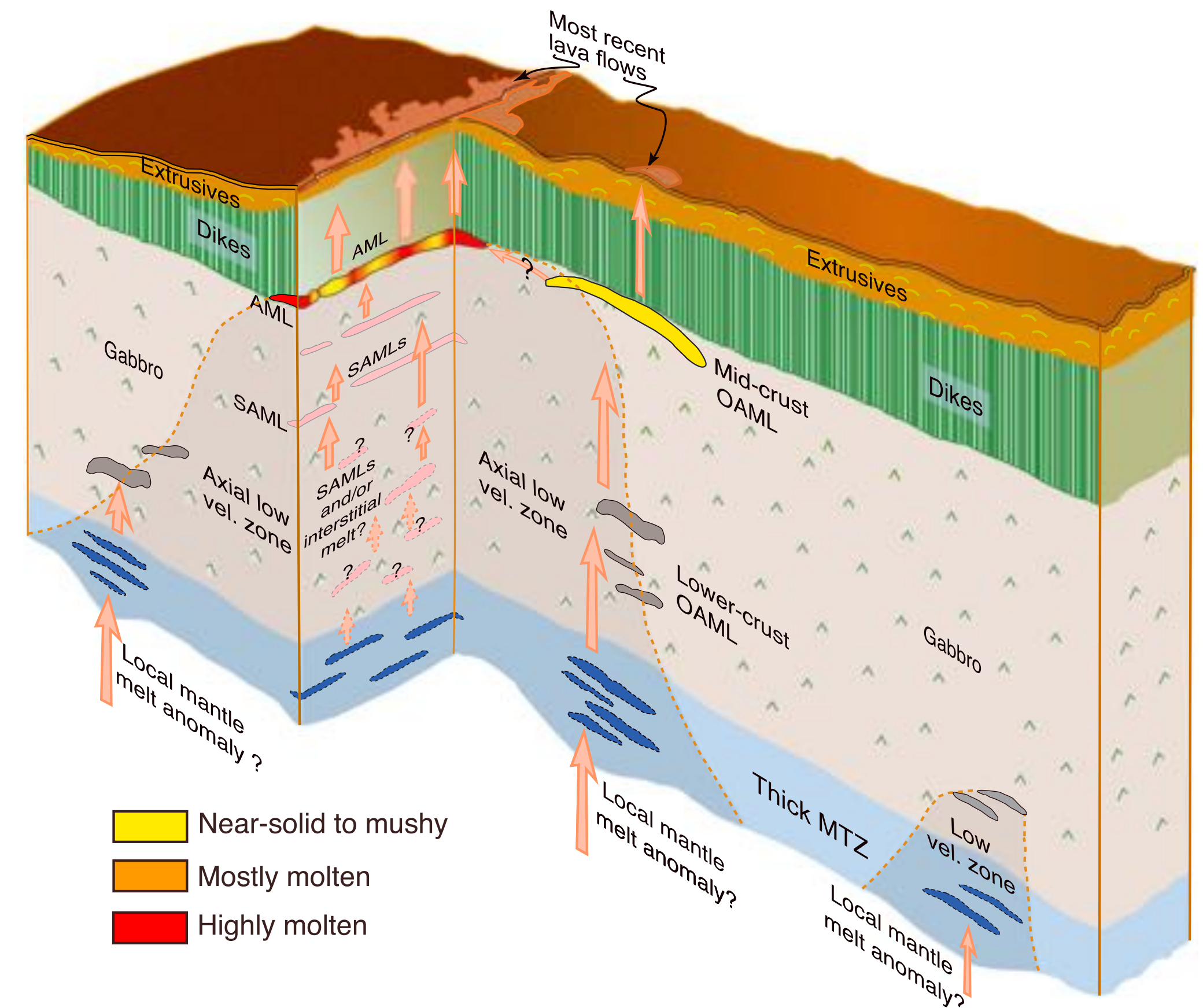
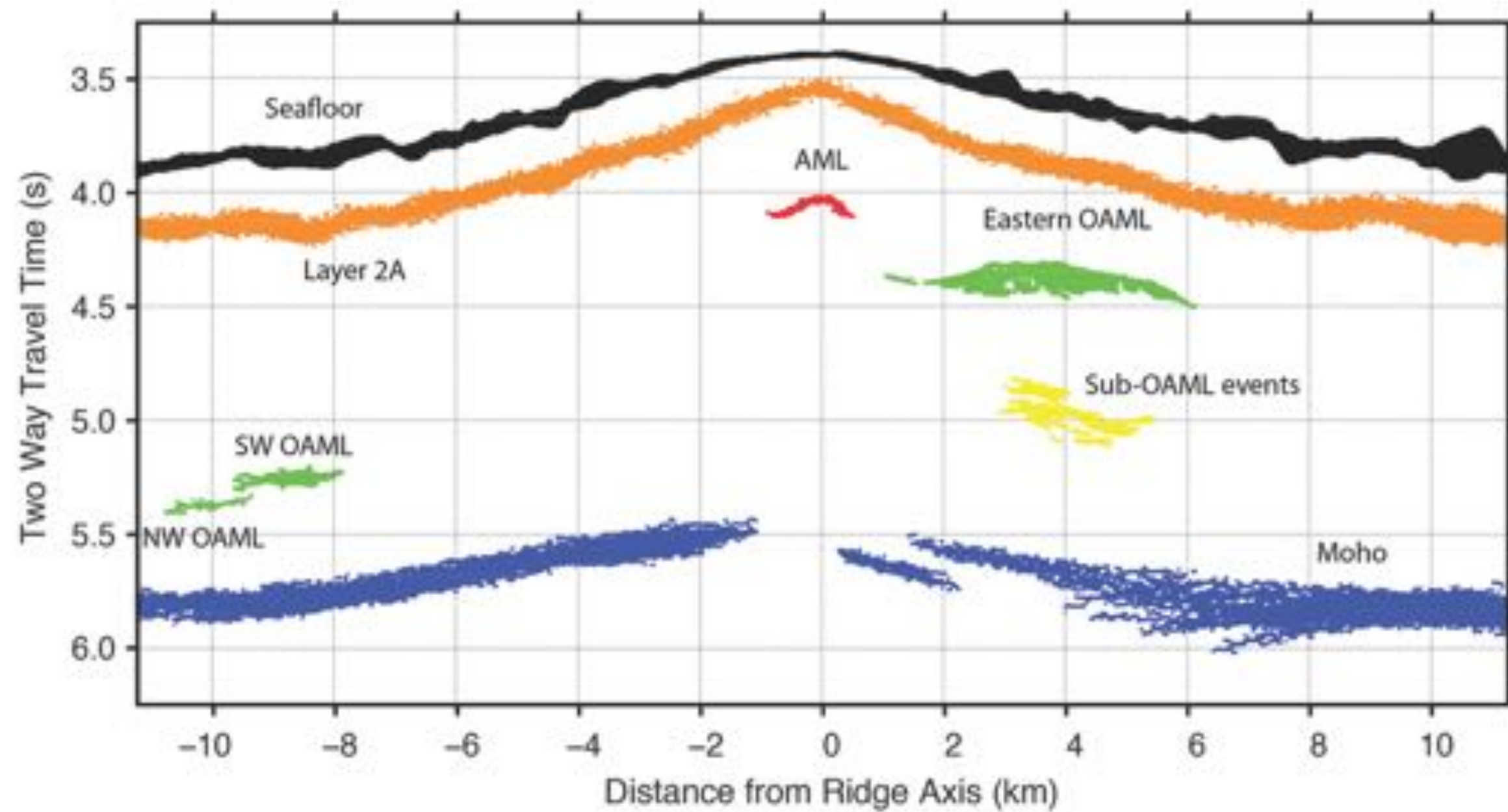


*Canales et al., 2009*

Multi-channel seismic reflection have significantly improved our conception of the extent and complexity of mid-ocean ridge melt distribution and revealed connections to hydrothermal circulation and eruption processes.

# Seismic reflection imaging of ocean crust

Stacked across-axis MCS lines

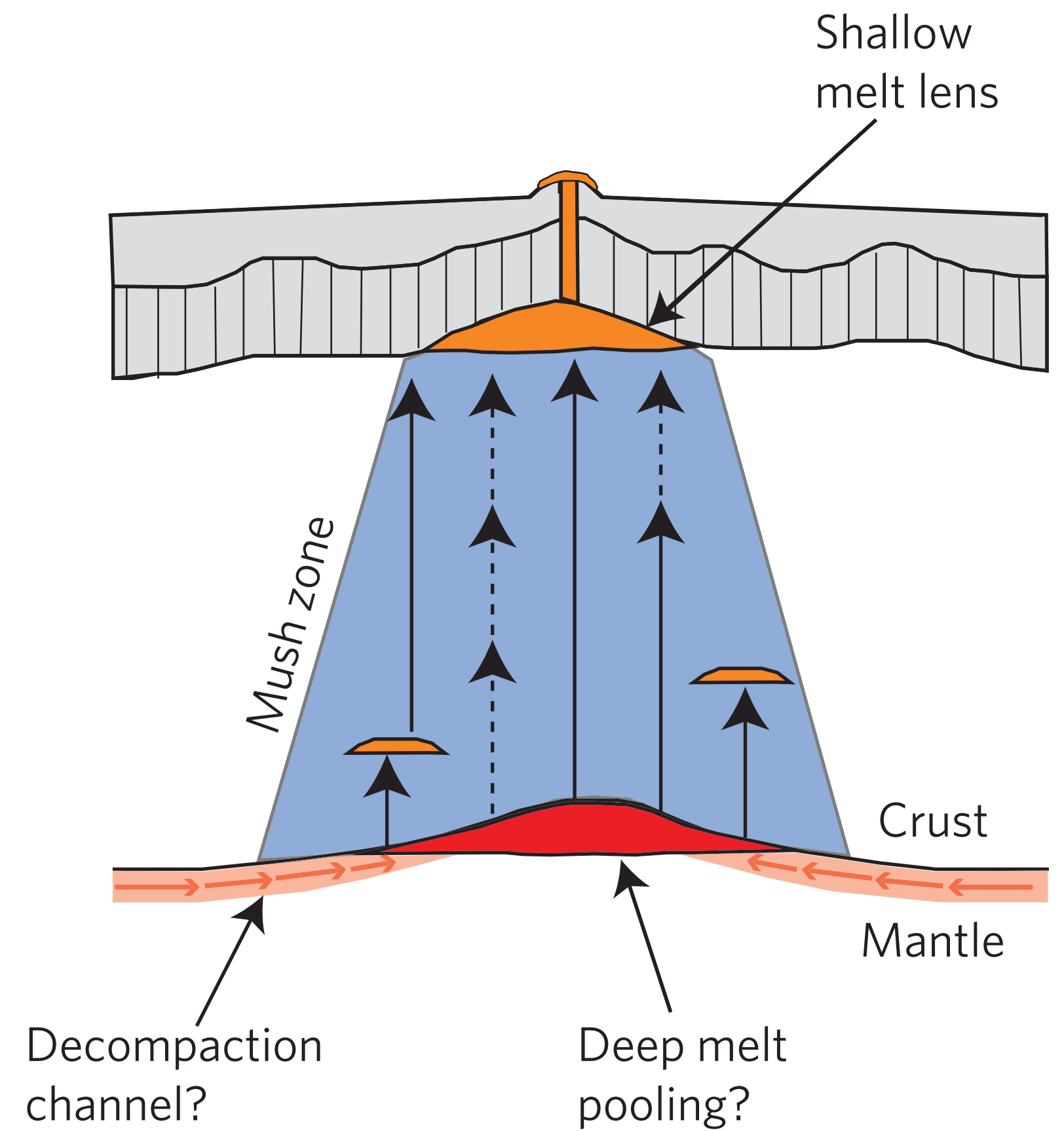
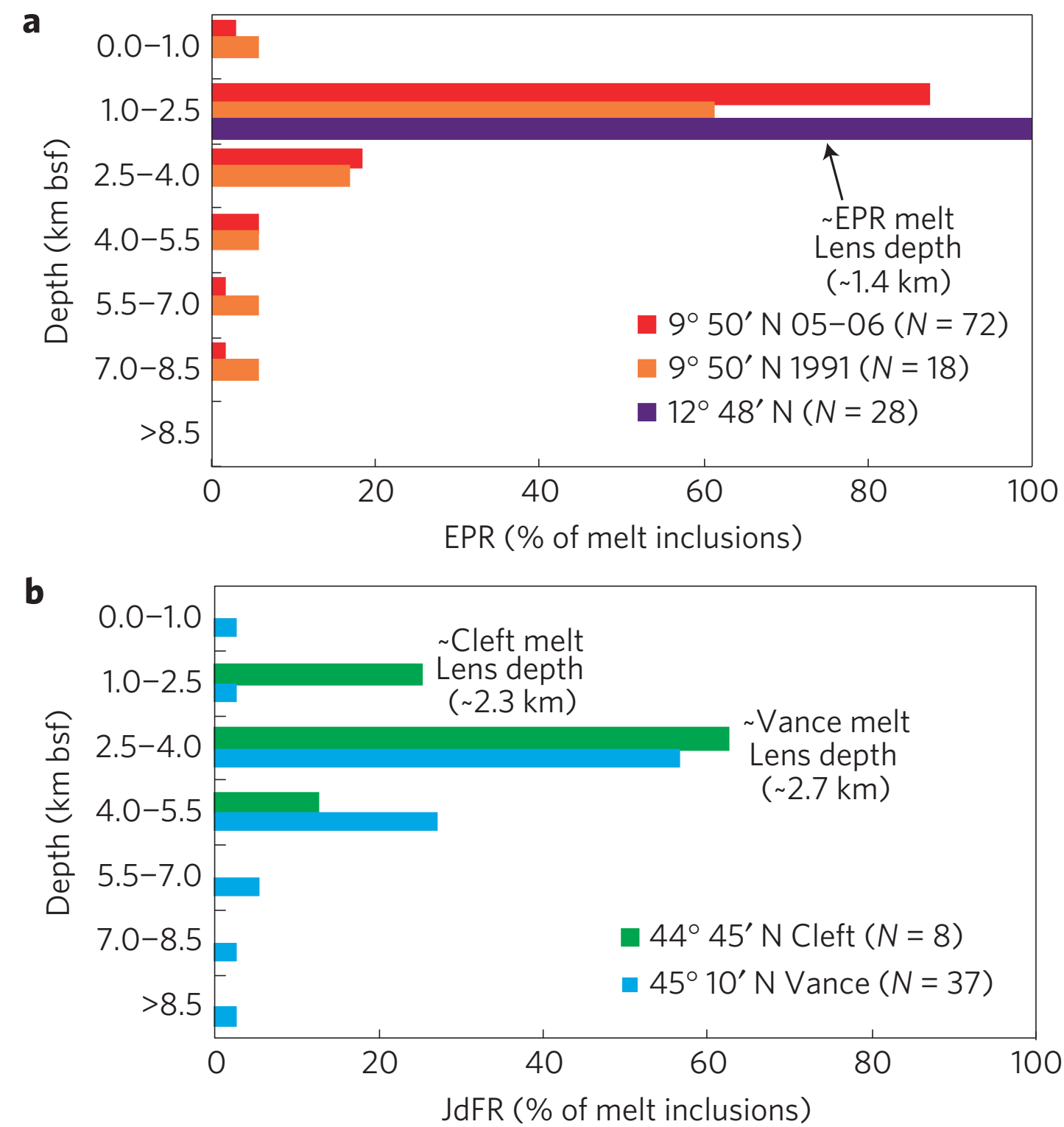
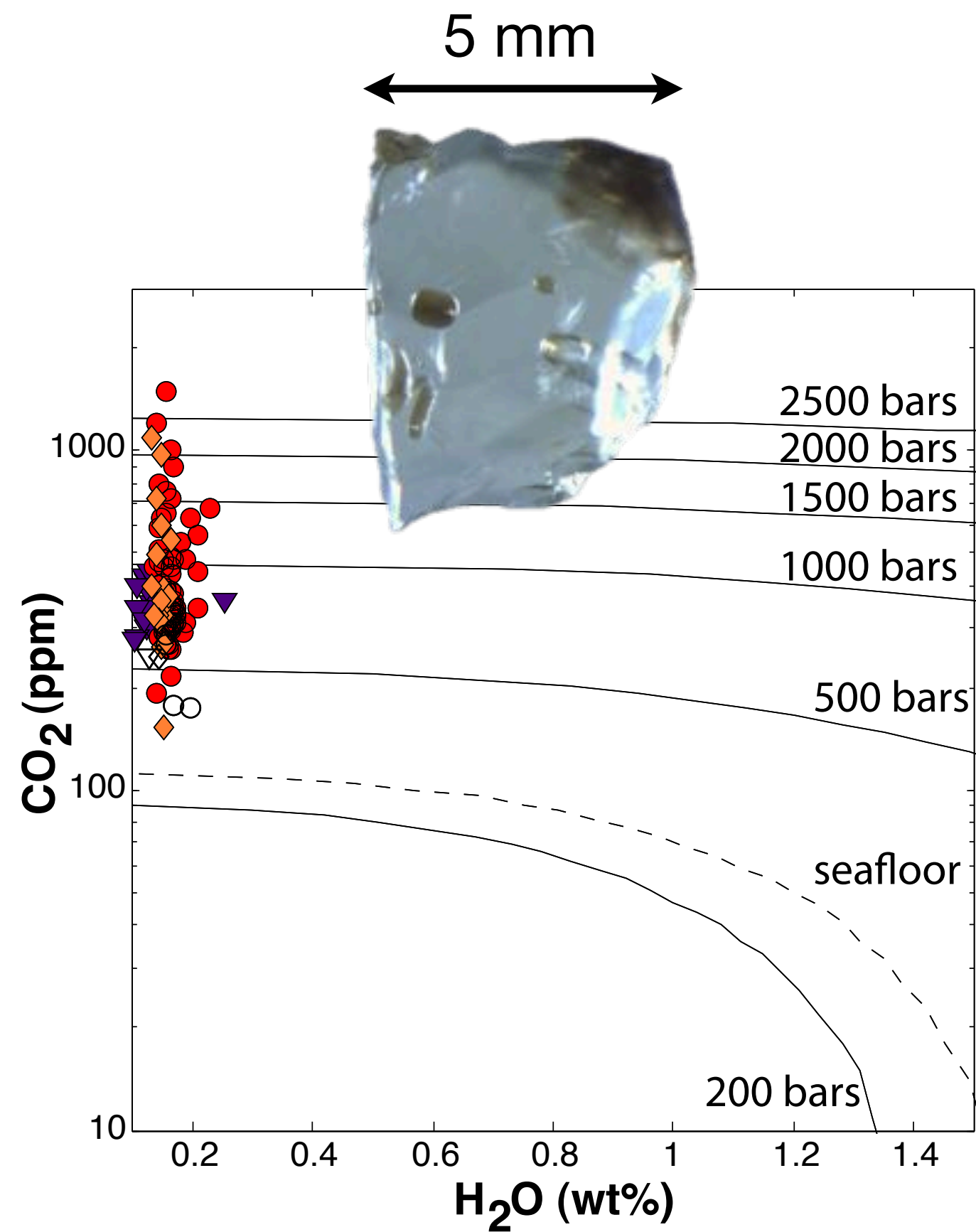


Aghaei et al., 2017

Current conception of fast and intermediate spreading rate magmatic systems look alot like the TCMS envisioned for terrestrial arcs, but compressed to 6-ish km.

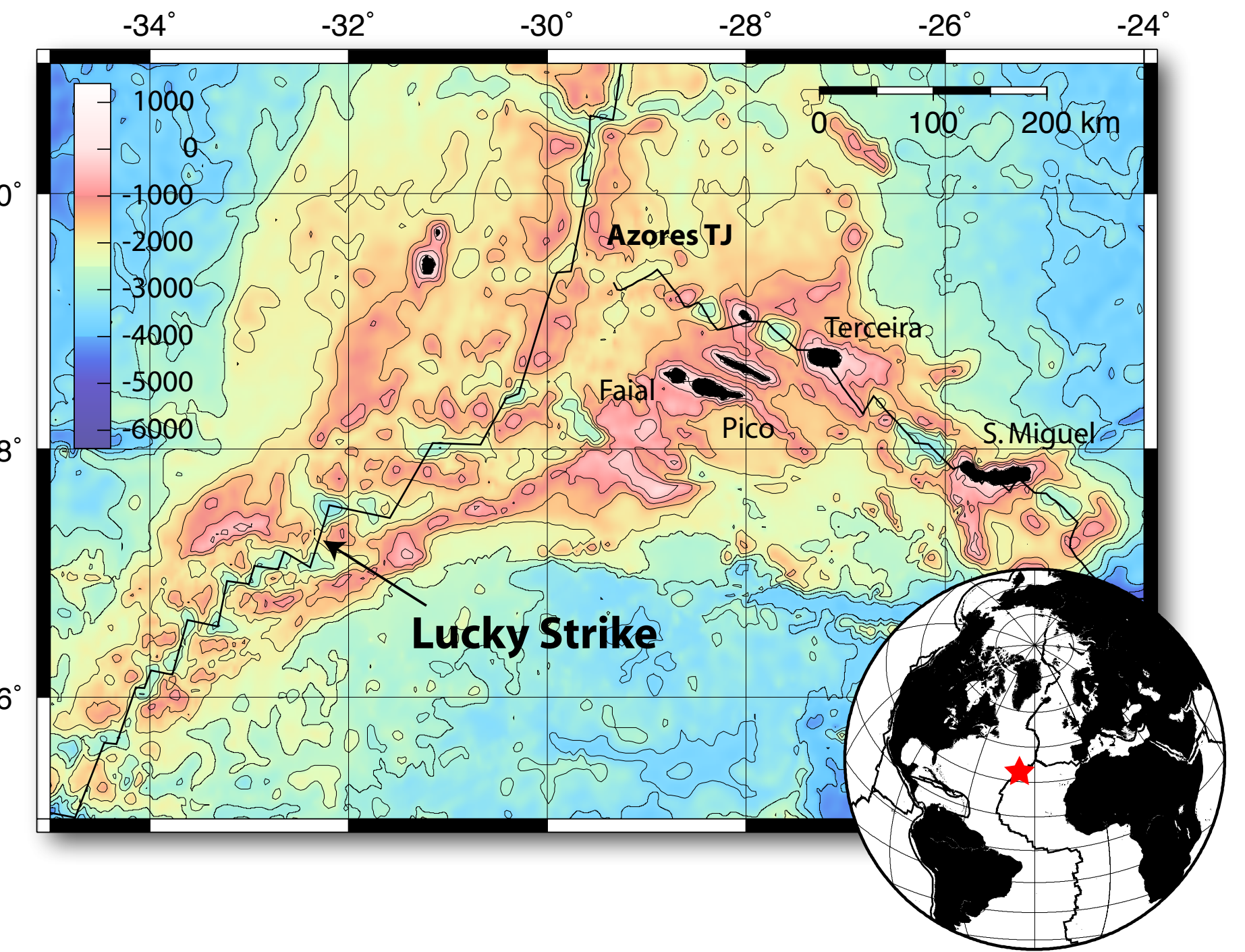
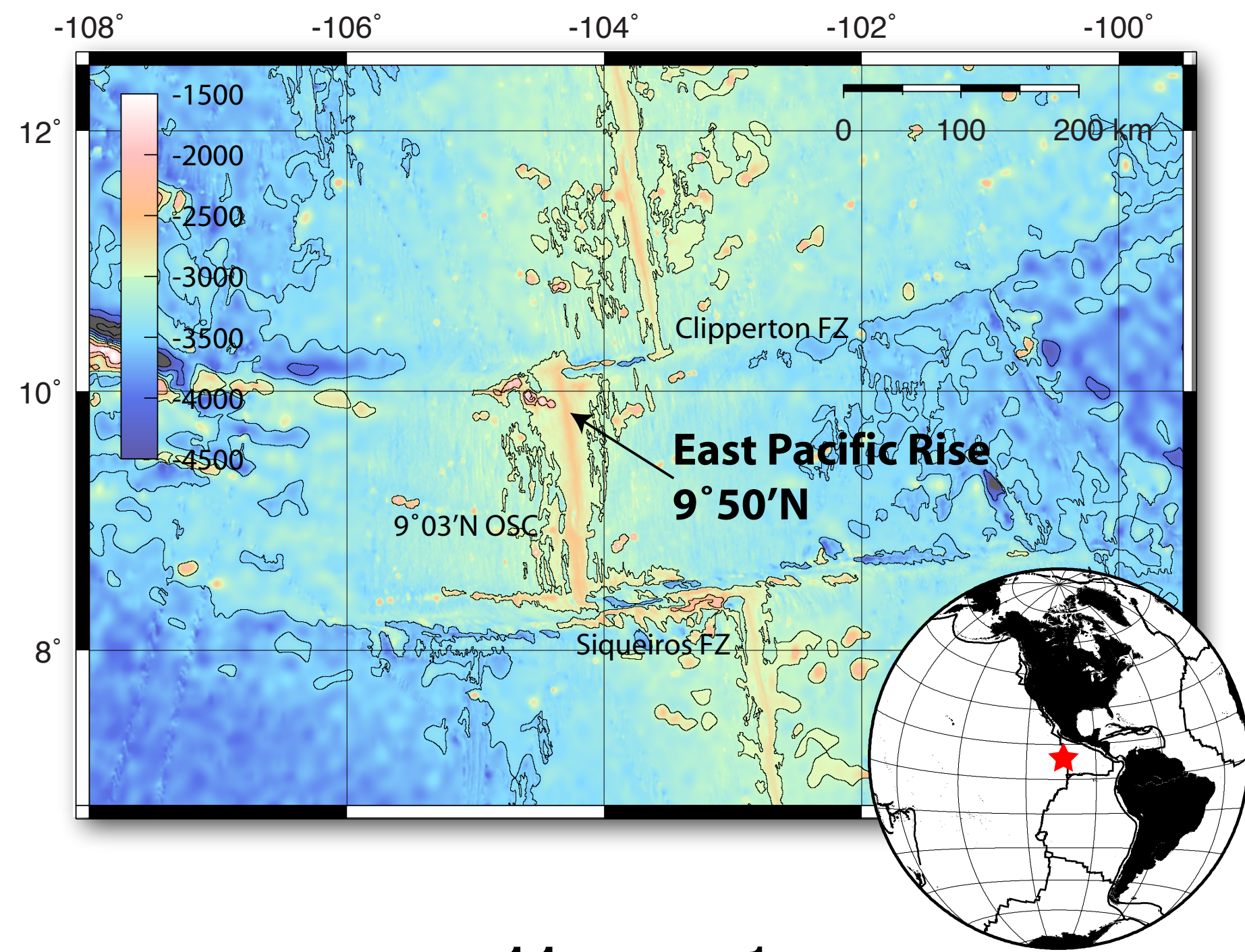


# Construction of the lower oceanic crust

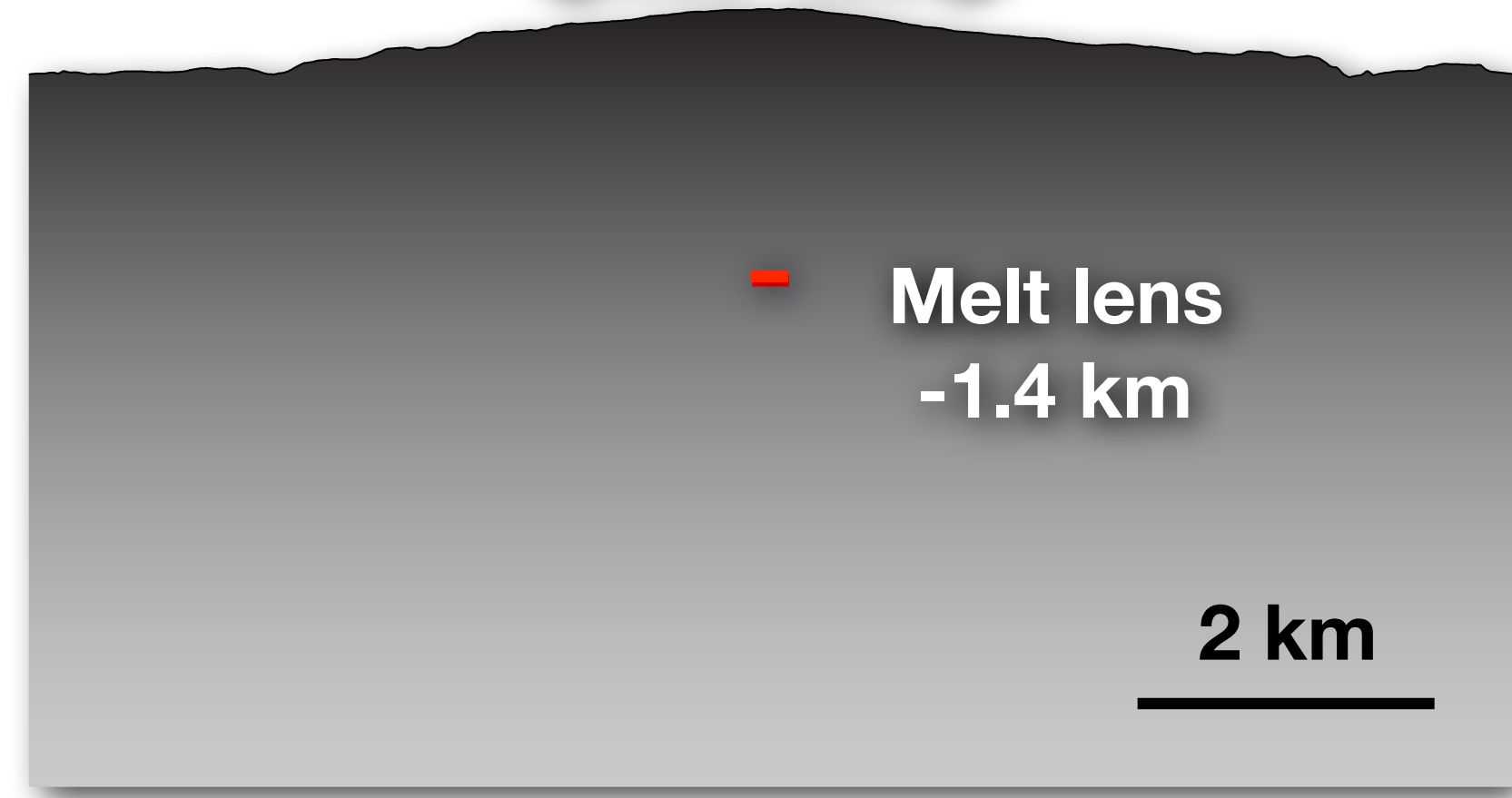


Wanless & Shaw, 2012

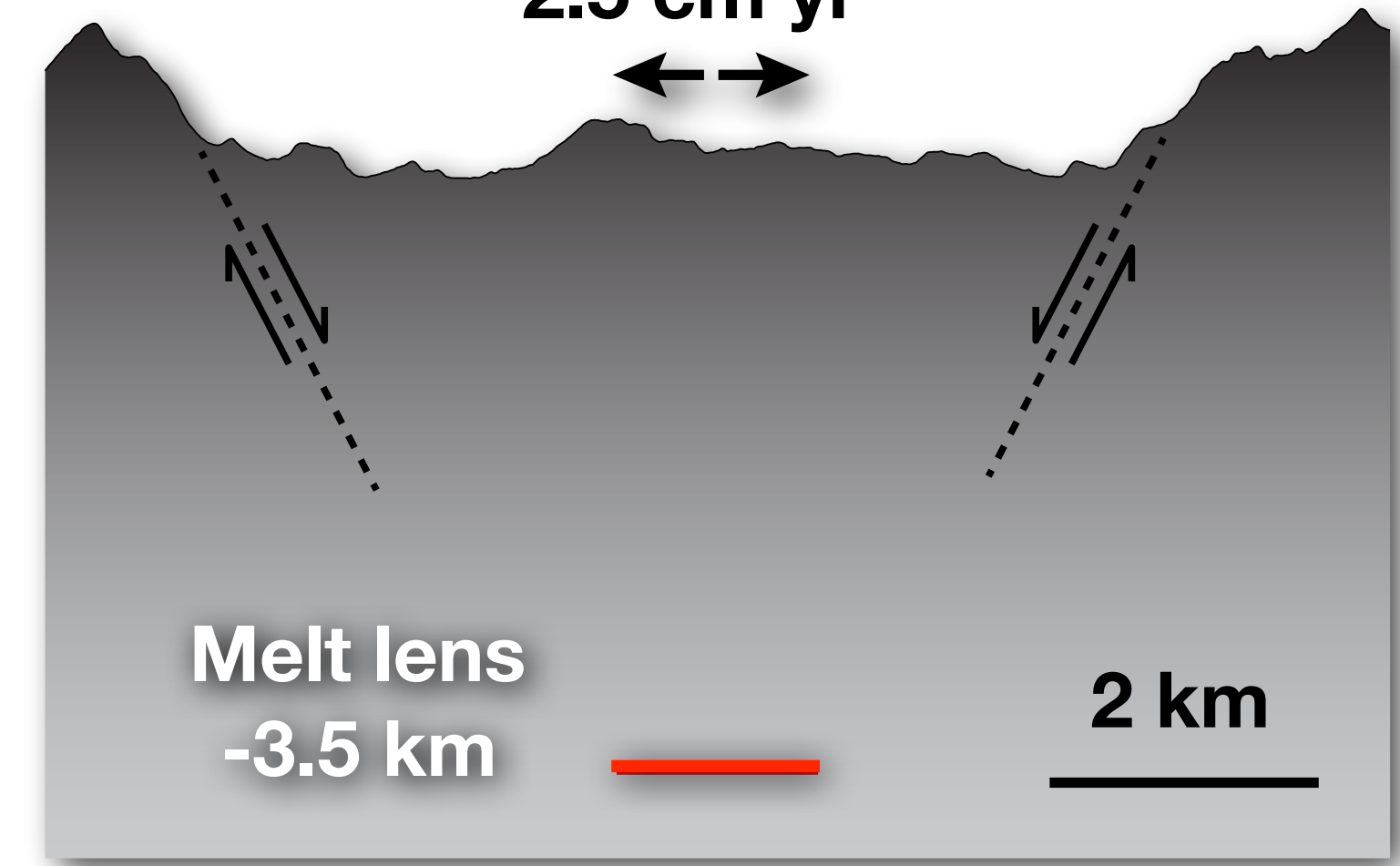
Olivine hosted melt inclusions indicate crystallization primarily in melt lens at depths consistent with seismic reflection, but also throughout the lower crust.

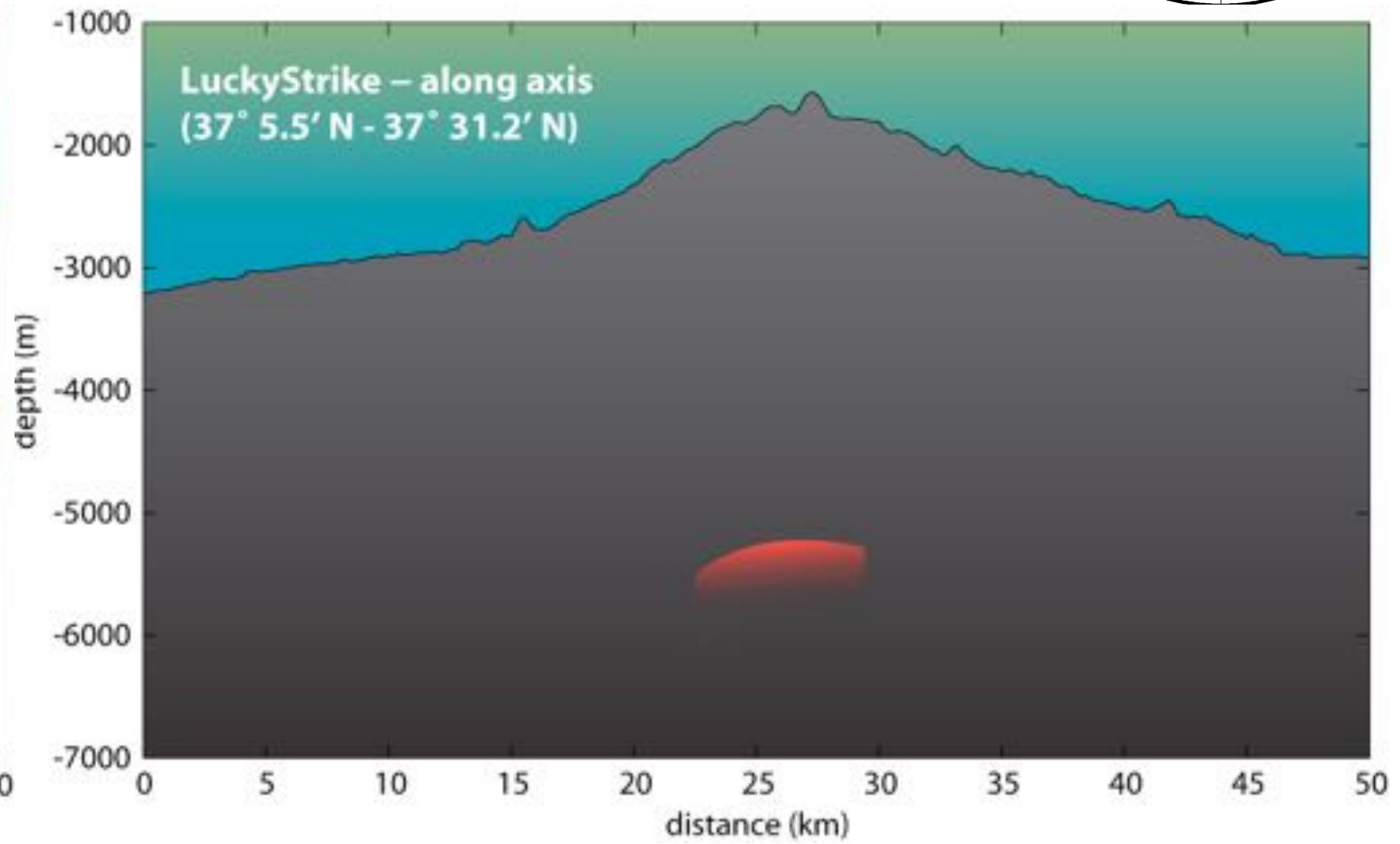
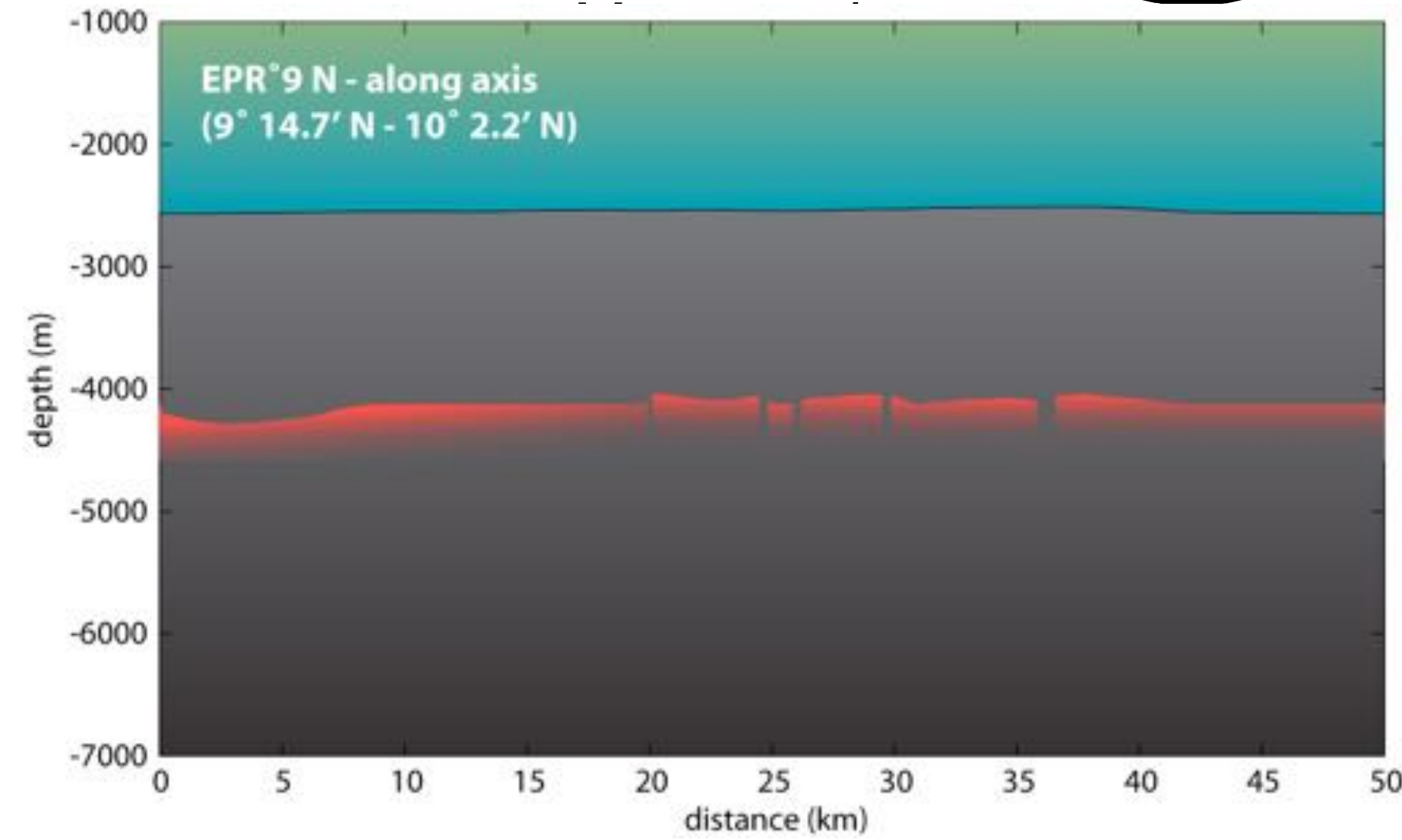
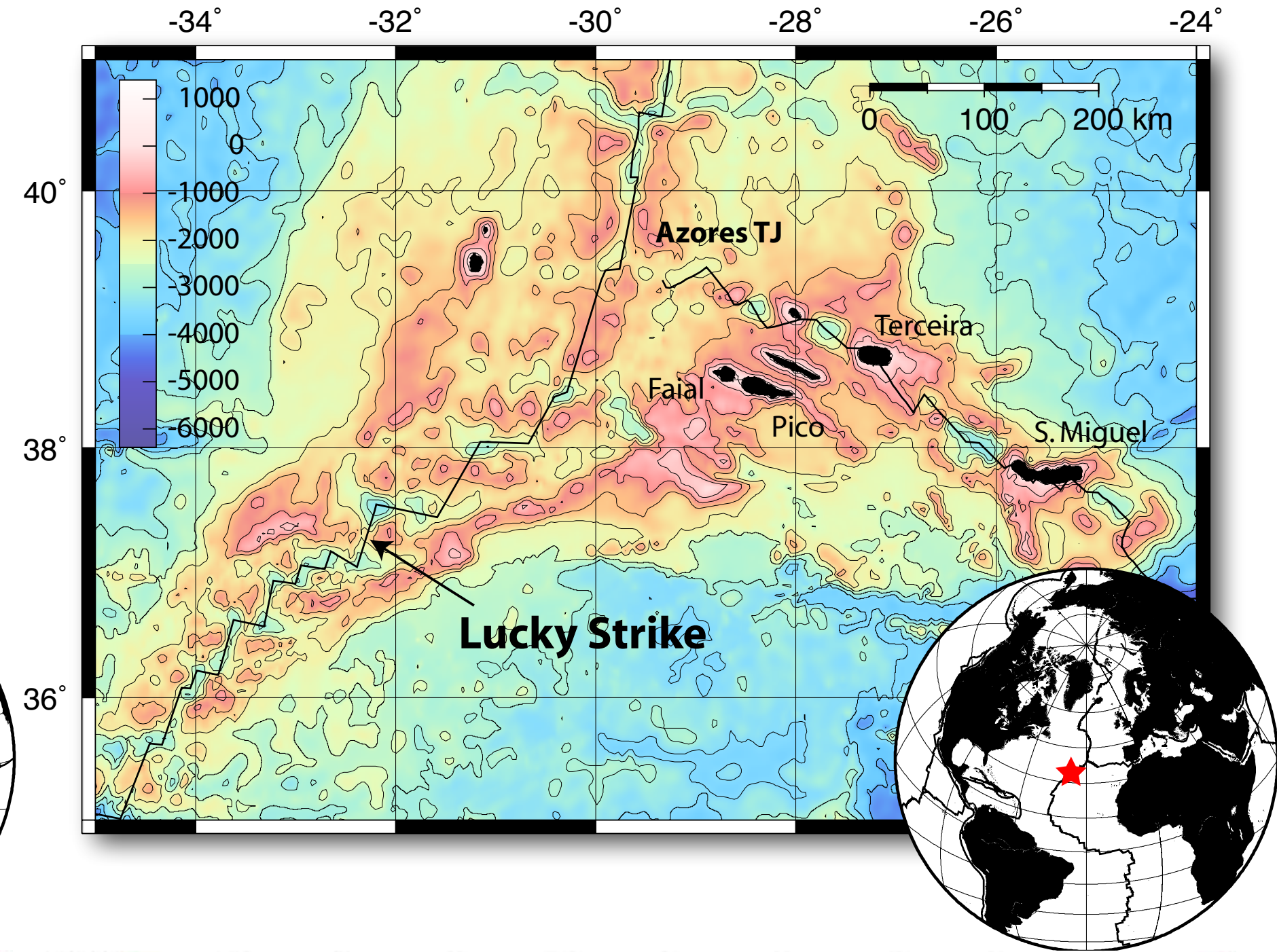
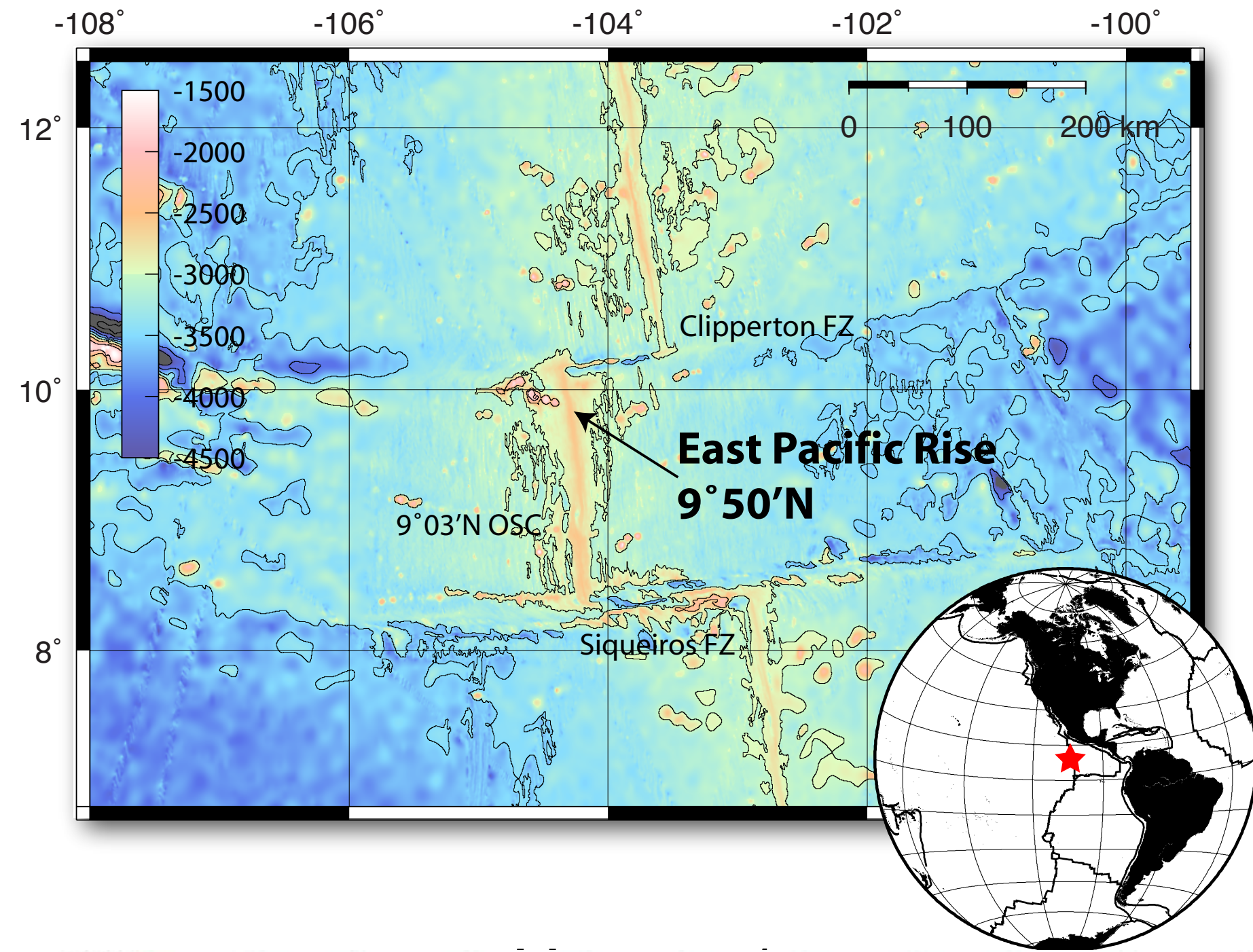


**11 cm yr<sup>-1</sup>**

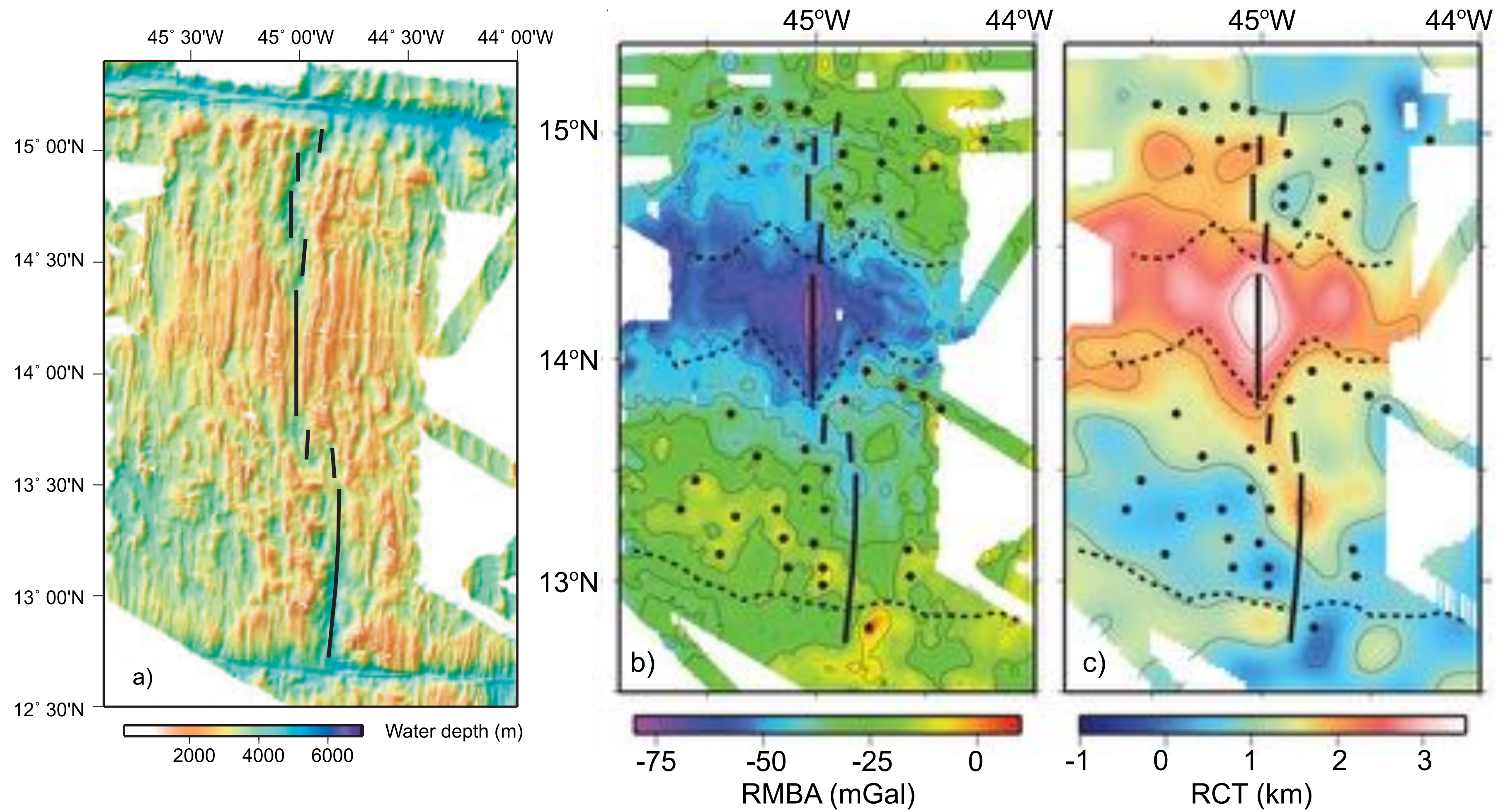


**2.5 cm yr<sup>-1</sup>**





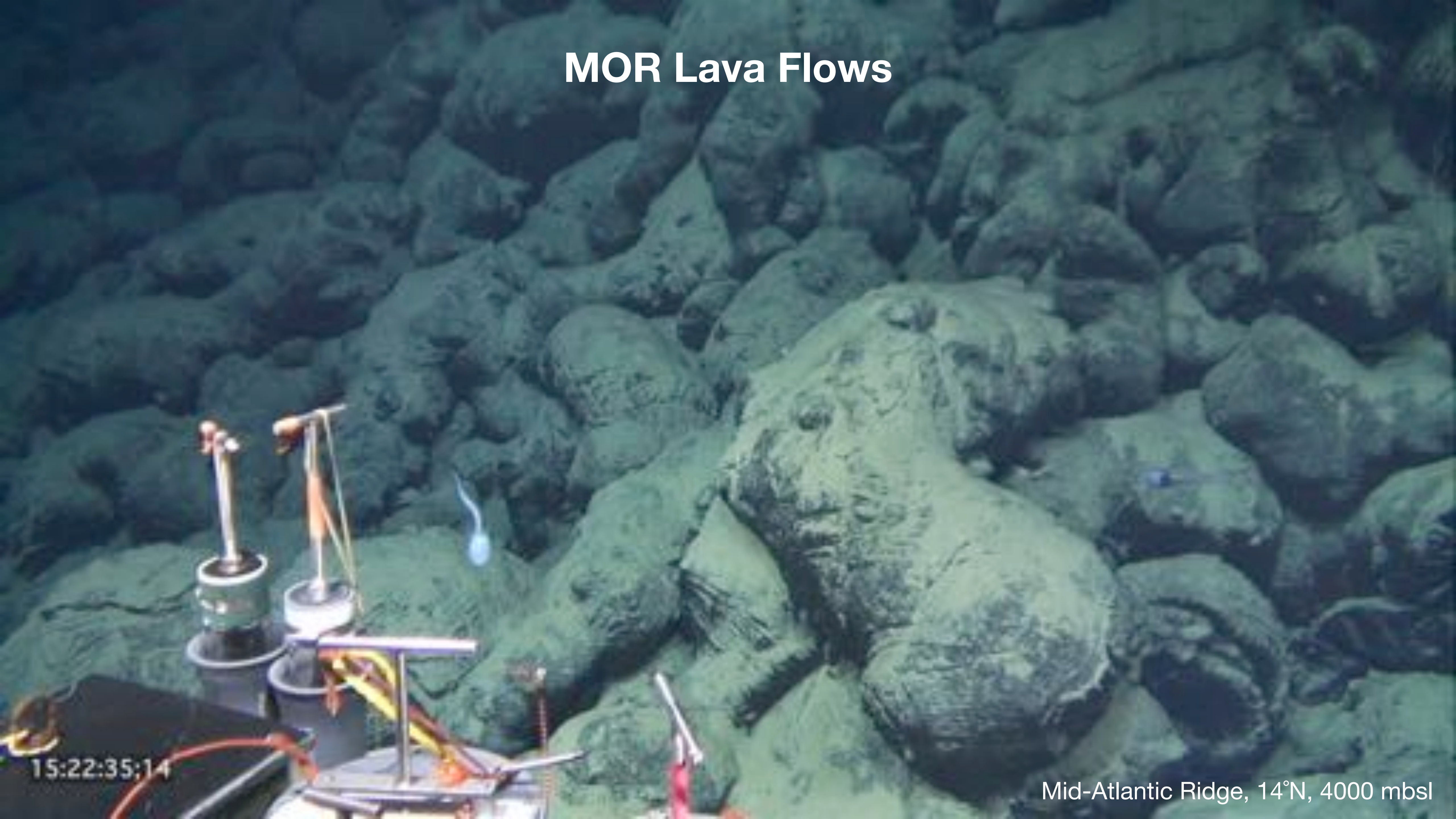
# Example: MAR 13-16N



Increased magma supply at the segment center is reflected in reduced gravity due to warmer (less dense) crust as well as in the seafloor fabric.



# MOR Lava Flows

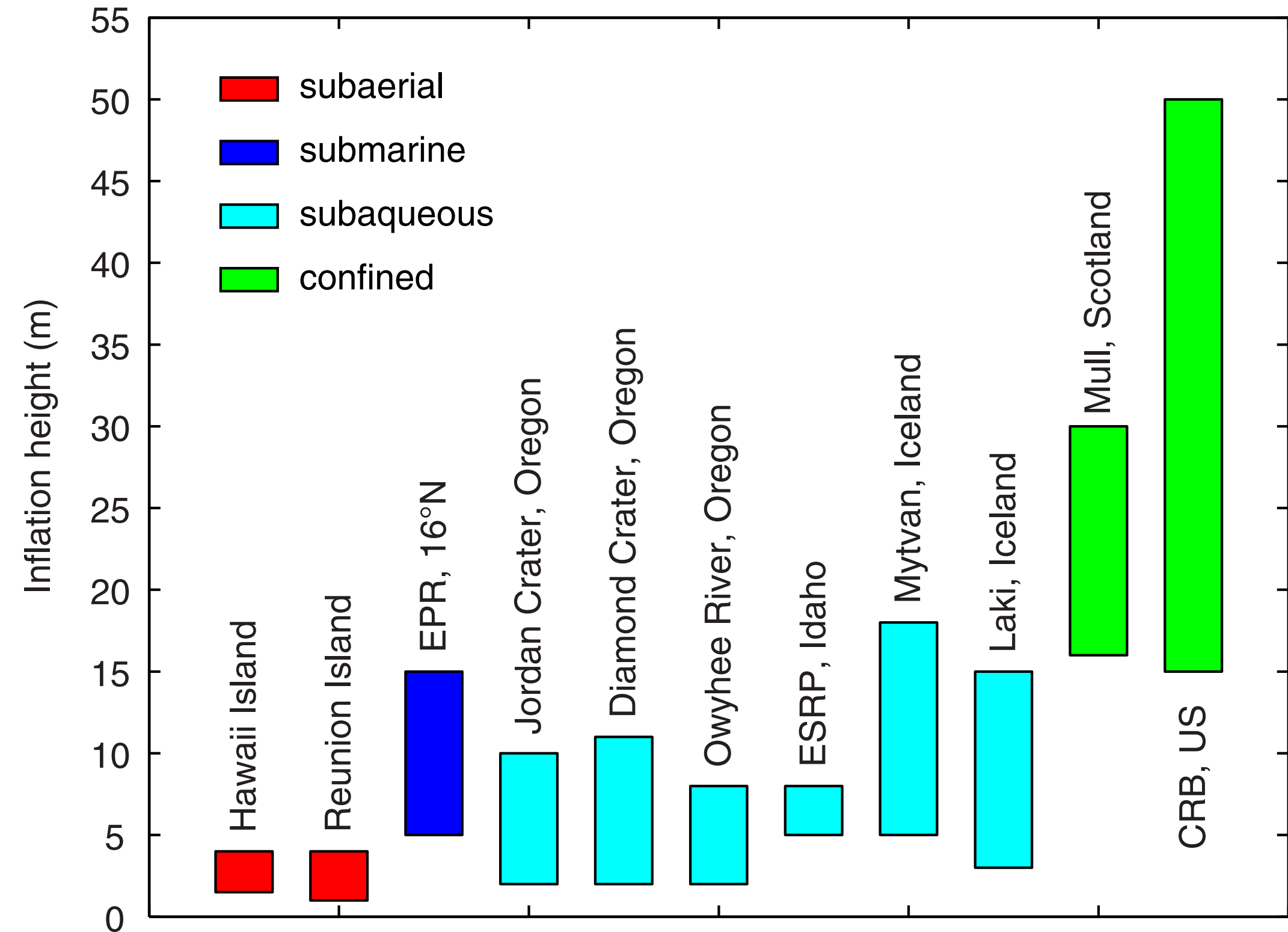
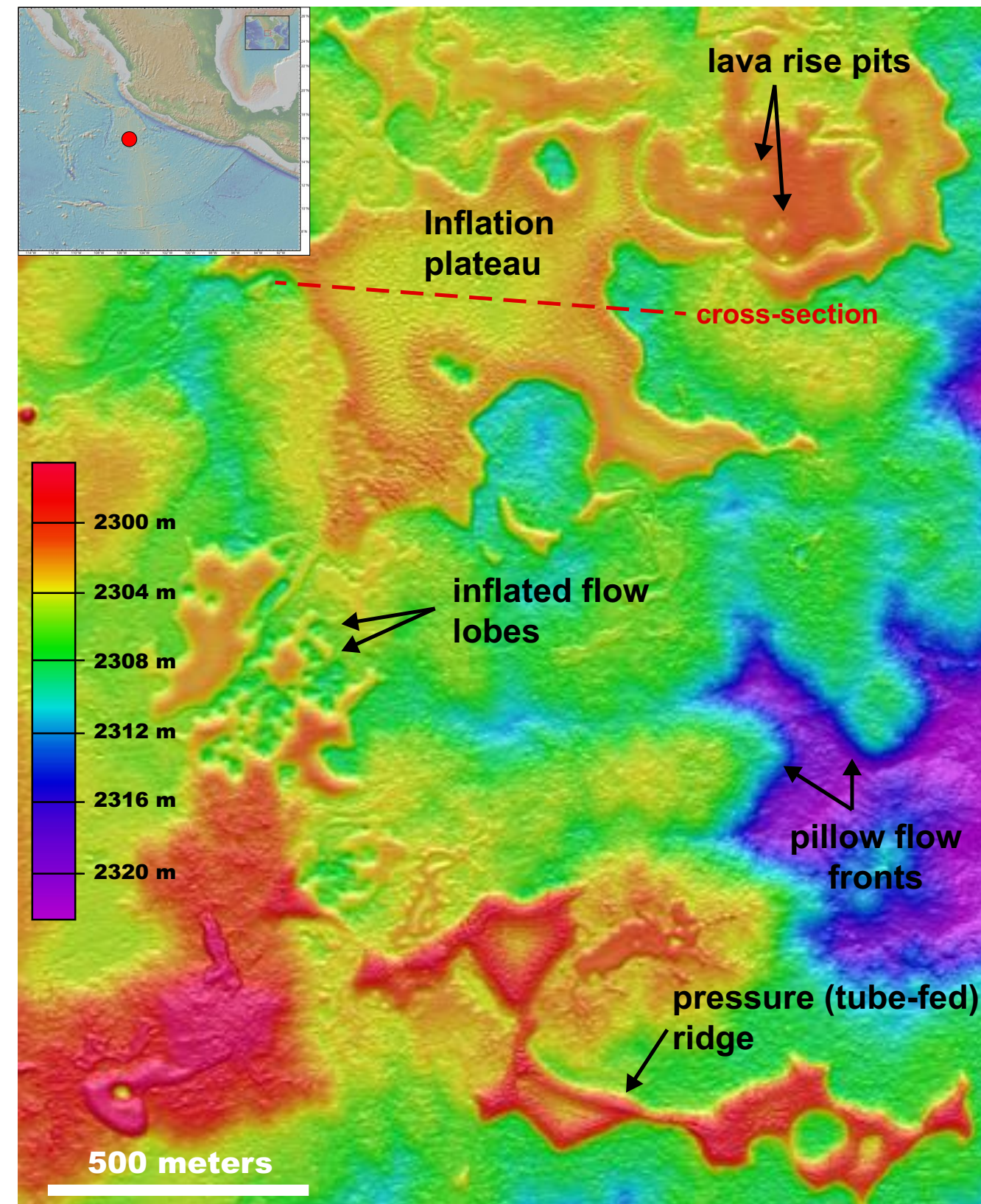


15:22:35;14

Mid-Atlantic Ridge, 14°N, 4000 mbsl

# Role of water in submarine basaltic eruptions

East Pacific Rise, 16°N



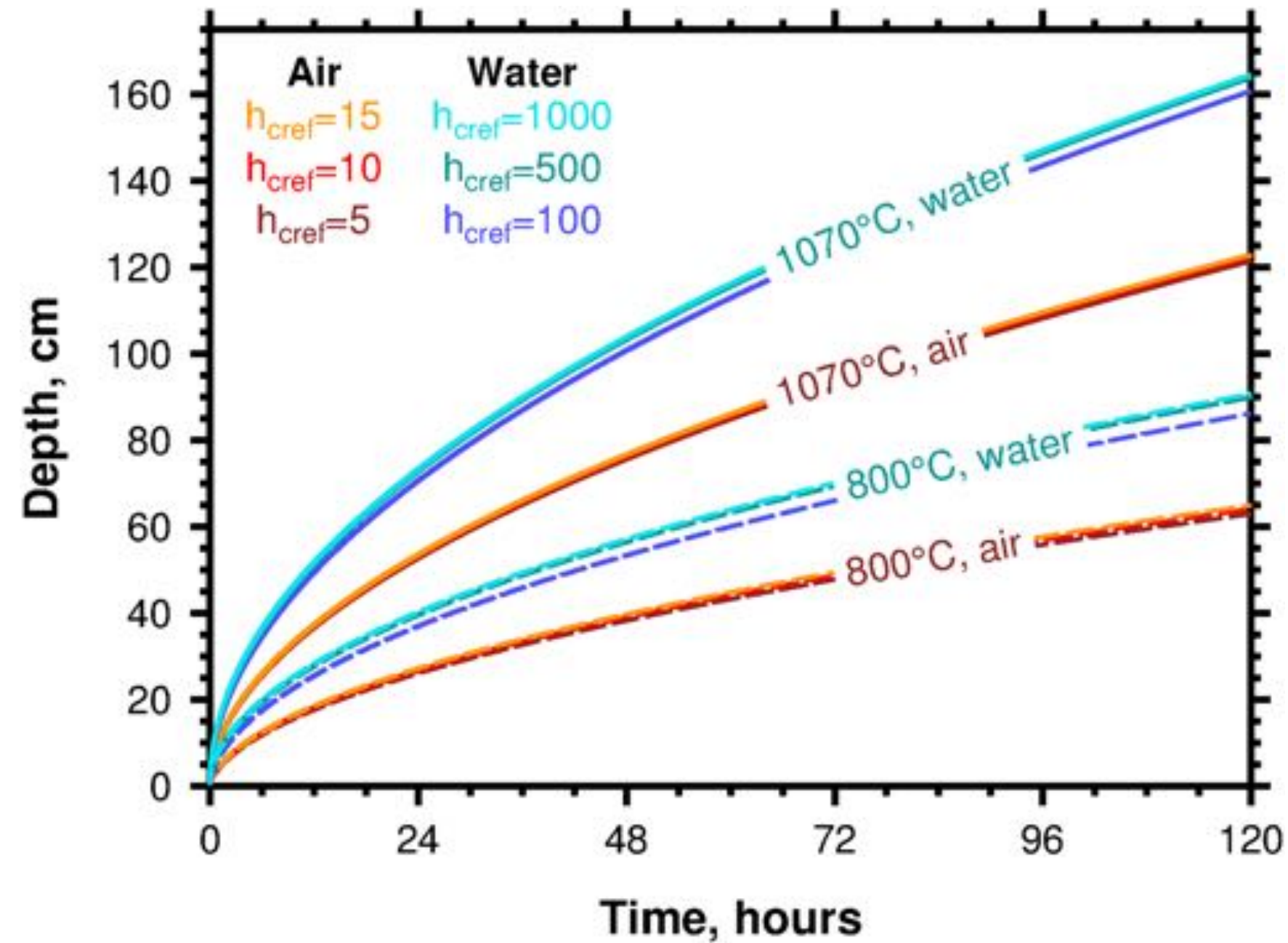
Deschamps et al., 2014

- **Reduced gravity (increased flow thickness by 30% to 50%)**
- **Cooling rates (empirically & theoretically higher in H<sub>2</sub>O)**
- **Potential for fragmentation (will return to this topic)**
- **Chemical influence (incorporation of sea-H<sub>2</sub>O)**

$$g' = g \frac{(\rho_{lava} - \rho_{water})}{(\rho_{lava} - \rho_{air})}$$

# Role of water in submarine basaltic eruptions

## Predicted cooling



Deschamps et al., 2014

## Radiative heat flux

$$Q_r = \sigma \varepsilon (T_l^4 - T_{\text{amb}}^4)$$

Boltzmann constant  $\sim 10^{-8}$

Emissivity  $\sim 1$  in air  
 $\sim 0$  in water

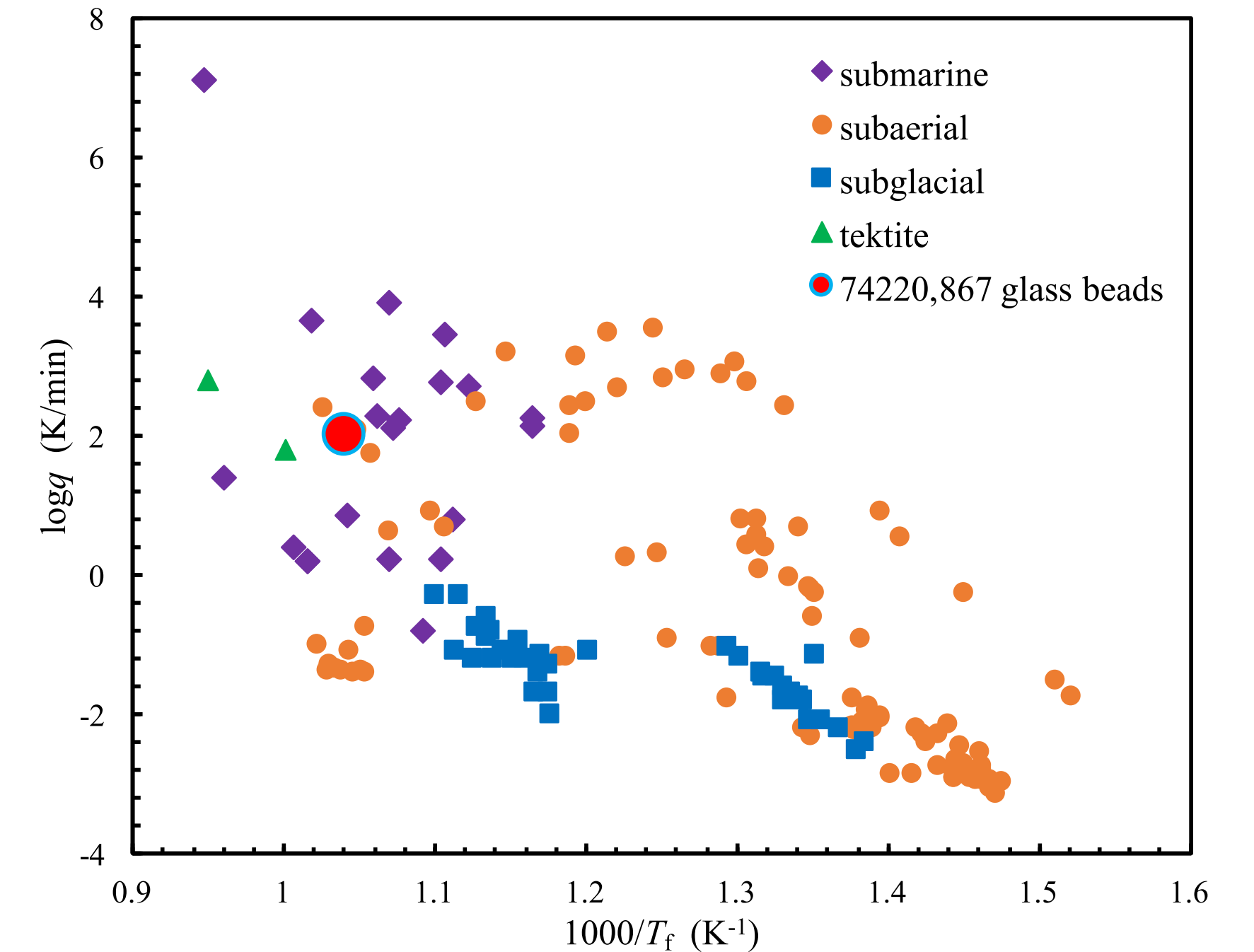
## Convective heat flux

$$Q_c = h_c (T_l - T_{\text{amb}})$$

$h_{\text{cref}}$  (air)  $\sim 5-15 \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$

$h_{\text{cref}}$  (water)  $\sim 100-1000 \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$

## Measured cooling rate



Potuzak et al., 20xx; Nichols et al, 20xx; Hui et al., 2018

- **Reduced gravity (increased flow thickness by 30% to 50%)**
- **Cooling rates (empirically & theoretically higher in H<sub>2</sub>O)**
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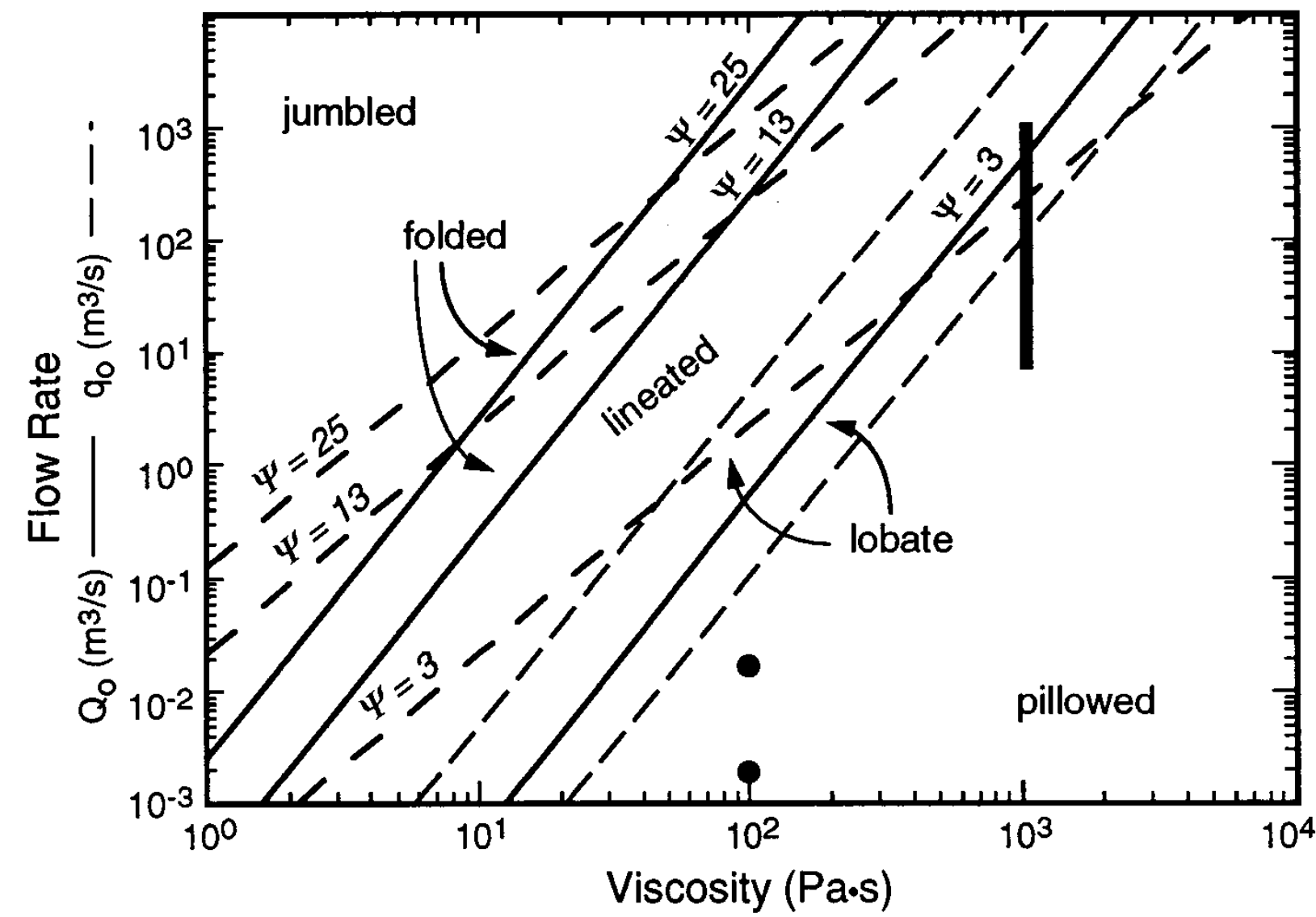
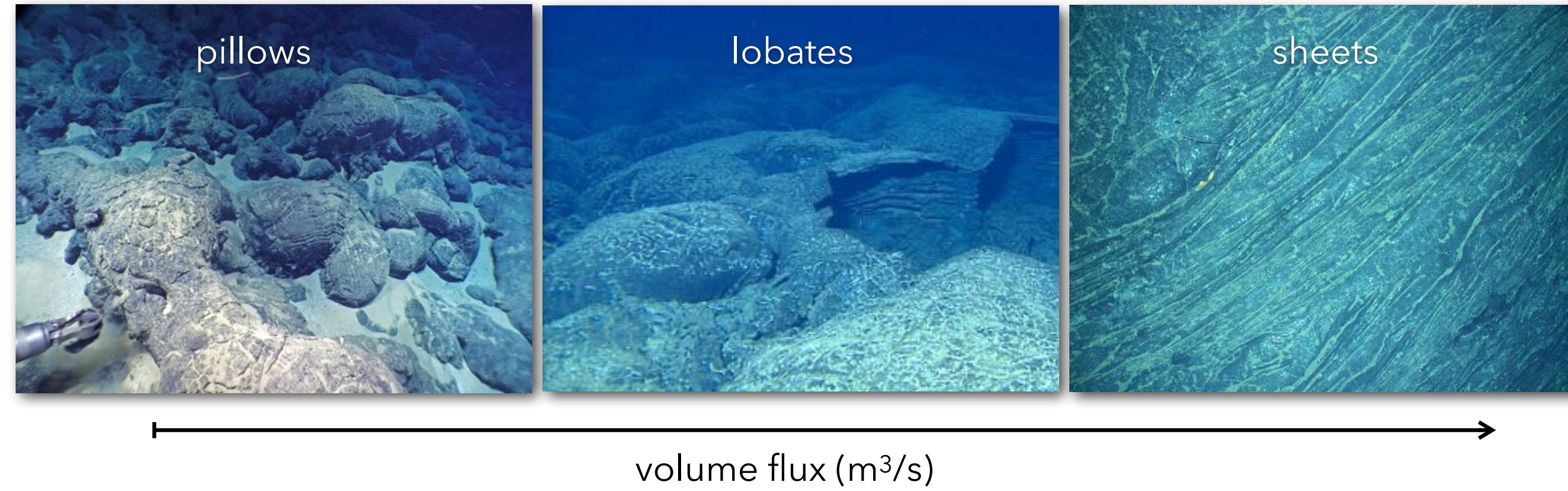
# Volcanic Morphology



volume flux ( $\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ )

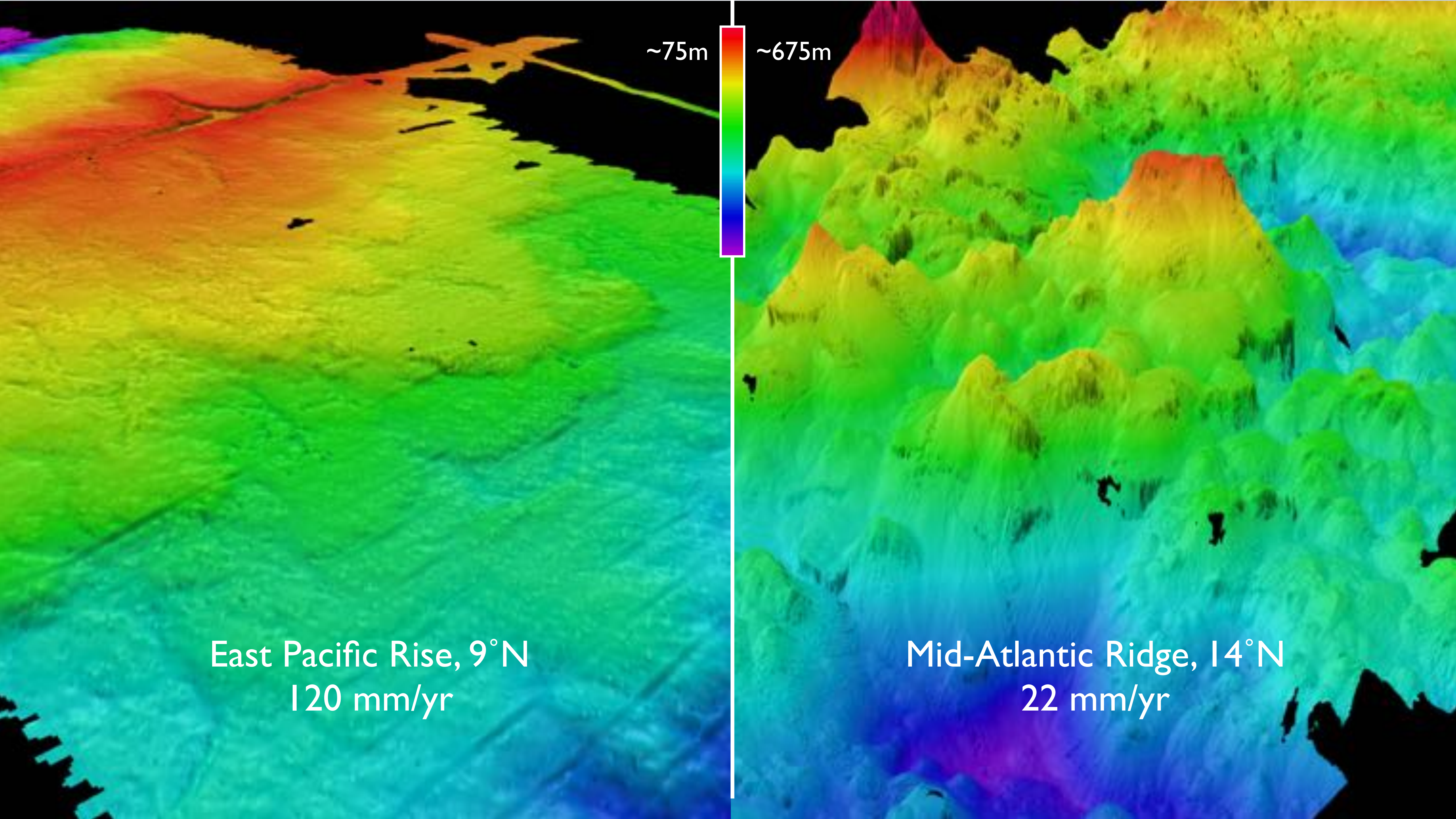
Mid-ocean ridge eruptions produce lava flows with a variety of morphologies. Pillows produce short, thick flows (i.e., mounds and hummocks), lobates produce broad, moderate relief flows, sheets produce flat, featureless flows. The differences are dictated largely by the effusion rate of the eruption.

# Volcanic Morphology



$$\Psi = \frac{\tau_{cooling}}{\tau_{advection}}$$

Gregg & Fink, 1990



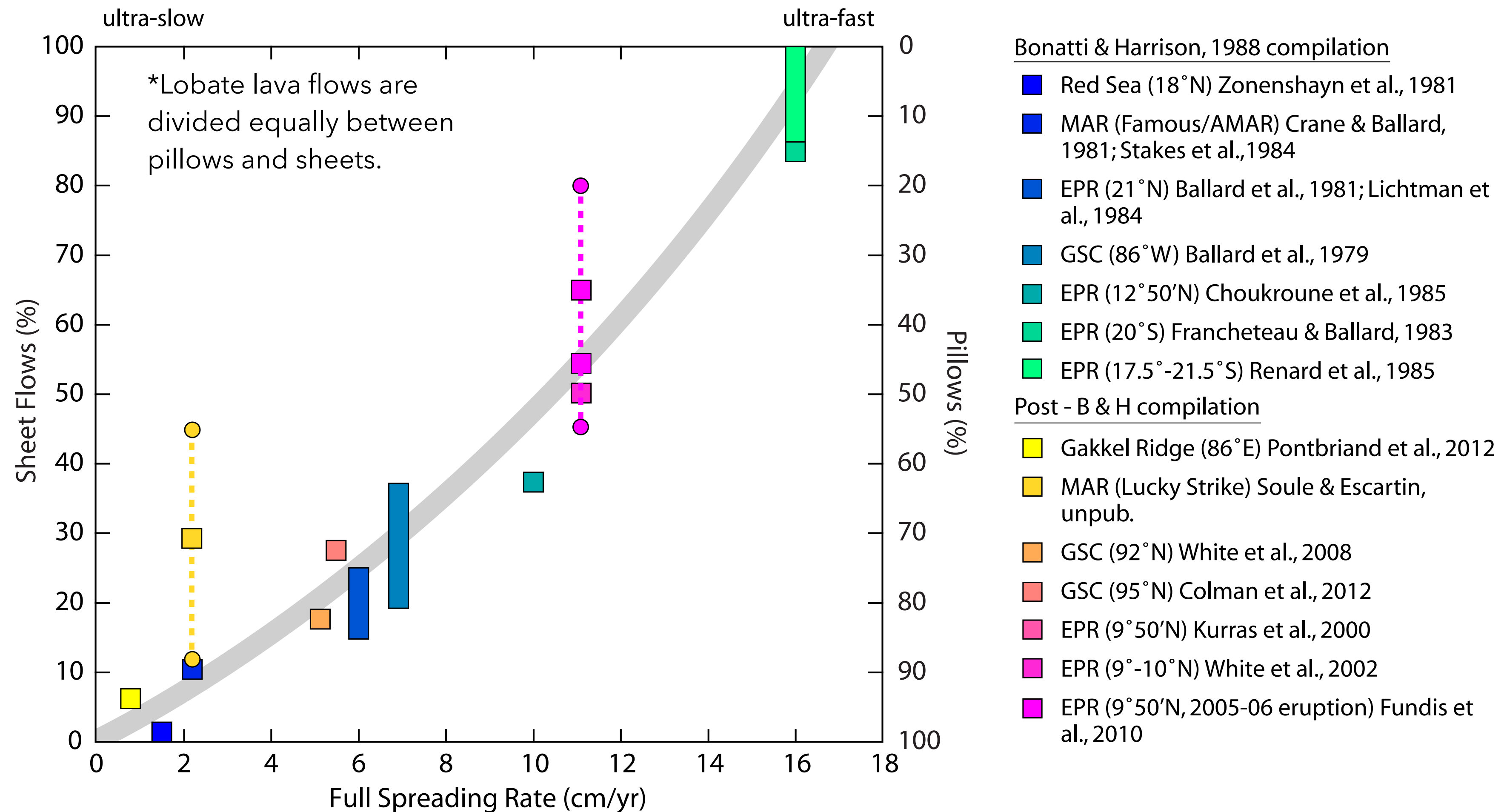
~75m

~675m

East Pacific Rise, 9° N  
120 mm/yr

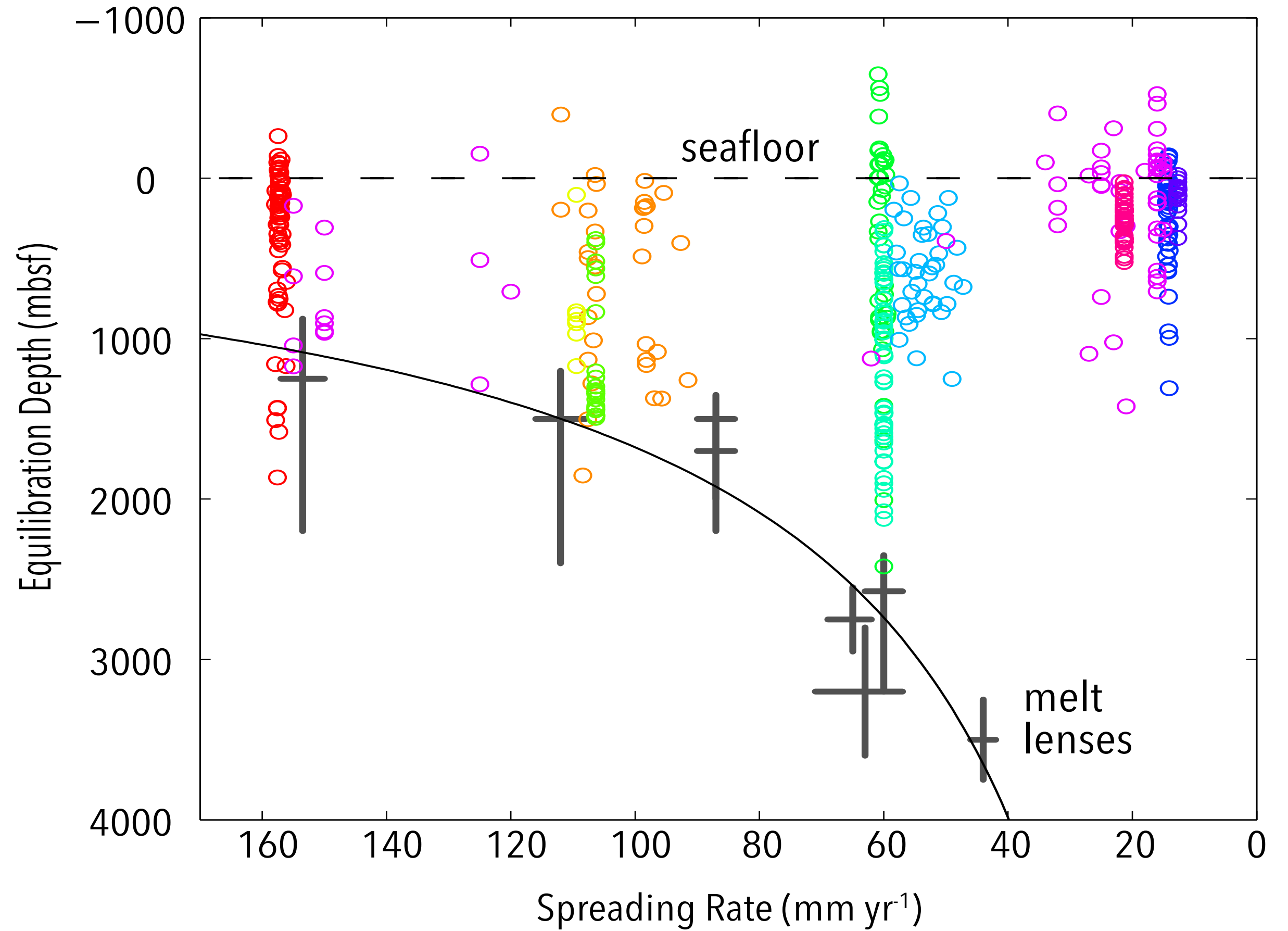
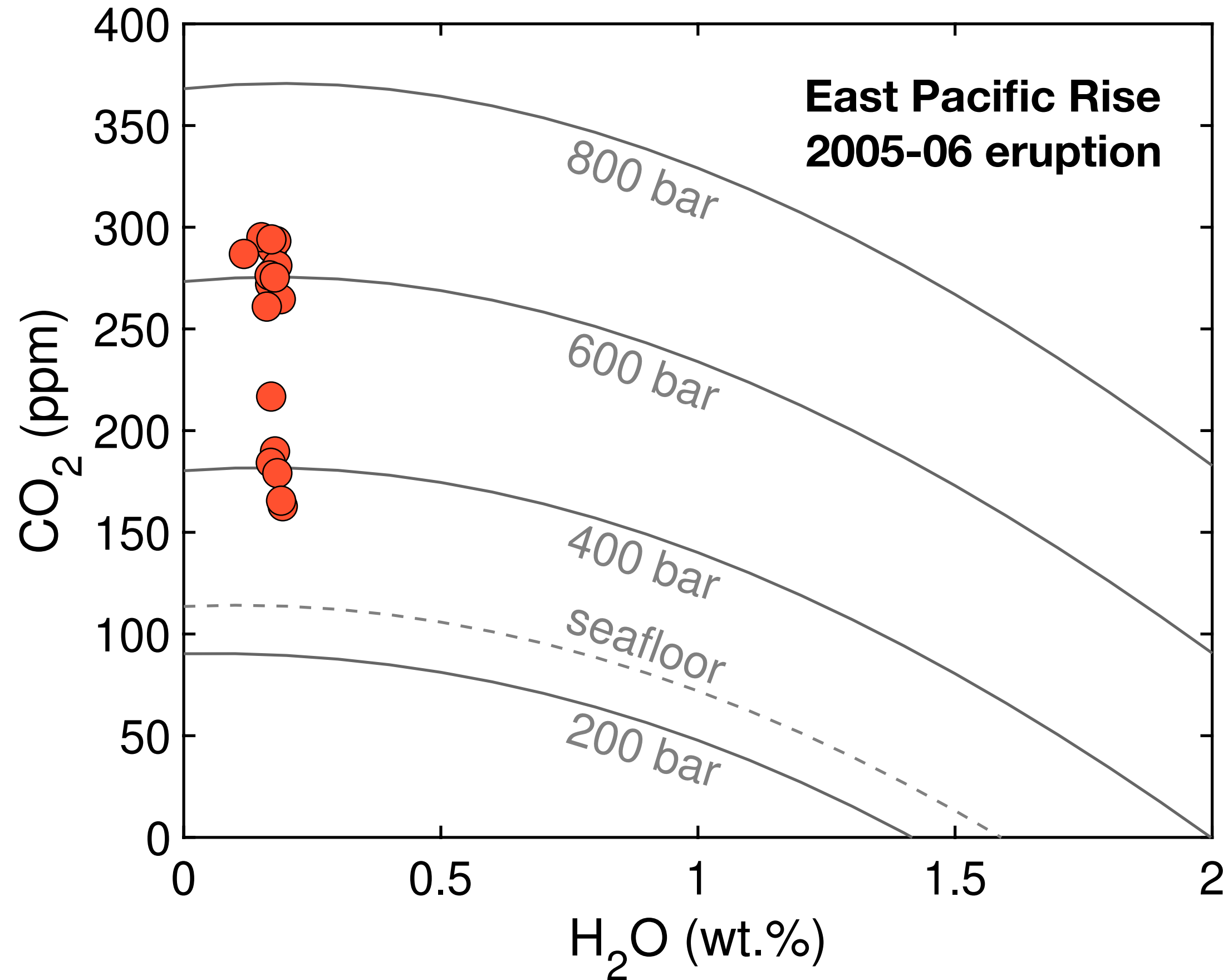
Mid-Atlantic Ridge, 14° N  
22 mm/yr

# Morphology and spreading rate



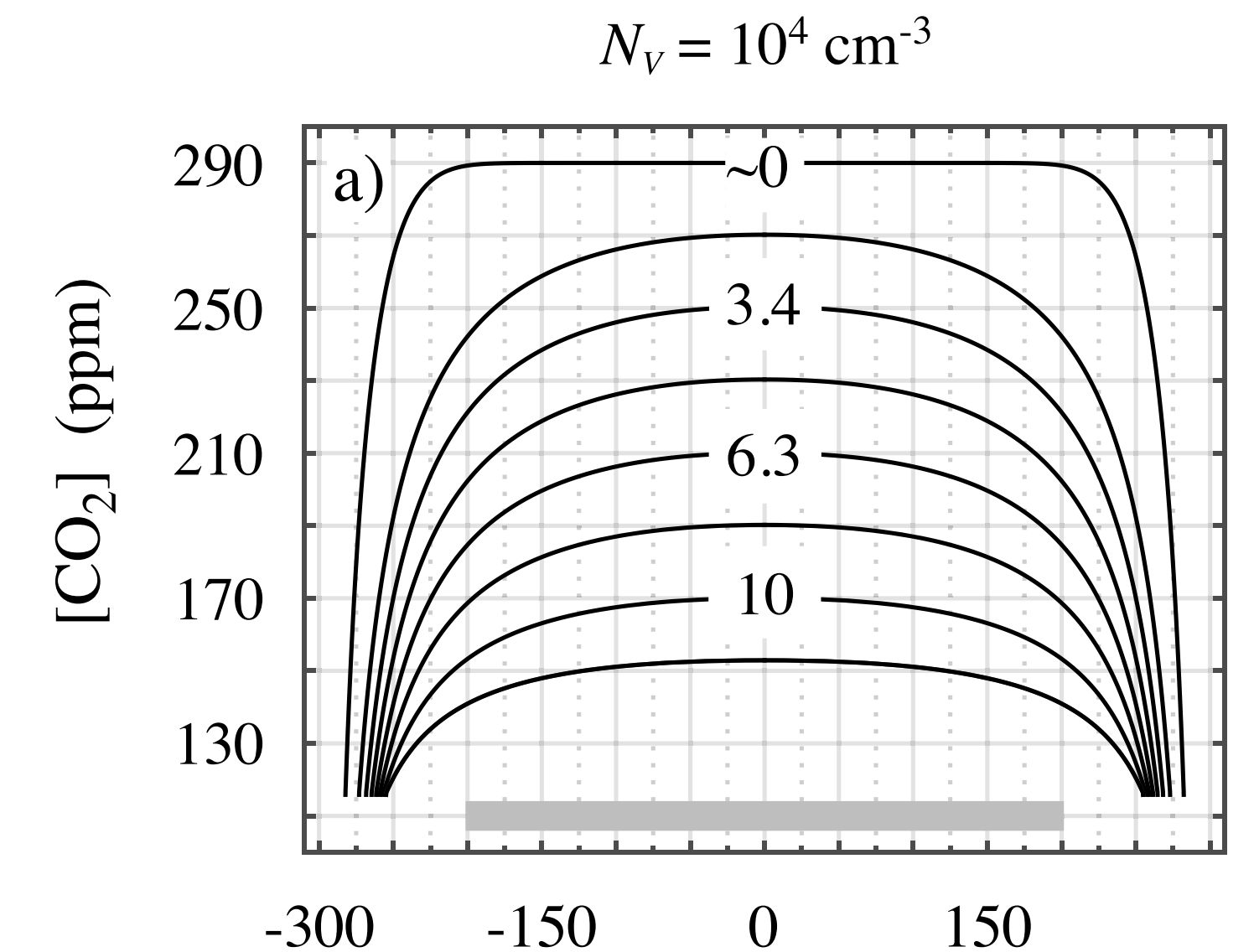
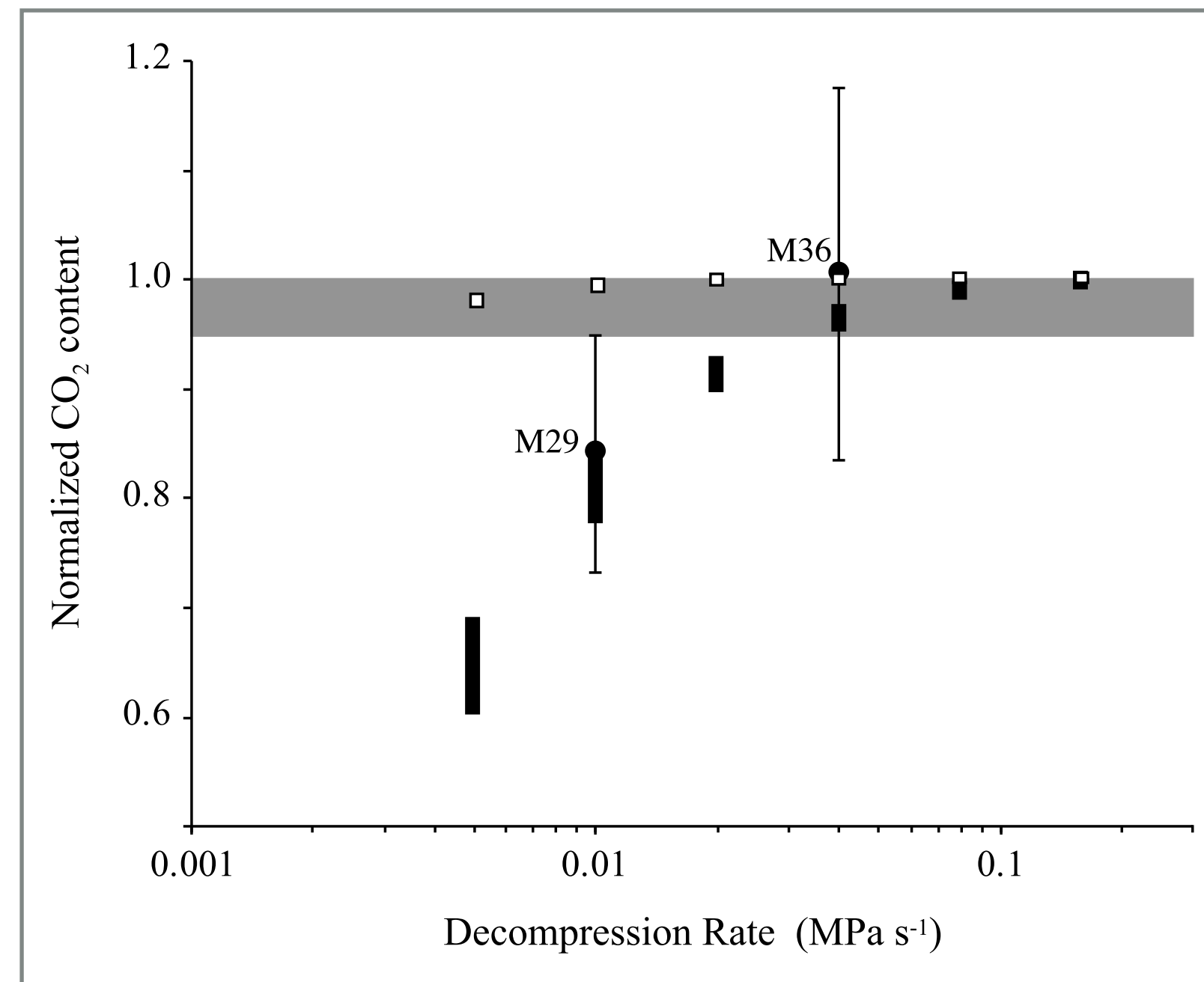
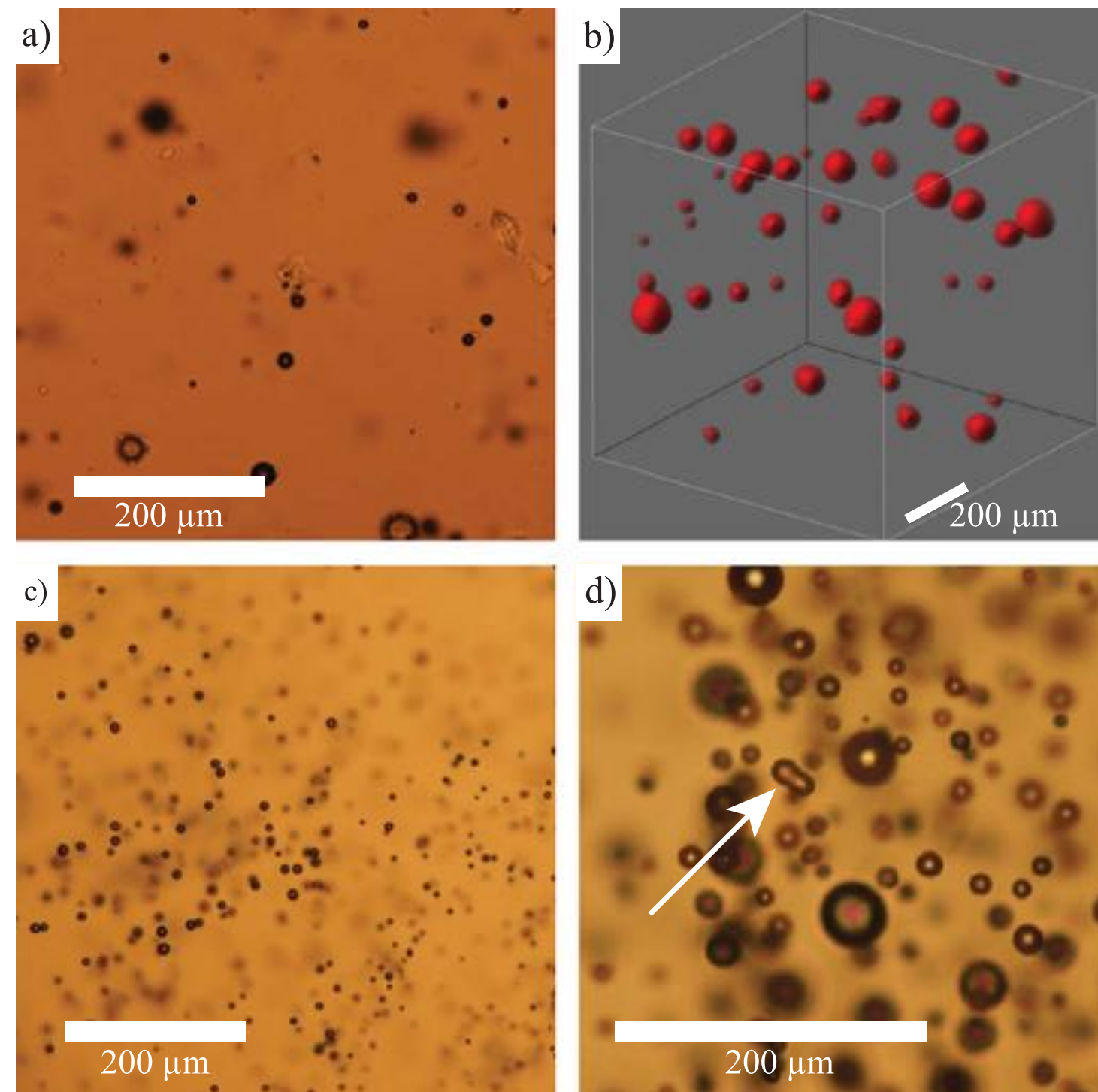
Eruption properties (generally) scale with spreading rate. Lower spreading rates produce more pillows, greater spreading rates produce more sheet flows.

# Quantifying MOR eruption rates



At fast to intermediate spreading rates, maximum dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> & H<sub>2</sub>O are in equilibrium with observed (and predicted) melt storage depths and span a range approaching equilibrium with seafloor depths.

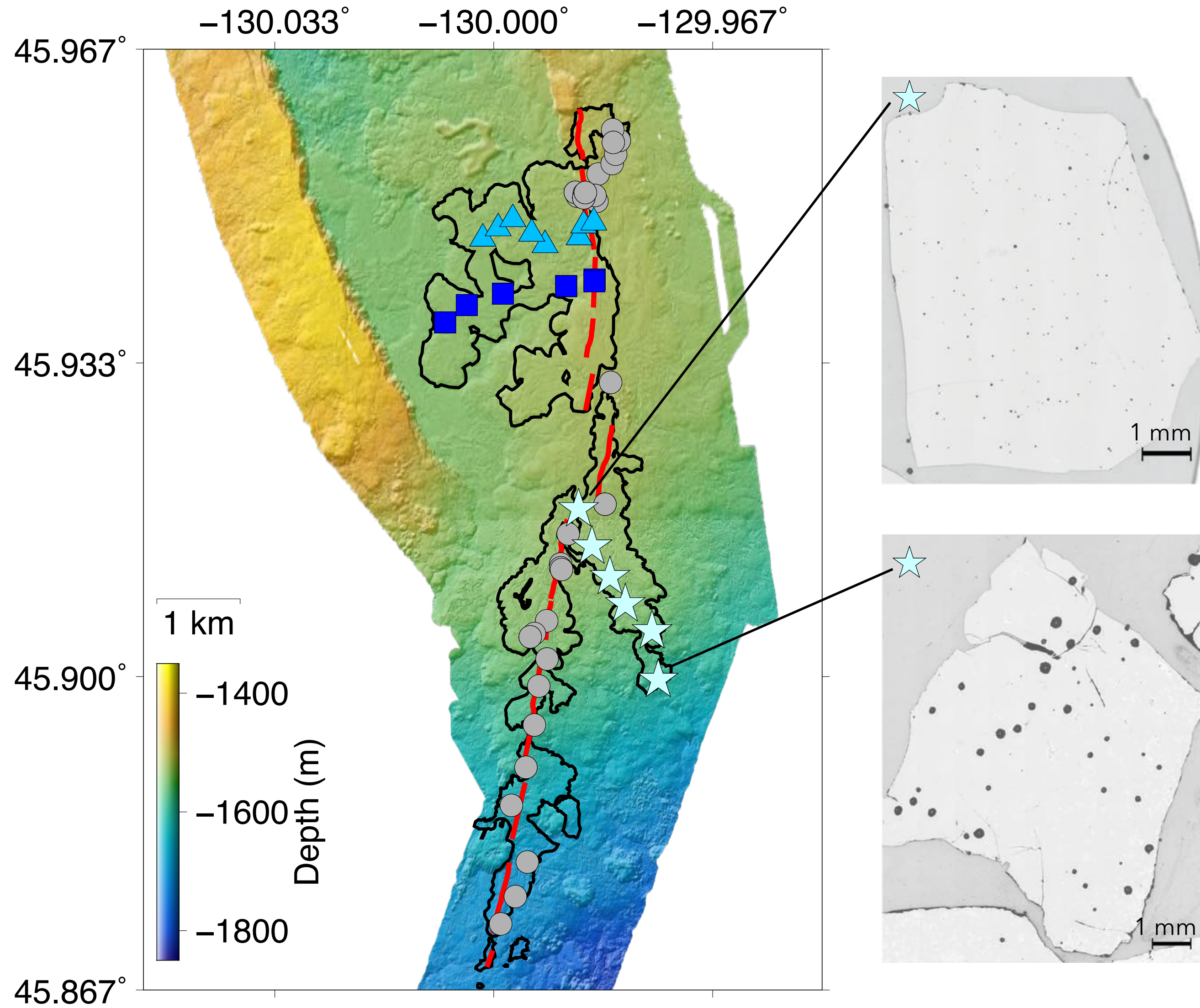
# Rates of Decompression and Degassing



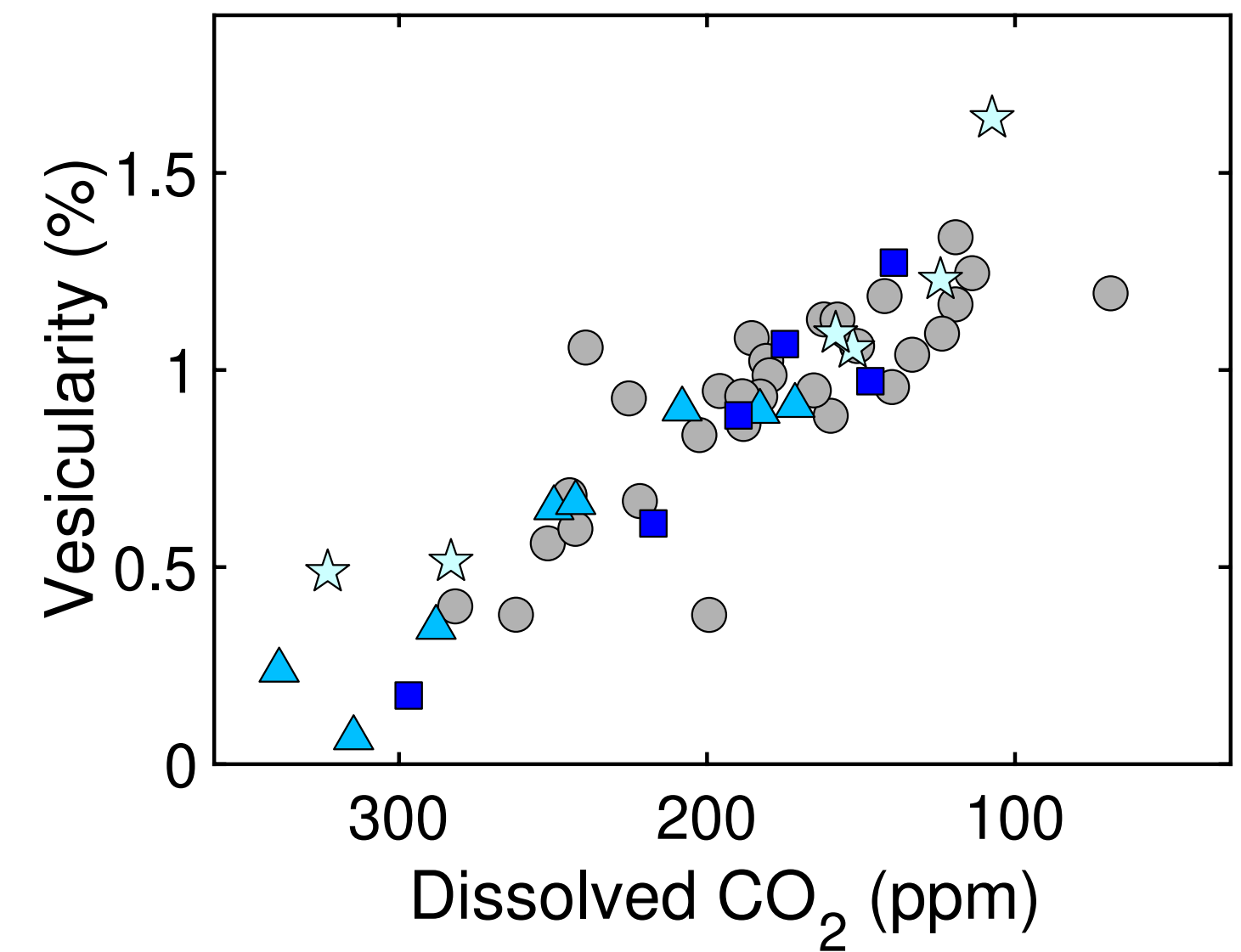
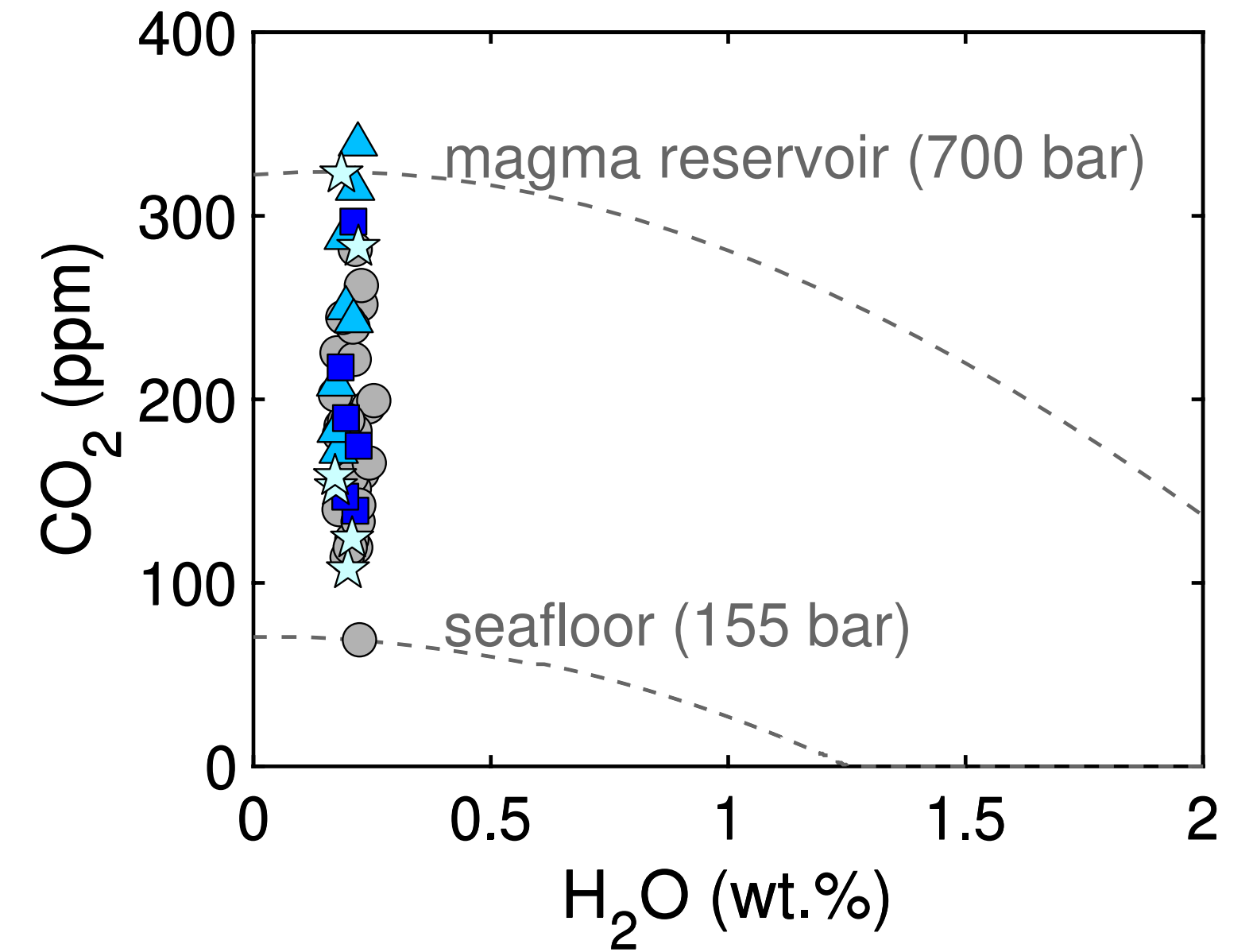
*Gardner et al., 2017*

Decompression experiments on natural samples from the 2006-07 East Pacific Rise eruption determined an ascent rate of  $>0.2\text{m/s}$  and volumetric flow rates of  $10^3\text{-}4 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$  explain the observed  $\text{CO}_2$  supersaturation. Experiments and modeling also demonstrated a strong dependence on degassing rate with number density (i.e., number/ $\text{cm}^3$ ) of vesicles.

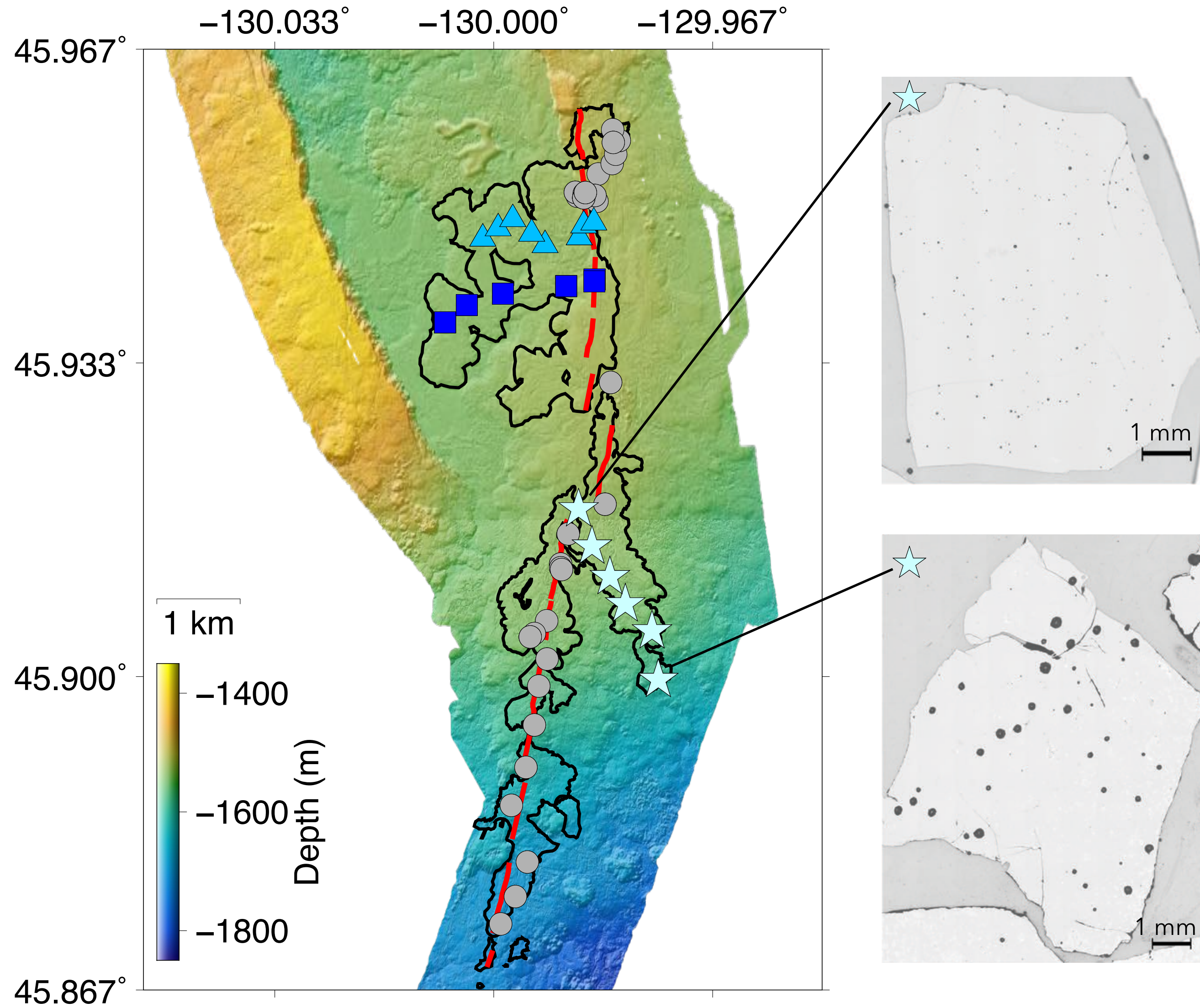
# Application of CO<sub>2</sub> geospeedometry



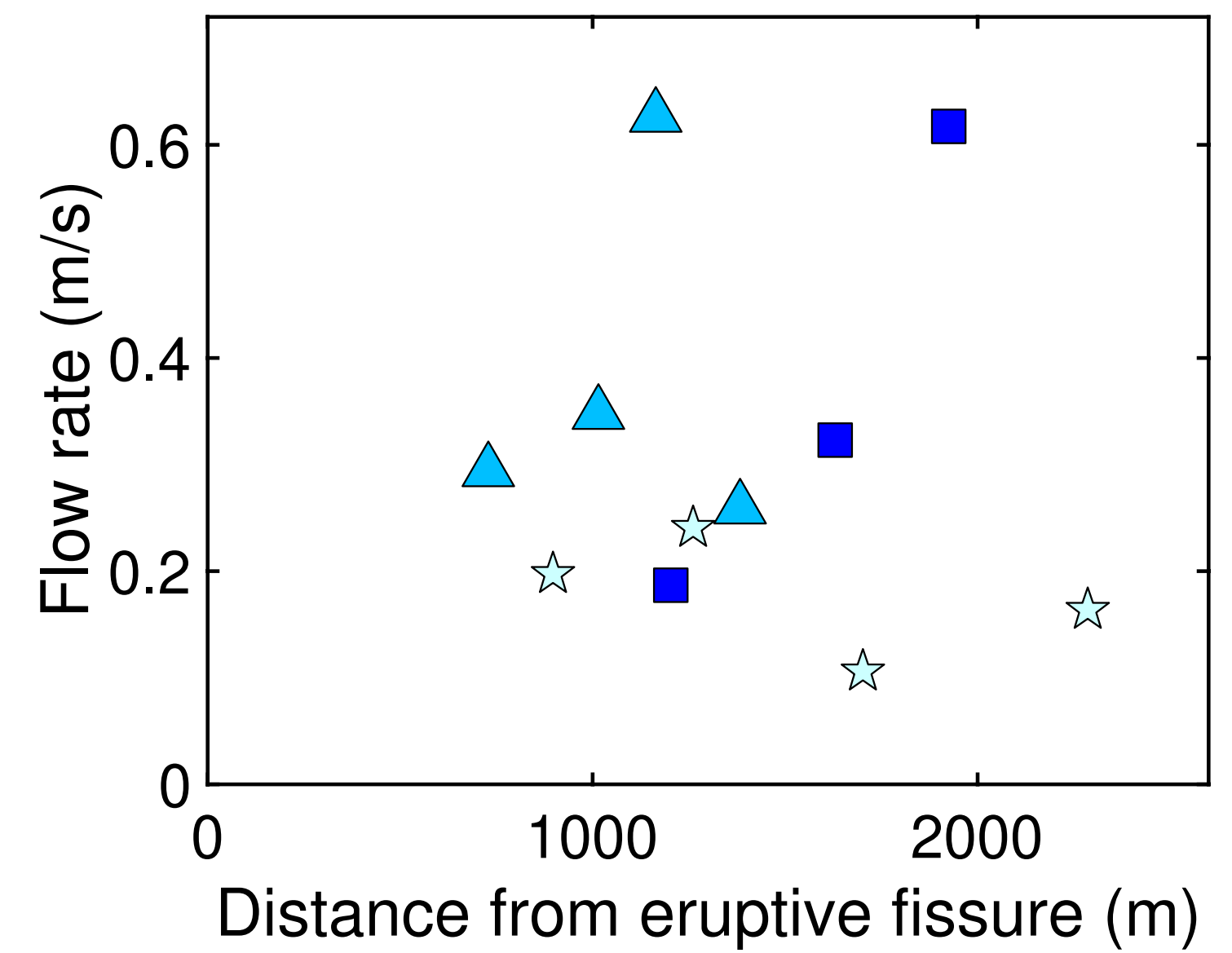
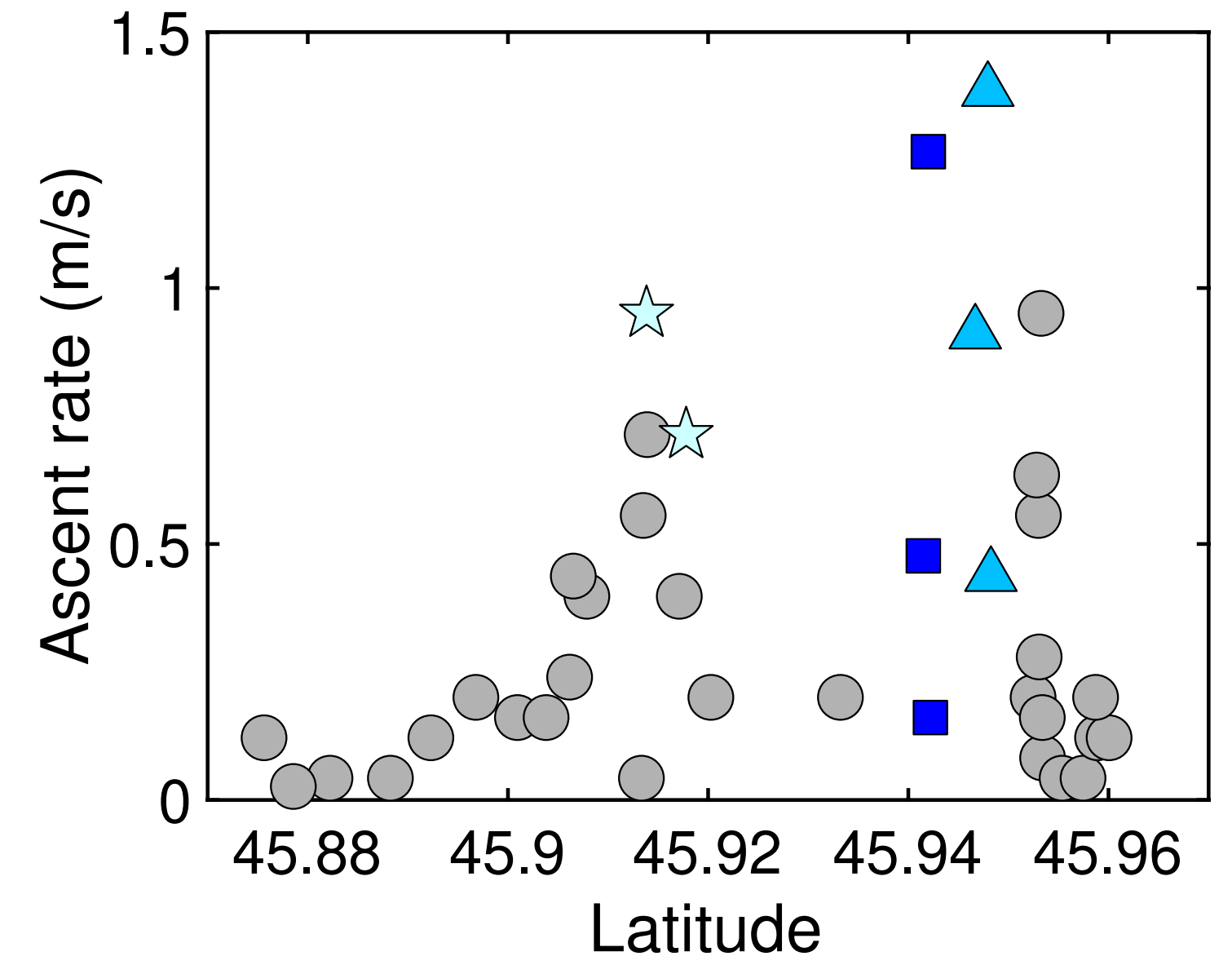
Jones et al., 2018



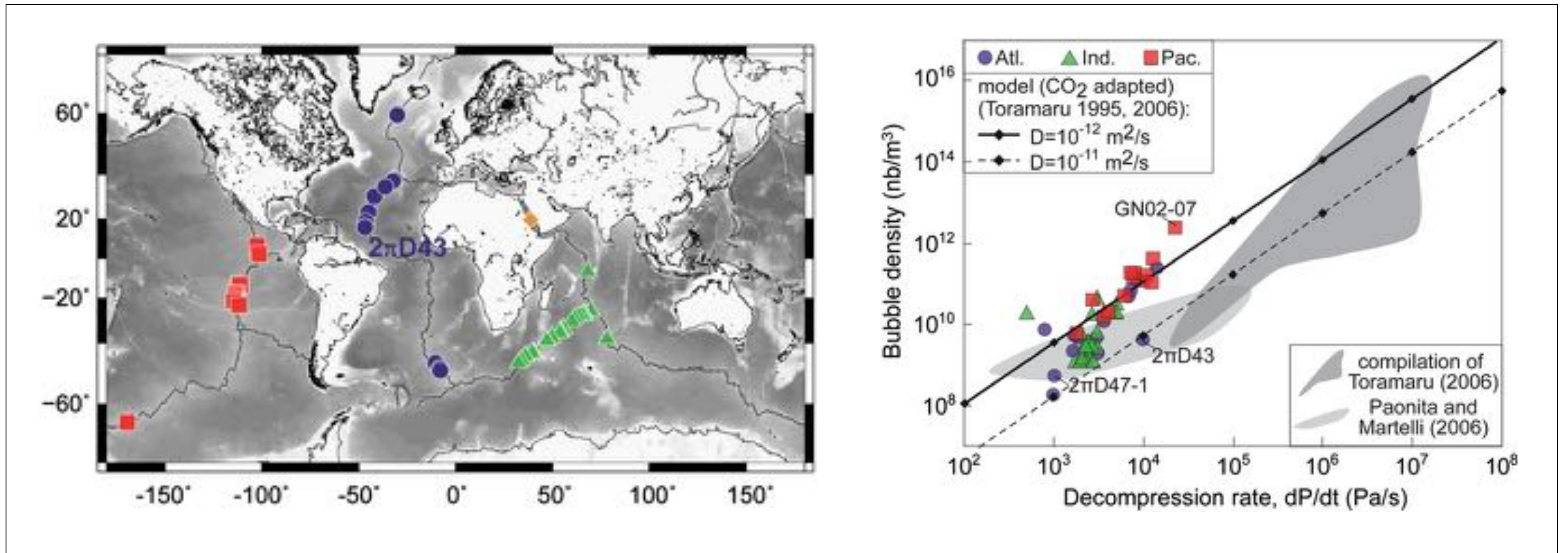
# Application of CO<sub>2</sub> geospeedometry



Jones et al., 2018





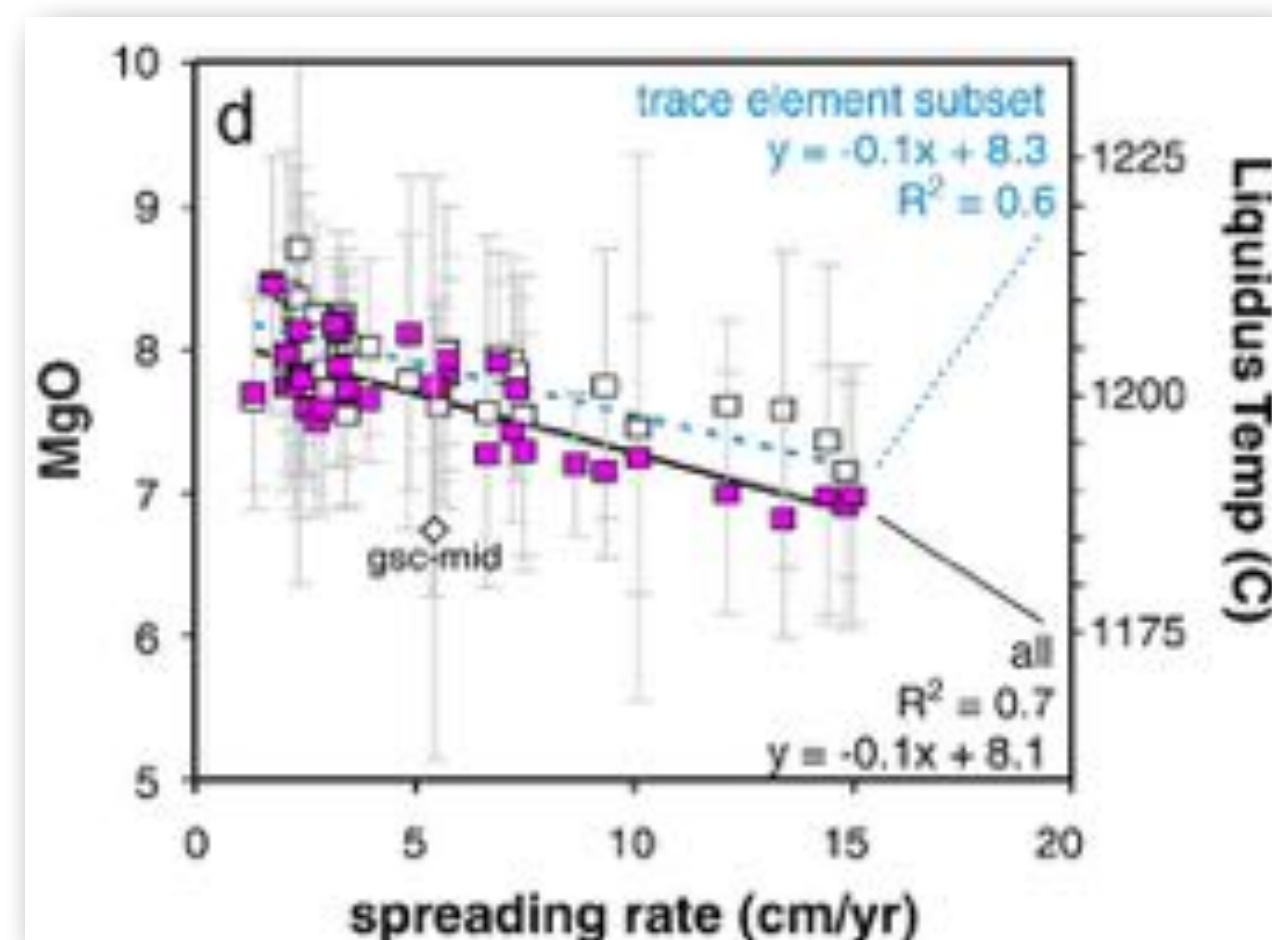
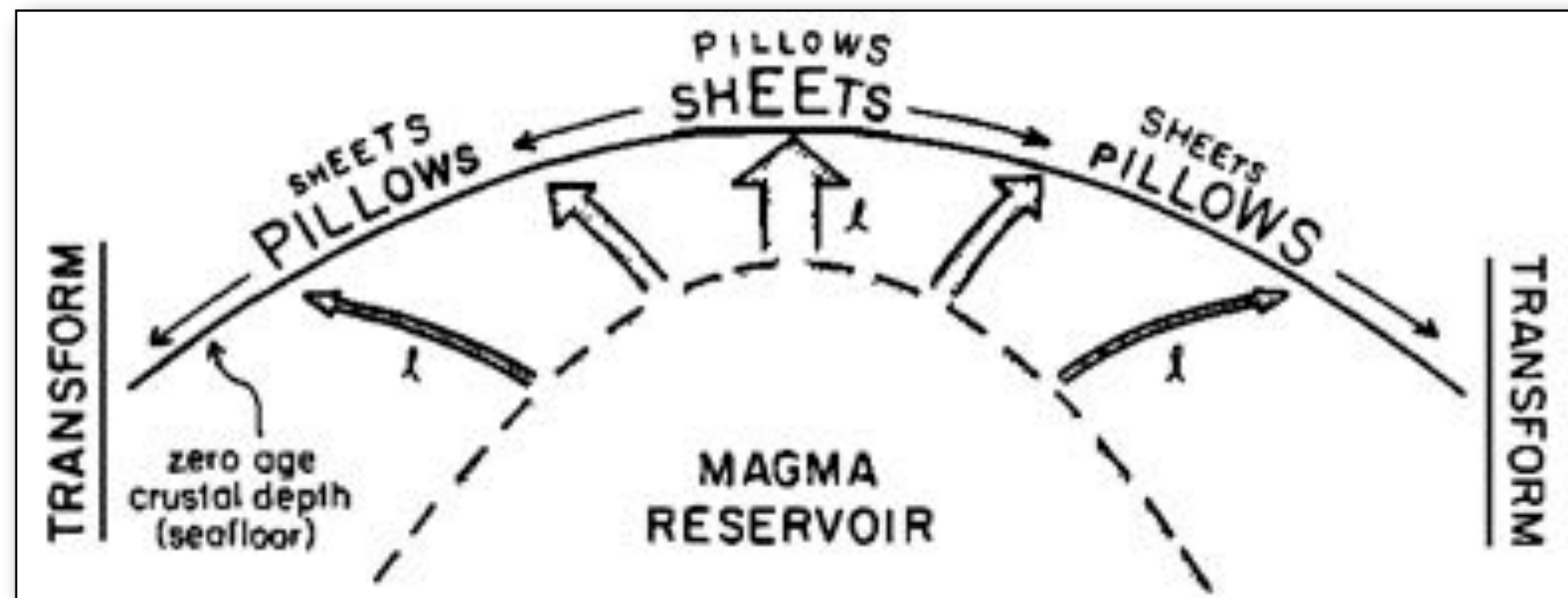


Chavrit et al. [2012] used a global dataset to demonstrate variations in decompression rate that broadly correlate with spreading rate.

# What Controls eruption dynamics?

## Cooling/viscosity

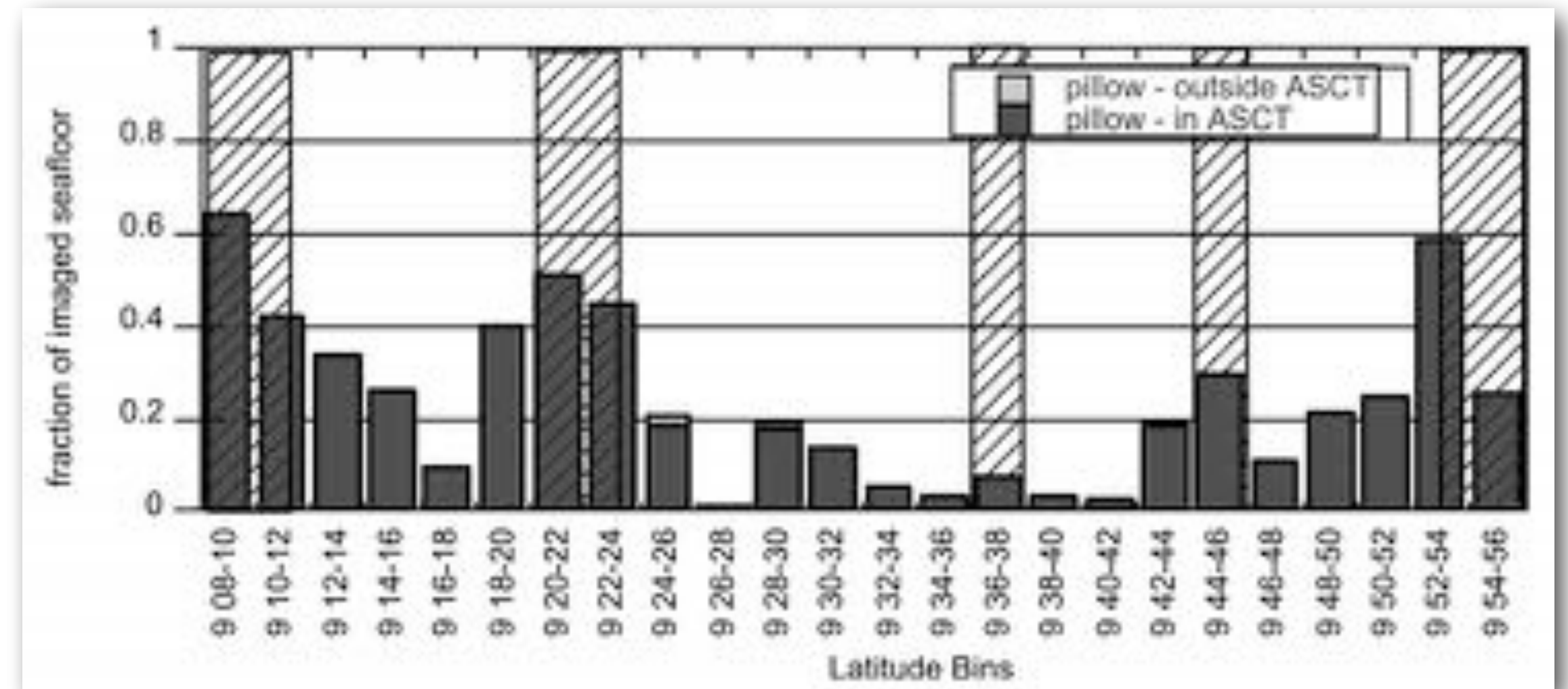
Bonatti & Harrison [1988] suggest that longer dike paths lead to greater cooling and increased viscosity.



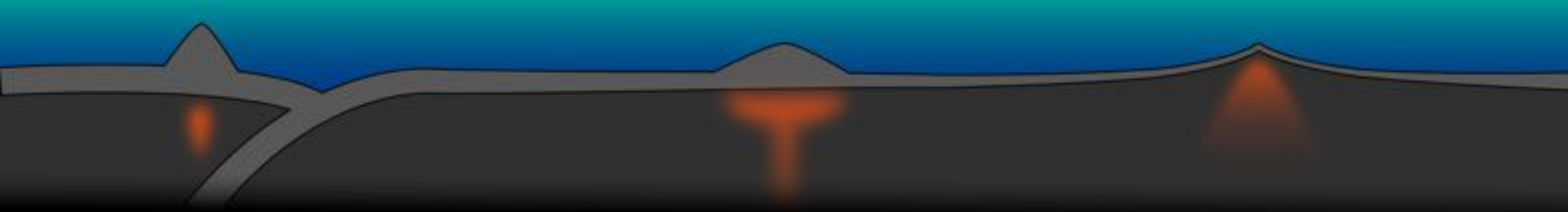
A compilation by Rubin & Sinton [2007] indicates that eruption temperatures are higher at slow-spreading ridges.

## Variations in tectonic stress

Perfit & Chadwick [1998] suggest that increased tectonic stress at slow-spreading ridges (due to less frequent earthquakes) lead to lower overpressure in magma reservoirs and lower eruption rate.



Observations [e.g., White et al., 2004] suggest changes in eruption rate over length scales that are inconsistent with differences in tectonic stress.



## Deep thought #2

Are there frequency/size/eruption rate relationships with spreading rate (i.e., magma supply) and what controls them?

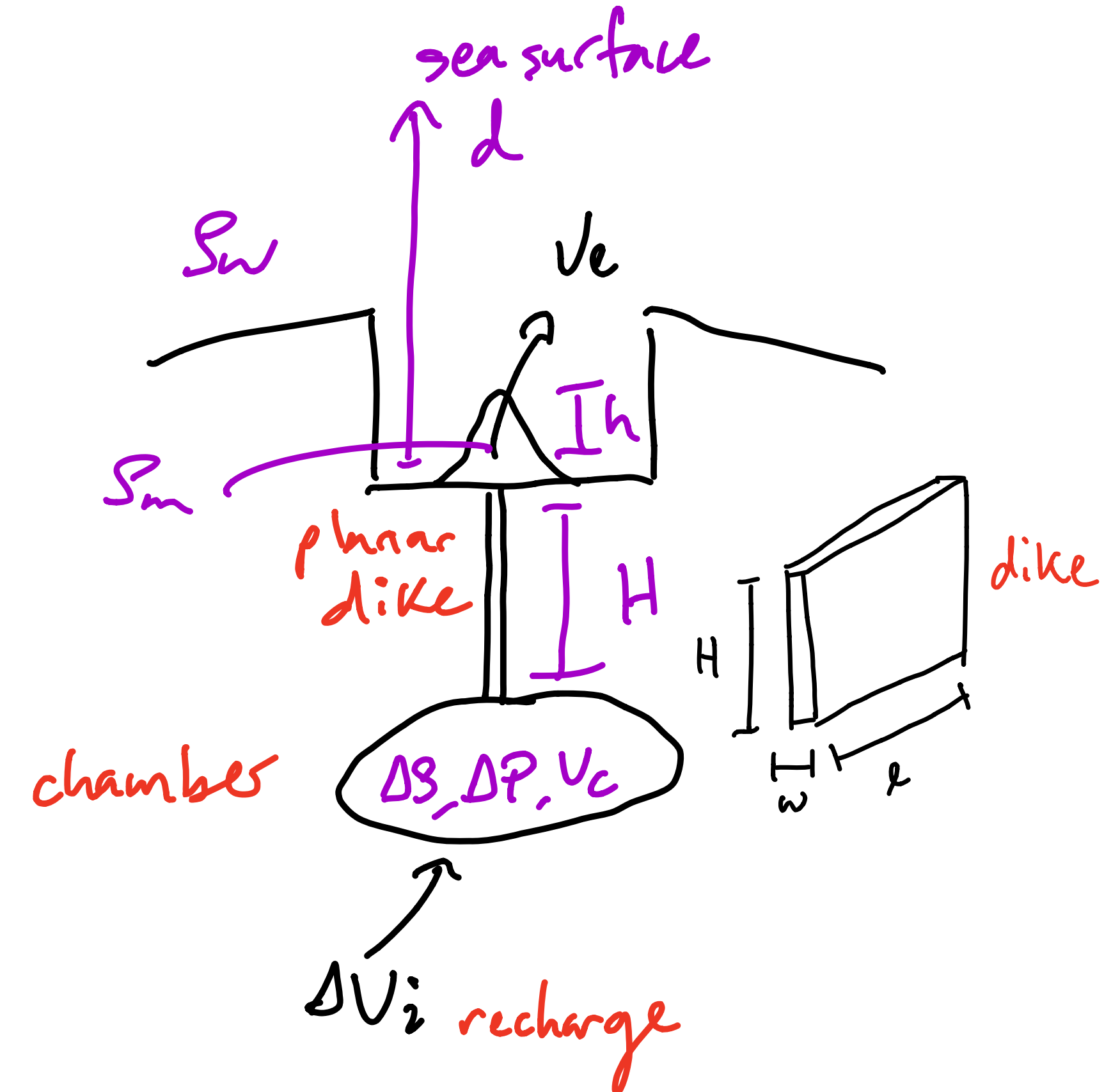
# What controls MOR eruption dynamics?

Karlstrom, Gonnermann

$$V_c = \frac{\Delta P(t)}{K} = \Delta V_i - V_e(t) \quad \text{Mass balance in magma reservoir}$$

$$Q = \frac{w^3 l}{12\mu} \left( \frac{\Delta\rho g H + \Delta P - (\rho_m - \rho_w)gh - \rho_w g(d - h)}{H + h} \right)$$

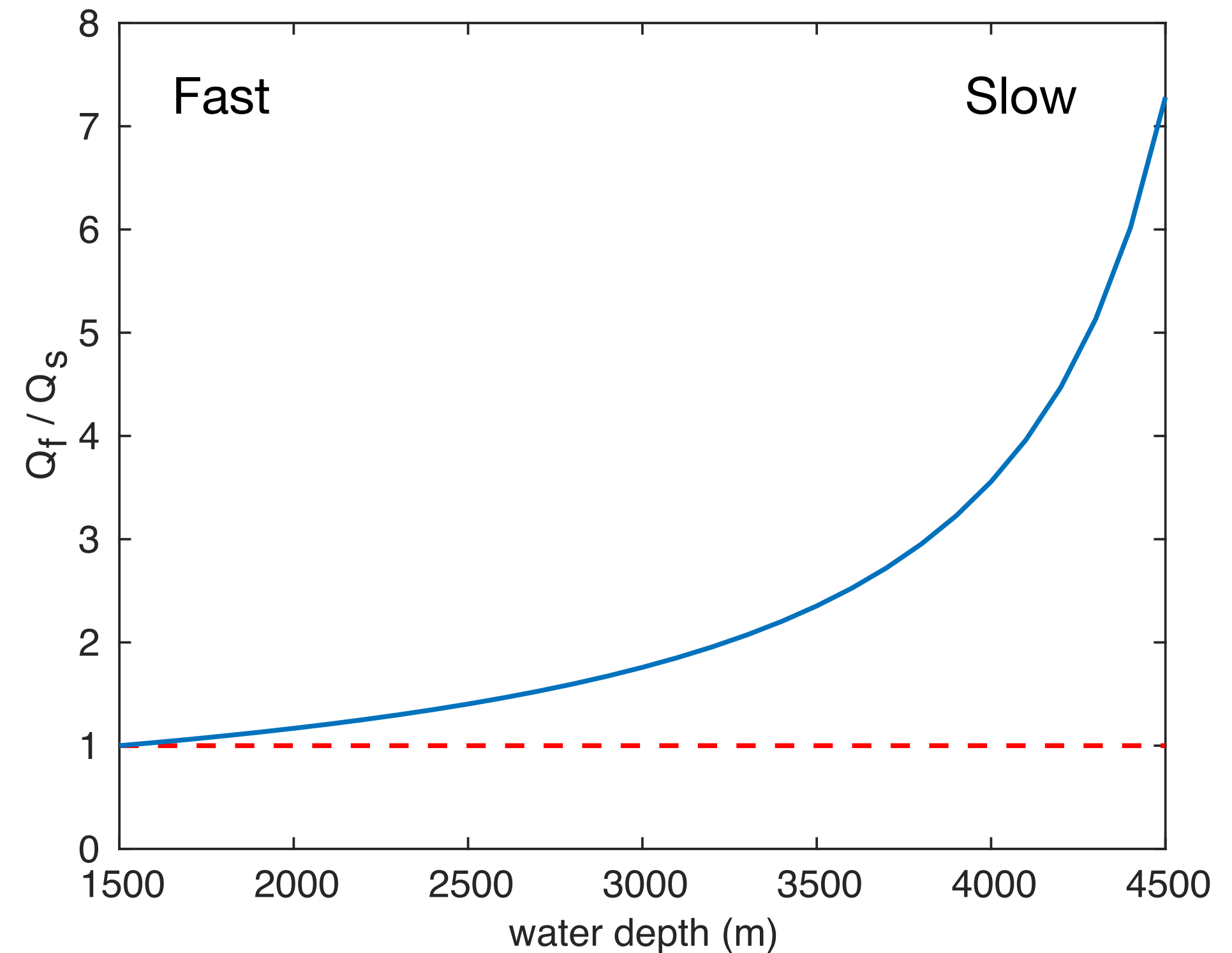
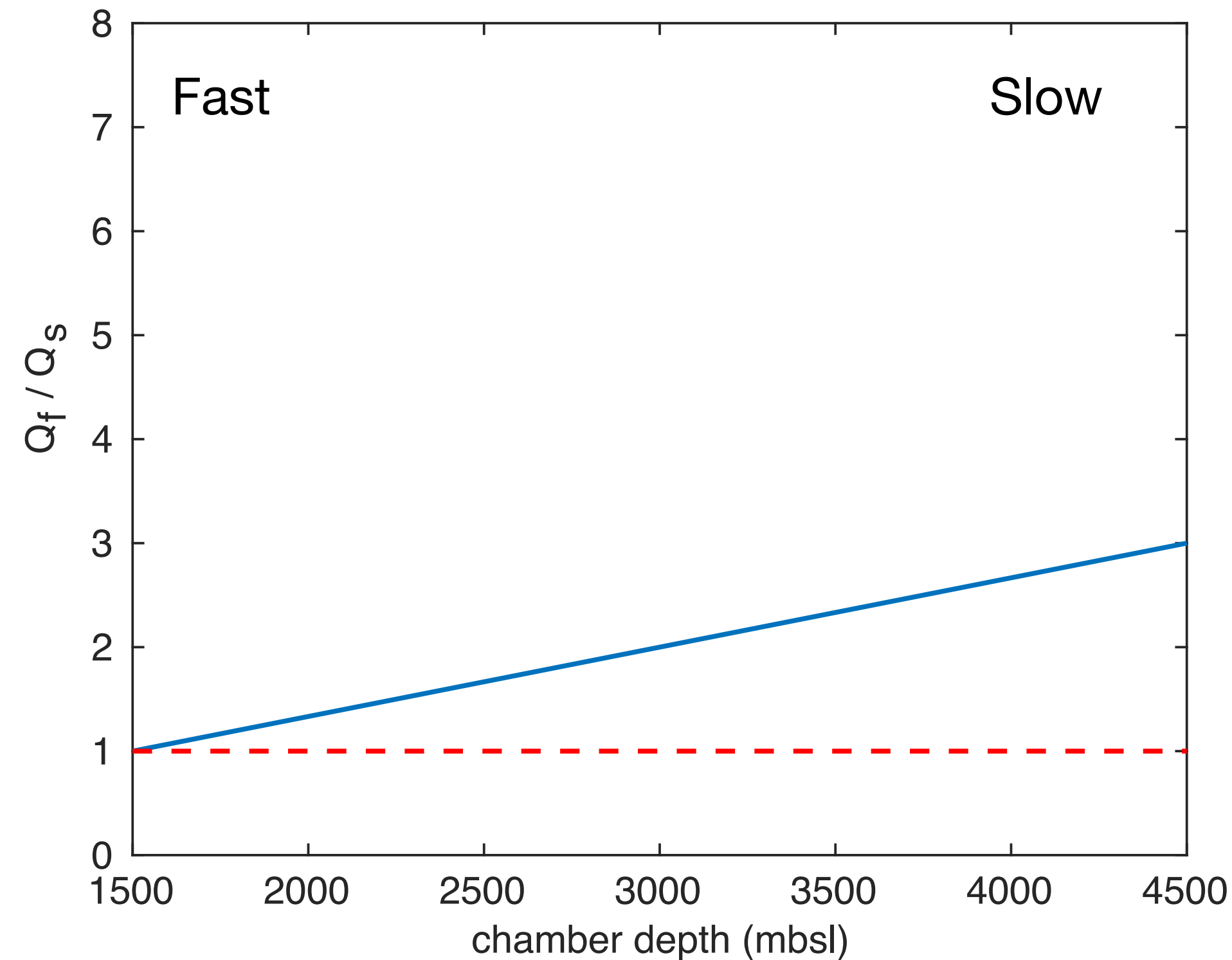
Flow through a dike (Castruccio et al., 2017)



$$Q \equiv \frac{dV_e}{dt} = b \left( \frac{\Delta\rho g H - (\rho_m - \rho_w)gh - \rho_w g(d - h)}{H + h} \right) + \frac{K}{V_c(H + h)} (\Delta V_i - V_e(t))$$

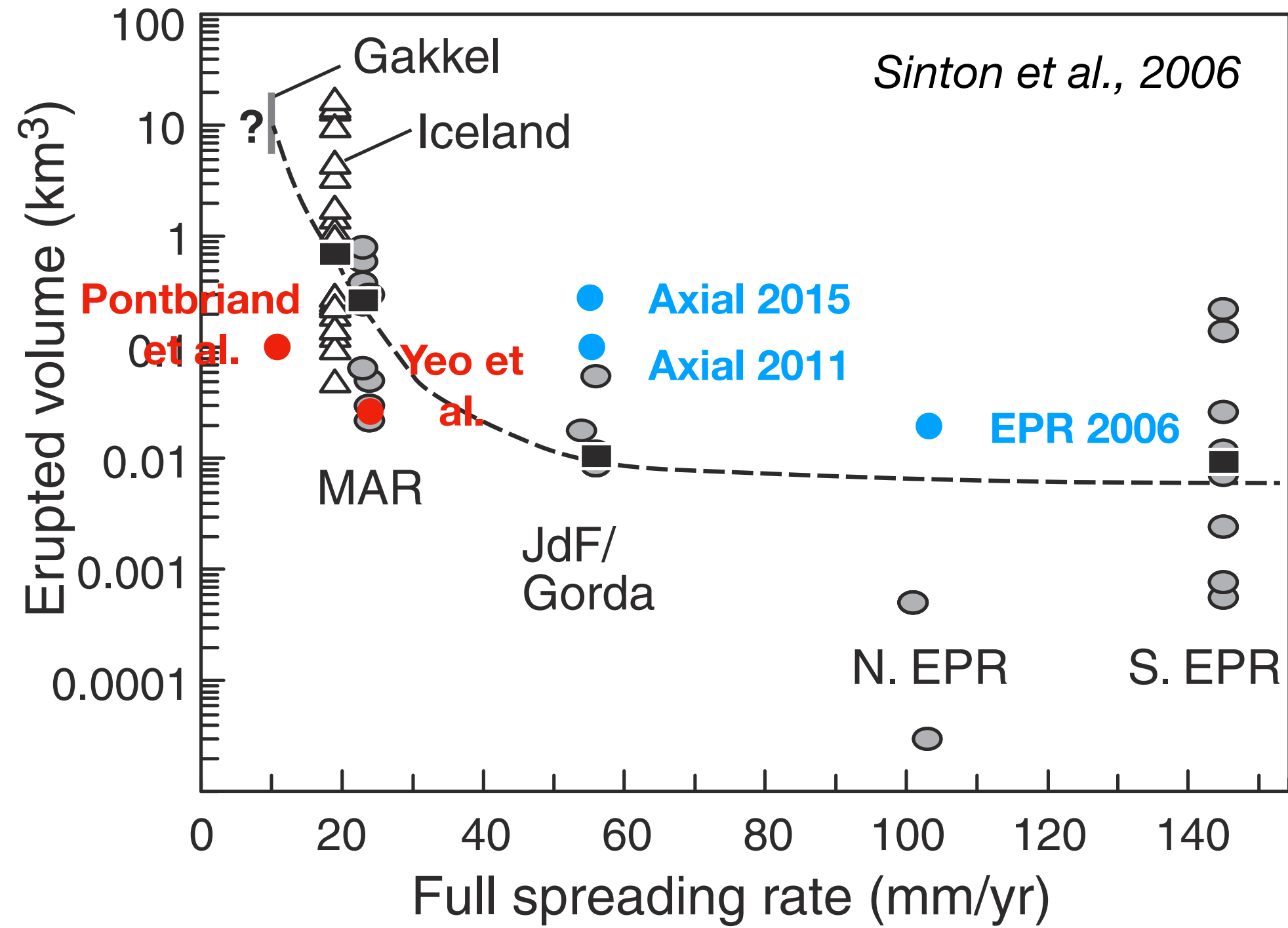
# What controls MOR eruption dynamics?

for equivalent initial overpressure, buoyancy, and chamber size...  
the relative eruption rate for deeper ridges and magma chambers significantly decreases.

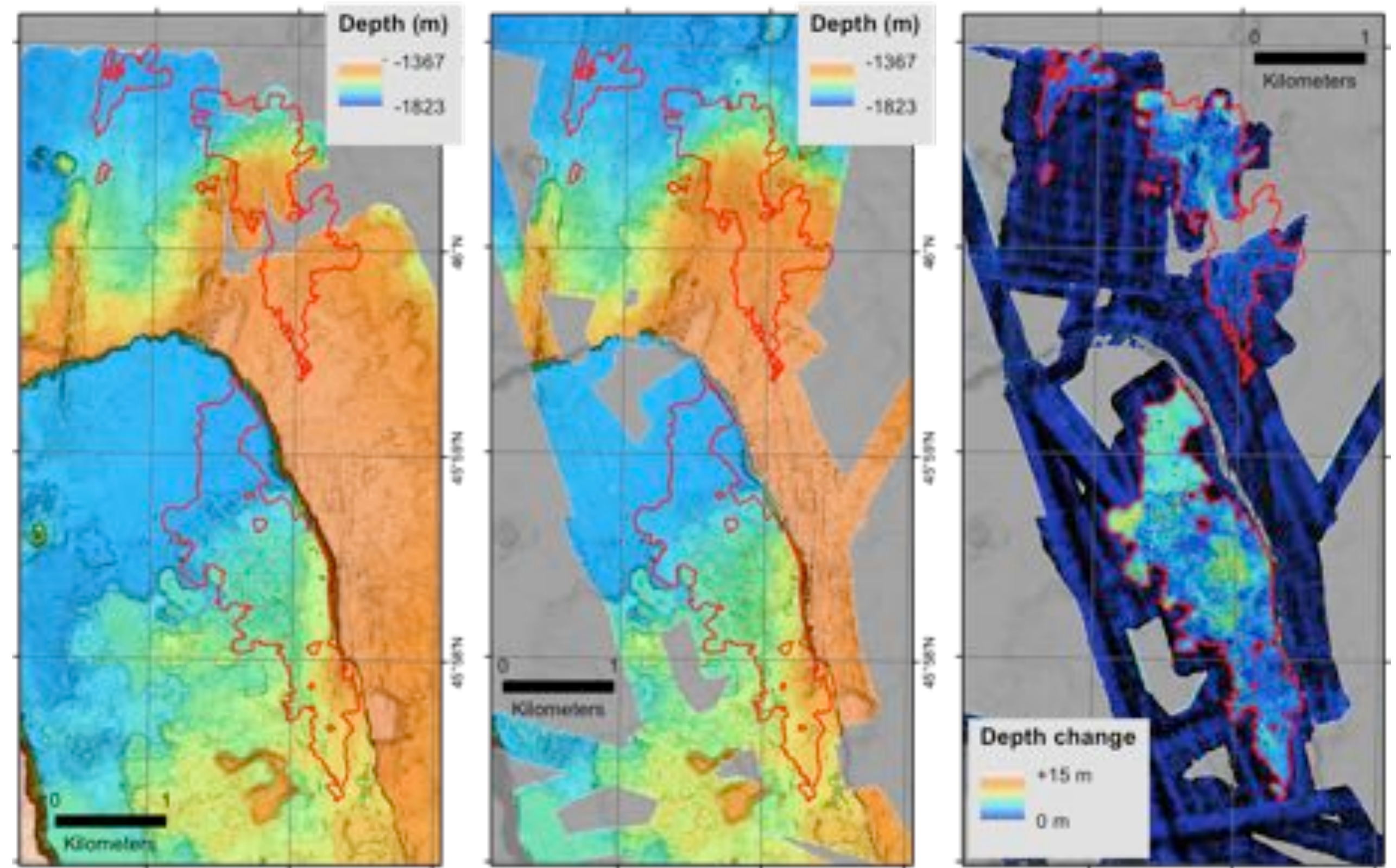


Perhaps the fundamental characteristics of ridges, largely controlled by spreading rate (sic. thermal structure) determine the global variations in eruption rate?

# Eruption Size



*courtesy of D. Clague*



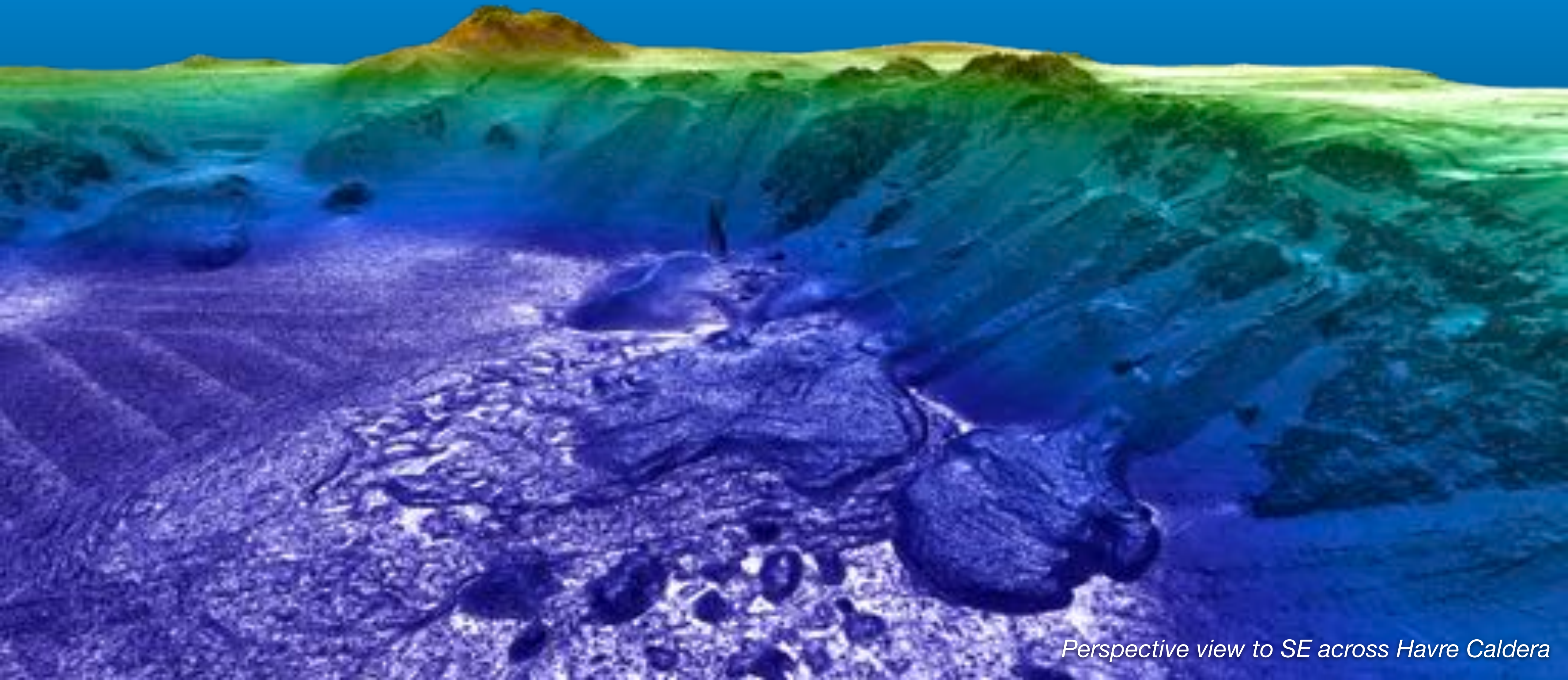
Pre 2015 bathymetry

Post 2015 bathymetry

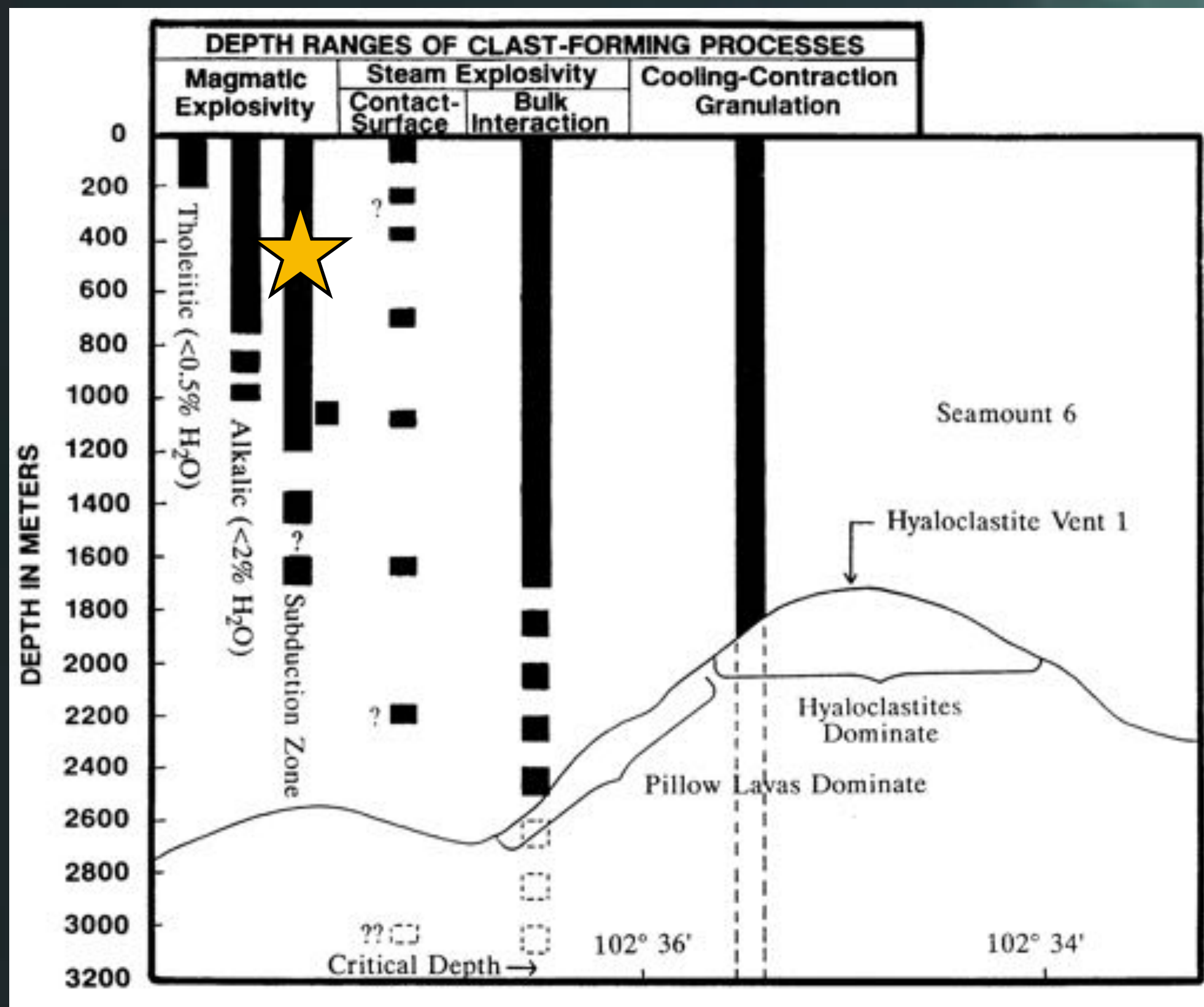
Bathymetric difference

The previous model predicts greater eruption size at fast-spreading ridges, contrary to the current view, which is highly underdetermined.

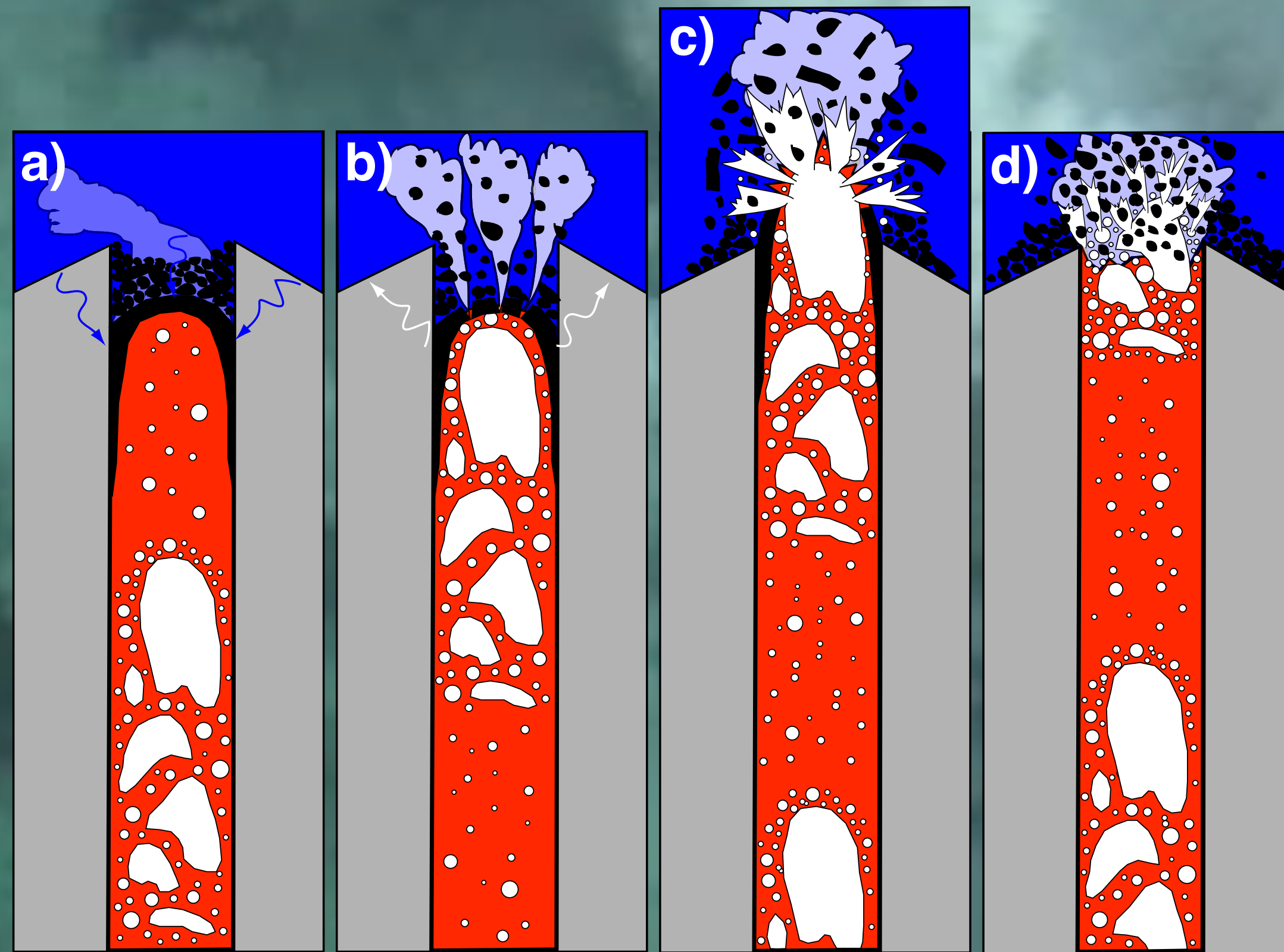
# Submarine Arc Volcanism



*Perspective view to SE across Havre Caldera*

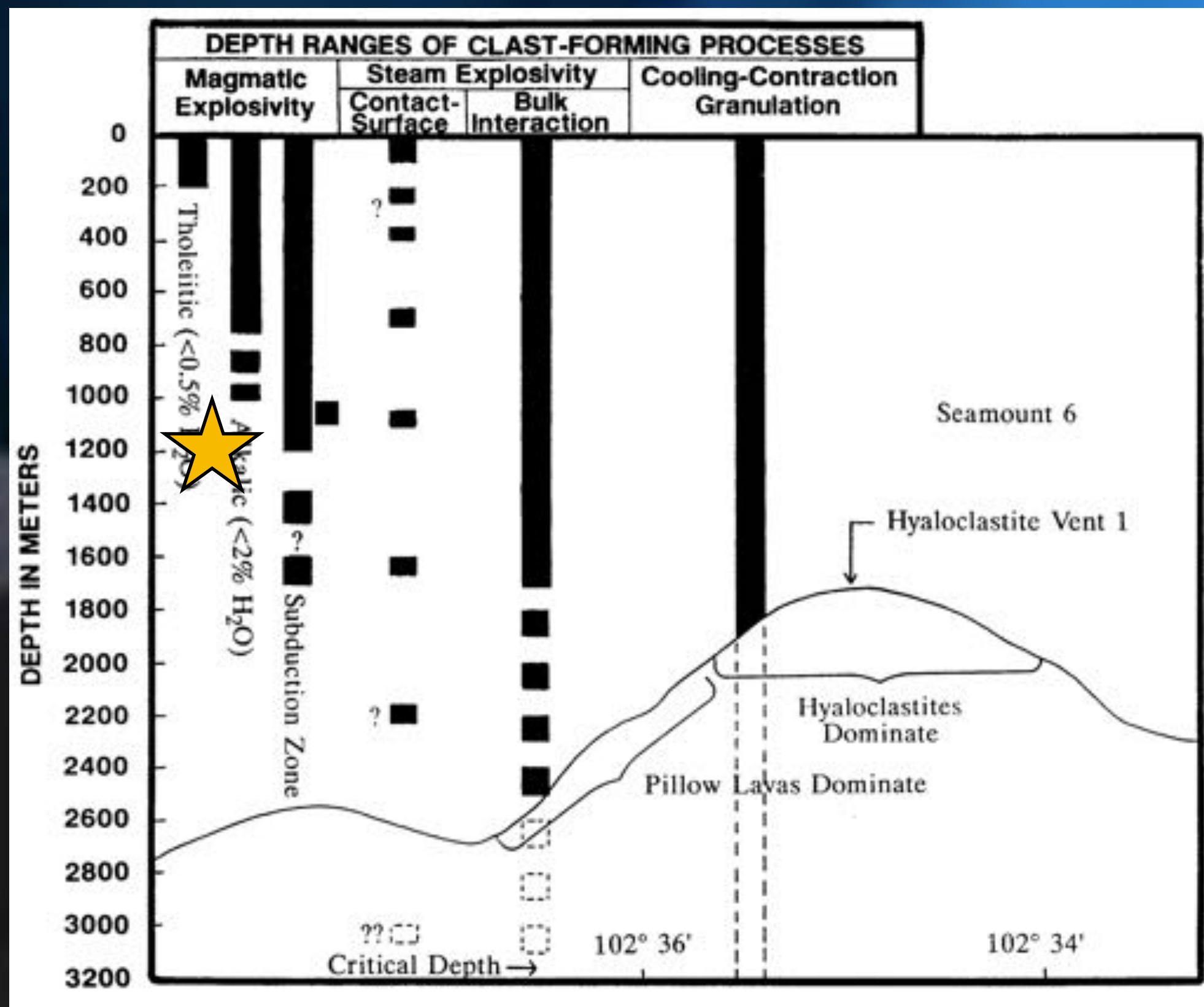


Head & Wilson, 2003



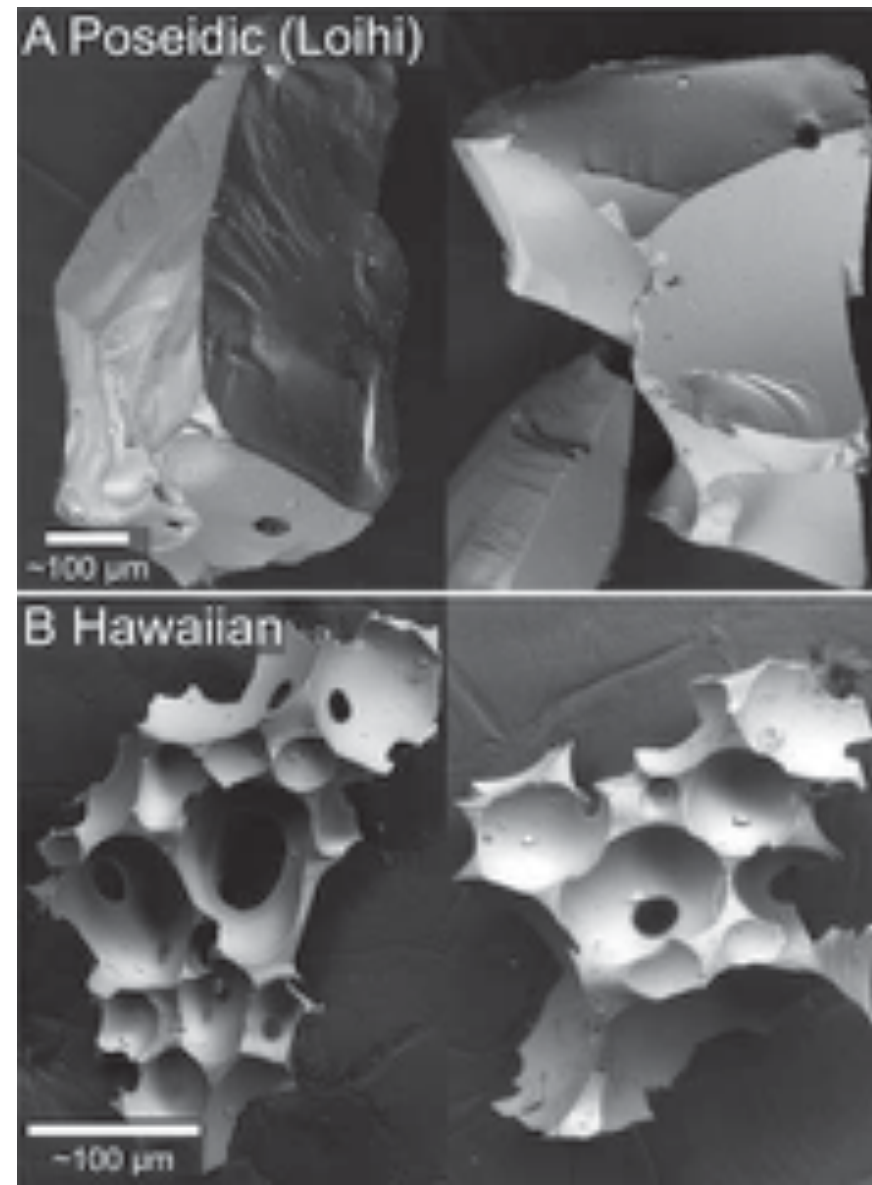
Chadwick et al., 2008



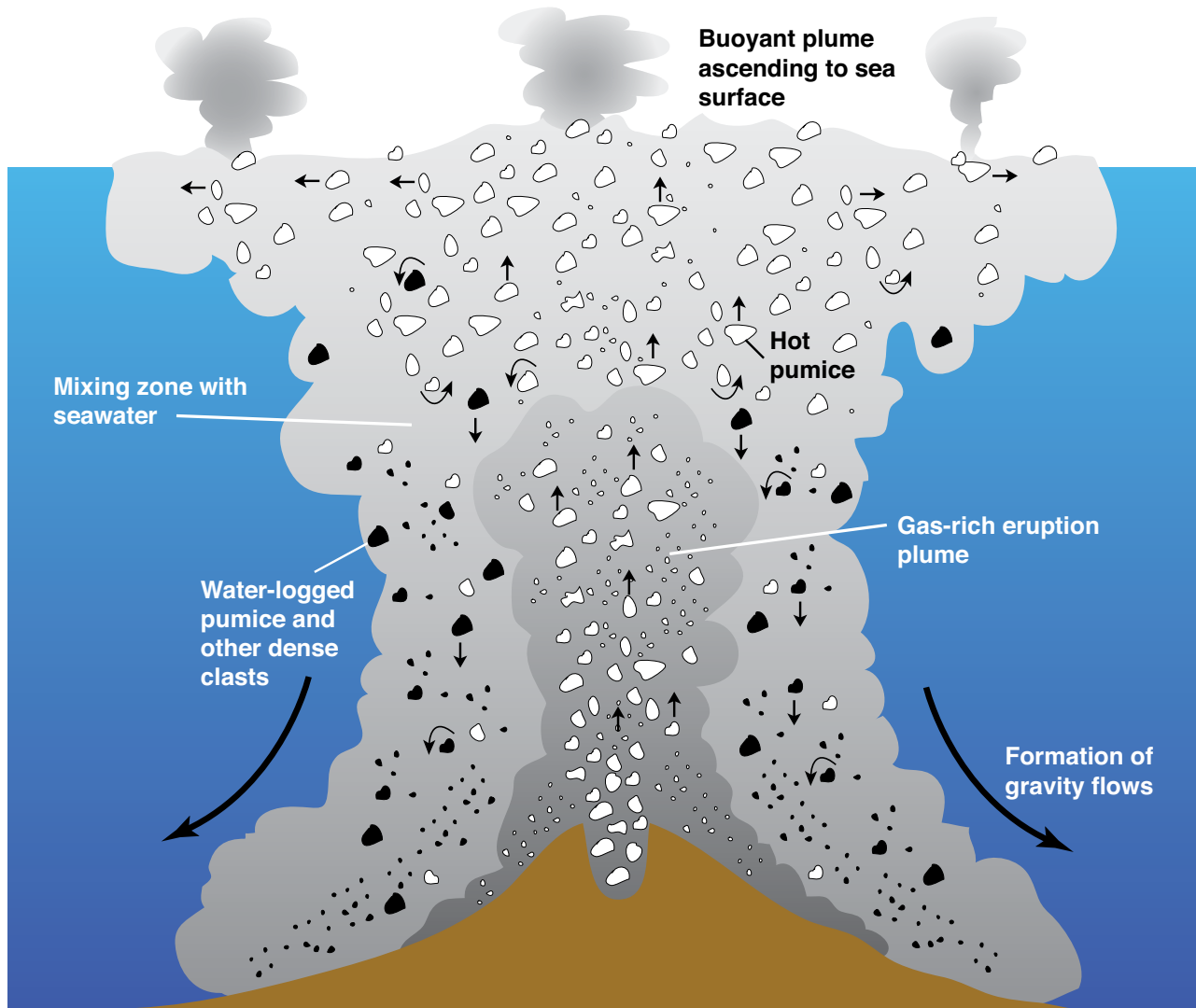
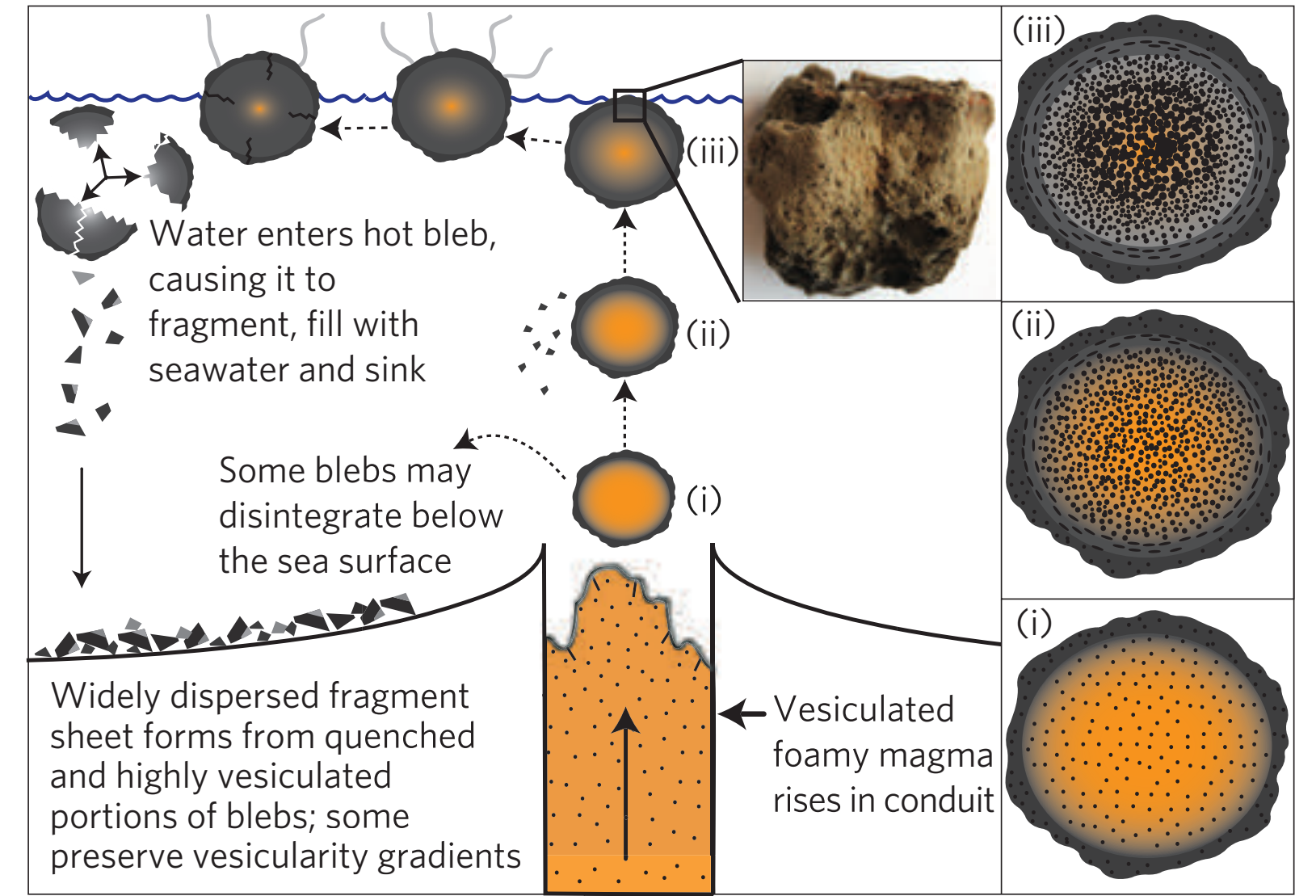
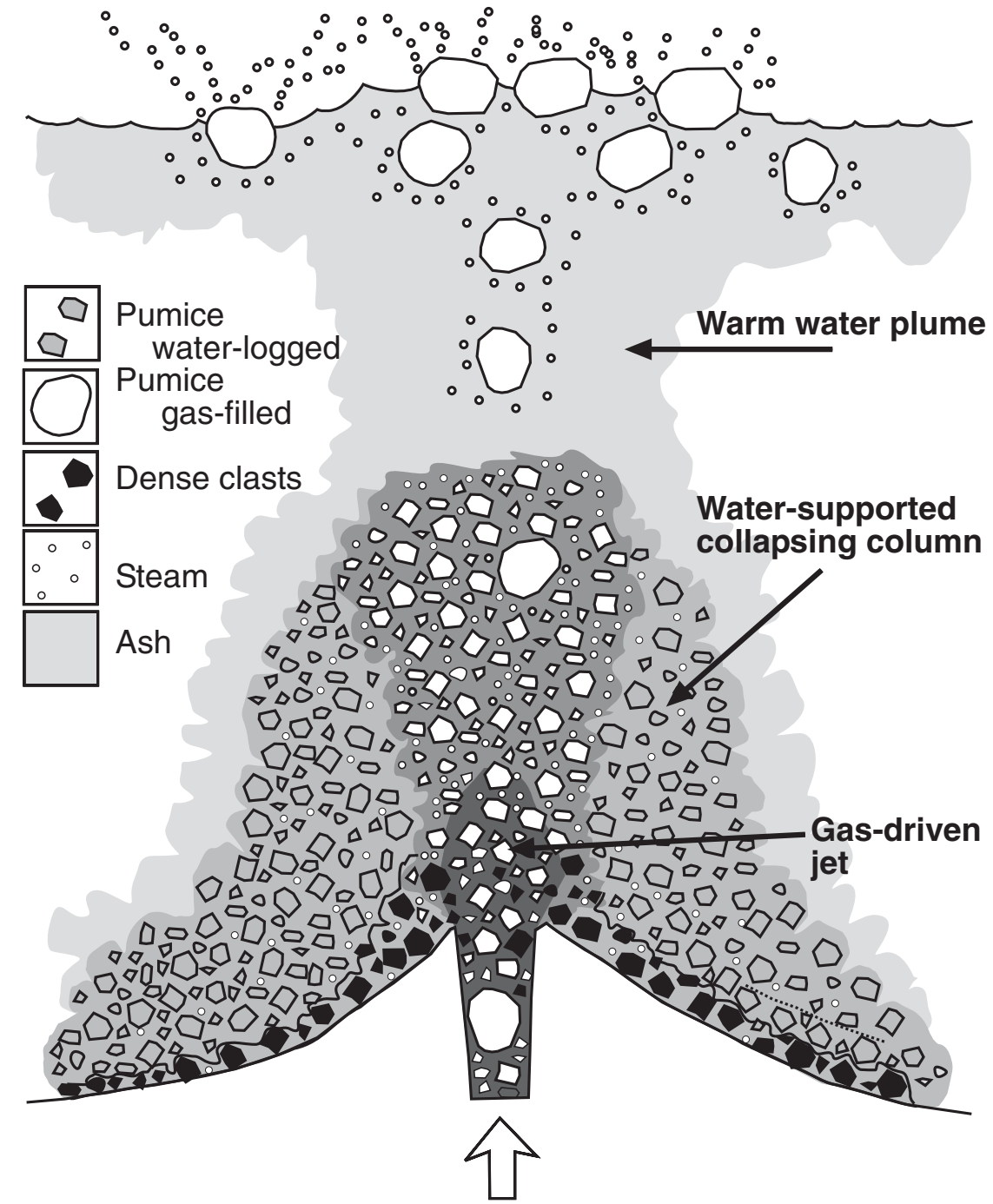


Head & Wilson, 2003

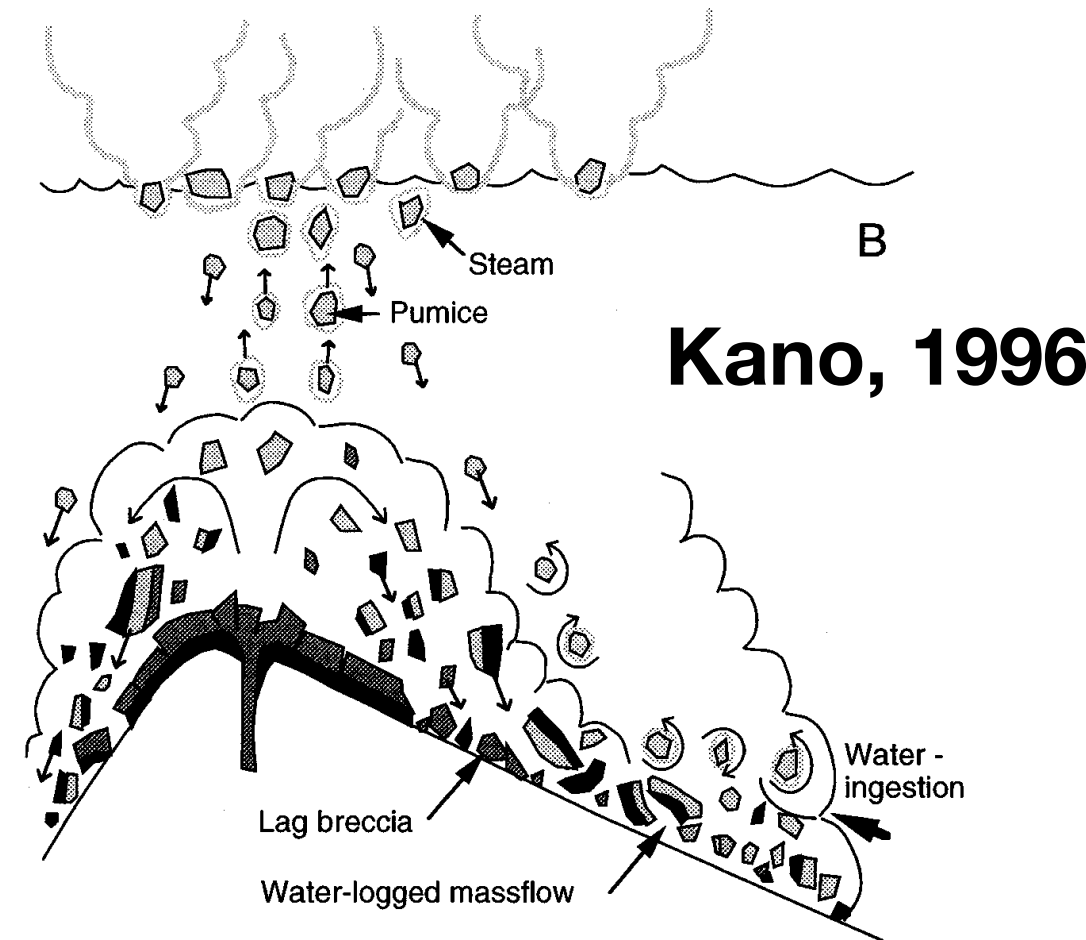
# Poseidic - Schipper et al., 2010



# Neptunian - Allen & McPhie, 2009

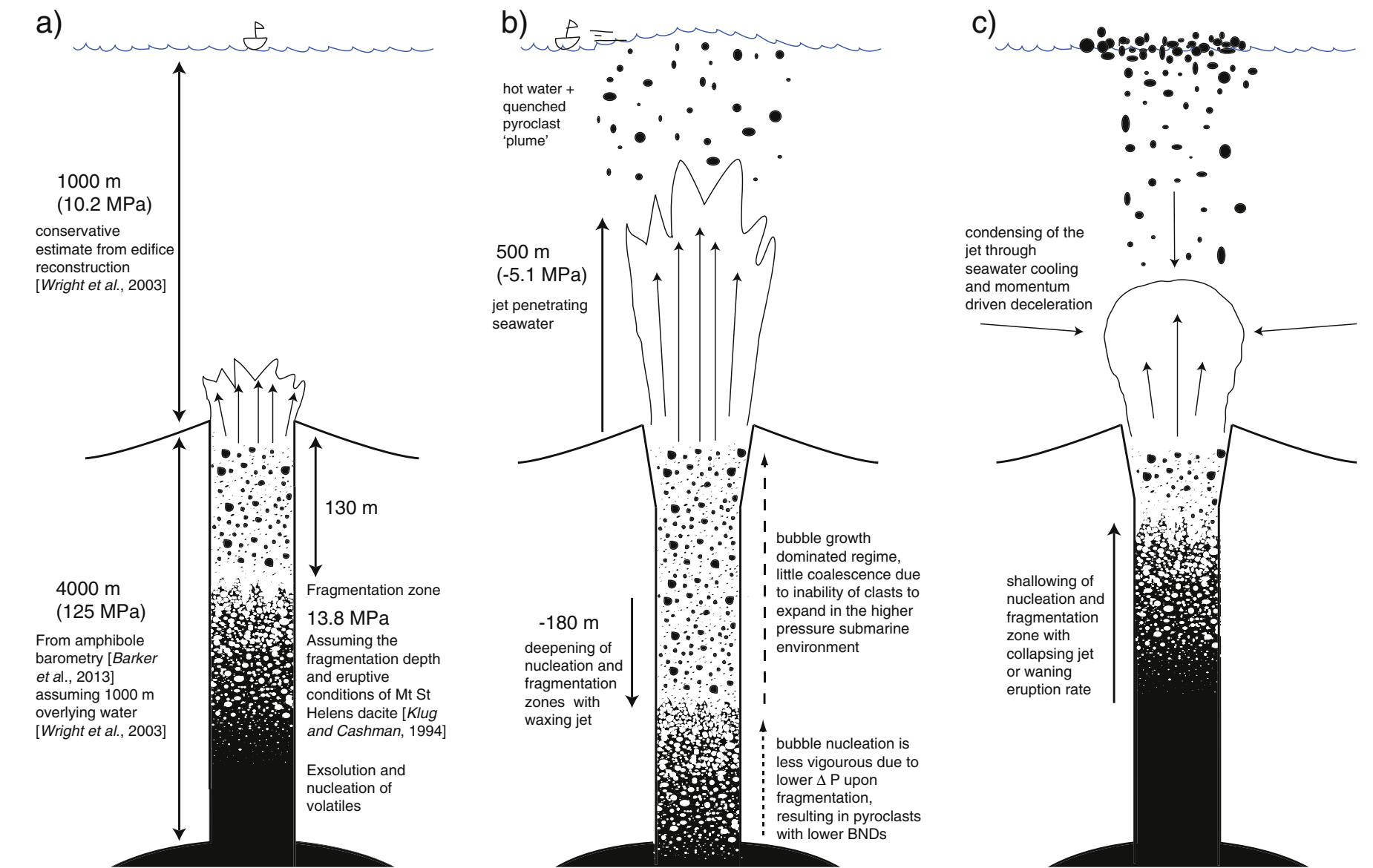


after Kano et al., 1996

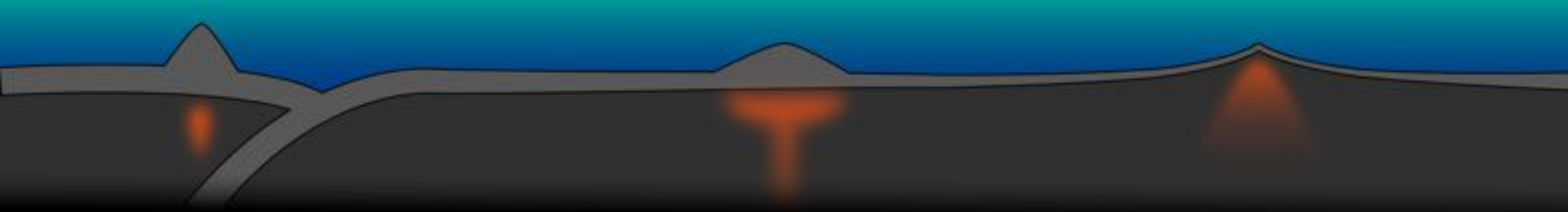


Kano, 1996

# Tangaroan - Rotella et al., 2013



Rotella et al., 2015



### Deep thought #3

What influence does seawater have on fragmentation and dispersal in submarine arc eruptions i.e., can magmatically-driven pyroclastic eruptions occur in the deep ocean (>1000m)?

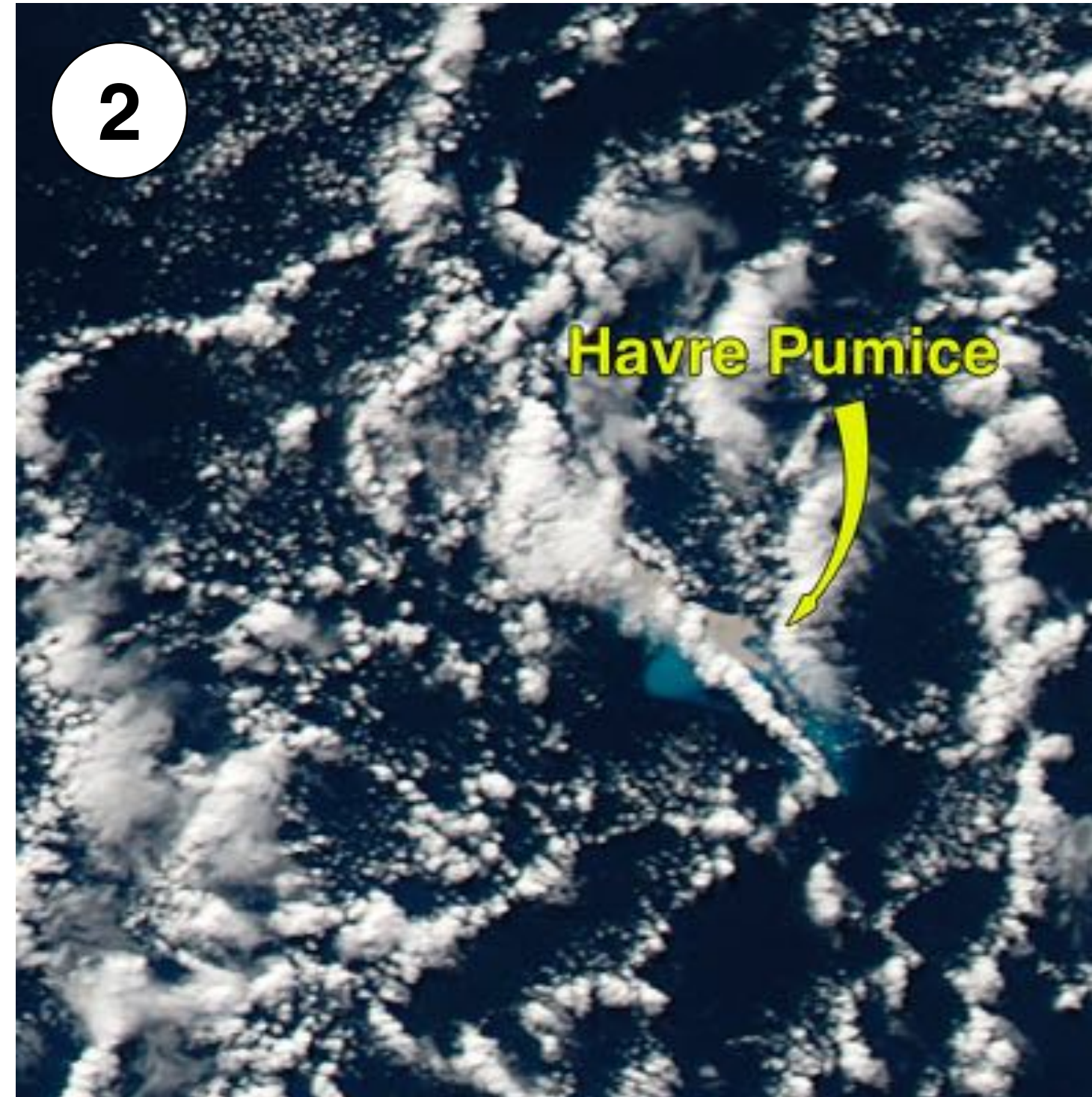
How can deposit characteristics be inverted to constrain eruption processes?

# Discovery of the Havre 2012 Eruption

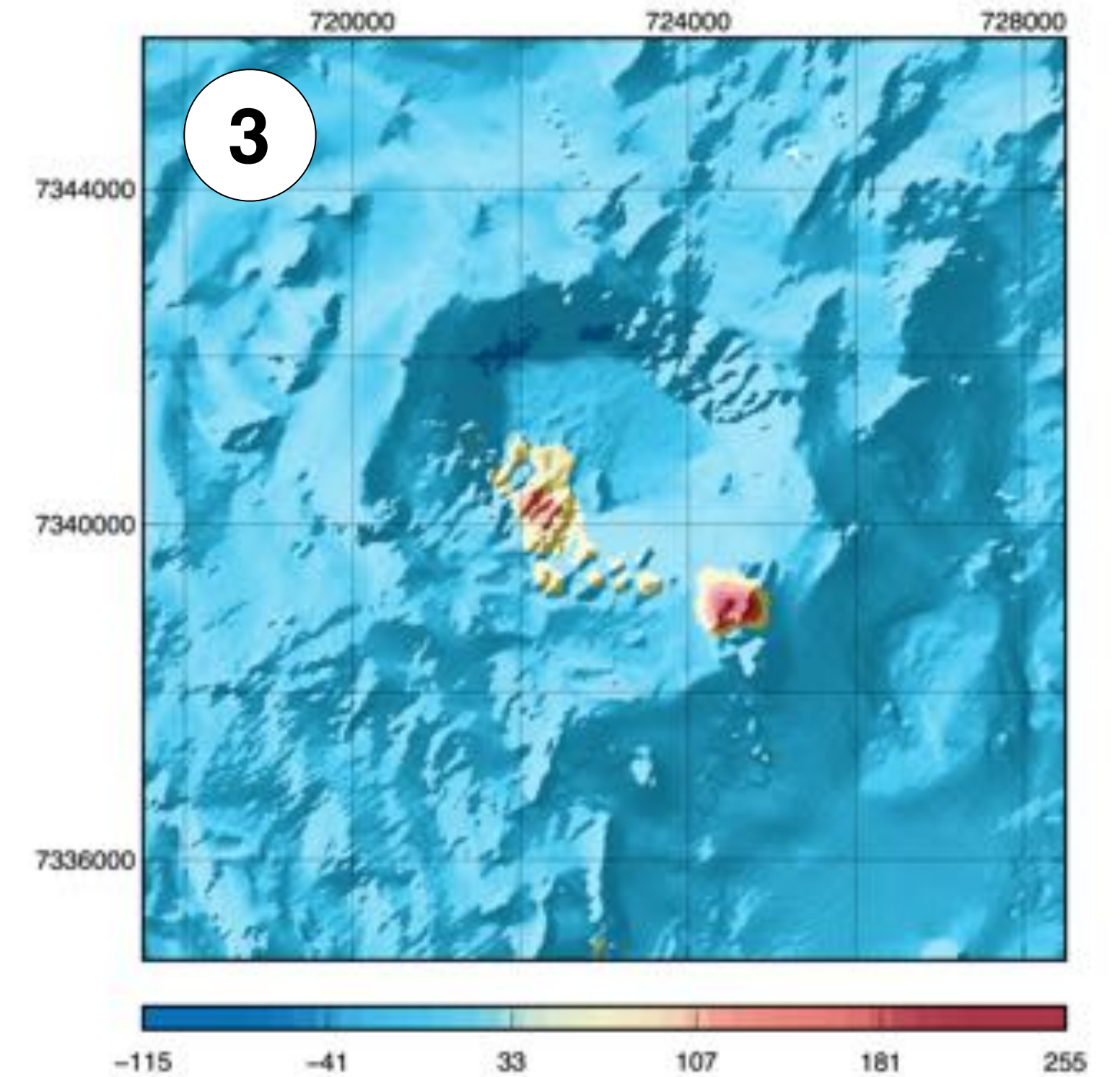


HMS Canterbury discovered pumice raft

MODIS satellite image, 19 July 2012



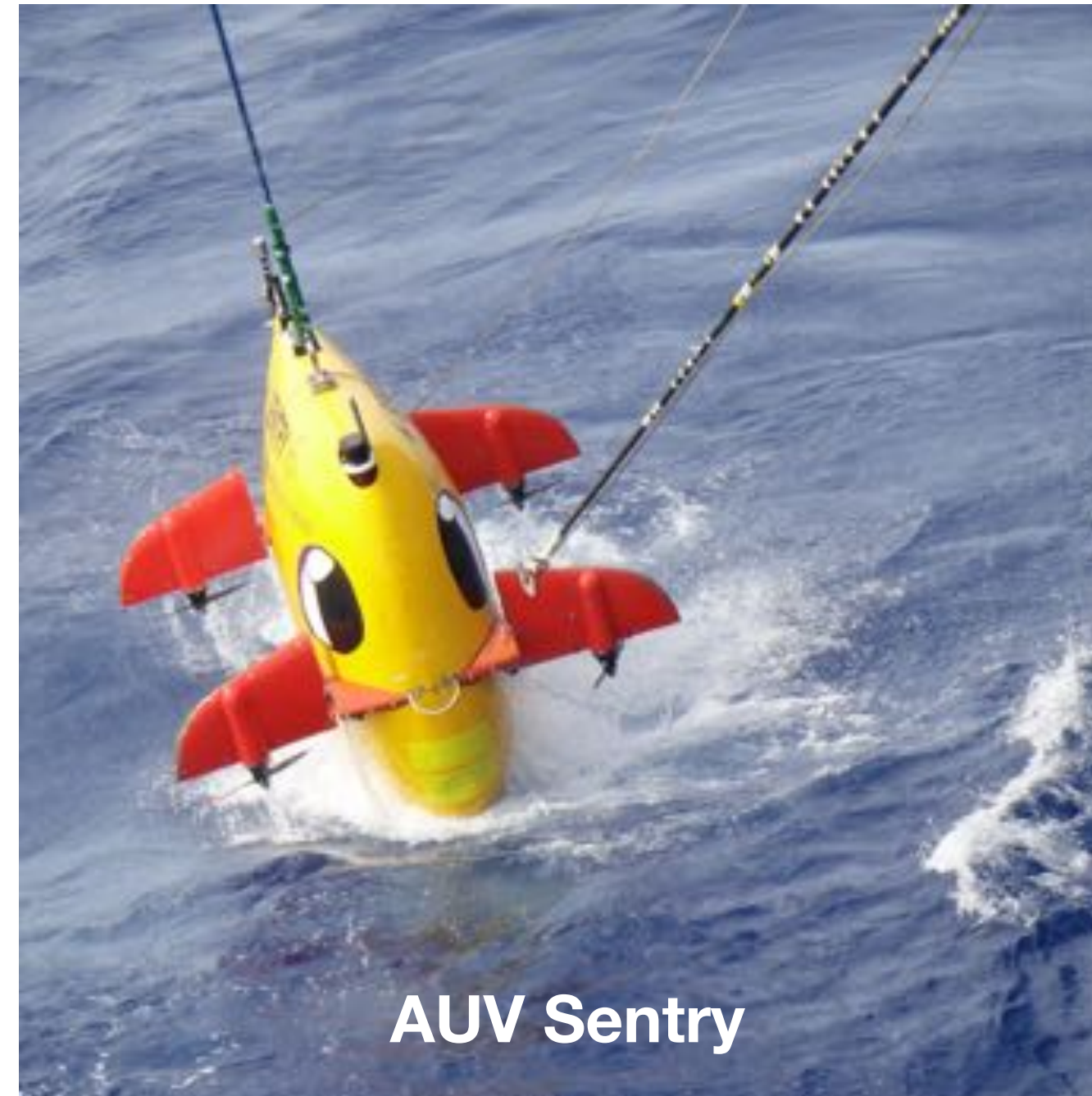
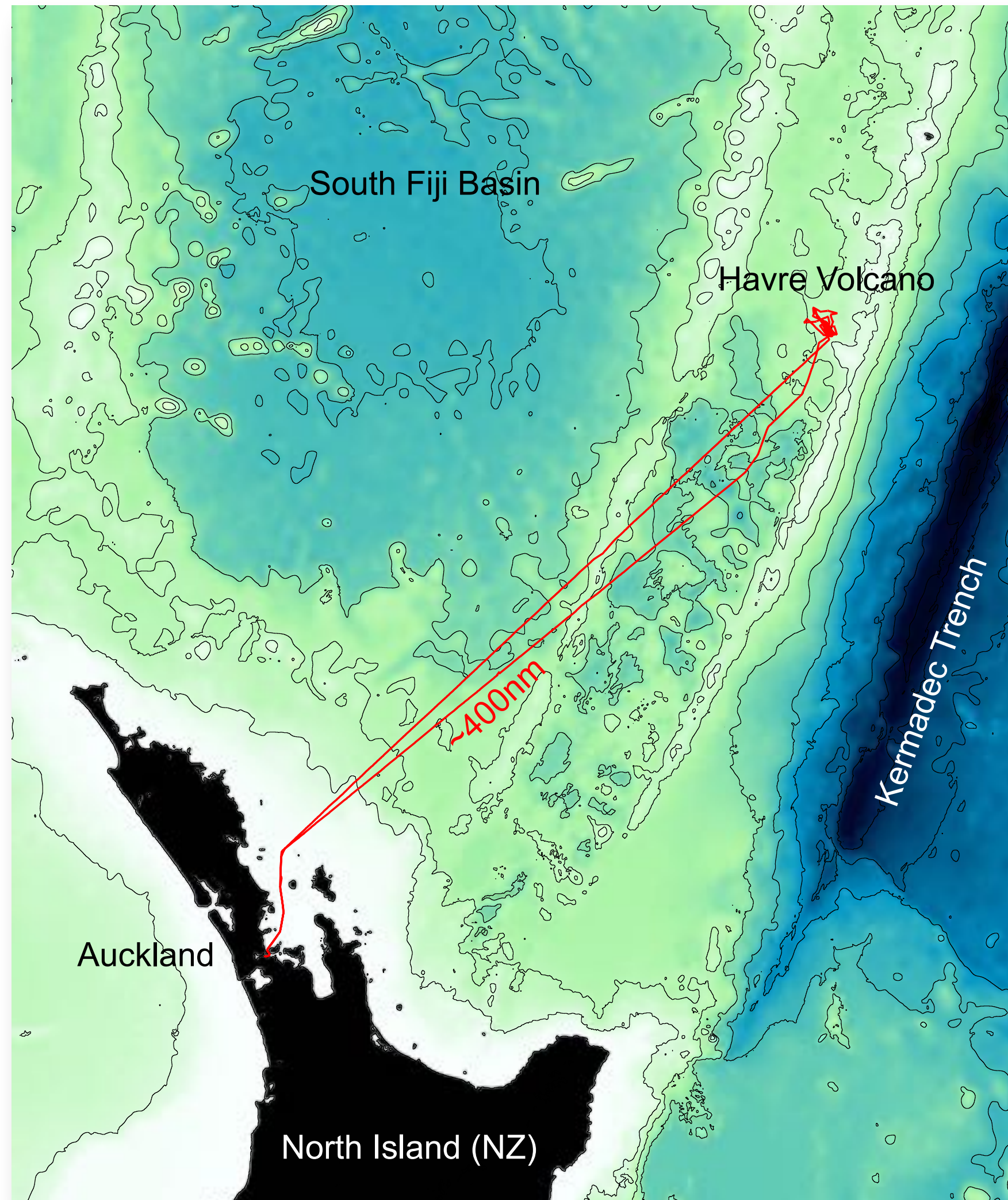
*Jutzeler et al., 2014*



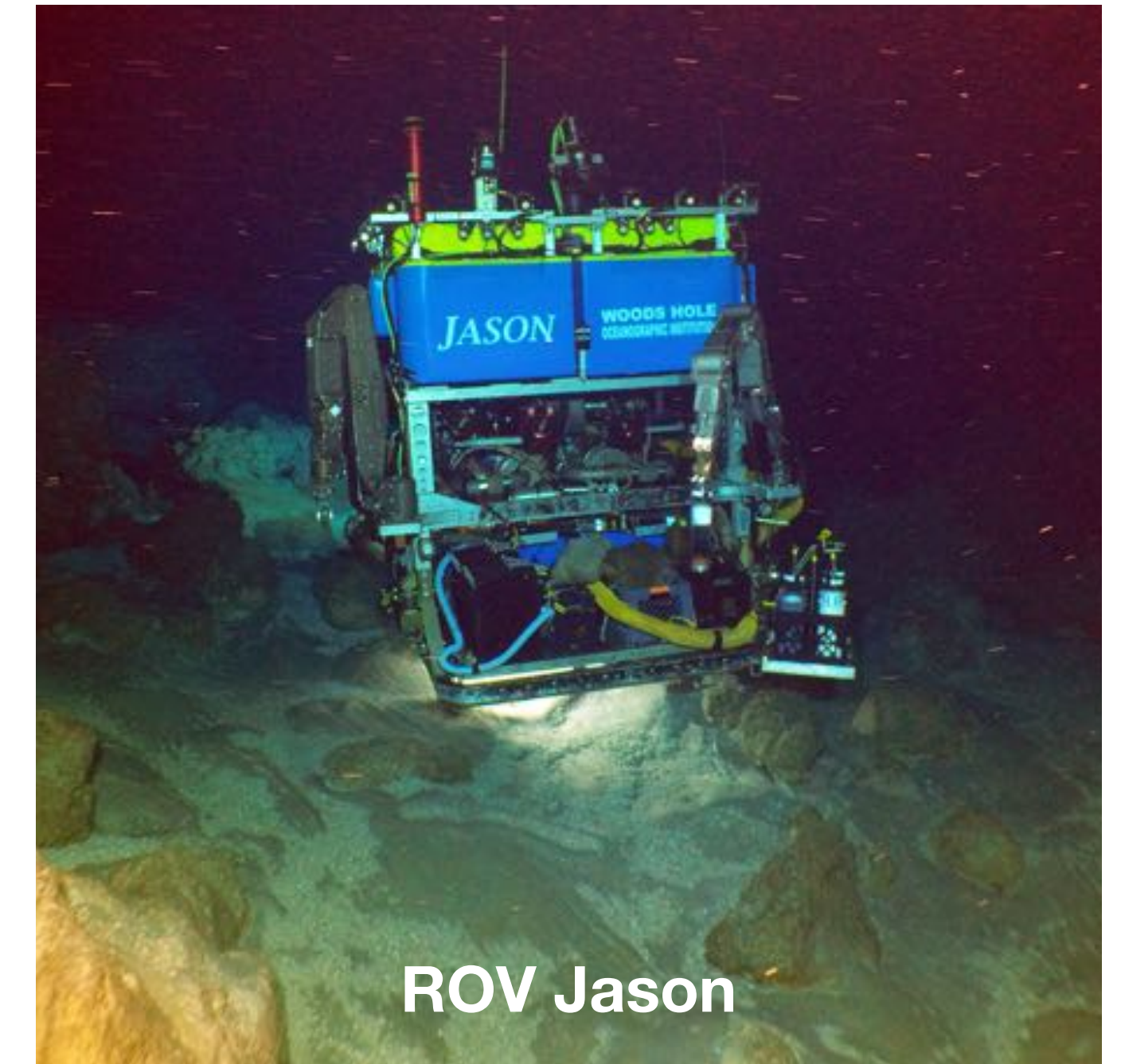
*Carey et al., 2014*

First viewed by a passenger on an airline, the pumice raft was intersected by the NZ Navy and subsequently tracked to its source using satellite imagery. The pumice raft area was  $\sim 40 \text{ km}^2$  and its volume is estimated  $\sim 1 \text{ km}^3$

# Mapping, Exploration, and Sampling at Havre (MESH)



AUV Sentry



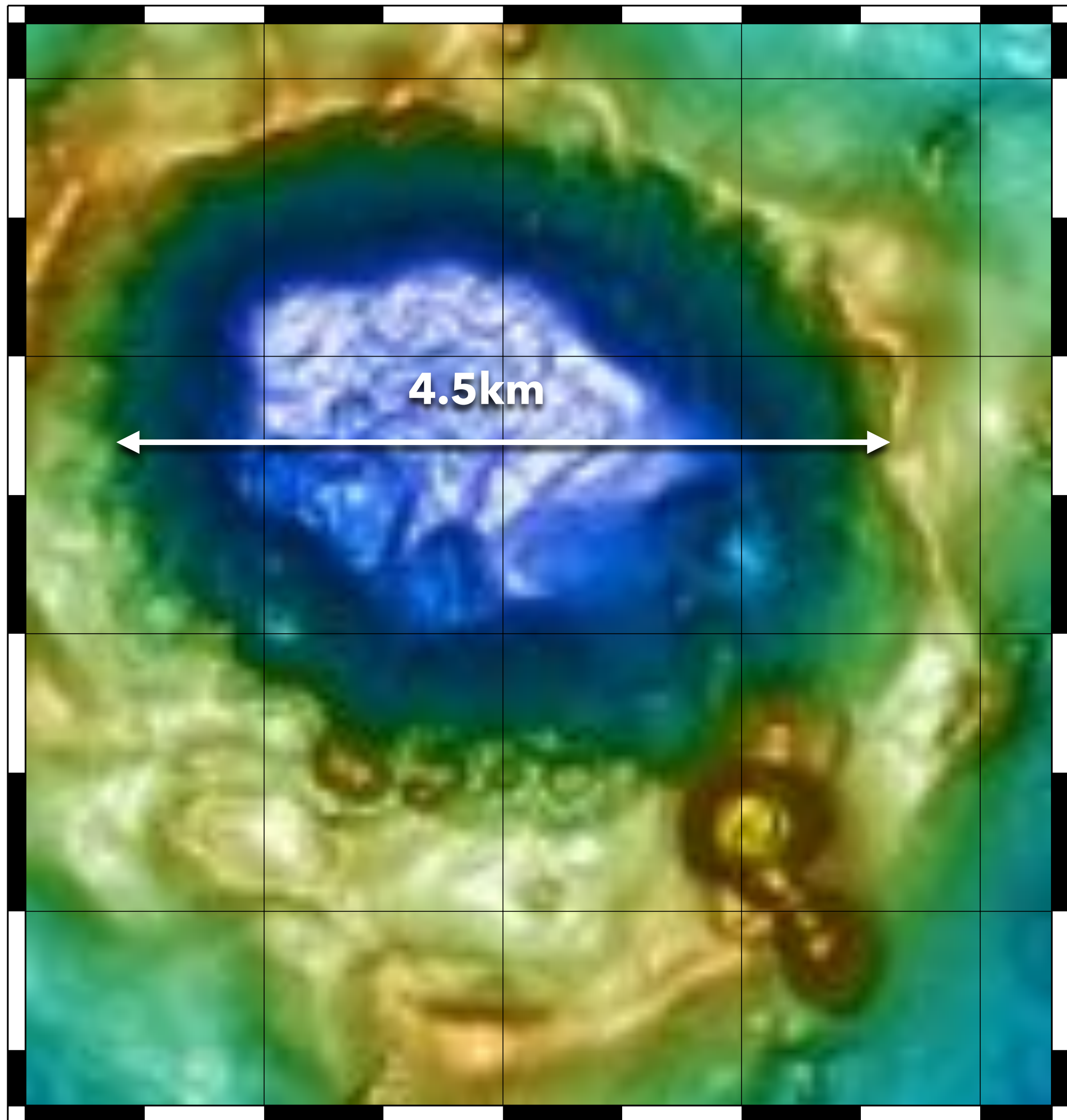
ROV Jason

- **AUV Sentry**
  - (12 dives, 56km<sup>2</sup> survey area)
- **ROV Jason**
  - (12 dives, 240h bottom time)
  - (290 samples of rock, sediment)
- **Coring & clamshell grabs**
  - (35 cores/grabs, ~20 successful)
  - (heat flow measurements)

# AUV Mapping

-179°04.0'   -179°03.0'   -179°02.0'   -179°01.0'   -179°00.0'

-179°04.0'   -179°03.0'   -179°02.0'   -179°01.0'   -179°00.0'

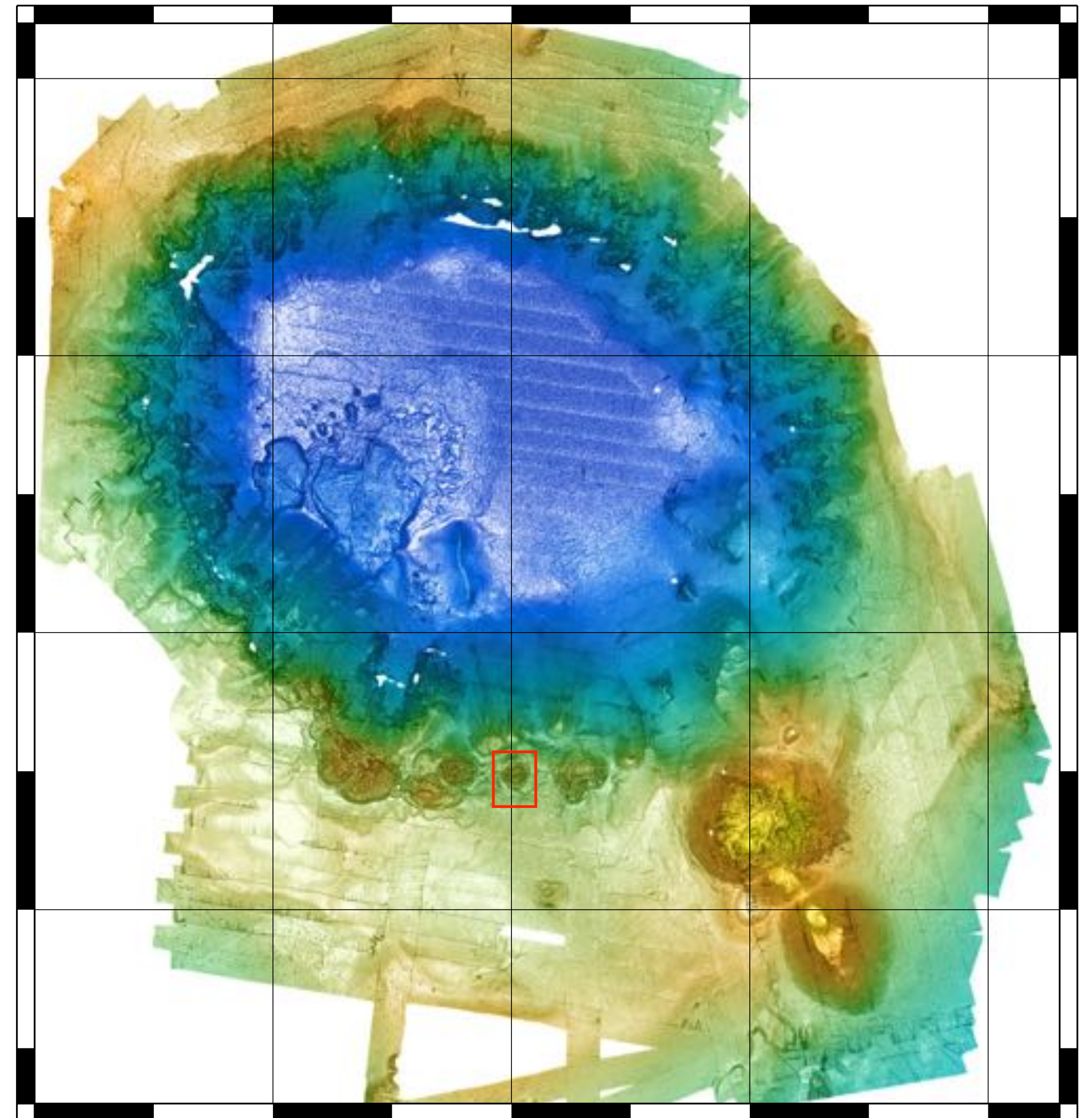


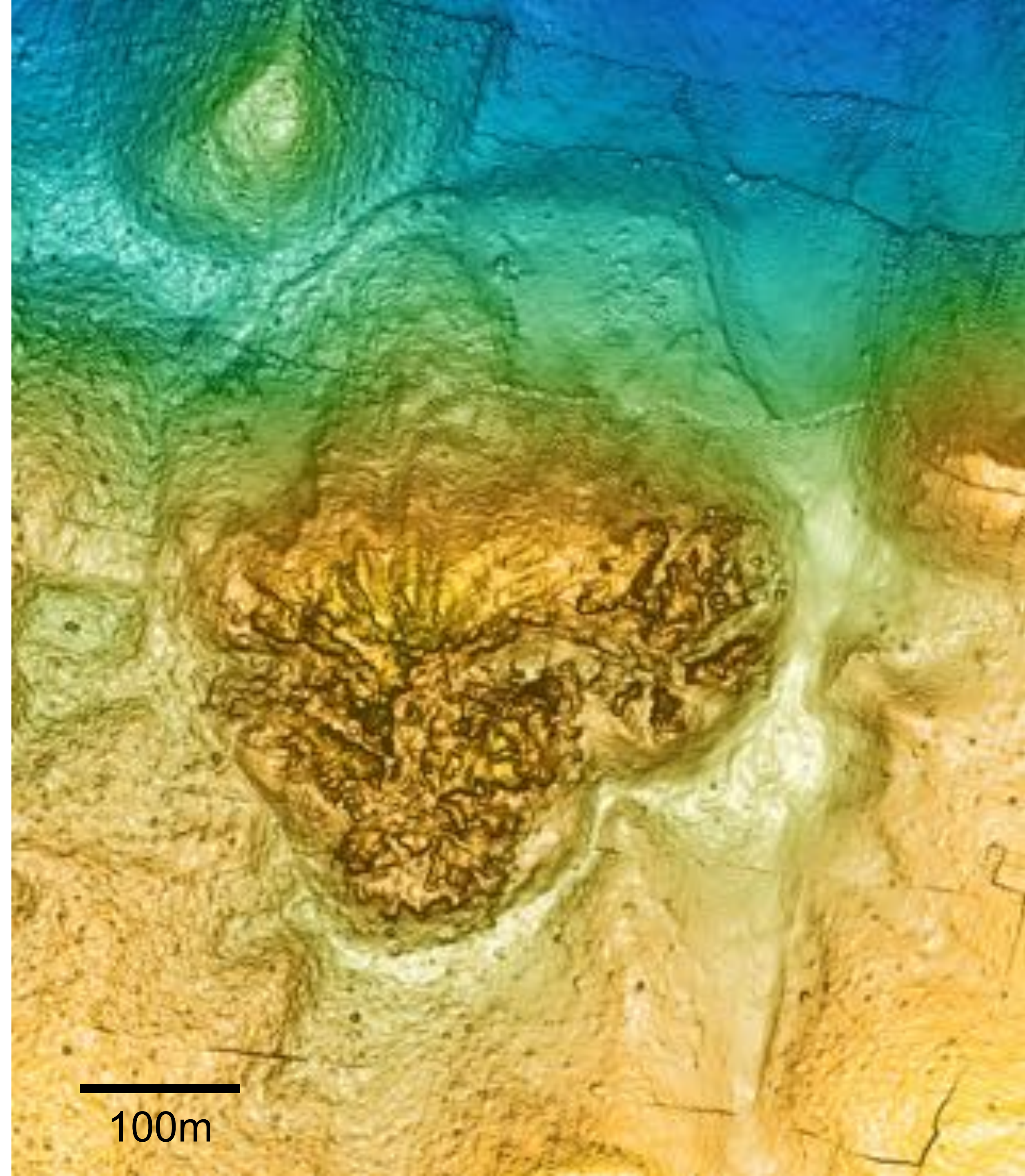
-31°05.0'

-31°06.0'

-31°07.0'

-31°08.0'



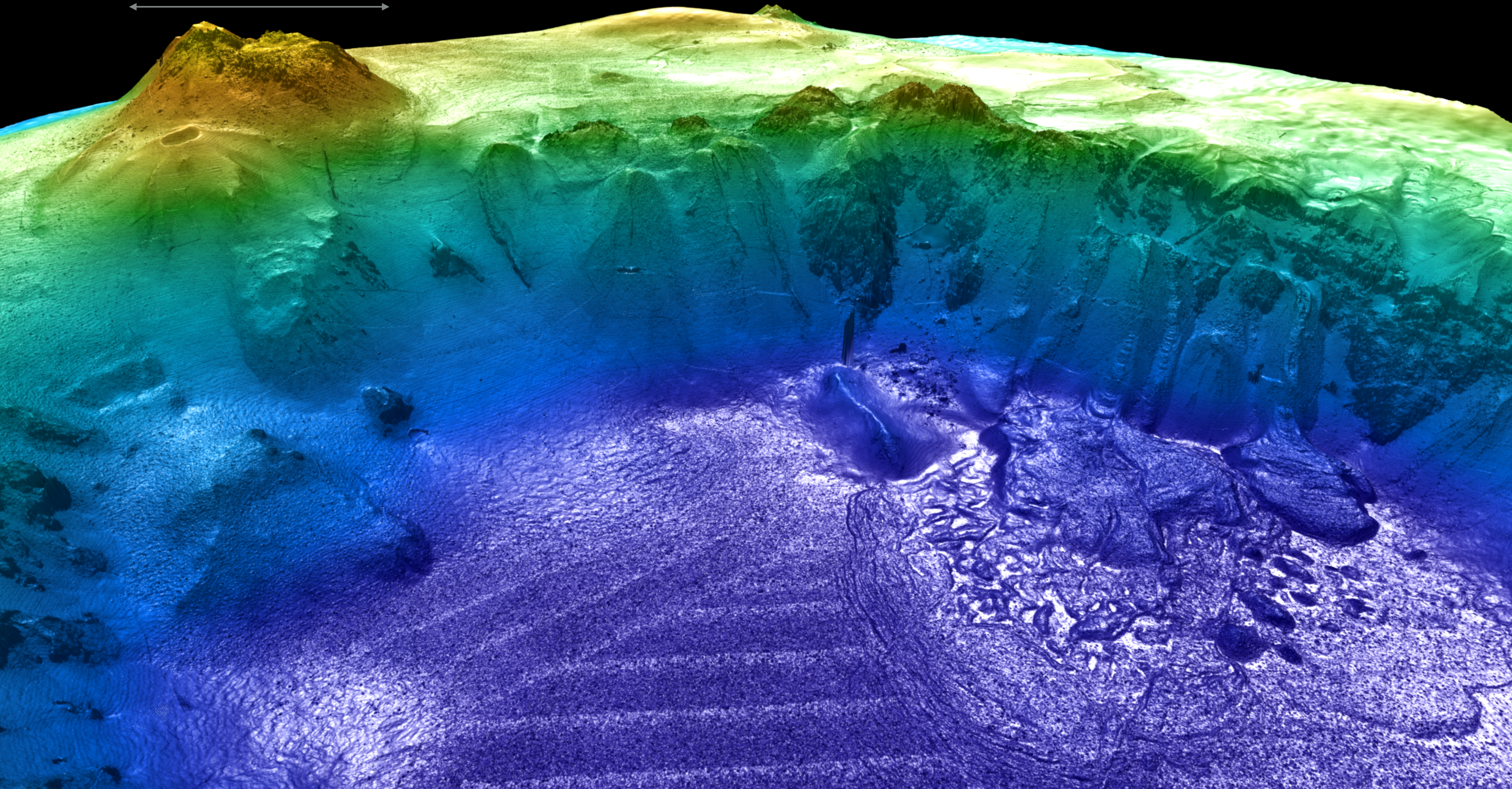


100m

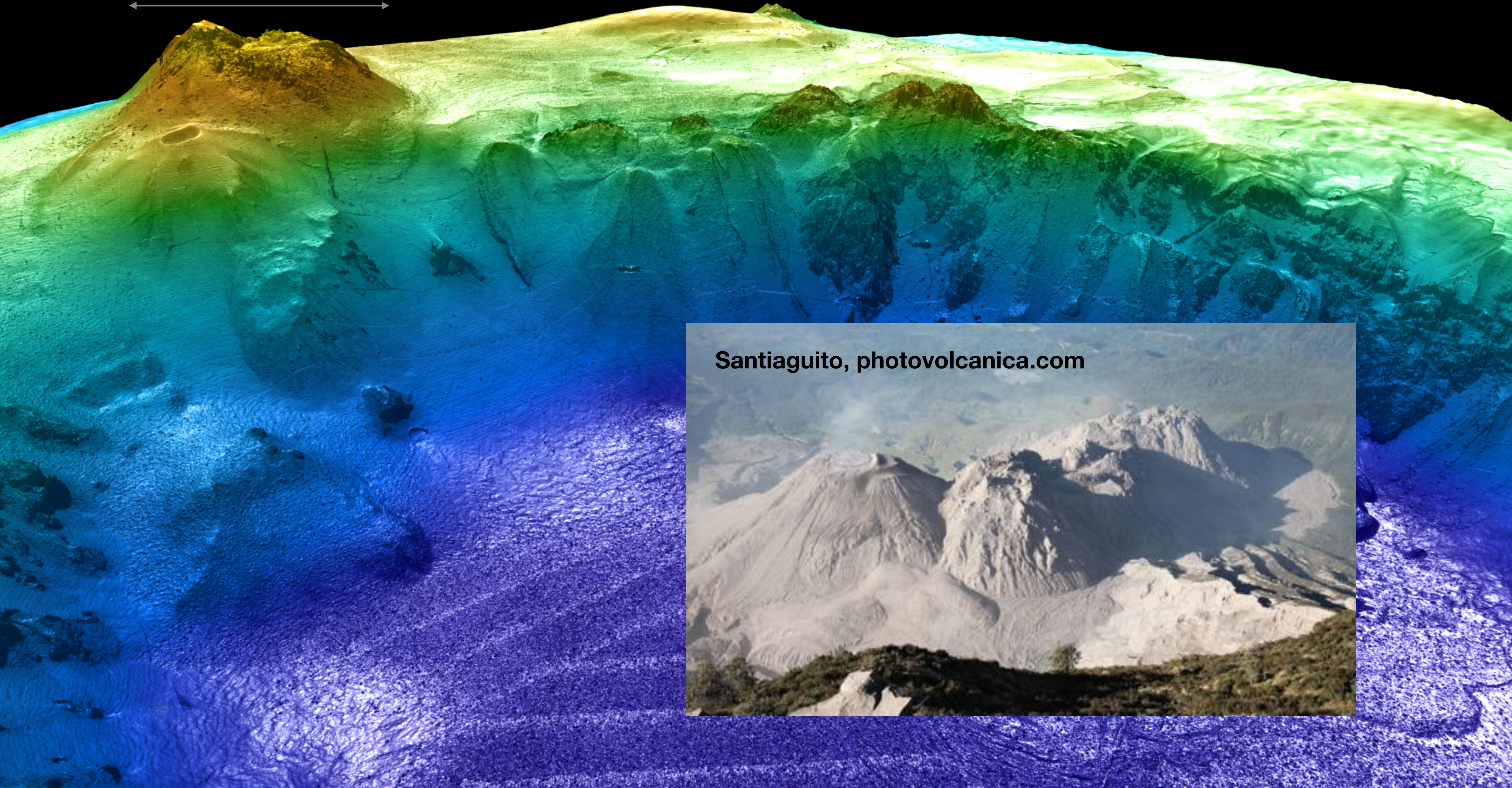




~850 m



~850 m

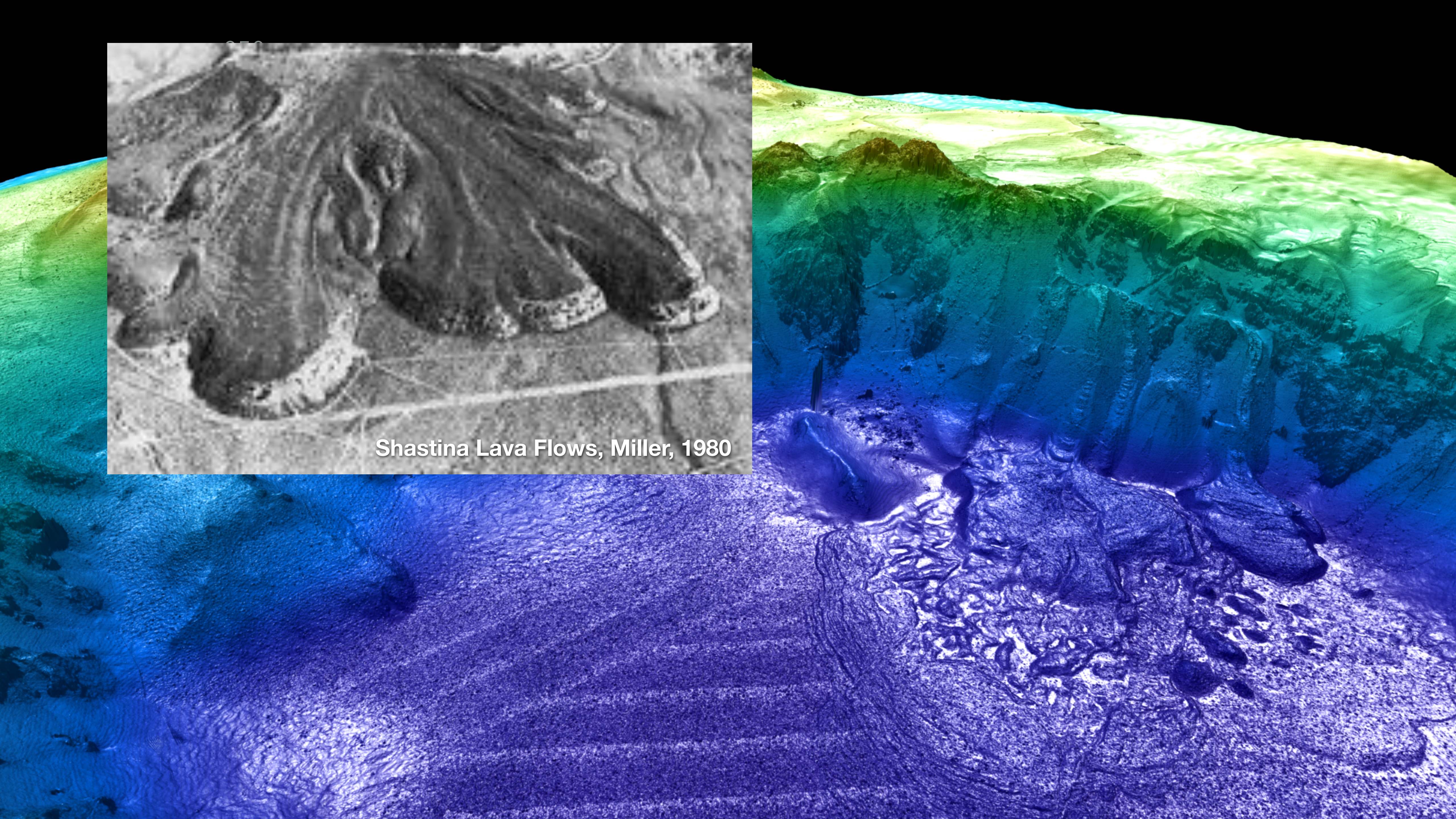


Santiaguito, [photovolcanica.com](http://photovolcanica.com)

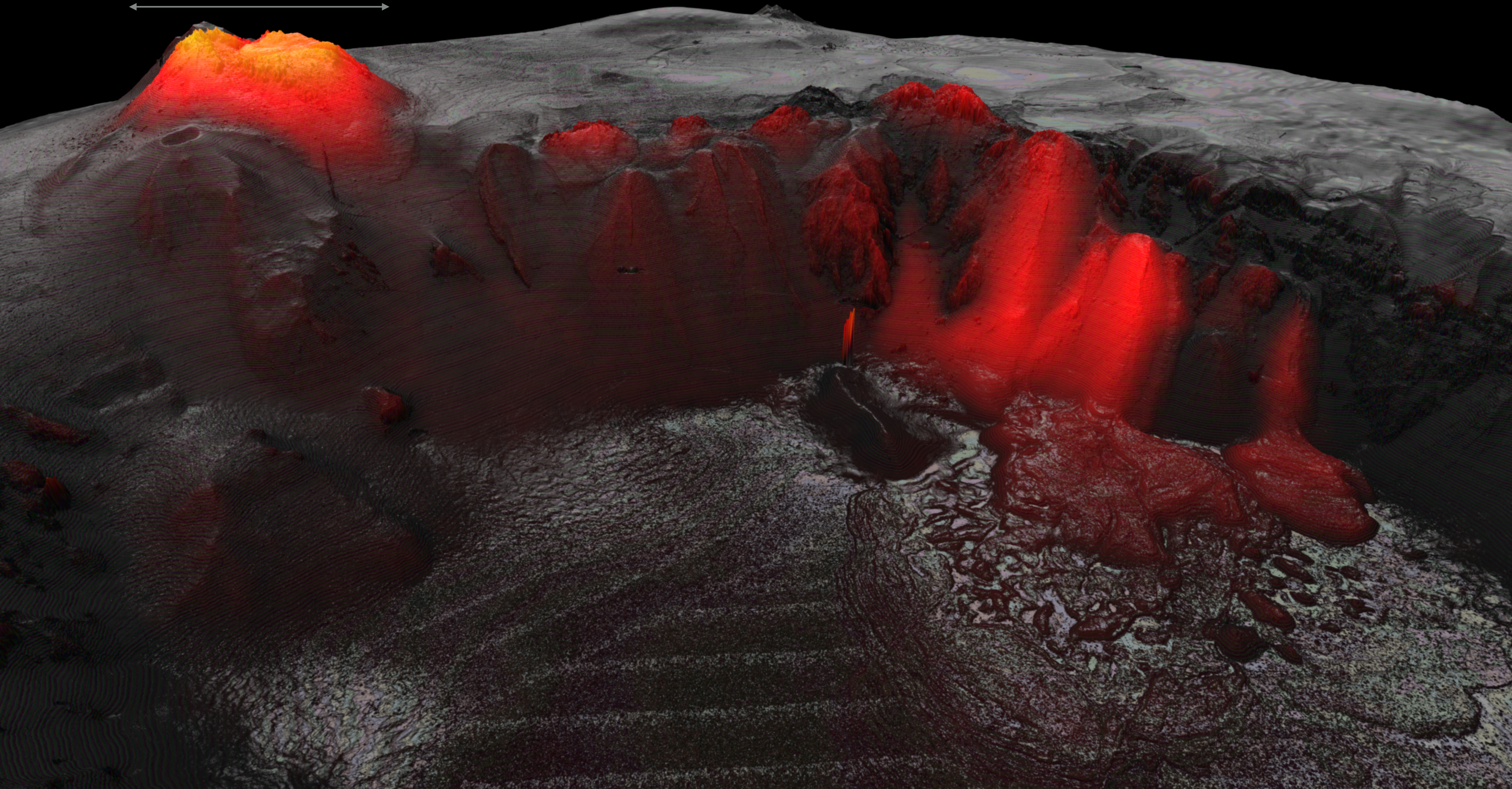




Shastina Lava Flows, Miller, 1980



~850 m



~850 m

Pumice Raft



Lava & Domes

Seafloor Pyroclastic

Volume (km<sup>3</sup>)

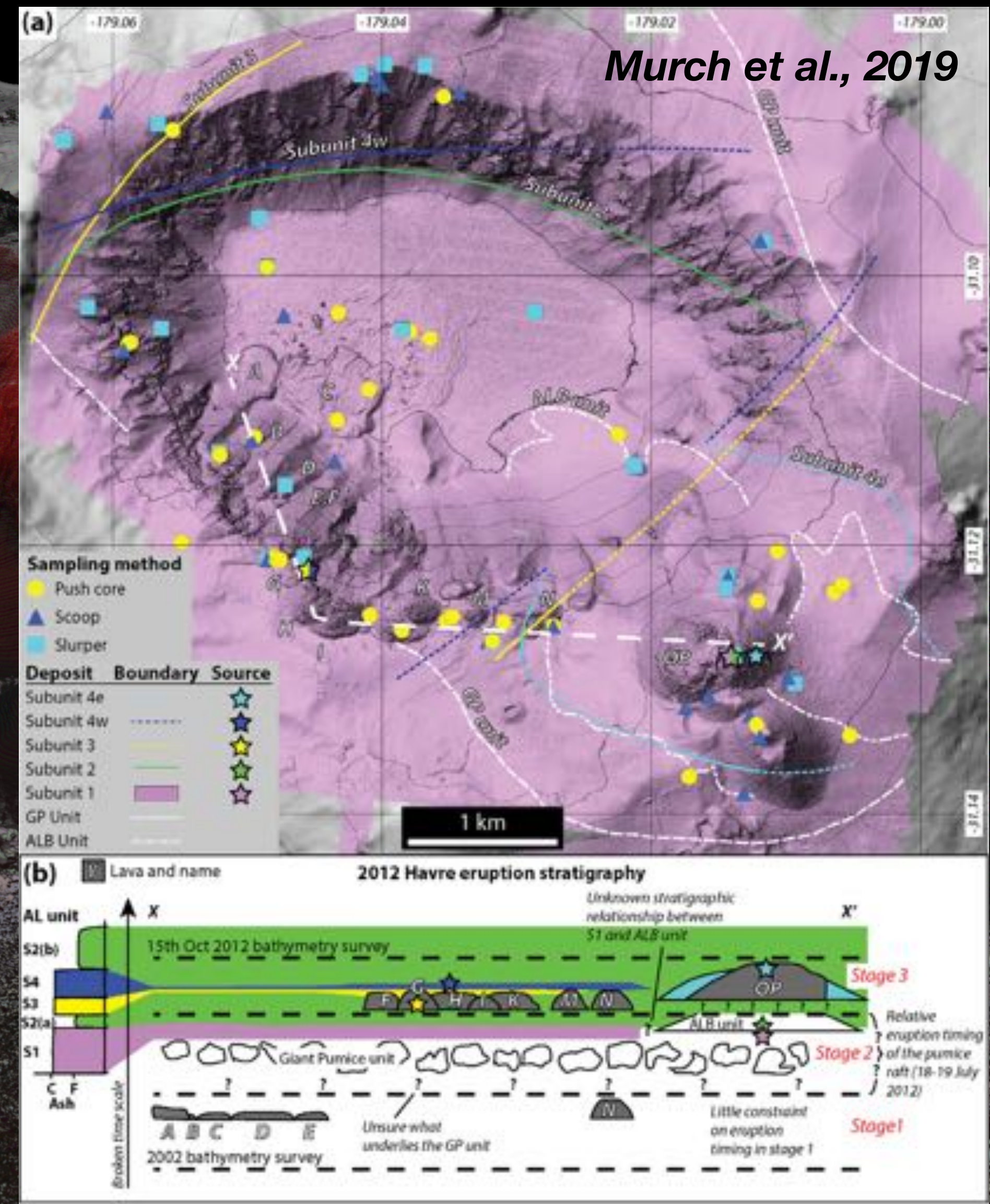
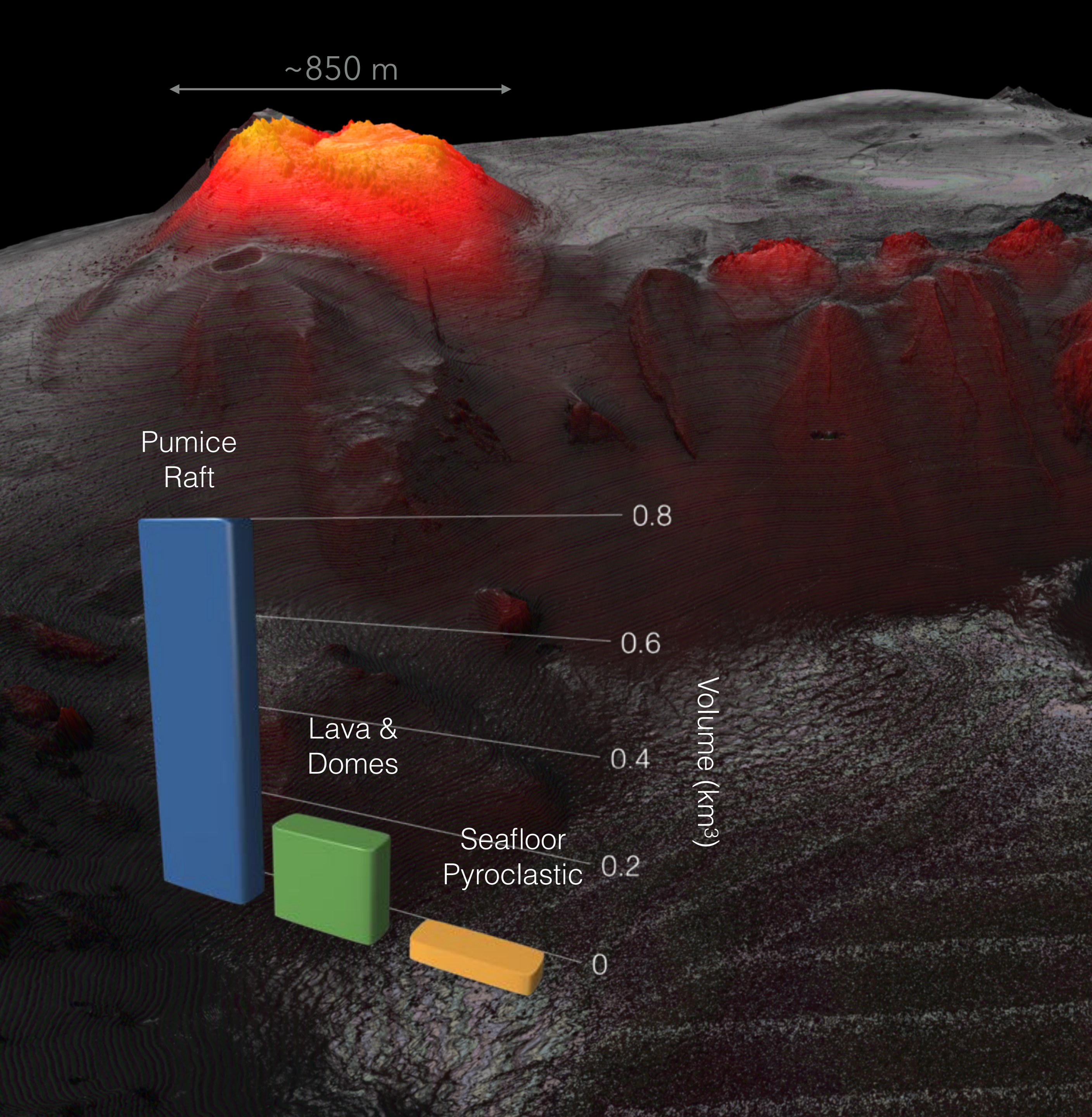
0.8

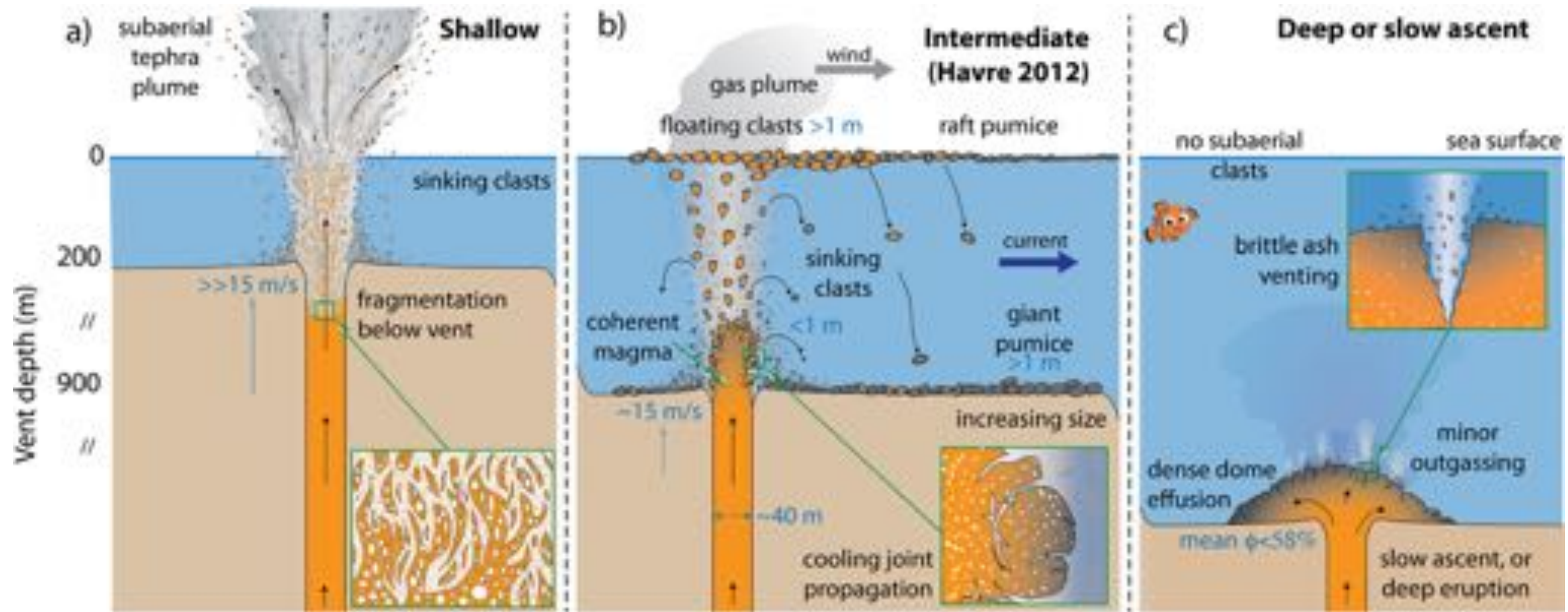
0.6

0.4

0.2

0





*Manga et al., 2018 (see also Fauria et al., 2017; Fauria & Manga, 2018)*

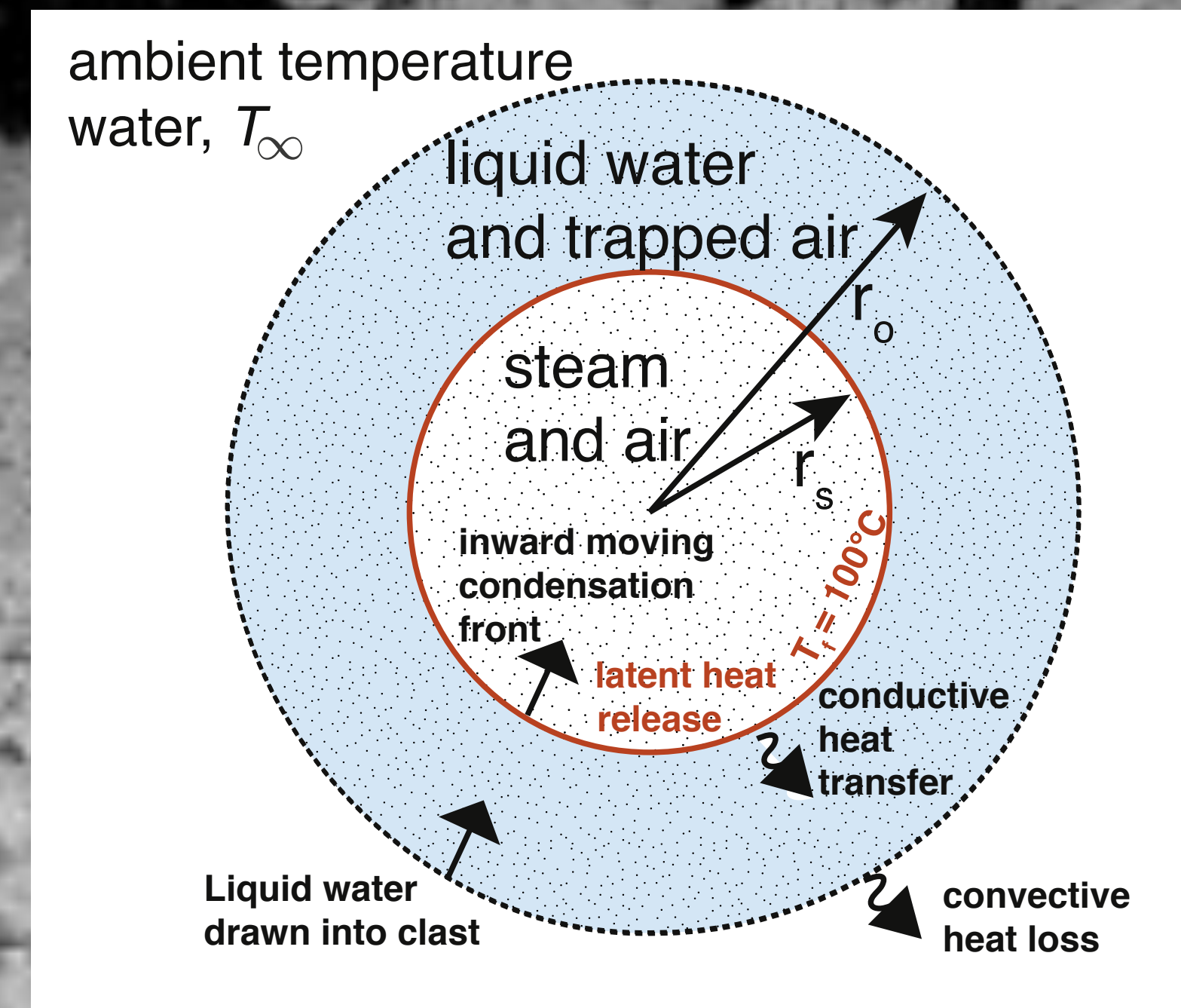
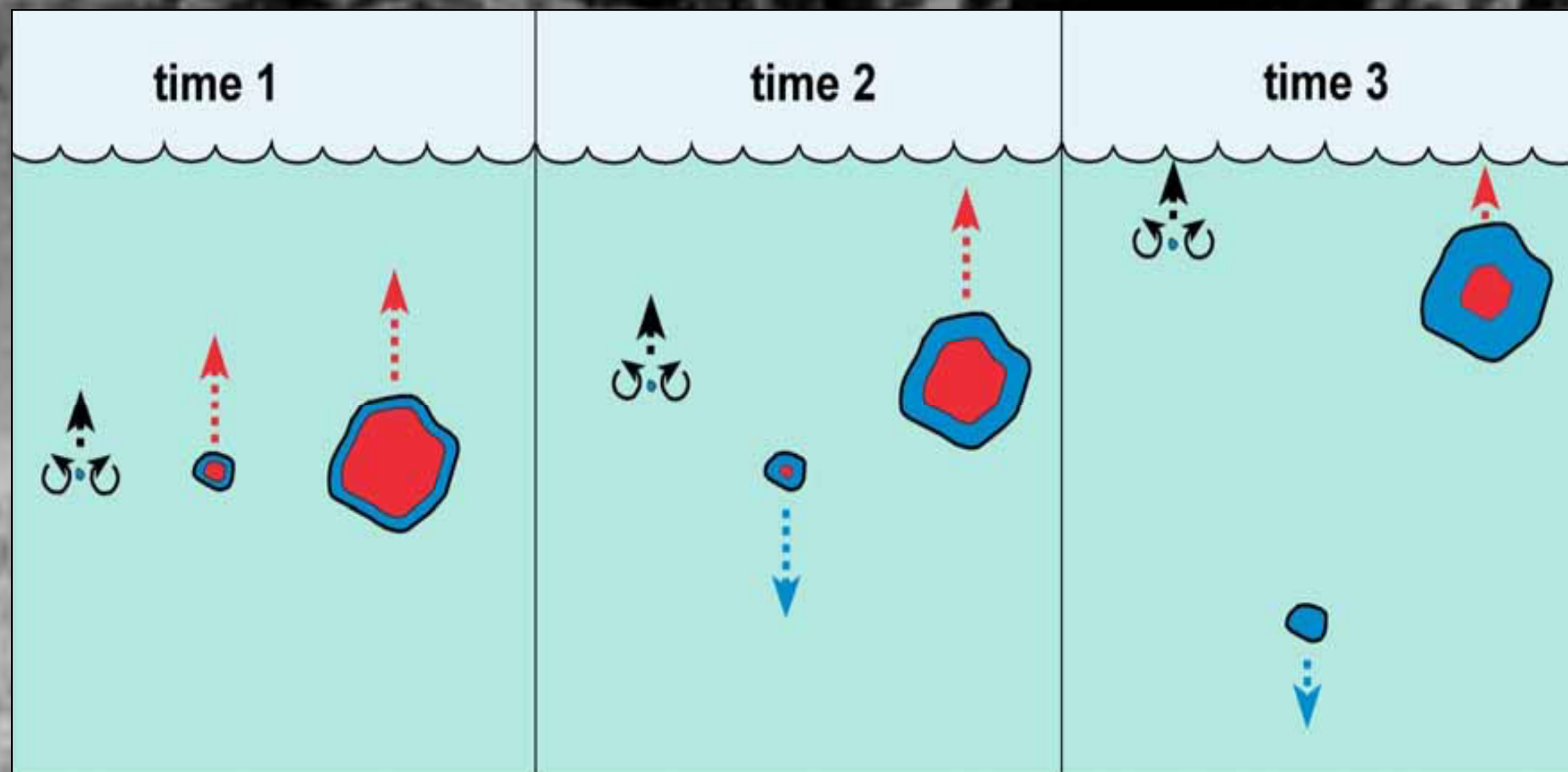
Conduit models suggest that the hydrostatic pressure at ~900m suppressed gas resolution enough to prevent strain rates required for fragmentation. Instead, the pumiceous magma extruded effusively and broke apart into pumice clasts which were bouyant relative to seawater.

This eruption occurred at a 'goldilocks' depth (>200m, <2800m). Deeper eruptions (with Havre magma) would produce dense flows and shallower eruptions would fragment in the conduit due to extensive degassing and accompanying viscosity increase.









Pumice are predicted to display a time-dependent buoyancy reflecting the rate of saturation such that larger pumice should travel further from the vent.

*Fauria & Manga, 2018*

# Giant pumice

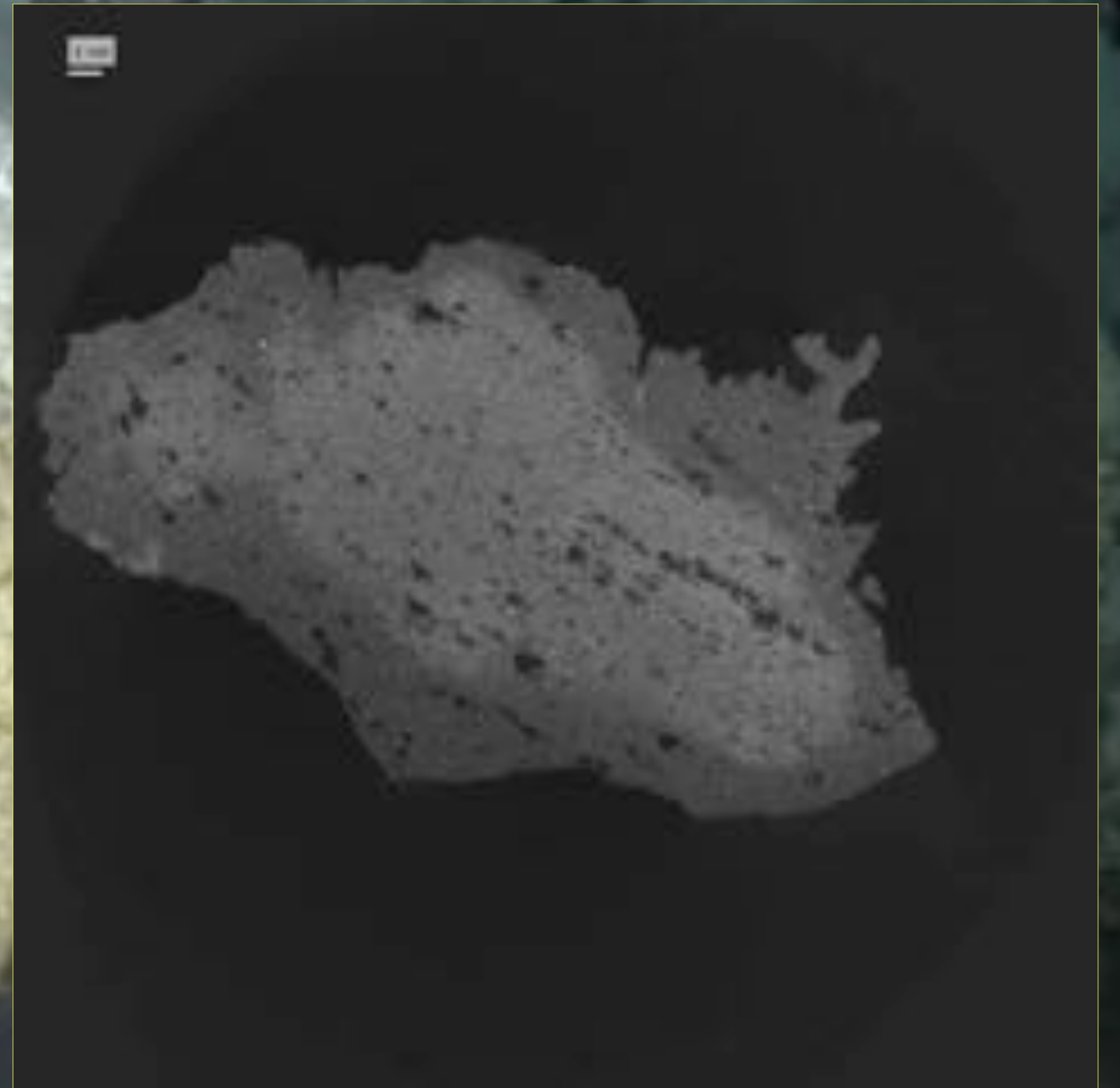
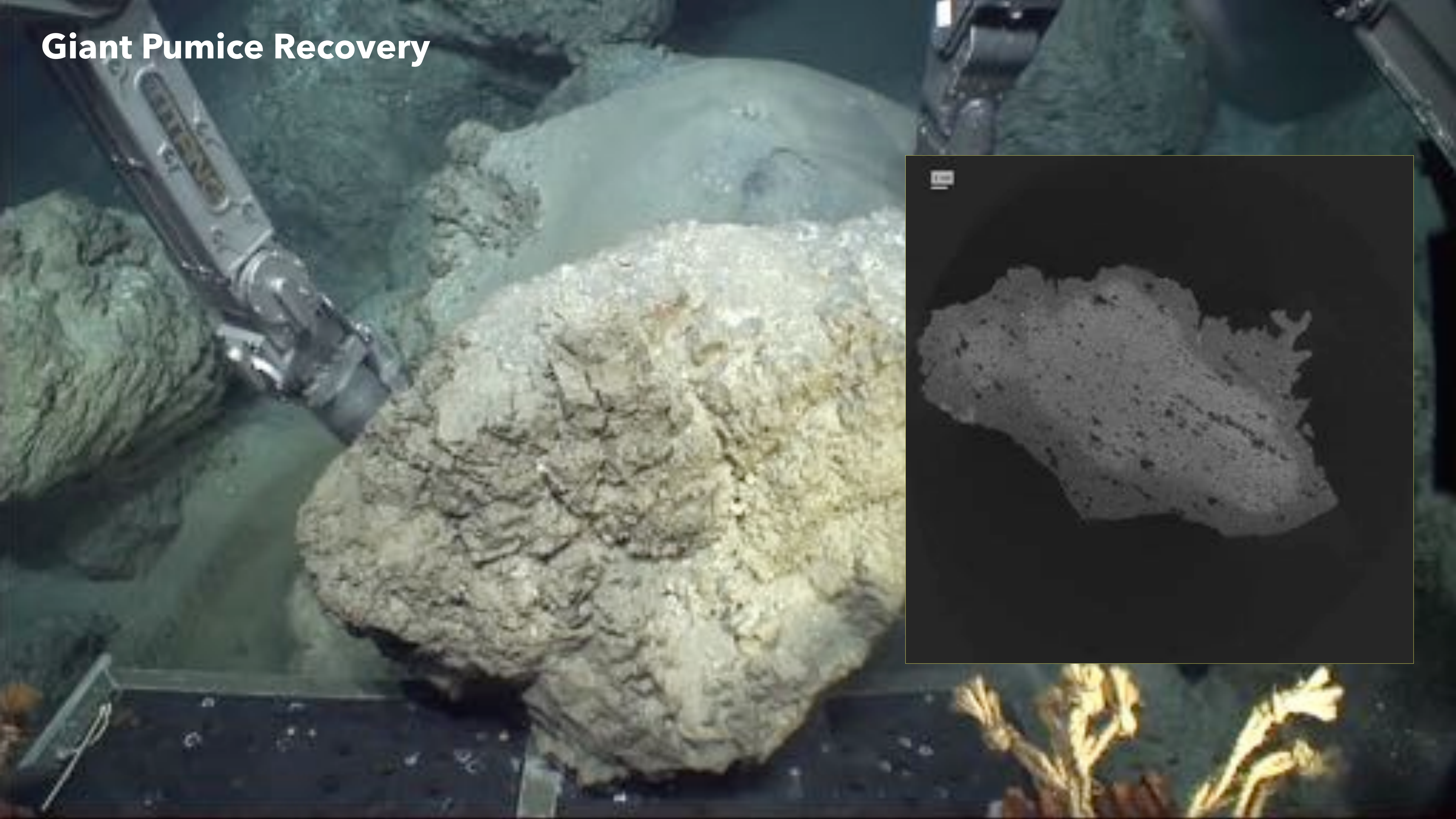
*Havre caldera floor, 1500m*

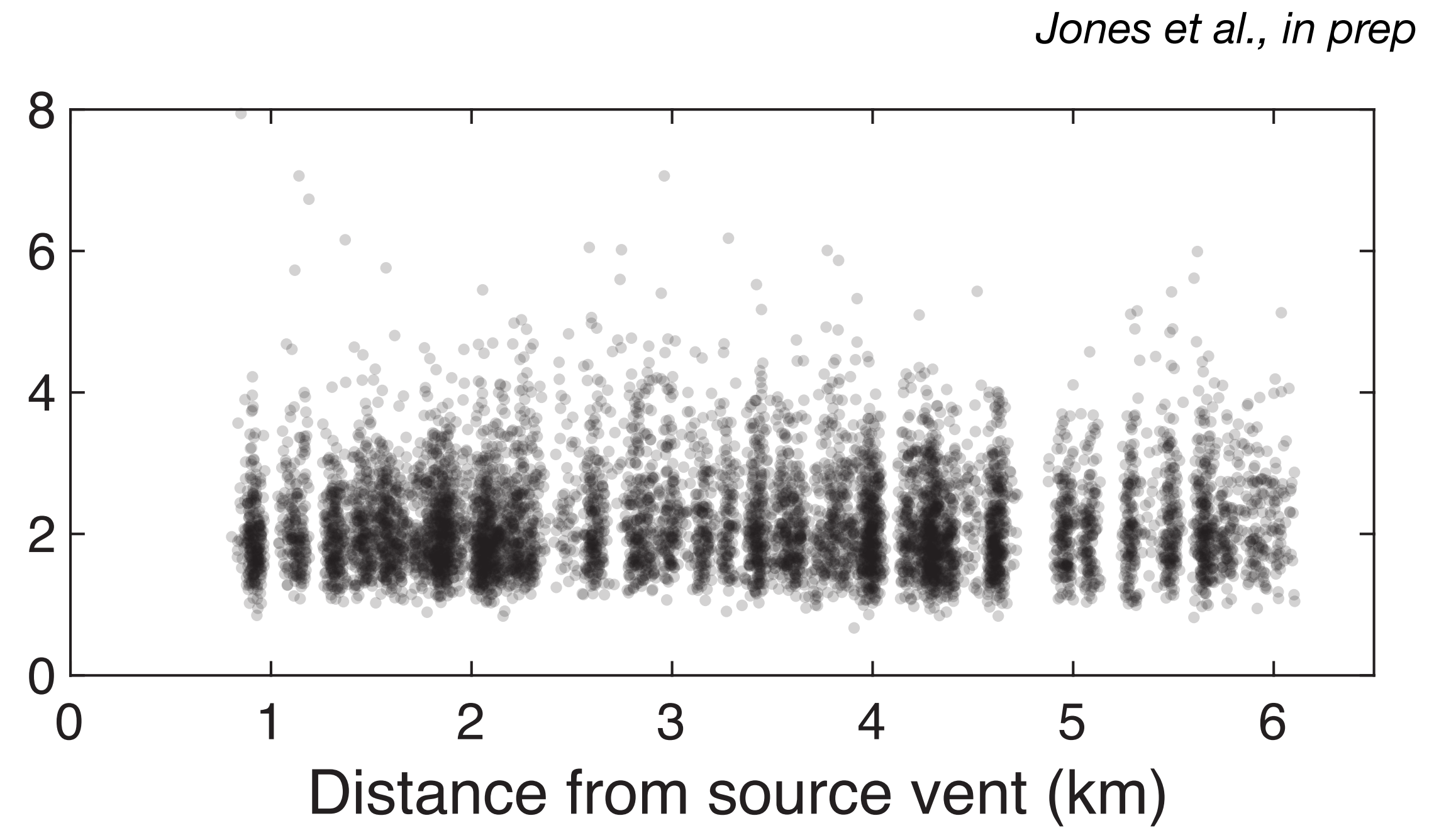
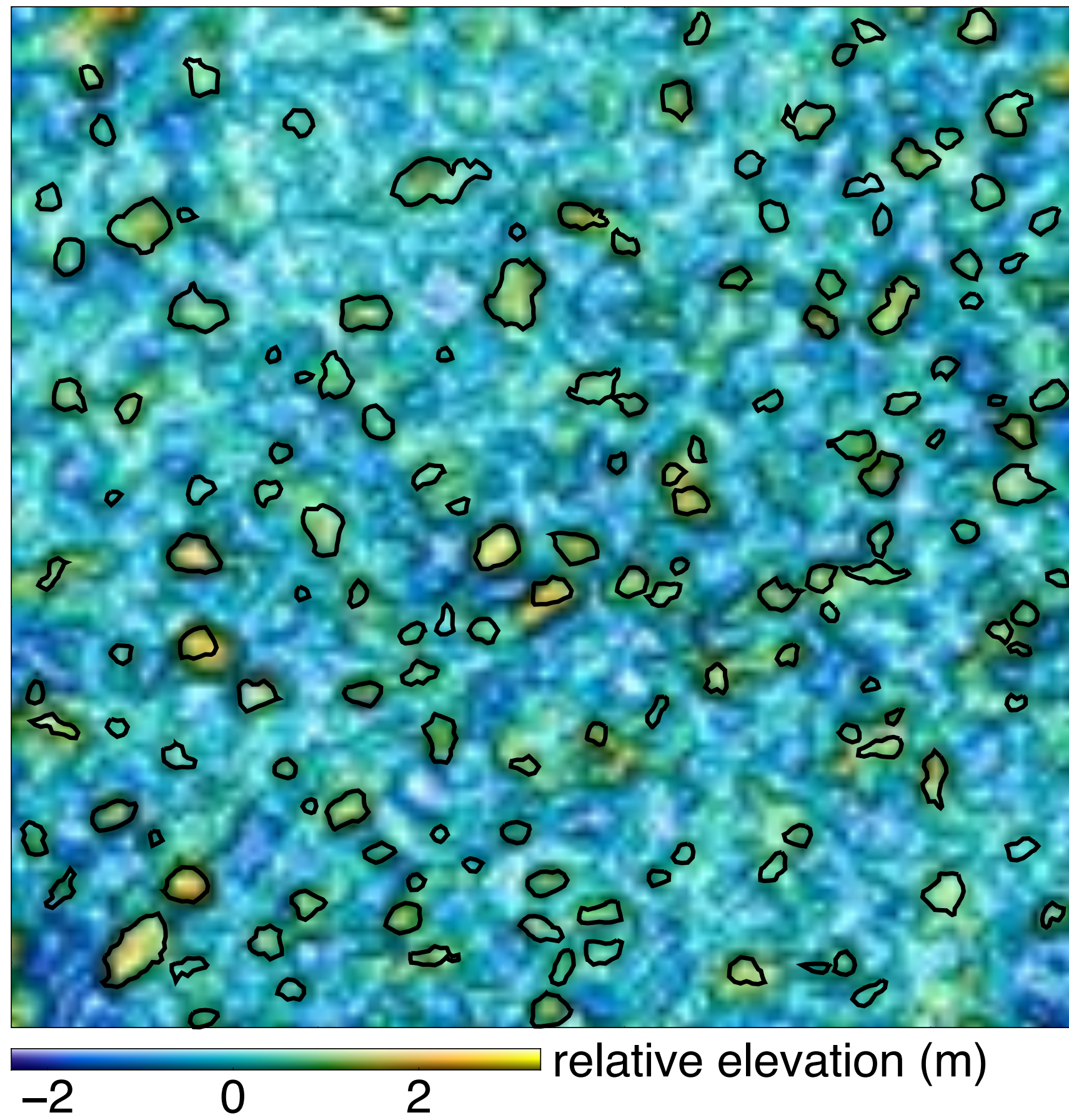


# Giant Pumice Recovery

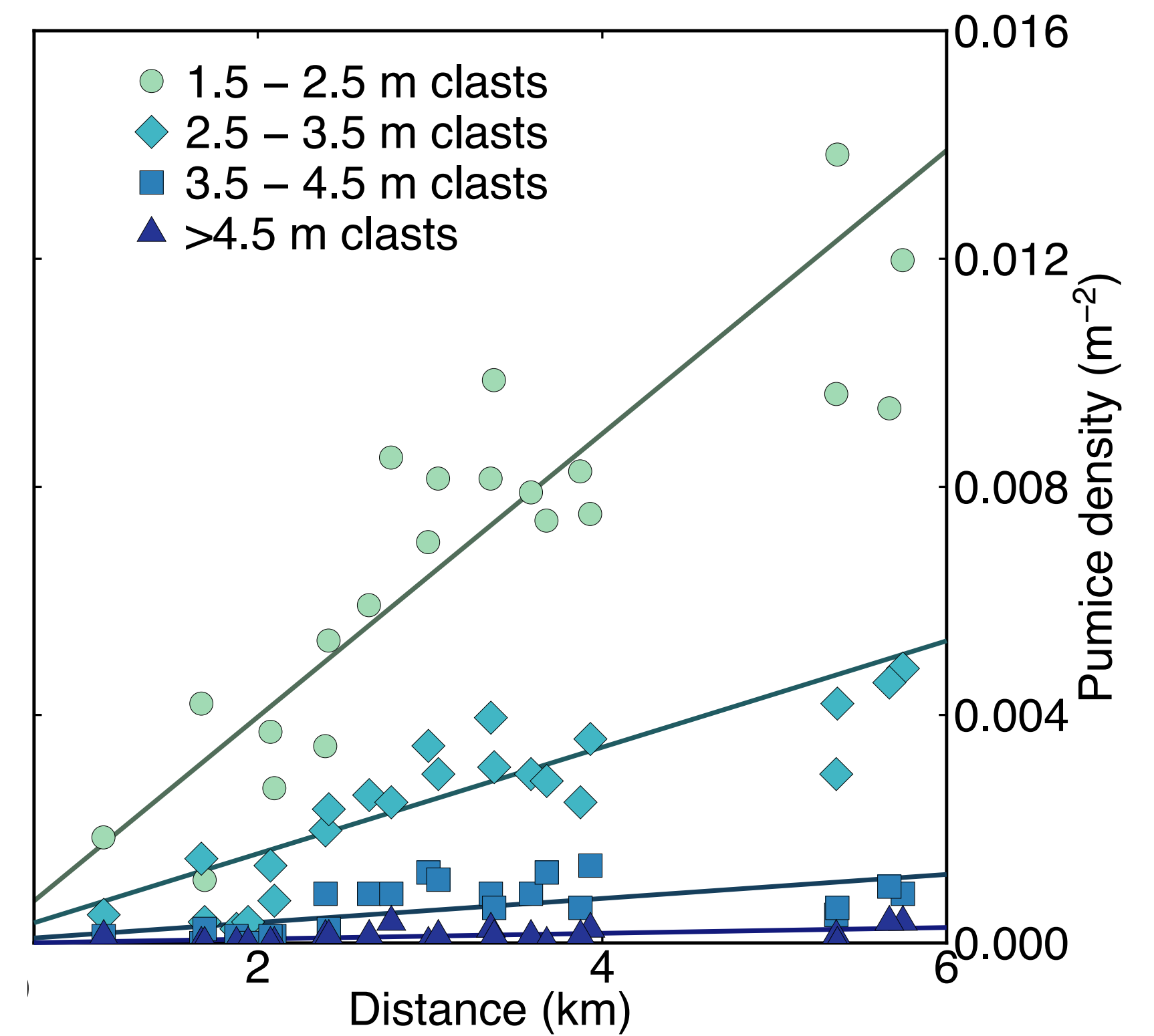
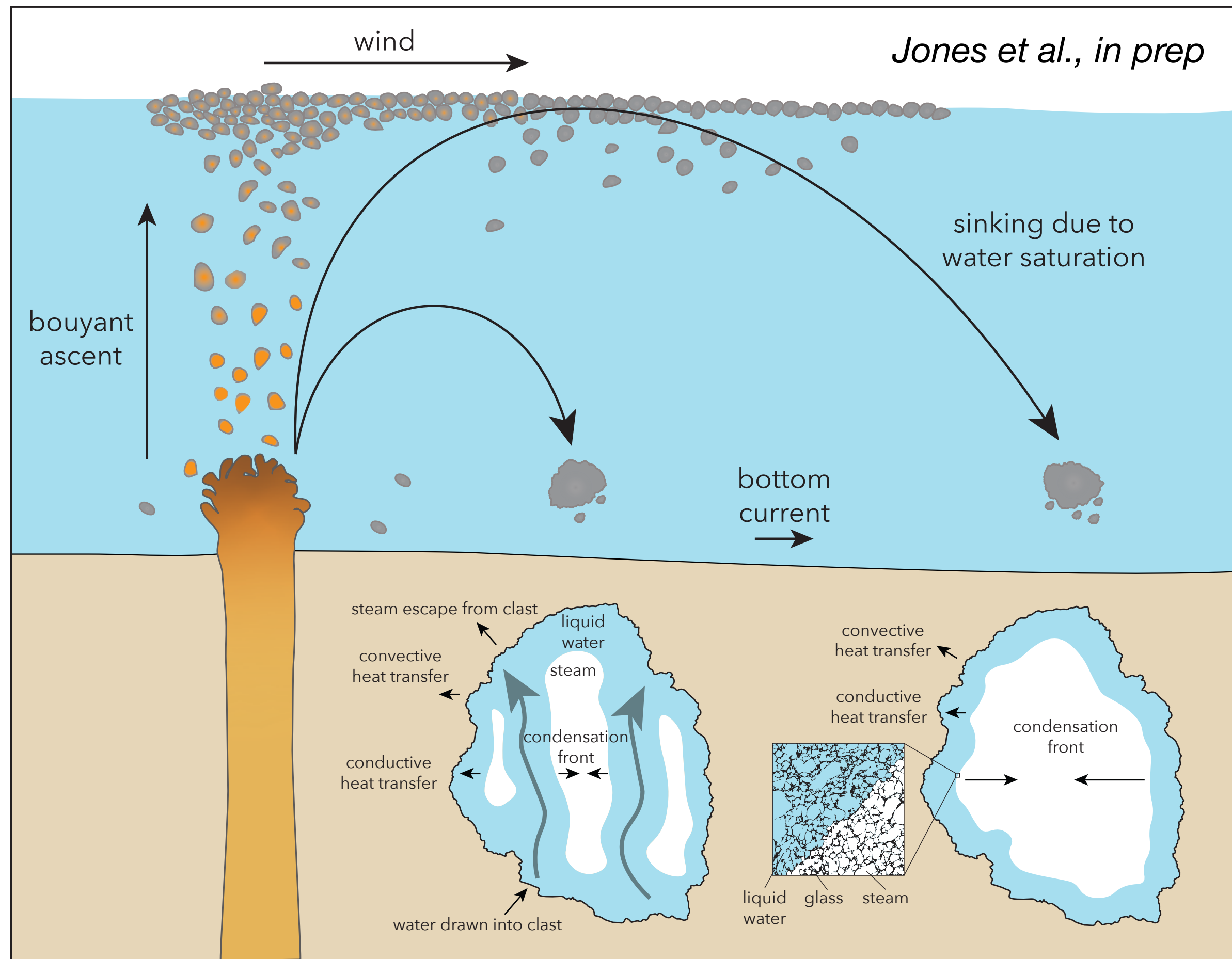


# Giant Pumice Recovery



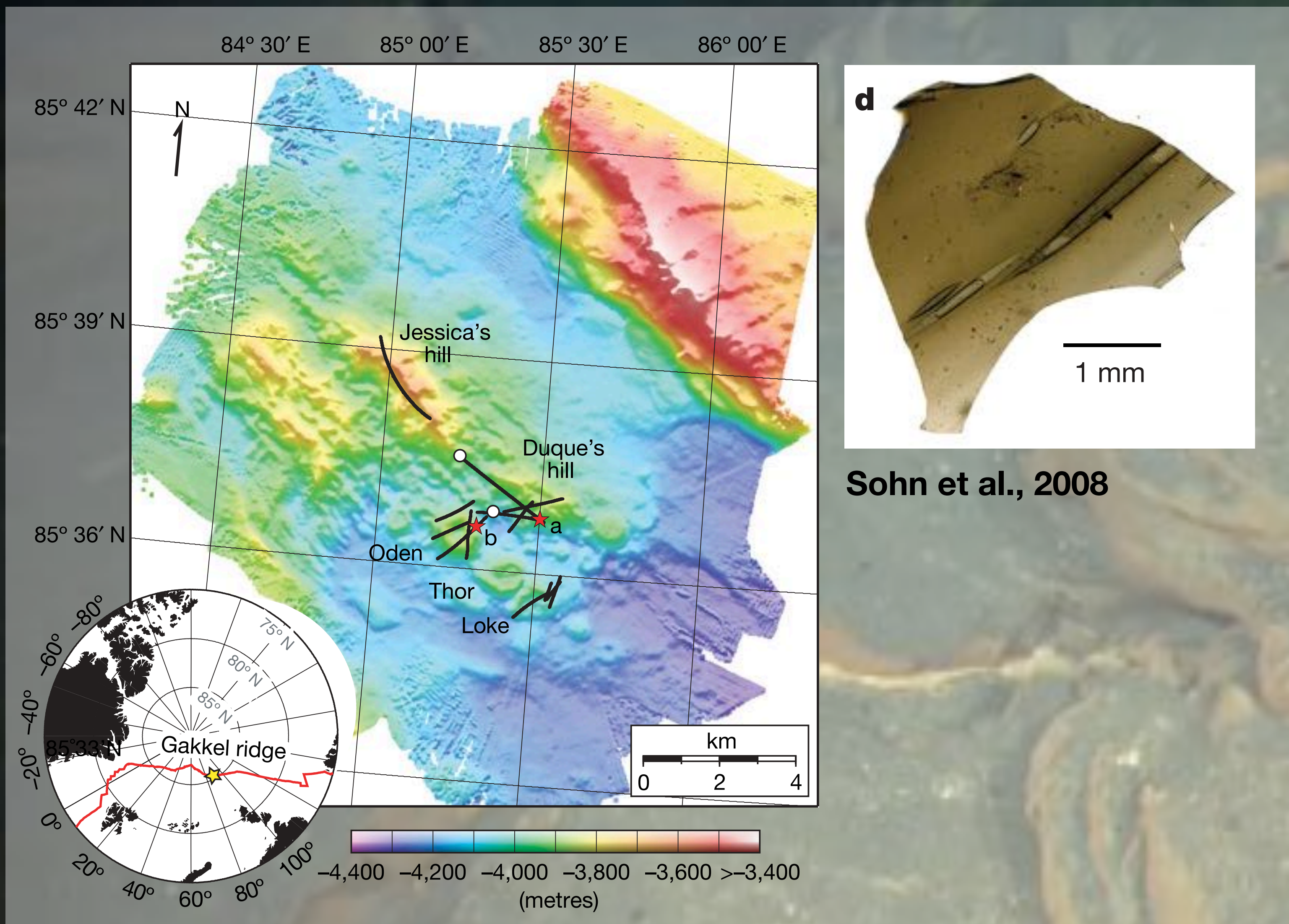


Giant pumice dispersal recorded in seafloor bathymetry shows much larger pumice closer to the vent than predicted and much smaller pumice farther from the vent than predicted.



Although average size (as a function of distance) do not show any trends, pumice density (i.e., number per  $\text{m}^2$ ) show distinct differences as a function of size and distance.

Cooling and saturation models appear to predict dispersal, but with significant second-order effects of pumice breakup and enhanced cooling via highly permeable bubble paths.

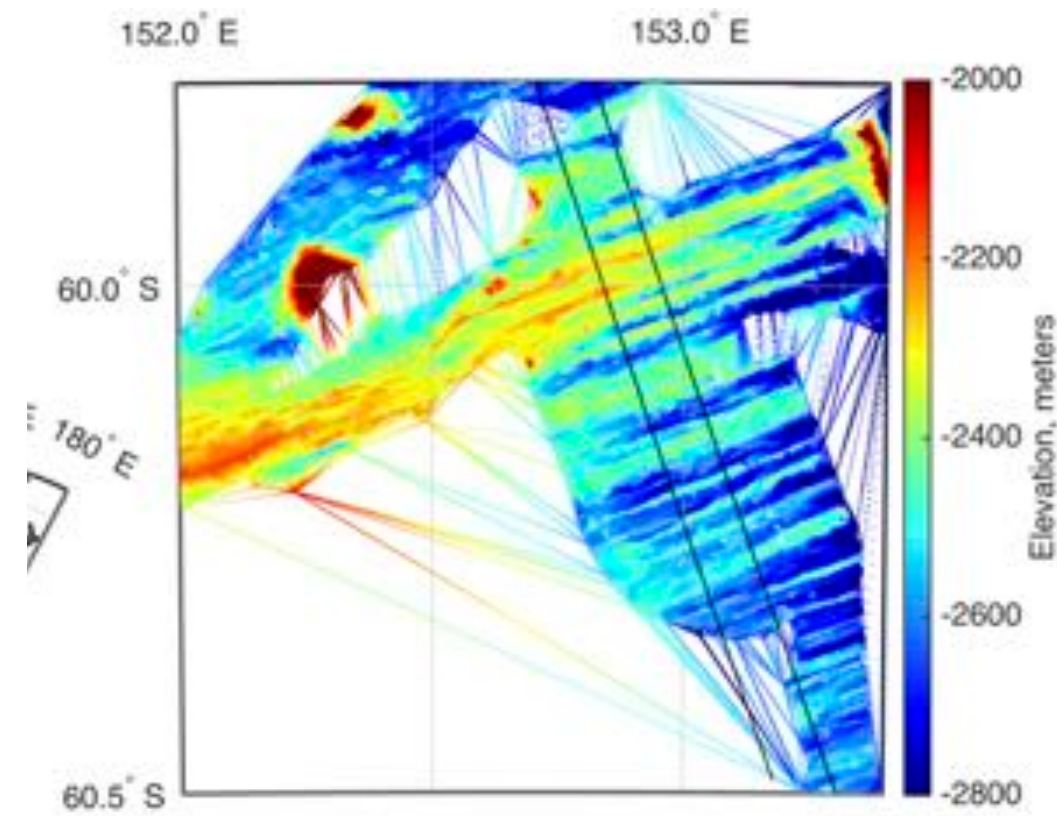


Sohn et al., 2008

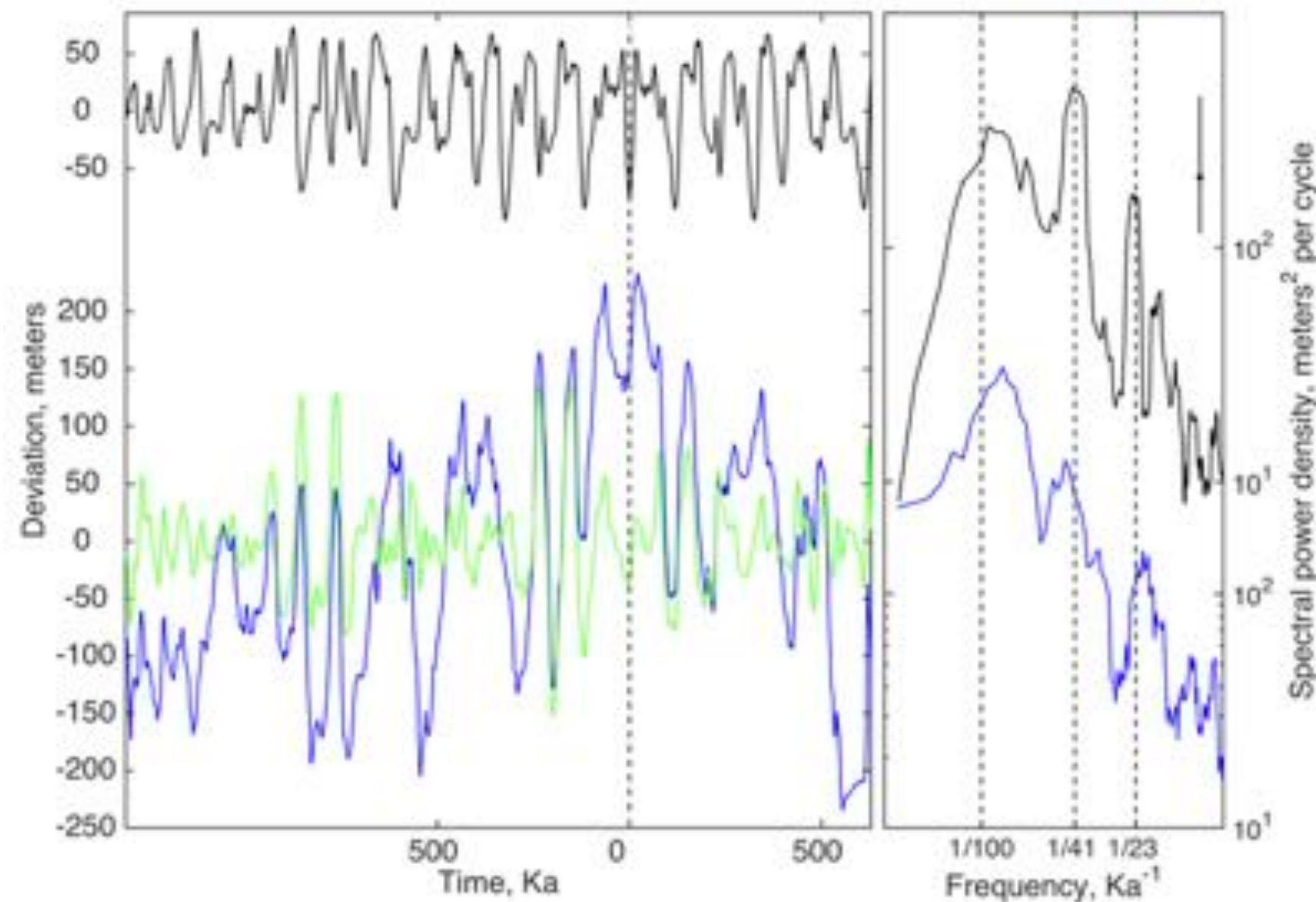
Volcaniclastic sediment on recent lava flows at the **Gakkel Ridge, Arctic Ocean**  
*video courtesy of Rob Sohn & Susan Humphris*



# Climate Interaction with Mid-Ocean Ridges



Crowley et al. [2015] hypothesize, based on seafloor bathymetry, that glacial cycles (and consequent sea level rise/fall) cause variations in MOR magma production.



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## Glacial cycles drive variations in the production of oceanic crust

John W. Crowley,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Richard F. Katz,<sup>1†</sup> Peter Huybers,<sup>2</sup> Charles H. Langmuir,<sup>2</sup> Sung-Hyun Park<sup>3†</sup>

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## Sensitivity of seafloor bathymetry to climate-driven fluctuations in mid-ocean ridge magma supply

J.-A. Olive,<sup>1\*</sup> M. D. Behn,<sup>2</sup> G. Ito,<sup>3</sup> W. R. Buck,<sup>1</sup> J. Escartin,<sup>4</sup> S. Howell<sup>3</sup>

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## Comment on “Sensitivity of seafloor bathymetry to climate-driven fluctuations in mid-ocean ridge magma supply”

Peter Huybers,<sup>1\*</sup> Charles Langmuir,<sup>1</sup> Richard F. Katz,<sup>3</sup> David Ferguson,<sup>1</sup> Cristian Proistosescu,<sup>1</sup> Suzanne Carbotte<sup>2</sup>

## Mid-ocean ridge eruptions as a climate valve

Maya Tolstoy<sup>1</sup>

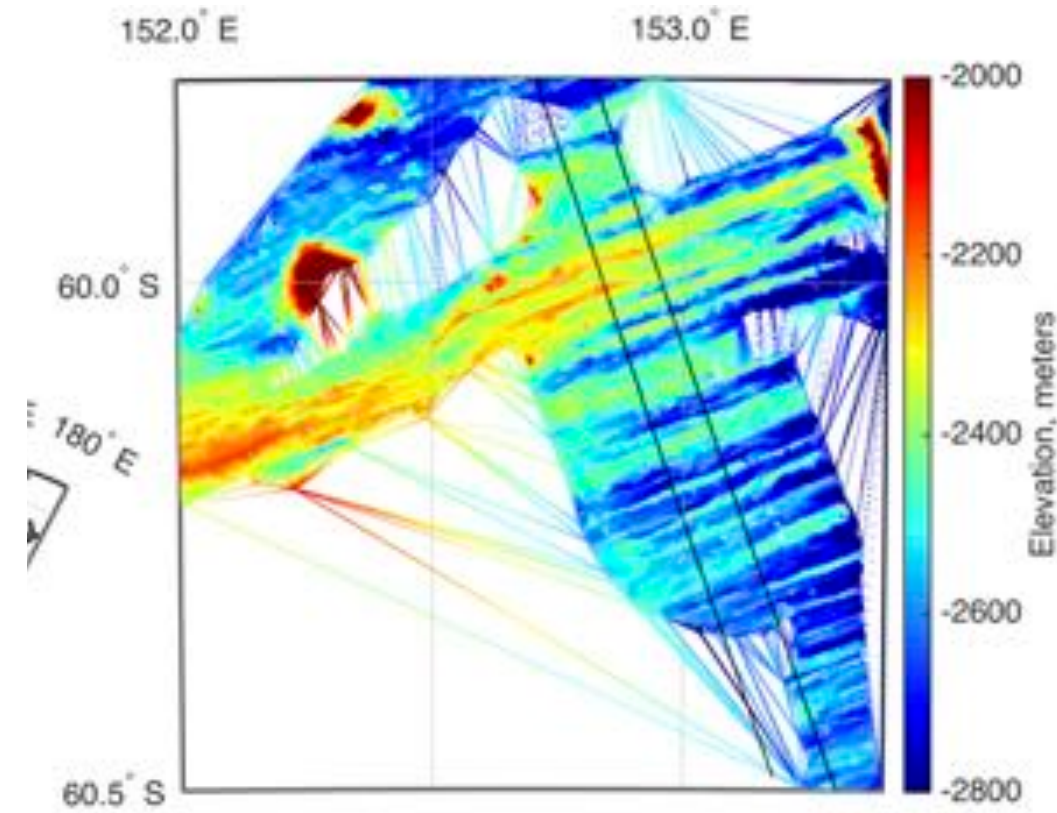
<sup>1</sup>Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, Palisades, New York, USA

## No Evidence for Milankovitch Cycle Influence on Abyssal Hills at Intermediate, Fast, and Superfast Spreading Rates

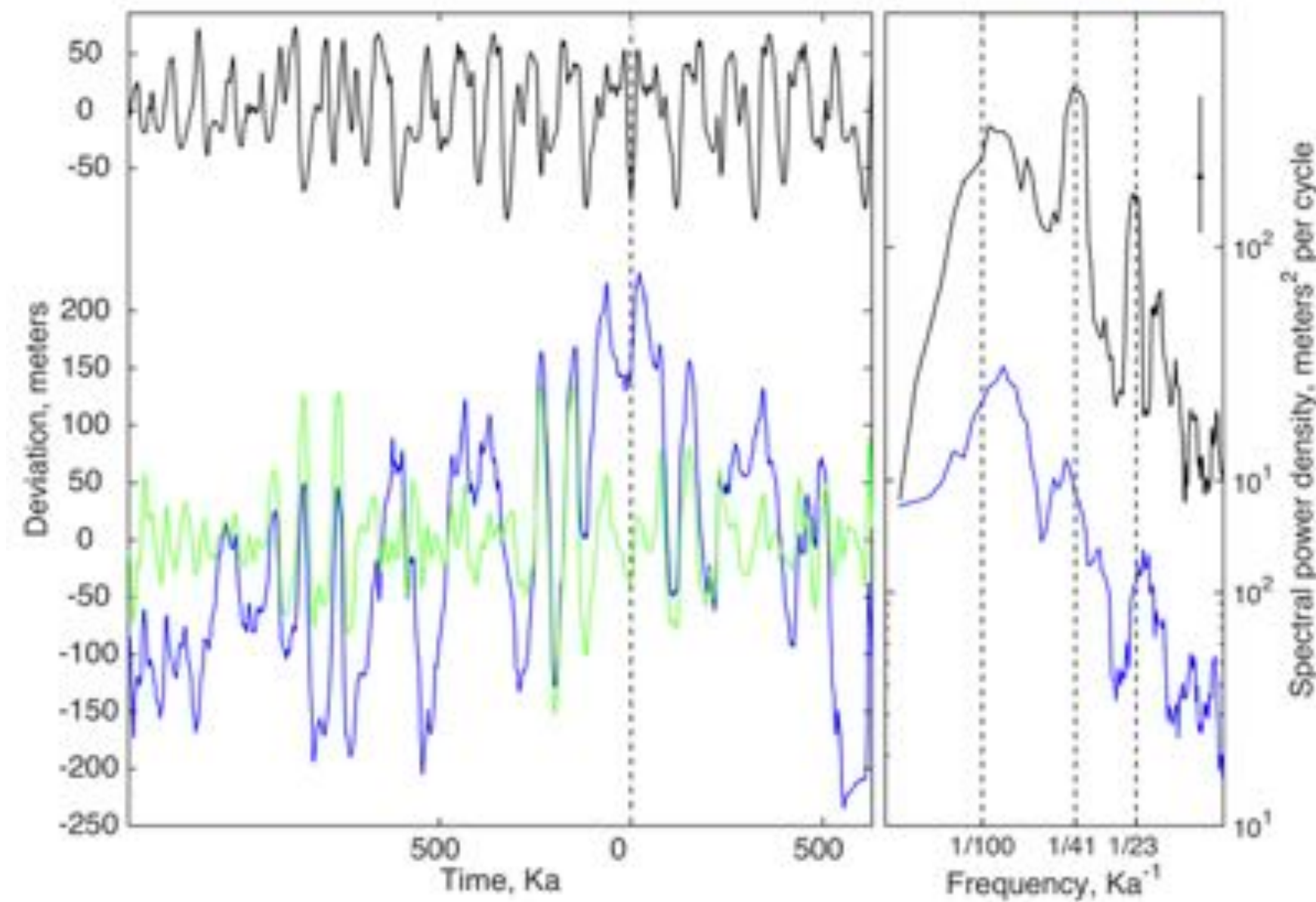
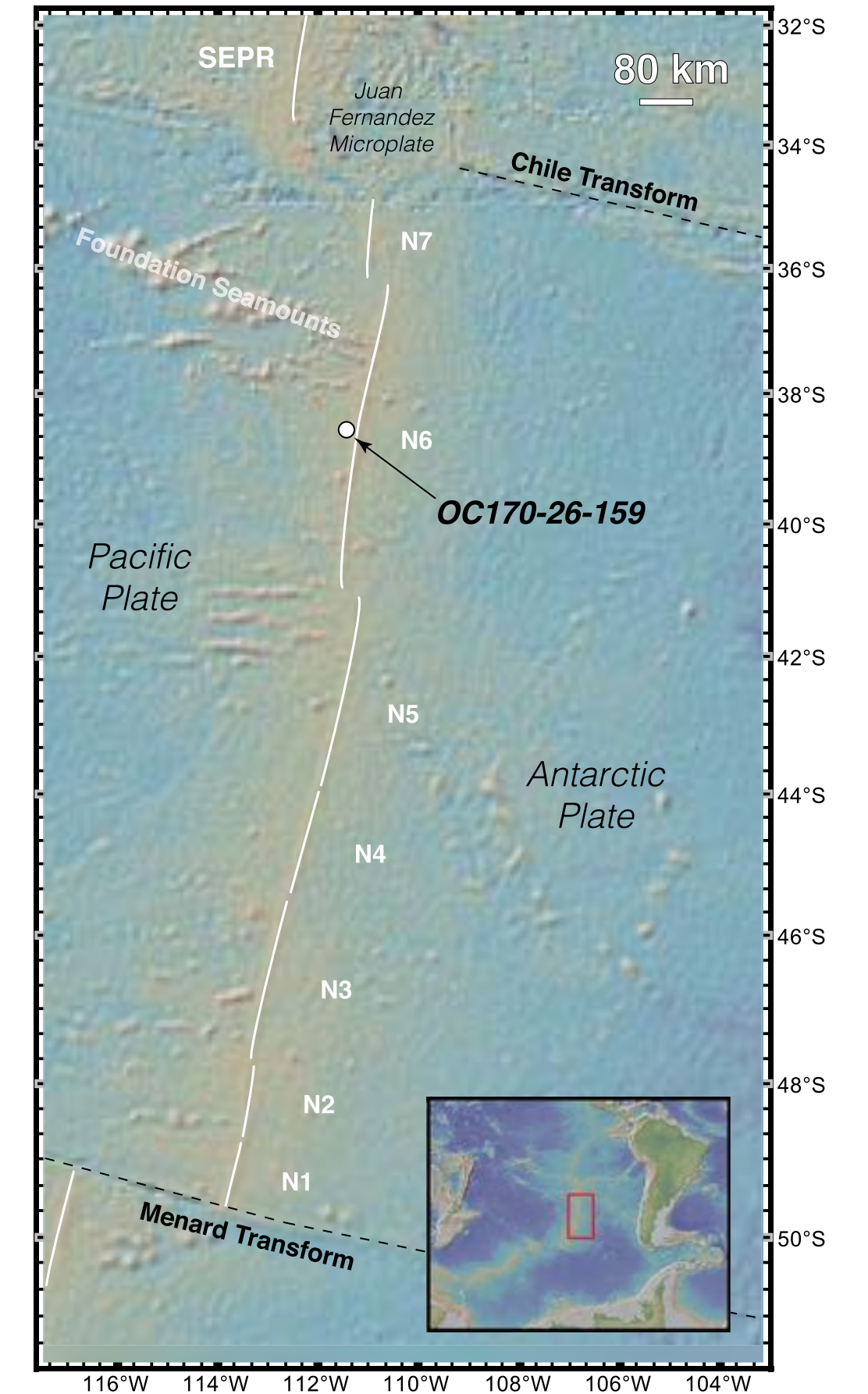
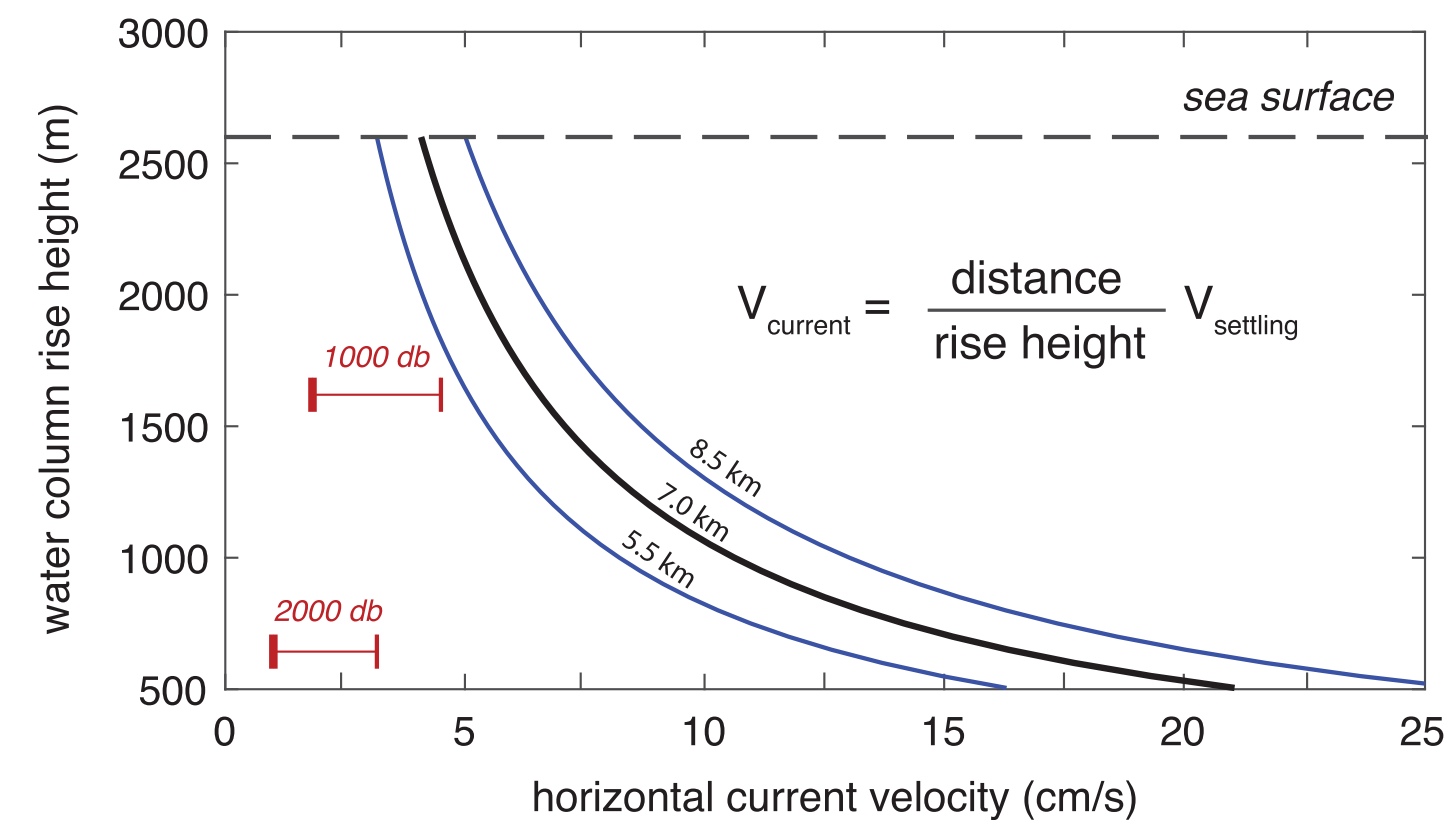
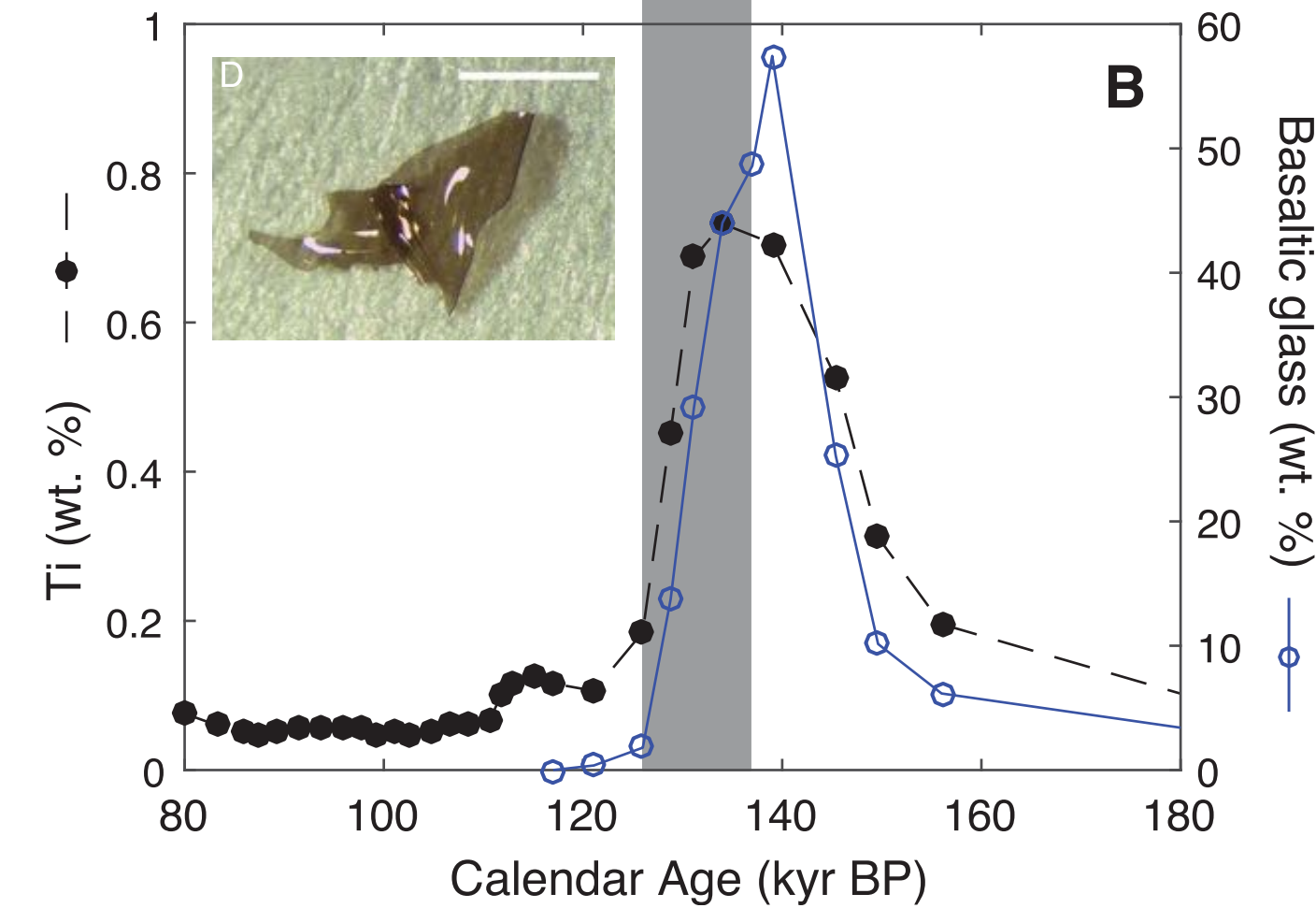
John A. Goff<sup>1</sup> , Sabin Zahirovic<sup>2</sup> , and R. Dietmar Müller<sup>2</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Institute for Geophysics, Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA, <sup>2</sup>EarthByte Group, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, Camperdown, New South Wales, Australia

# Climate Interaction with Mid-Ocean Ridges

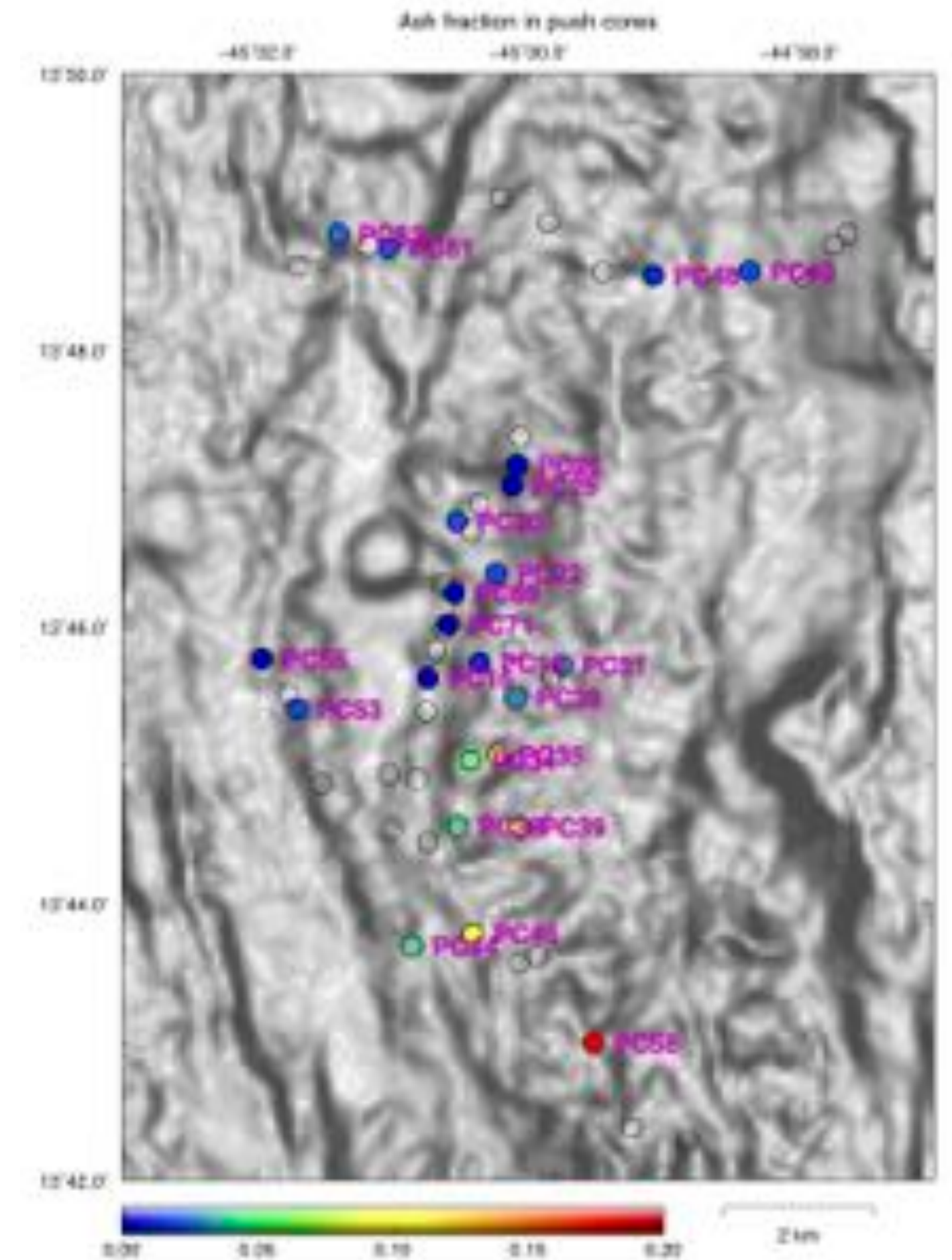
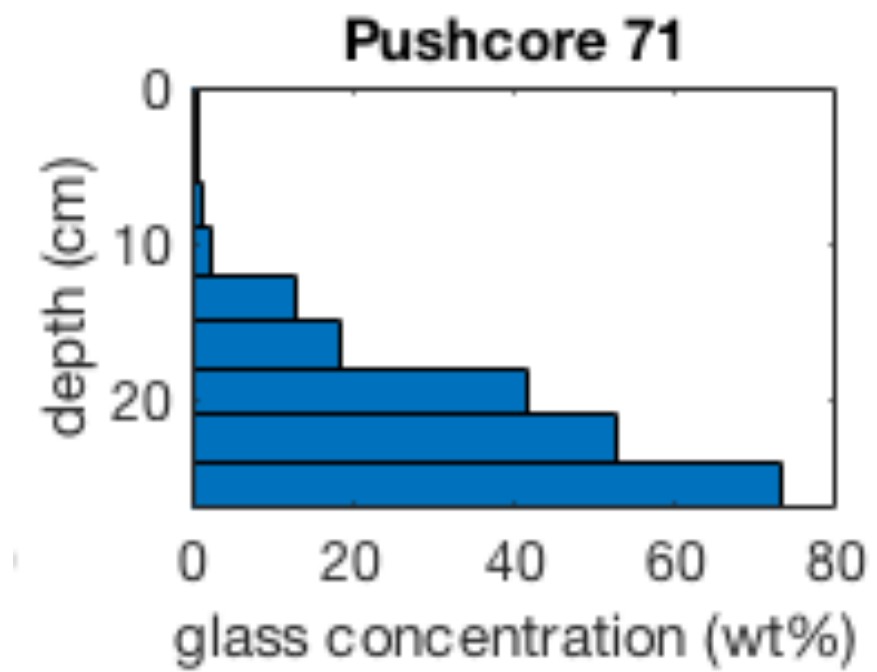
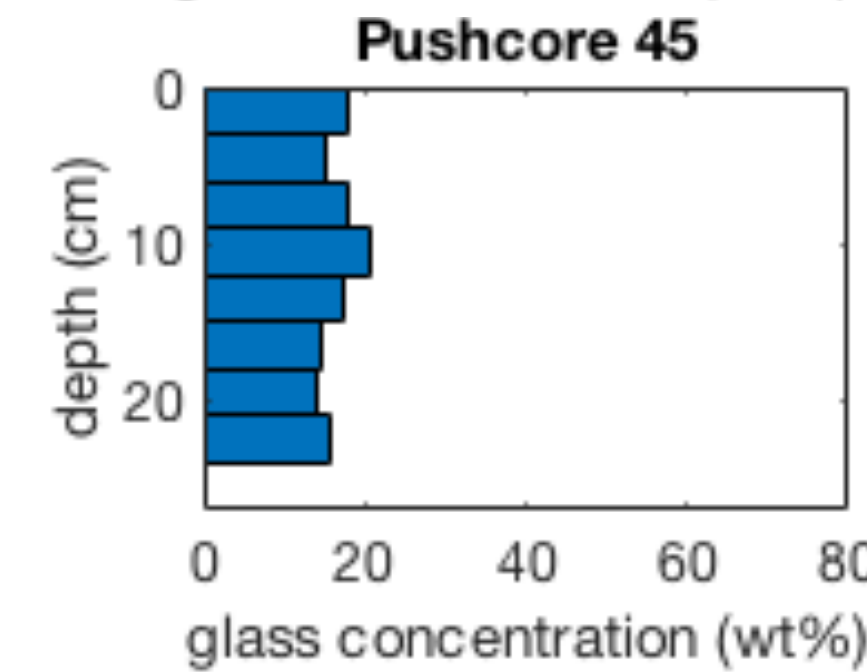
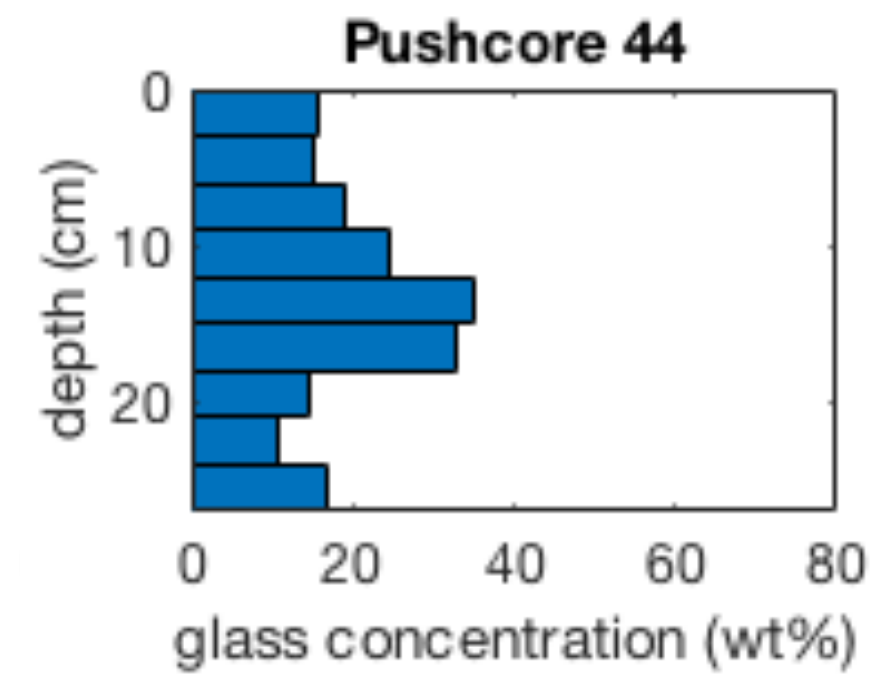
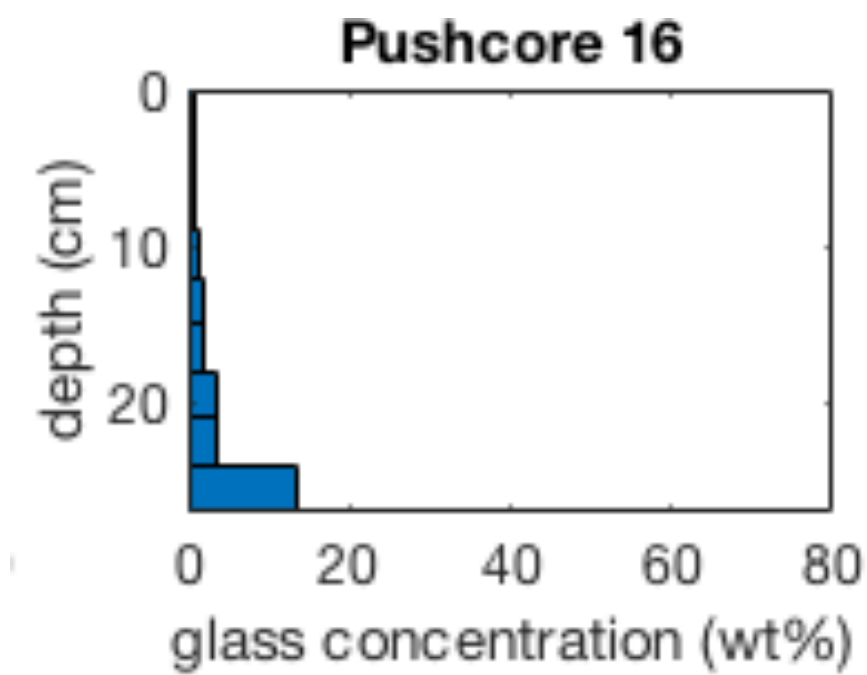
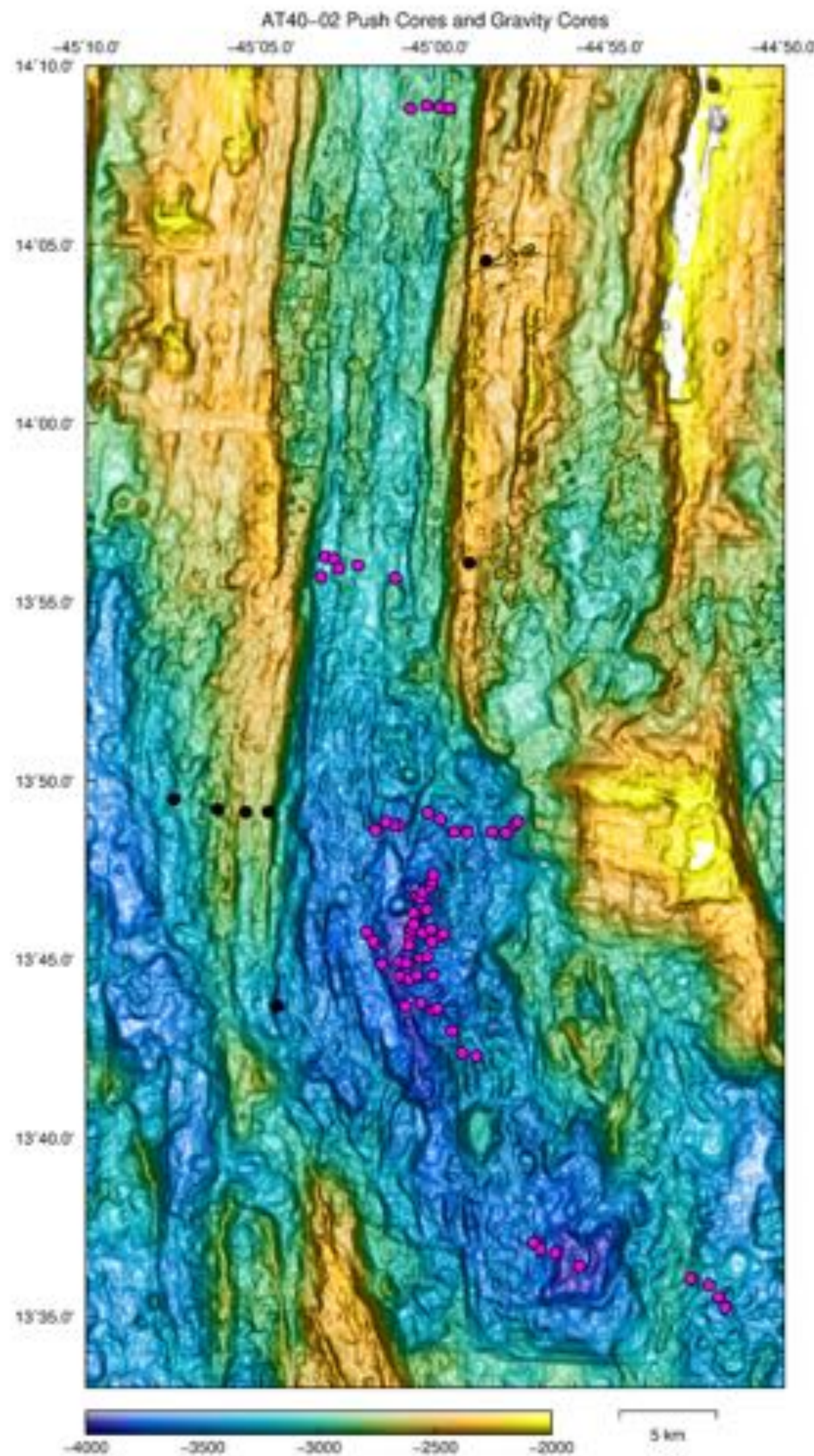


Crowley et al. [2015] hypothesize, based on seafloor bathymetry, that glacial cycles (and consequent sea level rise/fall) cause variations in MOR magma production.



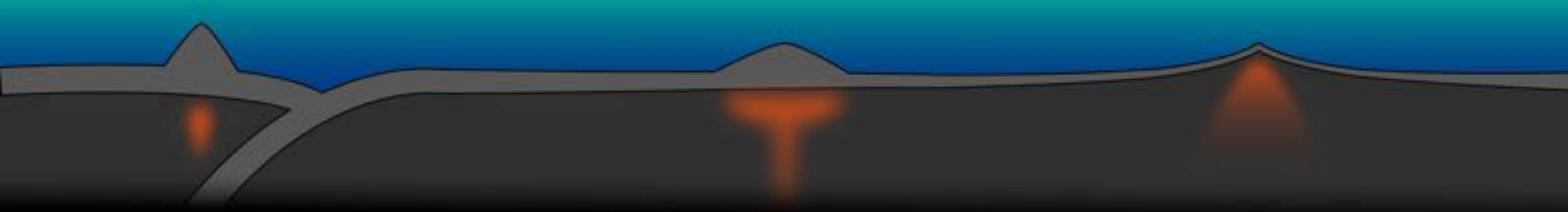
Lund et al. [2018] have used sediment core records to determine the timing of increased? volcanism.

# Submarine volcanic contributions to marine sediments



Recent push/gravity core collection at the Mid-Atlantic Ridge will provide an opportunity to evaluate models of MOR ash generation and transport...

...talk to Kristen Fauria when she arrives!



1. Is our assessment of the relative proportions of subaerial and submarine volcanism correct, and can we better monitor the oceans at a global scale to identify the location, timing, and size of submarine eruptions. [*Tushar*]
2. Are there frequency/size/eruption rate relationships with spreading rate (i.e., magma supply) and what controls them? [*Leif, Helge*]
3. What influence does seawater have on fragmentation and dispersal in submarine arc eruptions i.e., can magmatically-driven pyroclastic eruptions occur in the deep ocean (>1000m)? How can deposit characteristics be inverted to constrain eruption processes? [*Michael, Rebecca, Kristen, et al.*]